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irish youthwork **SCENE**

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Supporting and Highlighting Voluntary Activity

by Tony Murphy, Chief Executive, NYF

Given the size and significance of the Community and voluntary Sector it is amazing that no analysis or commentary on the achievements of 1997 could be found in the annual review of the Sunday papers 29 December last. Much was written in the same paper about the Celtic Tiger which symbolises one economic principle - the survival of the fittest. Nothing startling about this reality.

Voluntary organisations are extremely active, driven by priorities and particular funding circumstances, and yet fail to convey the social impact of the sector's collective endeavours without which the State could not survive. Agencies such as the National Economic and Social Forum, Community Platform, Combat Poverty, the National Anti-Poverty Strategy Unit among others are well placed to comment on social change and development within Irish Society.

In 1992 Faughnan and Kelleher following a study of 42 Voluntary Organisations commented:

"These organisations, however, were in an ambiguous and precarious relationship with the State. While encouraged to respond to intractable social problems and to major issues of development, they lack a clear commitment and recognition from Government agencies. For the Voluntary Sector to fulfil its role of promoting a more democratic, pluralist society and representing as well as responding to vulnerable and social excluded groups, a comprehensive policy for the Voluntary Sector is urgently required".

The voluntary sector is not committed to dialogue and social partnership purely based on a moral claim to be recognised by the State. More importantly it is based on a belief in the partnership approach being fundamental to successfully addressing long-term concerns such as social exclusion, unemployment and disproportionate opportunities for certain groups regarding wealth and education.

The point is well made in relation to early school leavers : do we merely say that the system cannot cope with them or they are unsuitable to the system? Alternatively, do we widen the net in order to ensure that their flights of learning and fancy can be accommodated and supported towards a useful and participative role within pathway of life-long learning?

As a partner among partners nevertheless the sector requires agreed measures for quality assurance and appropriate validation systems which allows it to stand over work in its own right but also, to present work in ways which can be recognised by other sectors.

The Green Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity (via the Combat Poverty Agency Conference 23/24 February) provides an ideal opportunity for considering the establishment of a single representative voice for the sector which reflects diversity in unity. Equality of participation and access, of opportunities to influence and agree potential outcomes should be the hallmarks of how the actors within the sector engage with each other and in so doing promote the immense significance of the sector's contribution to social change within our wider society. We represent a different set of principles and values to the 'Tiger' in planning for and evaluating progress. A huge challenge presents itself and part of the response is to say 'Move over Mr Tiger!'

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It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward your 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.

with Learning Disabilities at 01-6790276 or by contacting a psychologist in private practice. In either case assessment will cost about £150.00, although the ACLD does have a subsidy system .

Tuition can be had from a school based remedial teacher . This is a more viable option at primary level than at second level where there are considerably fewer remedial teachers. Again, not all remedial teachers are trained to provide appropriate tuition to dyslexic pupils. In the Dublin area there are three excellent schools at primary level, run by the Department of Education, which cater for students with severe reading delays. Nothing comparable exists at second level. Facilities outside of Dublin are very sparse. Time and again parents and young adults are forced to seek private tuition. This can cost up to £15.00 per hour.

There is no state provision for adults or young people who are out of school. Even if unemployed or on a medical card they must pay for their own assessment and tuition. The various adult literacy agencies offer invaluable help to those whose literacy problems are caused by not having attended school regularly, or who simply missed out on those vital skills in their early school years. People who have dyslexic-type difficulties require specialised help, geared to individual needs and delivered by a teacher who is trained and experienced in the area.

Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

It was the lack of state provision which caused the Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (ACLD, commonly known as the Dyslexia Association) to establish its own service network. ACLD is a voluntary organisation whose aims are to increase awareness of the problems of dyslexia, lobby for appropriate services through the education system and offer support to people with dyslexia. ACLD has twenty two branches around the country and has lists of trained tutors who are prepared to give individual tuition to people who have been assessed by a psychologist. Group classes for children, Summer Schools and special examination preparation classes are offered in various locations in Dublin and the country.

