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INSIDE

Community Employment & Youth Work -
Issues

Response to the Children Bill

New Opportunities

The passage of the Youth Work Bill and the announcement of a new £20 million Youth Services Development Fund are testament to this government's commitment to youth work in Ireland. Such developments offer great potential for voluntary youth organisations and must be welcomed by everybody who is concerned about the welfare of young people in Ireland. The role of the Minister for Youth and Sport, Bernard Allen TD, must also be acknowledged because, taken together, these two measures represent by far the most significant developments in youth work in Ireland since the foundation of the State.

Such developments do fit a global pattern - increased government funding for the voluntary sector is clearly an international trend in the development of the welfare state. It has mixed implications for the voluntary sector however: it supports the development of voluntary organisations but only by giving dominant emphasis to one aspect of their work - service provision - at the expense of others such as innovation, advocacy and campaigning. It is important to learn from this international trend in order to ensure that a growing state support for youth work in Ireland is not at the cost of the intrinsic strengths of voluntary youth services: diversity, flexibility and innovation.

Generally speaking the statutory sector shows little regard for the voluntary sector's fears about issues such as autonomy, user participation, the use of volunteers and the role of voluntary management committees. Where such concerns are acknowledged they are usually responded to in terms of promoting "partnership" between the two sectors. The reality is that partnership implies some measure of equality and the relationship between the statutory and voluntary sectors is profoundly unequal unless the statutory sector takes pains to ensure otherwise.

There is some ground for concern about the present coalition's record in this regard. It has failed to honour the commitment in its own programme for government to produce a White Paper on improving the relationship between the statutory and voluntary sectors. Whilst the Green Paper contains many worthwhile ideas, it is a discussion document rather than a blueprint for action. It is hard to avoid the worrying conclusion that this dilution reflects a reluctance on the part of the statutory sector to embrace the spirit of proper partnership.

The development of the Youth Work Bill and the proposal for a Youth Services Development Fund were also problematic if judged by criteria of partnership and inclusion. It is important to acknowledge that in the long term the process by which such developments are brought about is every bit as significant as their content. In fairness to the government it was hampered by the absence of a proper forum within which formal consultation could take place on an ongoing basis. The establishment of a new National Youth Work Advisory Committee will hopefully address this significant gap and we look forward to this and the many other positive provisions of the Youth Work Bill coming into effect to the enormous benefit of youth work in Ireland.

contents**CE & Youth Work:**

Some Consequences & Issues	3
Response to the Children Bill	5
New Opportunities	7
Policy/Funding Update	8
Resources.....	11
News.....	13
Noticeboard	15

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It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward points of view. Send in news, comments, letters or articles to the editor. Views expressed in this magazine are the contributor's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Youth Federation.

Historically, the Irish State has consciously avoided taking a leadership role in relation to developing and funding youth services, preferring to leave the services in the hands of Voluntary Youth Services which in turn have been characterised as uncoordinated, competitive, beset by inter agency rivalry and struggle for attention and resources. However dramatic increases in funding since the advent of the National Lottery in 1988 leading to a significant expansion in the range and variety of youth oriented services, particularly in community based response to young people who are disadvantaged. This development has led in turn to the acceptance of services being delivered in a partnership between the voluntary sector and the State and to greater employment opportunities allied to increasing professionalisation of youth work.

Irish Youth Services do not exist in a social, economic or political vacuum and are not immune from influences both direct and indirect by policies and developments in those spheres. A telling example of such influences have been developments in Government responses to high rates of unemployment particularly long term unemployment which in 1993 was the third highest of the European OECD countries and had the highest rate of those who are considered long term unemployed i.e. more than twelve months unemployed.

Community Employment

Temporary direct employment schemes sponsored by groups in the voluntary and community sector have featured as key State active labour market programmes since the early to mid 1980's and are likely to continue as the mainstay of Government policy response to long term unemployment. Up to the early 1990's those schemes were implemented on a limited scale, there were 12,000 people on the Social Employment Scheme (SES) in 1992 compared with nearly 40,000 on Community Employment in some 3,000 projects. A unique feature of CE is the nature of its delivery, it depends on a sponsoring agency, primarily from the community or third sector for its implementation and development.

"provides eligible unemployed people and others deemed disadvantaged with an opportunity to engage in useful work in their communities on a temporary basis (usually one year except in special circumstances). It helps long term unemployed people to re enter the workforce by breaking their experience of unemployment through a return to work routine and to assist them enhance and develop both their technical and personal skills" (FÁS Project Operations Manual, 1996).

The threefold expansion in the capacity of the temporary direct employment scheme initiatives since 1992, has had and continues to have a profound effect on the resourcing, orientation and the delivery mechanisms of services in the voluntary and community sector (Duggan 1993, Ronayne 1993).

Community Employment : Consequences For Youth Work

Despite the increase in funding and the expansion of youth

work services, there is by no means adequate coverage in terms of appropriate provision in many communities. The youth service is marginal within the overall educational system, despite the fact that the National Lottery now contributes some £12m, this is less than 5% of the overall educational budget. CE therefore may appear an attractive option for community groups seeking resources to undertake essential work including youth work in their community. Each group negotiates a individual contract with FÁS often independently of any co-ordinating youth work organisations. While there are no statistics available, there could well be many community based groups sponsoring Community Employment, involved in providing youth work services with minimal experience or access to youth work development and training support systems which will in itself fundamentally impact on the practice of community based youth work. Youth work provision, in common with other voluntary and community sector providers, has become dependant on CE schemes to provide staff and other resources. A Focus Ireland Report (1996) states:

"There is a need to recognise that the organisation of Youth work has changed in the last decade. CE workers and full time workers now work alongside volunteer workers." (p 70)
... A major change that has taken place in Youth work is the use of CE workers as Youth Club Leaders (once the bastion of the volunteer)...some clubs noted they had difficulty recruiting (voluntary) Youth Leaders." (p 71)

An NYCI (1996) survey would indicate that nearly six out of every ten paid workers in a range of Youth Services are employed on temporary employment schemes nearly all of whom are classified as having no youth work, personal development or specific job skills training.

