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INSIDE

Partnership and the Youth Service

Children at Risks in the 90's

The Localise Programme

Monaghan Youth Survey

Partnership and Real Outcomes

by Tony Murphy, Chief Executive, NYF

Across the spectrum of Voluntary, Statutory and Community Sectors it is true to say that much of what we are doing at present within various partnership processes is still new. In other words, we are still learning but we need to record the valuable learning in order try and assist us in moving forward towards greater effectiveness and co-ordination of services.

It goes without saying that within the sets of relationships there must be mutual respect for the ethos and particular contribution of each partner to the process. The Voluntary Sector has the facility to be creative and flexible in a way which the Statutory player can stand back from, but can actually encourage and know in confidence that work will be achieved. The youth service within this role is more the enabler, while the partnership process involving a statutory agency can be the facilitator and perhaps, the resourcer of the initial funding.

From the Voluntary Sector's point of view it is a reality that in order to engage, time and effort needs to be invested (regardless of who the other partners are). There is a cost factor involved by attending meetings, preparing inputs, gathering and identifying needs. And, while this is going on other work for which we are funded needs to be progressed, or if at all possible, become the same as that which the partner is actually asking us to do, except in a broader sense. If the cost is actually to be met and if we are to say "yes" to engagement then it is incumbent upon the Voluntary Sector to have clarity as to what it wants to contribute. There must be a point whereby we will have the capacity to say "No, look this is not our brief". We cannot be all things to all people. We need to be focused on the needs of young people, whether that is through direct youth work or whether it is through a community development strategy empowering adults to work with young people who in turn can empower them.

As we are all aware 1999 represents a particular deadline in relation to the action plans which must be completed by Area Based Partnership Companies. There is a sense in which what has to be achieved by then is over ambitious and so perhaps, some review as lead by Area Development Management and the Minister with responsibility for Local Development, Mr Chris Flood needs to be undertaken. They both need to take account of planning beyond 1999. In that context any meaningful type of reform must address the issue of inclusion of young people in youth services. We must remember that we are representing here more than half a million people and it cannot be at the level of tokenism, it has to be real engagement, real participation and so reforms within local government strategies are essential, and that requires inter-department co-operation if it is to be coherent and integrated.

It is not something that can be driven by the Voluntary Sector. Those within Government, and those who work in support agencies as arms of government need to drive this particular agenda. There are enough structures out there for us to use and there is no need to move towards establishing new ones or duplicating services for young people who are in danger of becoming marginalised. Local government reform will have to be characterised by a democratic legitimacy and democratic participation. The participation process has to be built upon a commitment to trust, openness and mutual respect. It certainly is not about being a flag of convenience for the Voluntary Sector to source short term funding or to be distracted by possibilities placed before it which have no hope of been driven any where substantial - that is into mainstream funding. Neither should it be about voluntary organisations attempting to up-stage or exclude each other from making a worthwhile contribution. The very fact that voluntary and community organisations commit to working together could achieve more outcomes in real terms than small amounts of grant-in-aid will ever achieve in the absence of long term strategic planning within relevant Government. And in this regard have we even touched a fragment of what's possible?

Time to Choose between Partitionism or Partnership.....	3
Tales from the Dark Side	5
The Localise Programme.....	9
Regional Profile	
Survey of Youth Needs in Monaghan	10
News	11
Resources	13
Noticeboard	15

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The Challenge of Partnership

The implication of the term "partnership" is that the parties engage in a process based on mutual respect, trust and openness. It involves a sharing of power and the development of a model of consensus decision making. This is a huge challenge to all youth organisations who are used to a culture of competitiveness and "skulduggery". It requires a significant change in attitude and the determination to take the major risks involved. The risks should not be underestimated. There is the risk of criticism from those who wish to maintain the status quo. There is the risk that other organisations will attempt to take advantage of the situation for their own short term gain. There is the risk that some other organisations will perceive the emerging co-operation as a threat to themselves. At a core level there is the inherent fear that the organisation will be perceived by its constituents as losing its unique identity.

A Model of Partnership

A model of partnership needs to develop among organisations which allows for the continued recognition of the unique culture and value system of each organisation and at the same time facilitates the development of new joint initiatives which build on the strengths of the contributing organisations. For organisations to begin to work together a number of steps need to be considered:

Step I Dialogue: There needs to be more open and honest dialogue between organisations about the reality of youth work practice and the policy implications. This dialogue will enable organisations to recognise that each has something to gain from co-operation.

Step II Identifying New Initiatives: The dialogue on the issues facing young people will assist in identifying appropriate new joint initiatives.

Step III Negotiation: Organisations need to enter into negotiations about all aspects of the joint initiative. The negotiations must include agreement on the ground rules that will guide their future interaction. In particular they need to name their concerns and be clear about the procedures established to ensure that problems which will emerge are addressed quickly and resolved by consensus.

Step IV Building Trust: Organisations begin to build trust by undertaking a small joint initiative with each fulfilling their obligation as they progress through the initiative. Staff at all levels in the organisations need to be kept informed of the progress of the development to ensure that trust is being built at all levels.