Courses for trained teachers have been offered by the Association for over fifteen years. This year funding from the European Union under a Horizon Programme will allow ACLD to offer a Training for Trainers. This will be a series of lectures and workshops for those who work in the provision of training for adults and young people in vocational areas such as FÁS, Rehab and the Partnership Schemes. ACLD will also be running a course for unemployed adults (over 18) who

are dyslexic and who have found difficulty in getting a job. This will be a six month course which will include four weeks of work experience. The course will provide a base in business training and use of computer technology. The usual training allowances will be paid.

Conclusion

This project will be a great breakthrough for adults with dyslexia as they are a sector of the population who have been ignored for too long. It is argued that the costs of providing appropriate education and training for dyslexic people is too high. Has anyone considered the costs of not providing people with the necessary skills so that they can achieve their potential, live full and useful lives with dignity and self-respect. British studies have shown that men with untreated reading difficulties form a disproportionately high percentage of the prison population there. Similar studies have not been done in this country yet, but there is no reason to believe that the findings would be any different.

Charlemagne achieved great things despite his inability to read or write. But Charlemagne was an emperor. There are not too many emperors wandering our city streets but one thing you can be sure of, there are many people with specific learning difficulties on our streets. We need to be aware of that and to demand that our education system take this need on board. Charlemagne so admired the scholarship of the monks at Clonmacnoise that he sent them a valuable gift. What might he have done for those people who shared a difficulty with him, had he known about it. What a pity he isn't around today. He would surely have been a champion of those with specific learning disabilities. Lord knows we could do with him.

Anne Hughes is the Co-ordinator of A.C.L.D.

For further information, please contact: Rosemary O'Shea, Information Officer/Administrator, A.C.L.D., Suffolk Chambers, 1 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6790276/5 Fax: (01) 6790273 Email: ACLD@iol.ie

Ireland and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Ireland signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 30 September 1990 and ratified it without reservation on 21 September 1992. The Convention then entered into force in Ireland on 21st October 1992. Despite ratifying the Convention in September 1992 Ireland did not submit its First National Report on the implementation of the Convention until April 1996. In May 1997 the Children's Rights Alliance, an umbrella group of over sixty organisations concerned with children's rights and welfare, forwarded a submission, *Small Voices: Vital Rights*, to the UN Committee. This report sets out the Alliance's view on the extent to which Irish laws, policies and practices comply with the principles and articles of the Convention; identifies key issues for children in Ireland in the context of the Convention; and, makes recommendations regarding the changes necessary in order to comply.

In October 1997 members of the UN Committee assembled for a pre-sessional working meeting to prepare the discussion for Ireland's plenary hearing. The Children's Rights Alliance participated in the pre-sessional working meeting, its presentation based on the information contained in *Small Voices: Vital Rights*. Ireland's plenary hearing with the UN Committee took place on the 12 and 13 January 1998. During nine hours of discussion and questioning the Committee touched on a very broad range of issues relating to the rights and welfare of children and young people in Ireland, including many of the issues drawn to the attention of the Committee by the Children's Rights Alliance and other NGOs. The government delegation, led by Minister of State Liz O'Donnell, included officials from the Departments of Health and Children, Education and Science, Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Foreign Affairs and the Attorney General's Office. The plenary hearing which is a public event, was covered by the Irish media, and attended by representatives of Irish NGOs including the Children's Rights Alliance.

UN Committee's Observations

In its *'Concluding Observations and Recommendations'* following the examination of the Irish government report the UN Committee expressed concern about the lack of a comprehensive national policy for children which fully incorporates the principles and provision of the Convention. The Committee also expressed concern about:

- the lack of adequate co-ordination among various government bodies responsible for children, at national and local level;
- the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism to promote and protect children's rights, such as an Ombudsman for Children;
- the lack of emphasis on measures of a preventative nature;
- the lacunae in statistical and other information relating to children;
- the insufficient steps taken to promote widespread awareness of the Convention
- and the lack of systematic training on the principles and provision of the Convention, for professional groups working for and with children.