Issues

Youth Services have been largely unprepared for the influx of mainly temporary part time, untrained, unqualified and low paid workers who are also primarily long term unemployed people participating on a temporary direct employment scheme; a development that cannot but impact on a sector that espouses the primacy of a multi-dimensional principle of voluntarism. These findings are supported by Treacy (1992) and the NYCI (1996) suggesting that the principle of voluntarism is being undermined in practice and that volunteer roles are being seriously disrupted and in some cases displaced.

A recent conference on the challenges facing community youth work (CLLO, 1995) cited some negative effects of Community Employment on voluntary effort, for instance community employment workers are often reluctant to become volunteers after year of being paid volunteers and that others are reluctant to volunteer when they see others being paid. The conference report also asserts that it is not only the role of the voluntary worker that is being impacted. During an exploration of the changing nature of professional youth work impacted by Community Employment the following concerns were articulated. Designating community employment participants as "youth workers" without adequate training undermines the already low status of the full time Youth Worker. This designation can lead to Community Employment workers being allocated work that is inappropriate to their experience, skills and competence,

creating situations where both workers and young people are likely to be exploited.

It appears that temporary direct employment schemes are fast becoming a first, rather than a strategic, option for resourcing many community based initiatives. In this scenario it is unlikely that the needs of long term unemployed people will be uppermost on the sponsors agenda (unless the scheme is set up expressly to serve the needs of the participants?). The possible indirect effects on the Sponsor group of becoming employers, administrators, accountants and training organisers are minimised if considered at all. It is easy to lose sight of or indeed critique CE objectives of enabling long term unemployed people to develop new skills and ease their re entry to the labour market, investing little time or effort in worker skill development (FAS 1992). The recently introduced training and development component of some twenty days in the year, is largely without certification and is insufficient to reverse the effects of long term disadvantage. The lack of linkage between CE and other labour market and education measures has been harshly criticised and contributes to the poor rate of work placement after the scheme (Duggan 1991, O'Connell 1994, 1996, Ronyane 1994).

Given that it is an attempt to serve dual purposes within an overall labour market strategy it is clear that CE cannot focus exclusively on the interests and potential of participants, nor solely on the interests and requirements of the Sponsor. I believe we should not accept, in the absence of other options, that the needs of the voluntary and community sector can be best met by sponsoring a CE scheme becoming what the INOU has called, *"...a cut rate training provider willing to work for very little and absorb large numbers in order to maximise resources"*.

A number of studies of CE and its predecessors, SES and CEDP, have identified a tension between the needs of the sponsoring agency and those of scheme participants. Quigley, in a 1995 report "CE Options and Opportunities", notes:

"The need of the organisation to run efficiently and the need of the unemployed person to be trained and given work experience are not always compatible" (p 19).

While recognising that these tensions exist, they are not necessarily inherently irreconcilable, though the process of reconciliation will take conscious effort and ongoing commitment on behalf of the sponsoring organisation. Duggan (1993) asserts that:

"The extent to which any one scheme can inherently reconcile these (apparently incompatible) interests will depend to a very large extent on the nature of the work provided and the level of skill acquisition and usage involved." (p 57)

She goes on to identify a number of desirable elements within a scheme that together with a complementary training component can enhance the well being of the sponsoring

agency and the participants, potentially meeting both sets of needs. These elements include the provision of work experience that is, skilled, allows existing skills to be used and new skills to be developed that are relevant to the type of skills required by the labour market.

Despite the growth in funding and the increase in the number of workers employed in the development of youth work, little or no sustained attention has been paid to the development of a theoretical basis for youth work. While flexibility and innovation are important elements of developing youth work provision the available documentation indicates that many youth workers, paid and unpaid, are currently free to interpret the concept of youth work according to their own analysis, experience and competence (Harvey 1994, Hurley 1990, Treacy 1989, 1992).

It is generally proposed that entry to the Youth work profession should be open to people from a wide variety of backgrounds (O'Sullivan 1980, Costello 1984, NYCI 1994). Unfortunately, despite recommendations to recruit workers from a diversity of backgrounds, in practice that has come to mean that third level graduates from a variety of disciplines are predominantly recruited to paid contractual. Given this trend it appears that as things stand few so called scheme workers would be recruited to full time positions or benefit substantially from any increase in job opportunities.

The Future

It's unlikely that the dominant position of CE as a policy response is going to change in the short to medium term, nor will the reliance of many community based organisations in disadvantaged areas on CE as a significant source of funding for staff and running costs be diminished (Quigley, 1995). Critical reflection requires that we question youth work organisations' role in providing temporary work experience engaging in an exploration of the associated potential and pitfalls. Both the quality and status of Youth work as a valid provider of informal and non formal education, and the potential of worker participants is not likely to be served well by the ad hoc development of CE within the Youth Services.

Youth work organisations need to take a lead role in addressing the anomalies between stated policy and current practice. Taken at face value, community based youth work could be in an strong position to provide work experience of a high calibre, particularly if properly and appropriately planned, and implemented with vision and consistency operating within a developmental framework of adult learning and training. Is it part of our work to be delivering problematic labour market interventions? Can youth work reconcile the needs of young people and CE participants? Should we be even trying? Is this where we should be putting our energy?

Hilary Tierney is a youth work trainer and is currently completing an MA dissertation exploring issues in CE and community based youth work.

The proposed Children Bill is the first major piece of legislation in the area of juvenile justice since the foundation of the State. It will replace the 1908 Children's Act which currently is the legislation in force in this area.

The very fact that at long last legislation in the area of juvenile justice is being updated is very welcome. However, while there are some good features to the proposed legislation, it is on the whole pretty unimaginative, more aptly described as a modification of the current juvenile justice system rather than the long needed substantial reform. It also contains some very undesirable and other pretty worthless sections. It is the Government's intention, at the time of writing, to pass this legislation before the next election, which means curtailing any debate on the topic. As we have waited almost 90 years for this Bill to appear, and it may well be another 90 years before it is updated again, there seems no reason why it now has to be rushed through. Proper discussion and debate, listening to the views of those involved with juvenile offenders, could produce a much improved Bill.