The Committee were also concerned about:

- the existence of child abuse and violence with the family and the lack of a mandatory reporting mechanism for child abuse;
- the disadvantaged situation of children born from unmarried parents due to the lack of appropriate procedures to include the identify of the father in the birth registration of the child;
- the incidence of teenage suicide;
- the lack of a national policy to ensure the rights of the child with disabilities;
- the incidence of child poverty and homelessness;
- and the low age of criminal responsibility and treatment of children deprived of their liberty.

UN Committee's Recommendations

Among the 18 comprehensive recommendations made by the UN Committee to the Irish government are the following: the Committee recommend that further steps are taken to ensure that the Convention is fully incorporated as part of Irish domestic law; that the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Group to strengthen the recognition of children's rights in the Constitution be implemented; that the government adopt a comprehensive national strategy for children, incorporating the principles and provisions of the Convention, in a systematic manner, in the design of all its policies and programmes; that an independent monitoring body, such as an Ombudsman for Children, be established; that a systematic information campaign on children's rights be developed for both children and adults; that there is increased co-ordination among different government bodies, with a single body mandated to co-ordinate and make appropriate decisions to protect the rights of the child; and that a system of data collection and indicators be developed incorporating all areas covered by the Convention; that immediate steps to tackle the problem of child poverty and all possible efforts to ensure that all families have adequate resources and facilities.

Finally, the UN Committee recommend that the Irish government widely distribute and publicise the *'Concluding Observation and Recommendations'* and that they form the basis for discussions on how to improve the enforcement of the provisions of the Convention in Ireland. So far our government has been very quiet on this matter!

(The full list of 'Concluding Observations and Recommendations' of the UN Committee is available from the Children's Rights Alliance.)

The Children's Rights Alliance is an umbrella group of over sixty organisations including a wide range of child welfare agencies; youth representative groups; national parents organisations; unions and professional groups representing teachers, social workers, psychologists and child care workers; and others with an interest in children's rights. The purpose of the Alliance is to promote awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Ireland, and to seek the implementation of the Convention through the reform and improvement of legislation, policies and services.

For further information please contact: **Anne Shaw, Development Officer, The Children's Rights Alliance, 4 Christchurch Square, Dublin 8 Tel: 453 0355 E-mail: cra@iol.ie**

Research and Evaluation

- a Suicide Research Group be established by the Chief Executive Officers of the health boards, comprising Psychiatrists, Directors of Public Health and relevant researchers, to review ongoing trends in suicide and parasuicide and to co-ordinate research into suicide.
- Particular attention needs to be given to research into young peoples suicides with a view to understanding the reasons why they occur so that appropriate action can be taken.
- current collection of data by the Garda Síochána in relation to cases of suicide at inquests be expanded to include improved information in relation to the medical and social circumstances of the individual. The proposed Suicide Research Group to have access to this information.
- the Chief Executive Officers of each health board to nominate a resource officer(s) with responsibilities in the broad field of suicide prevention;
- the resource officer(s) to act as a contact point with voluntary groups and facilitate research into all aspects of suicidal and parasuicidal behaviour and their consequences in the health board area.

Copies of the report are available through Government Publications at a cost of £5.00. Copies of the NYF Guidelines are available through the Irish YouthWork Centre.

New Research Report on the Needs of Rural Youth

A Sense of Belonging, the report from Youth Action's Rural Research Project was launched before Christmas in Loughry College, Cookstown, by Tony Worthington, Minister for Education. Local presentations of the report were also made by Youth Action Northern Ireland in the Glens, the South Mourne and the Castlederg areas - the three areas in which the research took place. The research project was a partnership involving voluntary and statutory bodies from the Education, Health and Agricultural sectors as well as local community groups.

The report is the culmination of two years work by Youth Action in these three rural areas of Northern Ireland. The research explores rural young people's needs, hopes and aspirations. It also has a particular focus on young people's relationship with rural development. The research highlights the potential of young people in the regeneration of rural areas.

A key feature of the report is the making heard of young people's voices. This is reflected in the title, "**A Sense of Belonging**" which came from the young people themselves and summarises their desires and aspirations for the future.

As a result of this research project Youth Action Northern Ireland are now establishing a **Rural Development Unit** to support work with young people in rural areas.

Further details about the unit and copies of the report are available from:

Teresa Geraghty, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Hampton, Glenmachan Park, Belfast. Tel: (0801232) 760067.

Night Courses in Human Rights and Development Education

Comhlámh, the Irish association of returned development workers, plans to hold two night courses in its Dublin offices in Spring 1998. The first, '**Human Rights in Ireland & Worldwide**' will explore key issues in human rights in the context of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration as well as the current state of human rights in Ireland and world-wide. Course sessions will include Travellers' issues, food, women, disabilities, refugees, sexuality, censorship and discrimination.

The second course, entitled '**Skills in Development Education**' will provide training in development education methods relevant to working with schools, youth and adult groups. With an emphasis on practical skills such as campaign planning, the use of photographs and images, media skills and groupwork and facilitation, the course aims to help people plan and design appropriate development education programmes.

Both courses are fairly informal in structure and will be delivered one evening per week over a 10 week period.

For further details on both courses, contact:
Suzanne MacManus, Meabh McMahon or Louise Keating in Comhlámh's Dublin office. Tel: (01) 478 3490 Fax: (01) 478 3738 or E-mail: comhlamh@iol.ie

Combat Poverty Agency Fellowship Awards Scheme

The Combat Poverty Agency has been operating a Fellowship Awards Scheme for doctoral research into poverty and related matters since 1994. The aim of the Fellowship Scheme is to enhance the infrastructure for poverty research in Ireland.

Proposals are now invited for research in the key areas of interest to the Agency: tackling long term unemployment addressing educational disadvantage empowering the excluded, addressing the spatial dimensions of poverty, supporting the peace process, improving the social welfare system, promoting tax reform and redistribution, and influencing wider policy and civil society.

Fellowships will be valued at £5,000 per annum for up to three years. The research programmes will be carried out in recognised third-level institutions.

Applicants should have a primary degree in a related discipline. Applicants with work experience in related areas are encouraged to apply.

The closing date for applications **Friday, 17 April, 1998**. For further details and an application form, please contact:

David Silke, Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8.

Residential Facility for Disadvantaged and Marginalised Groups

The Cavan Centre is a Residential Centre for Education and Community Development, a voluntary organisation, run by a Management Board made up of youth and community workers from Dublin. The Cavan Centre is a registered charity and pursues "a positive policy of discrimination in favour of disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and communities".

The Cavan Centre has a full time Professional Staff, and is funded by The Management Board, the Department of Education and Science and Dublin Corporation. It provides two Residential Programmes:

- A Residential Community/Training Holiday and Outdoor Pursuits Programme.
- Identification and Organisation of Training Programmes in a wide range of Leadership Skills to empower the Individual and the Community.

The Centre is used extensively by many groups including

- Youth Clubs,
- Youthreach Centres,
- School Groups,
- Clubs,
- Scouts & Guides,
- Retreat Groups,
- Families,
- Senior Citizens Groups,
- Women's Groups,
- CE Schemes & Community Training Workshops, Child Care Homes and Rehab Centres.

It provides the following programme options:

- **Holidays**
- **Adventure Sports.**
- **Water Sports.**
- **Coaching Courses (Sports).**
- **Youth & Community Training.**
- **Retreats.**
- **Seminars.**
- **Outdoor Education.**
- **Family Holidays.**
- **Conferences.**
- **Leadership Training.**
- **Team Building Facilitation.**

• **Personal Development.**

For further information, please contact:

Pat Carthy, Director Residential Programmes, The Cavan Centre, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan. Tel/Fax: (049) 44436

New Enterprise Pack from Department of Education and Science

A new enterprise teaching pack titled **The Enterprise Encounter Pack** has been developed based on the findings of a survey undertaken by a group of students who interviewed nearly 60 successful entrepreneurs and business people in the Dún Laoighaire-Rathdown area and asked them about their formative influences and their success. The students involved came from 10 schools in South County Dublin and were drawn from various senior course levels i.e. Transition Year, Leaving Cert. Business, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), Leaving Certificate Vocational Preparation (LCVP) and Post Leaving Certificate (PLC).