It also needs to be said at the outset that this legislation should not be the only, or indeed the primary, response of Government to those children who come into conflict with the law. It is widely accepted, and many official reports have confirmed, that juvenile crime has its root in dysfunctional families, deprived communities, unemployment and drug abuse. To deal with this problem, resources need to be provided to help families in crisis, to provide services in deprived communities, improve educational facilities for those who have dropped out of school, provide jobs and subsequently improve access to drug treatment. In the absence of such policy changes, the Children Bill will have minimal impact on the level of juvenile crime.

On a positive note to be welcomed is:

- the emphasis on giving priority to the welfare of the child
- using detention only as a means of last resort,
- placing the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, which diverts children from the criminal justice system, on a statutory basis
- raising the age of criminal responsibility to 10 with reviews every three years until it is further raised to 12
- children can no longer be sent to prison

However, some of the sections that are disturbing include the following:

Juvenile Liaison Scheme

For a child to be admitted to the Juvenile Liaison Scheme, he/she has to first admit their guilt. The safeguards needed to prevent abuse of this procedure are absent. Considerable pressure can be placed by a

Garda on a young person to admit their guilt (even if innocent) so as to avoid prosecution. There is no requirement that a child should have access to legal aid before making such an admission, there is no requirement for a parent or other adult to be present when the child admits the offence and there is no guarantee that, having admitted the offence, the child will not subsequently be prosecuted for that offence.

The legislation also provides immunity from criminal or civil proceedings for any Garda who fails to observe any or all of the regulations relating to the detention of the child nor does it affect the lawfulness of the custody of the detained child or the admissibility in evidence of any statement made by the child. In other words, the Garda can flout the safeguards in the legislation and it makes no difference to the subsequent prosecution of the case.

An innovative feature of the legislation allows for the calling of a family conference and the presence of the victim of the crime at that conference. Family conferences have been very successfully developed in other countries in dealing with juvenile crime, as have victim/offender meetings. However, these are two very separate concepts. Family conferences elsewhere have been based on the premise that the family holds the solution to the problem, that they are highly complex affairs and therefore led by a professionally qualified person with experience.

In this legislation, family conferences and victim/offender meetings are jumbled into one, the local Juvenile Liaison Garda would lead the conference and it would be held in the local Garda Station. The Juvenile Liaison Gardai themselves are unhappy with having this role placed on them as they recognise that they do not have the skills or expertise to conduct such conferences and the local Garda Station is hardly the most ideal location in which to foster positive thinking!

Age of Criminal responsibility

At present children in Ireland can be prosecuted at the age of 7, the lowest in Europe. This Bill proposes to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 10 with reviews every three years until it is further raised to 12. To raise the age of criminal responsibility to 10 does not mean that society turns a blind eye to children, under the age, who commit criminal offences. What it means is that society considers children under the age of 10 who commit criminal offences to have major needs that are clearly not being met in the normal way and that they are more in need of care than punishment. Most people working with children would consider that the age should be raised to at least 12, if not 15. It appears that the opposition to raising the age to 12 came principally from the Health Boards who argued that they do not have the resources to take on yet another group of

Introduction

Presently there is more political attention focused on and more resources being committed to address the issue of drugs, and in particular to the heroin problem in Dublin, than ever before. In the last year we have seen the introduction of new legislation designed to decrease the supply of drugs and address the issues of drug related crime, including:

- **The seizing of assets from those allegedly making large sums of money from the illegal drug trade**
- **Seven day detention for questioning for those allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade**
- **More stringent controls on bail conditions**
- **Eviction powers by Dublin Corporation for "anti-social tenants"**

I believe these measures came into being as a result of two important factors.

Firstly the shooting dead of journalist, Veronica Guerin apparently by leading Dublin criminals and secondly, the realisation that drugs, and in particular the designer drug, ecstasy is not just the preserve of young unemployed kids in the Inner City, but has an attraction to all sections of society regardless of class or gender.

All of these measures were introduced without any real debate, but do have the support of many who have become intolerant of crime in their communities. Community organisations including Community Response have questioned these measures and have pointed out that unless we deal with root causes of the problem, such as the lack of access to decision making bodies that implement policies that very often adversely effect the quality of their lives, unemployment, low incomes, inadequate education and poor housing conditions nothing really changes. Certainly not for those who already experience marginalisation and exclusion.

Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs

As a consequence of communities articulating this position the Government set up a Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and after inviting submissions from various organisations and individuals it published its first report late last year. The Report which deals in the main with opiate abuse has allocated £11m to be divided up into 12 Local Task Forces under the following structure:

- ◆ Cabinet Committee
- ◆ National Strategy Committee
- ◆ Local Task Force

with the idea being that power and decision making comes from the bottom up.

While the Report recognises that heroin use is associated with the poorest sections of society and that local people need to be involved at all levels in attempts to find solutions, it goes on to prioritise the elimination of waiting lists for places on Methadone Treatment by the end of 1997. While this may be a good thing in itself, there needs to be greater consideration given to the support, aftercare and rehabilitation needs that go along with any treatment programme. As well as recognising that in addressing addiction, we need comprehensive programmes that provide a range of options for drug users that will not only improve the quality of their lives but also assist them in addressing their addiction.

Conclusions

With these new Task Forces and the money that will come on stream from them, as well as the Eastern Health Board's Drugs/Aids Service Plan for 1997 budgeted at almost £10m, a real opportunity now exists to bring the community, voluntary and statutory sectors together that will not only provide the necessary services but will also increase the capacity for communities to become actively involved in a number of areas such as:

- Drug Treatment
- Rehabilitation
- Family Support
- Education & Prevention
- and effective Community Policing

Thumbing the moral panic button with fists of legislation that will increase prison detentions, deny civil liberties and increase public spending are not the answer.