The pack is intended as a teaching resource and includes profiles, interview notes, teamwork, brainstorming, creative thinking and a start-me-up-section.

The pack was co-funded by the Department of Education and Science, Venturepoint and the Dún Laoighaire-Rathdown County Enterprise Board and is available at a cost of £5.00 from:

Blackrock Education Centre. Tel: (01) 2300977

participation rates in general. Qualitative and quantitative data from the participants from both projects is presented to forge a link between policies and the everyday reality of lone parents. The study also signals the direction of current policies which impact on lone parents in Ireland and Finland and concludes with a series of recommendations.

PROFILING LOCAL NEEDS

Profiling the Needs of Young People in Local Areas

by *Focus Ireland*

Another in the series of guidelines issued by Focus Ireland which are intended as a source of ideas, structures, information and suggestions for voluntary and other groups who are working to combat homelessness and related social problems.

This set of guidelines were drawn up as a response to requests from local community and youth groups and Local Area Partnerships for information on how to undertake a profile of youth needs in a local area. Drawing on the experience of two locally based research studies undertaken by Focus Ireland in the Dublin area, these guidelines are designed to help local groups to identify youth needs and to develop strategic plans to bring about change.

The guidelines are not a blueprint for undertaking a profile of the needs of young people. Rather, they outline the stages that are involved in such a study. They provide information on processes and useful sources of information that can help to integrate such a project into local planning and hopefully help to make the research process and findings and the follow-up work more accessible.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Managing Volunteers: A Good Practice Guide

by *NSSB*

Handbook which has been produced for the wide range of voluntary and statutory agencies in the Republic of Ireland which use volunteers. The materials included in the guide should be adapted to individual organisations to help them develop volunteer policies which are tailor-made to their respective needs.

Beginning with some guidelines on how to design the most appropriate volunteer policy, the guide works through the various stages necessary for the recruitment, training and overall support of volunteers. Sections covered include:

- The Volunteer Policy
- Management of Volunteers
- Recruitment (including contracts)
- Training & Support
- Expenses
- Insurance
- Legal Structures
- Management Committees.

WORKING WITH LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL YOUTH

Pride & Prejudice: working with lesbian, gay and bisexual youth

Edited by *Margaret S. Schneider*

Comprehensive resource produced by Central Toronto Youth Services which provides a thorough course in lesbian, gay and bisexual youth issues as well as a practical guide about how to help. Issues covered include: prejudice; violence; group counselling; relationships; identity; HIV/AIDS; homelessness; service provision through school, welfare services and youth services amongst others

YOUTH PROJECTS

Equal to the Future: Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust Unattached Youth Programme

by *Kenneth Shanks and Camilla Galli Da Bino*

NIVT's Unattached Youth Programme exists to establish ways in which activities aimed at young people can be truly relevant to the needs of young people. At the programme's heart is a desire to see if projects run, organised and controlled by young people offer lessons for those funding youth initiatives and shaping youth policy who are prepared to learn from emergent lessons and insights. The programme consists of seven such projects each of which differs not only in terms of their objectives, geographical patch and extent of ambitions, but also in relation to both their attitudes to involving adults in their work and the experience they have had in attempting to develop resultant relationships in their own terms. This publication is the result of commissioning two researchers to capture something of the essence of projects' beginnings and early days.

The aim is to put into the public domain the first piece in what is intended to be a mosaic of views; opinions, evidence and chronicle. The material presented is couched in a singular style from a particular perspective. Much has happened within each of the seven projects since the time of writing. Readers interested in events subsequent to those outlined here and to other perspectives on the beginnings of projects should contact the Unattached Youth Programme office for details of other offerings. The Unattached Youth Programme will not provide all the answers to vexed questions of power, control and making it possible for many young people to come in from the margins. Nevertheless, it provides amplification for young people's voices and provides the means for young people to act in their own interests as they see them.

All of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan (**NOT SALE**) from the IYWC, the official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Youth Clubs UK and the National Youth Agency.

Further Information: Fran Bissett & Bríd Horan, Irish YouthWork Centre, 20 Lr Dominick St., Dublin 1.

Tel: 8729933 **Fax:** 8724183 **Email:** NYF@iol.ie

IRELAND

Violence Against Women Workshop

Venue: Hesed House, 74 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore

Date: Friday 27 & Saturday 28 February, 1998

Weekend workshop for practitioners to develop skills and acquire knowledge where violence against is an issues in their work.

Cost: £55.00

Further Details: Sharon Newman, Hesed House, 74 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

Tel: 01 4549474

Texts and Transformation: Drama, Theatre and Active Learning

Venue: University College Cork.

Date: Friday 3 April to Tuesday 7 April, 1998

Conference jointly organised by the National Association for Youth Drama and U.C.C. which will include contributions from the Graffiti Theatre Company, Abbey Theatre Outreach and the Drama Studies Department T.C.D. There will also be a range of international speakers from Australia, Canada and U.S.A.

Further Details: Edie Demas, Conference Co-ordinator, NAYD, 34 Upper Gardiner Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8781301 **Fax:** 01 8781302 **Email:** nayd@indigo.ie

Confidence, Composure & Competence for working women

Venue: Jury's Hotel, Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin

Date: Friday 20 March, 1998

One-day seminar which aims to supply participants with new ways to: keep calm when pressurised; find inner strength in the midst of chaos; stand one's ground with overbearing people; and give in gracefully when deemed appropriate. The seminar will cover a range of curriculum topics including:

- 7 Habits of the Self-Confident Woman
- Secrets of the Self-Composed Woman
- Self-Management Skills of the Competent Woman
- Moving Forward to Greater Confidence, Composure & Competence

The structure of the seminar will incorporate information presentations, exercises and group discussions and participants will receive a comprehensive workbook to take away with them to monitor their progress.

Cost: £99.00

Further Details: CareerTrack, Sunrise House, Sunrise Parkway, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6YA, England.

Tel: 0044 1908 354000 **Fax:** 0044 1908 679931

Welfare To Work

Venue: Derryvale Hotel, Dundalk

Date: Friday 24 April, 1998

One-day conference which aims to compare different approaches to labour market integration in Ireland, North and South and in Europe generally. The conference will analyse the failure of compulsory programmes to meet the real integration needs of unemployed people and will draw out positive examples of best practice.

Further Details: I.N.O.U., 6 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8788635 **Fax:** 01 8788874 **Email:** inou@iol.ie

BRITAIN

Journeying Together

Venue: Scarborough

Date: Saturday 13 - Monday 15 March, 1998

Weekend training event for youth workers, trainers and tutors where participants will become equipped with the skills to produce effective work with children and young people in their local situation. Focus groups will deal with grief and loss; god talk with children and young people - practical ways of doing theology; can you hear me?- developing effective listening; and working in a multi-faith context.

Further Details: Anne Topping, Pastoral Care and Christian Education, Methodist Church, 2 Chester House, Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 1PR.

Tel: 0044 181 444 9845

Groupwork With Girls Who Have Been Sexually Abused

Venue: Leicester

Date: Tuesday 31 March, 1998

Teenage girls who have been sexually abused often experience isolation and the feeling that no-one understands what has happened to them. They can even blame themselves. This hinders the process of survival and recovery indefinitely. Based on work carried out in East London over a three year period it is aimed at child protection professionals interested in groupwork as an effective means of working with sexual abuse. The course will:

- Examine the value of working in groups with survivors of sexual abuse
- Look at practical and organisational aspects of groupwork and young women
- Look at cultural and racial differences when working with child sexual abuse
- Develop an understanding of the methods and skills involved
- Explore issues of confidentiality in groupwork
- Help find ways of maintaining the group and evaluating its work.