What is needed is a greater recognition of the work that local people in communities have been doing, mostly on a voluntary basis, in attempting to respond to the problem. The state sector needs to enter into genuine partnerships with both the community and voluntary sector aiming to strengthen the capacity of the community to respond more effectively and who knows, maybe, ultimately create a climate where problem drug use is no longer a reality for many and that they can prosper.

Fearghal Connolly is the Co-ordinator of Community Response, an organisation consisting of Statutory, Voluntary and Community people who either live or work in the South Inner City area of Dublin and are concerned with the drug problem. The project's aims are to develop and devise practical and effective ways of tackling the drug problem and its effects in Dublin's South Inner City.

For further information contact: **Fearghal Connolly, Community Response, 29 Blackpitts, Off Clanbrassil Street, Dublin 8.**
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children, when they cannot even properly look after those they already have responsibility for.

Detention Schools

Children can only be locked up as a last resort and the court has to say why it feels this particular child has to be dealt with in this way. However, it imposes an obligation on the Manager of the children's schools to accept every child sent to the school by the court. At the same time, it obliges each school to state the maximum number of young people which it can hold. Thus, we are going to see the "revolving door" syndrome which already brings the prison system into disrepute. Children, who have been sentenced to detention and who have begun a training course or education programme, will be released to make way for newcomers thus making it impossible to plan a proper programme and undoubtedly leading to problems of morale amongst staff. Clearly this section was inserted because of the outrage at media reports of children being turned away from detention centres because they were full. But it will lead to a new public outrage, when children, sentenced to a specified term, are returned to the community well before their sentence is completed.

Children between the ages of 16 and 18 will not be sent to Children's Detention Schools but "centres of detention". In effect this means St Patrick's Institution. St Patrick's Institution is in every respect - building and regime - identical to the adult prisons. Although every report ever produced on juvenile justice has called for the closure of St Patrick's as being totally unsuitable for juveniles, clearly this legislation does not intend any change in this regard.

The role of parents

The attitude of the Bill towards the parents of young offenders is quite punitive. The Bill requires both parents to attend court on every occasion, the court may order the parents to pay compensation, it may order the parents to enter a bond to exercise proper control over the child. Failure to do so may lead to the imprisonment of the parents.

While there are a small number of parents who might be influenced by the threat of sanctions, the vast majority of parents of young offenders would like to be more effective parents but need help to do so. We regularly read of parents going to the High Court to seek help for their children which they have been unable to provide. Many parents are over-stressed, over-stretched and under-skilled. The provisions in this Bill will simply stress them more.

An interesting point in the Bill is that it excludes the Health Board from any of the sanctions which it proposes for parents. Thus, if the Health Board has taken a child into its care and has taken on the role of parent for that child, there are no sanctions attached if they neglect to adequately look after the child, (a

situation that we read about all too often in the media), yet a parent faces legal consequences for the same neglect.

Updating the Child Care Act

Even before the Child Care Act 1991 became law, a serious defect had become clear. There were children who were so damaged that they ran away from every effort made to help them. The only what they could get the help they needed was to commit a crime and be locked up. The final sections of this Bill allow the Health Boards to effectively detain Children in special "high support" units even where they have not committed any criminal offence. While recognising the need for such a service without having to criminalise children, this section is conspicuous for the lack of safeguards attached. In the rest of the Bill, in discussing children who may be detained for criminal offence, many safeguards are built into the Bill, such as access to a solicitor, presence of a parent or guardian, detention only as a last resort and a maximum period for which the child can be detained. Here there are no such safeguards in this section of the Bill. The danger is that this section could be used to effectively lock up any troublesome young person for as long as desired.

This Bill is welcome, but needs substantial amendments. The views of those working with troublesome children are conspicuously absent. Unfortunately, it is clear that the Government has no intention of allowing proper debate or substantial amendments.

Peter McVerry S.J. is Director of the Arrupe Society which operates three hostels for homeless children and young people in Dublin.

For further information: Fr Peter Mc Verry S.J., Arrupe Society, Hostels for Homeless Youth, 26 Upr Sherrard Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 8555 002

Self Evaluation

Grants are available to groups involved in anti-poverty work to undertake an internal assessment of their work, their organisational structure and modes of operation. This type of grant will most likely be provided or the enhancement of knowledge and skills for self-evaluation within a project setting.

Independent External Evaluation

Grants are available to groups who wish to commission an external evaluation of their own organisational structure and/or of an aspect of the work they are currently undertaking with view to examining its effectiveness. This grant will be made available to groups to engage an evaluator/consultant to undertake the work.

The majority of grants will be less than £5,000; the overall annual budget for this scheme is £55,000.

A brochure containing criteria is available from: **Combat Poverty Agency, The Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8. Tel: (01) 6706746 Fax: (01) 6706760**

New Youth Services Development Fund

At the launch of the second Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs (7 May, 1997) the chairman of the Task Force, Pat Rabbitte TD, announced the establishment of a Youth Services Development Fund to which the government has pledged an initial £20m over the next three years. It is intended to supplement this by proceeds of Criminal Assets Bureau seizures each year and also by contributions from the corporate sector.

Whilst detailed administrative arrangements have not been announced, the Task Force recommended that funding should be allocated on the basis of development proposals prepared by the relevant VECs and local authorities, taking account of the views of local bodies such as the Area Partnership companies.

The report also recommended that the provision of staff to lead the development of Youth Services should be accorded a high priority in the allocation of the "demographic dividend" in education, recognising the broad educational role played by those working in the youth service. And that developments within Community Employment and other social economy measures should aim to facilitate the recruitment and deployment of local people to work as youth leaders in their own communities.

EU INITIATIVES

Educational Research

A decision by the Council of Minister at the end of 1994 paved the way for a new direction in European research and technological development (RTD) policies, with the adoption of the Targeted Socio-Economic Research programme (TSER) which stresses the interplay between science and technology, skills and knowledge, and the development of an appropriate socio-economic framework to harness human and technological resources while reinforcing economic and social cohesion.

At the first call for proposals about 200 proposals were submitted from educational researchers across Europe. This section of the programme is allocated ECU105 million over four years. Following the selection process by a panel of independent international experts, 12 projects involving institutions from all Member States and more than 100 research teams are now under way. The majority of the projects address education and training systems in Europe with a view to quality and innovation and economic development.

In September, 1996 the EU Member States adopted the programme for the second call for proposals. This second call differed significantly from the first in that the tasks of educational research were focused on a limited number of issues and strictly oriented to priority themes of European and national educational policies. Only 10 research tasks of the original 30 have been opened in the second call. These have been deliberately chosen with respect to what is covered by ongoing projects, and relate in particular to the originally intended policy context, reflecting major social, economic and technological challenges. Three sets of priority themes have been developed:

The labour market and unemployment

- Comparative research to build models for a better understanding of how European Education & Technology systems and the economies develop in relation to each other.
- Linkages between general education and vocational training.
- The transition from initial education to working life.
- The development of lifelong learning as an integral part of working life.

The information society

- Pedagogically appropriate and cost-effective introduction of ICT into initial and continuing education and training.
- Analysis of learning models and cognitive processes.

FUNDING

AIB Better Ireland Awards

The AIB Better Ireland Awards are open to a diverse range of projects, in many different areas, who contribute to improving the quality of life in Ireland. To be eligible a group or organisation must be in existence for at least a year, have the management capacity to carry through the project and the project must not have already been completed.

The four categories are:

- Youth
- Heritage/Environment
- Arts/Communications
- Community/Enterprise Development

The total prize fund for the 1997 Better Ireland Awards will be £272,000. This will be divided equally amongst four categories as follows:

- £1,000 for each of 24 Local Award Winners in each category, which will be adjudicated locally.
- £4,000 for each of six Recognition Award Winners in each category, adjudicated by a national panel for each category.
- £20,000 to each of four Overall Category Winners, adjudicated by a national panel for each category.

The criteria for judging are based on creativity and excellence within the terms of reference for each category. The following will also be taken into consideration: the history of the group or organisation; the capacity to implement and effectively manage the project; the project's development potential; whether it will be able to sustain itself after initial assistance from the fund; and the extent to which the project meets the AIB Better Ireland philosophy. **The closing date is Friday, 30 May, 1997.**

For further details and application forms contact: *Project Co-ordinators, Maureen Porteous/Orla Heffernan, AIB Better Ireland Awards, Bankcentre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.*

Combat Poverty Agency Grants

As part of its work in supporting the community and voluntary sector the Combat Poverty Agency runs the following three grant schemes to help groups and organisations undertake activities with an anti-poverty or community development focus.

- ◆ Public Education
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Evaluation

Public Education Grants

As part of the Agency's commitment to public education on poverty in Ireland, the Public Education grants scheme is designed to support efforts at community, local, or national levels to raise awareness about the causes, extent and nature of poverty and social exclusion and how they might be tackled. The scheme will fund or part fund once-off events or activities such as:

- publications e.g. research reports, information leaflets or packs, posters, videos
- seminars or conferences
- exhibitions, drama, or other creative activities.

The annual budget for this scheme is in the region of £120,000, and most grants awarded will be up to £3,000. In exceptional cases grants of up to a maximum of £5,000 will be allocated.

Research Grants

The aim of the research grants scheme is to support independent research at local and national levels which examines aspects of the nature, causes and extent of poverty or reviews the effectiveness of existing policies and/or provision for tackling poverty. There are two types of assistance available:

Local Action-Research

Grants will be for a maximum of £4,000 for research which examines an aspect of poverty in a specific locality or among a particular social group, with a view to developing a programme of action based on the research findings.

National Policy-Research

Grants will be for a maximum of £12,000 for research which investigates an aspect of anti-poverty policy and/or provision on a national scale, with a view to suggesting new policy approaches or improvements in existing provision.

The total annual budget for the research grant scheme is in the region of £65,000.

Evaluation Grants

This scheme supports groups and organisations involved in anti-poverty work or community development to undertake evaluation as part of their activity. Evaluation allows groups to learn from their own work and the work of others and assists with planning and the translation of good practice into policy. There are two main types of evaluation for which funding is available.

BEREAVEMENT

When Someone Close Dies: A handbook on adult and child bereavement

by Medical Social Work Department, Beaumont Hospital.

Self-explanatory titled handbook which includes sections on: *Grief and Loss Children and Bereavement; Financial Assistance; Social Welfare Payments and Tax-free Allowances; Post-Mortems; The Coroner and Inquests; Registering the Death; Legal Issues; Bereavement Services and Organisations Offering Support*

CHARITY NEWSLETTERS

The DIY Guide to Charity Newsletters

by Directory of Social Change

Practical and concise guide to writing and producing effective newsletters for the voluntary sector. This book is aimed particularly at those with a limited budget who are trying to keep in touch with donors and supporters. Topics covered include: *Starting a Newsletter; Editing; Design Tips; Writing Skills; and Selling Advertising Space.*

CHILD CARE PROVISION

Child Care (Standards in Children's Residential Centres) Regulations, 1996 and Guide to Good Practice in Children's Residential Centres

by Department of Health

Handbook which outlines the new regulations for operating Residential Child Care Centres introduced as part of the ongoing implementation of the Child Care Act, 1991. Also included are guidelines to good practice for those working in these centres.

DRUG EDUCATION

Lager and Blastaways: An Alcohol Training Programme for Youth Workers

by TACADE

Practical training manual, developed in consultation with youth workers themselves. It comprises five units of training material which aim to develop youth workers' competence to raise and respond to alcohol issues relevant to young people's needs. The material will help youth workers to identify opportunities for alcohol education within the club setting, develop guidelines for the use of alcohol on the premises and on trips, support

young people who have a drink related problem, and deal with critical incidents.