Cost: £80.00stg (a limited number of concessionary places for volunteer workers and service users are available at a cost of £50.00)

Further Details: Course Co-ordinator, Centre For Social Action, De Montfort University, Scraftoft Campus, Leicester, LE1 9SU.
Tel: 0044 116 2577777 **Fax:** 0044 116 2577778
Email: dmucs@dmu.ac.uk

An Introduction to Counselling Adolescents

Venue: NSPCC Conference Centre, Leicester

Date: Thursday 2 & Friday 3 April, 1998

Two-day workshop-based event aimed at those who wish to develop counselling skills in their work with young people. It will focus on four main topics: the nature of adolescence; introduction to counselling young people; challenges and difficulties; managing the impact of the work.

Cost: £158.00stg (places limited)

Further Details: Jan Hill, Conference Administrator, TSA, 23 new Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1WZ.

Tel: 0044 1273 693311 **Fax:** 0044 1273 679902

Email: tsa@pavilion.co.uk

Social Action, Youth Crime Prevention and Work with Young People 'At Risk' and in Trouble

Venue: Leicester

Date: Tuesday 21 April, 1998

Juvenile crime and justice is perpetually in the political and media spotlight. Traditionally, youth justice programmes are organised by adults and imposed upon young people. It could be argued that it is due to this that such programmes are ineffective in tackling the real problems which young people 'at risk' face. The focus of this course will start with a critical look at these conventional approaches. From this critique, an alternative approach will be developed which enables young people to identify and explore their own problems and concerns. The next step would be to help develop young people's confidence and skills in order to tackle such difficulties and, ultimately, make informed decisions in order to achieve their goals.

Cost: £80.00stg (a limited number of concessionary places for volunteer workers and service users are available at a cost of £50.00)

Further Details: Course Co-ordinator, Centre For Social Action, De Montfort University, Scraftoft Campus, Leicester, LE1 9SU.

Tel: 0044 116 2577777 **Fax:** 0044 116 2577778

Email: dmucs@dmu.ac.uk

Youth Access National Training Workshops 1998

Venue: University of Bradford

Date: Friday 24 April - Saturday 25 April, 1998

Annual event aimed at workers offering information, advice and/or counselling to young people. The event offers both experienced and less experienced workers an opportunity to develop, update and acquire new knowledge and skills around working with young

people. There is a choice of the following twelve workshops available:

- Young People and Threatening Behaviour
- Young People and Self Esteem
- Young People and Bullying
- Groupwork Skills
- Good Practice in Youth Advice Work
- Young People and Prostitution
- Establishing Peer Support Groups
- Young People and Sexual Health
- Working With Loss and Change
- Young People and Addictive Behaviour
- Suicide and Self Harm
- Using Creative Techniques When Working With Young People

Further Details: Dianne Aimable-Lina, Youth Access, 1a Taylor's Yard, 67 Alderbrook Road, London SW12 8AD.

Tel: 0044 181 7729900 **Fax:** 0044 181 7729746

Peer Support: Key Questions For Practitioners

Venue: National Children's Bureau, London

Date: Tuesday 5 May, 1998

Conference to consider the growing interest in peer support as an effective and empowering intervention in schools, colleges and youth work settings. Topics covered include: Ethical Issues; Training & Support for Young People; Bullying; Peer Counselling; Peer Initiatives for Young People's Health.

Cost: £79.00stg

Further Details: Jan Hill, Conference Administrator, TSA, 23 new Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1WZ.

Tel: 0044 1273 693311 **Fax:** 0044 1273 679902

Email: tsa@pavilion.co.uk

Social Action With Young People and Urban Regeneration

Venue: Leicester

Date: Thursday 14 May, 1998

Workshop exploring how Social Action has been employed as a method of working with young people on housing estates. The day will involve:

- Looking at policies, principles and strategies of estate based work
- How to assess residential areas
- How to work with young people and plan a programme of change that is based on their needs and concerns.

Participants will finally develop action plans to implement this approach in their work situation.

Cost: £80.00stg (a limited number of concessionary places for volunteer workers and service users are available at a cost of £50.00)

Further Details: Course Co-ordinator, Centre For Social Action, De Montfort University, Scraftoft Campus, Leicester, LE1 9SU.

Tel: 0044 116 2577777 **Fax:** 0044 116 2577778

Email: dmucs@dmu.ac.uk