Drugs Trigger Pack

by TACADE

Pack intended for use with young people aged between 12-16 years, and can be used by anyone wishing to trigger discussion and raise awareness about the topic of drugs. Very little preparation is required to use the materials. The youth worker or teacher must decide on which parts to use with different groups of young people, depending upon age, maturity and drug awareness. Contents include: *a wordsearch; a crossword; discussion cards; a 'problem' page; a board game; suggestions for action; photographs; and basic drug information.* The pack was produced and trialled in conjunction with Youth Clubs (UK).

LONE MOTHERS

Lone Mothers in Ireland

by Tony McCashin

The number of children in lone mother families has risen by more than 30% in recent years largely due to the increase in marital breakdown and the fact that more single mothers are deciding to keep their babies. *Lone Mothers in Ireland* is an incisive examination of the economic and social circumstances of a group of lone mothers in an area of north Dublin. The women interviewed were virtually unanimous in their views that poverty and deprivation are the worst aspects of being a lone mother. It details the overwhelming inadequacy of social welfare payments and social services such as housing, child care and adult education.

MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Person's Guide to Money

by Ursula McMorrow-Clarke

Handbook aimed at helping young people to be in control of their money and their life. It will help you to manage money and avoid debt problems. Sections include: *Personal Budgeting and Money Management; Budgeting for People; Living at Home/Away from Home; Decisions about Money; Borrowing; Saving; Accounts in Credit Unions, Banks and Building Societies; Money and Food; Setting up Home; Budgeting for a Family; Managing Bills; Attitudes to Debt and Getting out of Debt; Lenders Rights/Borrowers' Rights; The Risk Business; Sources of Money; and Money for Education and Training.*

- Mastering the rapidly accelerating flow of information and its conversion into useful knowledge.
- Access of information by disadvantaged groups.

Minority and disadvantaged groups

- Improving access to Education & Technology.
 - Enhancing achievements of these groups within E&T systems.
 - Increasing their potential for employment.
- (European Commission, (1996), *Le Magazine For Education, Training & Youth No.6*, European Commission)

For further information contact: **Erhard Schulte DG XII, Fax: (0032) 2 2962137**

Youth Research

It has long been regarded that that there has been a dearth of research the field of youth and youth related issues in comparison to many other subjects in the social sciences area. In order to respond to this absence the European Commission decided to include a category for youth research in its Youth For Europe III Programme. In 1995, the European Commission allocated a budget of ECU 500,000 for research projects within Youth for Europe III. 12 research projects were eventually selected with an emphasis being placed on the bridges to be built between scientific and political bodies and priority was also given to information and dissemination of the results of studies. In order to obtain financial backing from the Commission, the authors of the research must indicate precisely how the data will be transmitted to governmental and non-governmental structures concerned with youth affairs.

The Commission plans to widely communicate the ideas put forth and the data gathered. The messages will be published on the Internet, and in publications, but also through an entire network operation. An annual seminar is planned in order to promote exchanges between the various projects selected. There was a further call for projects in July 1996 which closed in October. The budget available is relatively modest, therefore, a decision was taken to target research on selected priority themes including the fight against racism, help for homeless youngsters, and the relationship between young people and the new media. (European Commission, (1996), *Le Magazine For Education, Training & Youth No.6*, European Commission)

For further information contact: **Michel Midre - DG XXII, Fax: (0032) 2 2994158**

New Leonardo Multimedia Resource Centre

A new multimedia resource centre has been set up by the Leonardo da Vinci programme (vocational training). The Leonardo da Vinci Multimedia Centre provides training professionals with a number of work stations equipped with the latest multimedia technology, which enables them to obtain information and try out the best multimedia products supported by the European Commission since 1986. All the products available at the Centre have been tested and assessed (although some of the products are still at the prototype stage). New products will continuously be brought on stream, and there will be an ongoing selection of the most impressive and innovative ones.

The Multimedia Centre is accessible by appointment for on-site consultation and demonstration of one or more of the training products featured in the catalogue, with the assistance of a specialist consultant. Space and the number of work stations and skilled staff available to help visitors are limited, thus priority will be given to representatives of European structures and the main vocational training players in Europe. The training materials available have been produced in video, audio, floppy disk, CD-Rom or CD-I formats. They are generally accompanied by printed documentation. (European Commission, (1996), *Le Magazine For Education, Training & Youth No.6*, European Commission)

For further information contact: **Pierre de Villers - Leonardo Da Vinci, Technical Assistance Office. Fax: (0032) 2 2270101**

Handbook on Youth Policy & Youth Work in Ireland

In the framework of the German Presidency of the European in 1994 a project was initiated with the support of the European Commission to support future presidencies in youth policy by presenting overviews of youth policy and youth work in each country in the form of an information handbook.

Youth Policy and Youth Work in Ireland is the third publication in the series and provides an excellent overview of the structure of youth work in Ireland covering: the Legislative Framework: Youth Related Government Policies and Funding; Department Provision for Young People; Youth Service Organisations; and Juvenile Justice. It also includes charts on the structure of the Youth Service in Ireland; the National Youth Council of Ireland; and the structure of Education and Training in Ireland.

For details on how to acquire a copy, contact: **Youth Affairs Section, Department of Education, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01/6777342, 6715270**

New Report on Systems Response To Drug Misuse

A report arising from the conference of the same name entitled *Joint Systems Approaches for the Prevention of Drug Misuse* is now available. The conference was hosted by **URRUS - Ireland's Community Addiction Studies Training Centre** in November, 1996 and focused on the complexities involved when using a systems approach in the prevention of drug misuse and explored ways to improve services for the care of young people-at-risk from drug misuse.

Copies of the report are available at a cost of £3.00 from: **John Adams or Gabrielle Gilligan, URRUS - Ireland's Community Addiction Studies Training Centre, Ashly House, Swords Road, Santry, Dublin 9. Tel: 01/8425726 Fax: 01/8425729**

Youth Information Guide Launched

A new publication titled *The Youth Information Guide (Youth Guide: The Ultimate Guide for The 12 to 25 Age Group)* has just been published by the Irish Essential Information Guide Ltd. The guide is intended as a handbook for young people which they can consult or refer to on the wide range of issues and problems which they may encounter over a period of time from their early teenage years to adulthood.

The guide is broken down into the following four broad sections covering a wide variety of topics: **Personal Development** - *self confidence, bullying, peer pressure, family relationship, dating, personal safety, depression, stress management, coping with bereavement*: **Independence and Responsibility** - *young people and the law, travel, living away from home, choosing a career, applying for a job, employment rights, work and further education*: **Health** - *healthy lifestyle, misuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, personal hygiene, skin care, hair care, sleep & relaxation, yoga and medication, health checks, alternative medicine, safe use of medicines, dealing with emergencies*: **Social Development** - *voluntary work, youth organisations, help organisations, useful addresses*.

Copies of the guide are available at a cost of £5.95 from: **The Youth Information Guide, P.O. Box 4426, Rutland Place, Dublin 1.**

New Youth & Community Work Courses Directory

The latest edition of *The Youth & Community Work Courses Directory (1997-98)*, produced by the Irish YouthWork Centre, is now in print. It includes detailed information on over forty courses from extra-mural level through to postgraduate level, on a full-time, part-time and distance learning basis. Also included are courses on training and management in the voluntary sector.

Copies of the directory are available at a cost of £2.00 from **Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01/8729933**

POVERTY AND THE ARTS

Poverty: Access and Participation in the Arts by Working Group on Poverty: Access and Participation in the Arts

The Poverty: Access and Participation in the Arts Working Group was jointly established in the Spring of 1995 by the Arts Council/ An Comhairle Ealaíon and the Combat Poverty Agency. Prior to its establishment, both agencies had become increasingly interested in access to the arts for people who live in poverty and experience disadvantage. The broad terms of reference for the Working Group were as follows: *to examine all aspects of access and participation in the arts for people living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage; to inform and support the research process; and to make recommendations on the basis of the research conclusions and drawing on the experience of the members of the Working Group.* This report outlines their findings and recommendations.

RURAL POVERTY

Poverty in Rural Ireland by Chris Curtin, Trutz Haase & Hilary Tovey

In the course of public debate, rural poverty is defined in terms of poor communities and poor farmers. However, while these are two important aspects, they neglect a whole series of other issues. *Poverty in Rural Ireland* focuses on both analysis and policy in providing a framework for the alleviation of rural poverty. The contents include chapters on *demography, the distribution of deprivation in rural Ireland, agricultural production, natural resource development, rural industrialisation, social service provision, communities and industrial structures* among others.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL ISSUES

Speak Your Piece by Channel 4 Schools

Programme guide for teachers, youth and community workers and other facilitators who bring energy, enthusiasm and commitment to their work. It has been prepared by an experienced project team and offers support and advice to help young people engage with divisive and controversial issues in their society such as culture, identity, religion and politics. This booklet is aimed at those working with young people in the formal and informal education sectors including teachers, full-time youth and community workers, and voluntary and

part-time workers within the youth service and community work sectors. It is designed to help explore the full potential of the accompanying television series *Off The Walls*. *A video of these programmes is also available on loan from the Irish YouthWork Centre.*

THE INTERNET AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Harnessing the Internet: Conference Report by Voluntary Sector in the Information Age Research Project, DCU

Conference which represented one part of a wider research project being conducted at Dublin City University, and drew together representatives from voluntary and community organisations to explore the potential benefits and difficulties of using the Internet of which the following conference report give some further details. The conference and the contributions of many delegates outlined possible directions for new initiatives aimed at developing an effective use of appropriate Internet technologies among voluntary and community organisations as well as examining some of the drawbacks of using Internet technologies.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Report to the Minister for Education on An Evaluation of the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme

by WRC Social & Economic Consultants Ltd
This evaluation was primarily concerned with assessing the effectiveness of the VTOS. In establishing indicators of effectiveness, consideration was given to the contemporary and likely future labour market situation which the long-term unemployed face. The evaluation also examined a range of issues in relation to the administration and delivery of the VTOS, including the adequacy of curricular and support provision, the effectiveness of outreach and targeting and issues relating to the process of participation. Particularly innovative features of the delivery of the VTOS which were found to be effective in meeting the educational and other needs of the target group include the scope for flexibility and versatility at the local level and the range and level of certification options available to participants.

IRELAND

Sexual Abuse Counselling: Re-Appraisal

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

Wednesday, 4 June, 1997

One-day workshop for people who have already attended a three or four day course in the DRCC. This workshop offers an opportunity to explore at a deeper level issues and difficulties encountered in sexual abuse counselling.

Cost: £90.00 (deposit £20.00)

Further Details: Education Department, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6614911

Fax: 01 6610873

Email: rcc@indigo.ie

Substance Abuse and Young People

National Youth Federation, Dublin.

Saturday & Sunday, 7/8 June, 1997

Two-day practice-based seminar organised by the Irish YouthWork Centre which will examine the background to and effects of substance abuse by young people and outline the new Government measures implemented over the past year. The seminar will also profile a variety of approaches used in responding to substance abuse by young people including: *Peer Education Responses; Working with Schools and Parents; Community-Based Responses; the Youth Service Response and Working in a Project Setting.*

Cost: £40.00 (limited to 30 participants)

Further Details: Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8729933

Fax: 01 8724183

Email: nyf@aonad.iol.ie

Managing Your Information

Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.

Thursday, 12 June, 1997 9.30am - 5.00pm

One-day course for information officers, welfare officers, administrators and all those responsible for dealing with information within their groups. The course content includes *what information is available, what to get, and what not to get, how to organise information so that it may easily be found again, how to deal with the organisation's own information, including developing filing systems, databases and procedures manuals, using computers including the Internet, and how to get the best use out of the information you collect.* Documentation will be provided.

Cost: £35.00 (limited to 15 participants)

Further Details: Training Service, NSSB, 7th Floor, Hume House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Tel: 01 6059000

Fax: 01 6059000

Culture and Identity: Social Work in a Changing Europe

University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4

24 - 28 August, 1997

Joint initiative between the International Federation of Social Workers EUROPE and the European Association of Schools of Social Work on the diversity of backgrounds and interests of those who are active in European Social Work. The Seminar will bring together people from widely different backgrounds to share experiences and debate approaches to the impact of rapid changes on people: racism, ethnicity, migration, poverty. More than 200 abstracts have been received and speakers will include: Professor Walter Lorenz (Ireland), Ms Jane Liddy (Council of Europe), Professor Laura Balbo (Italy), Professor Jurgen Nowak (Germany), Sir Herman Ouseley (United Kingdom).

Further Details: Irish Association of Social Workers, 114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6774838

Fax: 01 6715734

Email: iasw@iol.ie

European Commission Project on Prevention of Child Abuse

In 1996 the European Commission provided funding for a Concerted Action on the Prevention of Child Abuse in Europe (CAPCAE) under the EC Biomedical and Health Research Programme. The objectives of CAPCAE are:

- ◆ to provide a comprehensive overview in the issues of definitions of child abuse in different parts of Europe and identify the implications of this for the development of prevention strategies.
- ◆ to identify the different prevention strategies operating in Europe relevant to child abuse and to assess methods of evaluation of effectiveness.
- ◆ to co-ordinate and compare available health data on child abuse in different parts of Europe in order to initiate measurement of the extent to which child abuse is a health problem and contribute to the development of prevention strategies in the assessment of their effectiveness.

A research network has been set up between the participating countries who will collect data on children reported to child health and child protection agencies and examine the types of harms and injuries identified with a view to developing new prevention strategies and sharing information across Europe.

The Irish partner is: **Kieran McGrath, St. Clare's Unit, Children's Hospital, Temple Bar, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 8745214 Fax: (01) 8787083**

New Communications Course in U.C.C.

A new course entitled the **Certificate in Interpersonal Communications** is being offered by U.C.C. from October. The course is aimed primarily at various professional groups in the health and social care fields. The course lasts for one calendar year (mid October to mid June) and it will involve lectures and workshops on one half day per week. Topics covered will include: Family Communications; The Emergence of the Self; Mediums of Communications; Interpersonal Communication; Therapeutic Communication;

Communication within Organisations; Communication and Health.

For further information contact: **Department of Applied Psychology, U.C.C., Cork. Tel: (021) 902135 Fax: (021) 902996**

1997 Guinness Living Dublin Awards

The 1997 Guinness Living Dublin Awards recognise contributions by individuals, schools, business and other groups who have contributed towards the development and enhancement and general improvement of the quality of life of Dublin.

The awards are assessed on the basis of resources available to a particular project or initiative and there is a total prize fund of £15,000. Entries should be made under the following categories:

- 1) Commercial
- 2) Community Development
- 3) Entertainment/Events
- 4) Schools (Primary and Post-Primary)
- 5) Residential (Tidy Districts Competition)

The closing date for entries for all categories except schools is **Friday 30th May, 1997.**

For further information and/or application forms, contact: **Patricia Clare, Awards Co-ordinator, 7 Clare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6612173 Fax: (01) 6766043**

Organising a Quality Information System

Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.

Friday, 13th & 27th June, 1997

Two-day course aimed at those interested in establishing and maintaining a quality information service in their organisations. The course will increase participants' awareness of standards in information giving. It will also demonstrate ways of managing and monitoring standards of information giving.

Cost: £70.00 (limited to 15 participants)

Further Details: Training Service, NSSB, 7th Floor, Hume House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Tel: 01 6059000

Fax: 01 6059000

Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence

Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan.

Wednesday & Thursday, 11/12 June, 1997

Two-day conference organised by Northern Ireland Women's Aid and the Federation of Refugees of Ireland on the issues of domestic violence. The conference will focus on issues of protection, provision and prevention.

Further Details: Irish Federation of Women's Refugees, Rosmen, Kells, Co.Meath.

Tel: 046 40158

BRITAIN

Making Training and Development Pay: Measuring and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Training

Royal Westminster Hotel, London

Thursday, 5 June, 1997

One-day workshop which aims to provide a proven process for measuring and evaluating training and emphasise the importance of obtaining buy-in and commitment from employees and all levels of management for effective training and development to

take place. The workshop hopes to help participants: *to learn how to use a simple six step process to build evaluation into their training and development programmes; start to put an added-value, business case for all training and development activity; apply the model to existing training programmes to identify areas of improvement; make competencies and NVQ's fit business needs; and make self-development and the learning organisation improve performance.*

Cost: £275.00

Further Details: Judy Leech, Technical Communications (Publishing) Ltd, P.O. Box 6, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2DB.

Tel/Fax: 0044 1462 437075

EUROPE

EUthNET '97

Staten Hall, House of Government, Maastricht, Province of Limburg, The Netherlands. (except for the Internet training)

Wednesday - Friday, 11 - 13 June, 1997

Three-day seminar hosted by the International Child Resource Institute of Europe who have recently established EUthNET (EUthNET is a network of innovative welfare organisations in the field of children, youth and families aimed at sharing & exchanging models and practice with a focus on the use of communications media). The seminar will begin with a full day of Internet training followed by two conference days with presentations from representative from relevant selected European organisations. The presentations will offer a range of models, methods, concepts and visions covering : *Youth & Drugs; Youth & Environment; Youth & Employment; and Youth & Culture.*

Cost: 10US\$ (Internet training), 125US\$ (each conference day), 45US\$ (seminar banquet)

Further Details: Mrs Sakai Nilwik, ICRI Europe, P.O. Box 591, 6400 AN Heerlen, The Netherlands

Tel: 0031 (0)45 5729797

Fax: 0031 (0)45 5724745

Email: icri@worldaccess.nl