Step V Project Implementation: The structures created for any such initiatives should be able to cope with the new openness required for information exchange and decision making. The partnership

should be based on equality irrespective of level of the resources contributed by the organisations involved. The management should delegate to the appropriate staff the authority and responsibility for the implementation phase.

Step VI Review and Evaluation: All aspects of the partnership should be reviewed within each organisation and between the partners. There should be an inbuilt review and monitoring mechanisms to support the process and identify and deal with difficulties before they become too problematic. This is quite a difficult process to engage in and requires time, energy and a lot of dialogue by all partners.

Step VII Integrating the Learning into the Organisations: It is important that the learning from the experiences is disseminated within organisations through inservice training and seminars for staff and key volunteers.

Rewards of Partnership.

The rewards from a successful partnership are potentially enormous. Young people will gain from the developments which will emerge. Programmes and services will be of a higher standard and quality. Staff will gain from sharing expertise and experiences. Organisations will gain from the sharing of limited resources and from savings on costs involved.

However, at a more important level, partnerships will facilitate the youth sector to engage more radically in addressing the challenges facing young people. Increasingly organisations must move away from presenting themselves to funders as having all the answers and return to providing opportunities for the silent voices of marginalised and isolated young people to be heard, even where what they have to say may be difficult to hear. If we believe in our own rhetoric of empowerment, of providing real alternatives to an educational system that has failed significant numbers of young people, then we must engage in a process of critical reflection as a sector.

We must begin again to become actively involved in strategic thinking and policy formation at a national level and ensure that the gains from the Celtic tiger are shared more equitably in Irish society. This can only begin to happen when we take the risk to challenge the competitive element and attempt to talk to each other in an open and honest manner. A level of maturity will have evolved in the youth sector which can only be welcomed in the long term.

David Treacy is Director of the City of Dublin Youth Service Board.

The UK based sociologist, Anthony Giddens (1993, p.417) has observed that the home is the most dangerous place in modern society and that one is more likely to be attacked there than on the street at night. In the UK 40% of murdered females are killed by their husbands. In the USA 50% are killed by their former or past partners with 85% of all murders occurring in the home. While most men are murdered by other men, 9 out of 10 female murder victims are murdered by males, 30% are slain by their husbands or boyfriends and more than 100,000 rapes are reported annually (F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report, 1991). Ironically, women who leave a battering male are at 75% greater risk of being killed by the batterer than those who stay and this message has not been lost on the many women who choose to stay in the home.

Three million children suffer abuse each year in the United States of America which comprises 4% of all youngsters with an estimated 3 children dying each day. The work of Straus and Gelles (1986) has suggested that child abuse is most common amongst young children. In the UK, by the early 1990's, 4 in every 1,000 children had been placed on child protection registers and in February 1998 in Ireland, the Eastern Health Board estimated that there are 1,000 cases of child abuse *waiting* to be processed.

Few studies have actually concentrated on the co-existence of child abuse and women abuse although we are now aware that as abuse becomes more frequent, the risk of severe forms of abuse against children becomes more likely. We now acknowledge that children are effected by being witness to family violence and this has been studied since the early 1980's (Achenbach & Edebrock, 1983; Saunders, 1994). Hughes et al (1989) viewed 40 children that were both witnesses and victims of family violence and concluded that the subject group exhibited higher levels of distress than the control group. Shephard (1992) studied 26 children aged three years and older and noted a presence of child adjustment problems and high degrees of maternal stress and Saunders (1994) completed a review of the work of leading authors in this area and noted children could be divided into three groups (1) internalised problems such as anxious behaviour and (2) externalised problems such as aggression and delinquency. Estimates of the amount of children living in homes where there is a combination of woman abuse and child abuse in the United States lie between 109,000 and 446,000 (Carlson, 1984).

The Irish Context

In the Irish context, whilst violence against women and children is often trivialised, the children involved are particularly vulnerable because they often don't have a collective voice to articulate their grievances except through concerned child advocate groups such as the ISPPC. Although children represent over two-thirds of the refuge population, they remain largely invisible

(Women's Aid Refuge, Rathmines, Dublin). Despite the media coverage over the past decade, even the professionals, such as social workers and medical doctors, admit a level of ignorance (see Iwaniec, 1996). It is my belief that children witnessing acts of violence against women and children has a detrimental effect on the development of these children. It is ironic that there has been so much emphasis on the effects on children of media violence at the expense of a wider discourse on family violence.

The Irish Department of Health Guidelines (1995, p.6) noted that "*emotional abuse could be defined as inadequate nurturing of a child. ..leading to significant physical, mental or emotional problems*". Kelleher et al (1995) reported that 13% of women reported that they had suffered mental cruelty, 10% had been victims of domestic violence, 4% of women were victims of sexual violence and 2% of women had property or then pets destroyed. 64% of the women reported their children had been witness to family violence. During 1994, of the 16,297 marriages registered 4,457 people had applied for barring orders. 18% of women reported suffering family violence from their male partners (Irish Independent 30.4.1996) and the Sunday Independent reported from Cronin and O' Connor's study where 45% of 81 female admissions to the Accident and Emergency Department of a Dublin Hospital had a long term history of being battered.

In a more general context, the Irish child protection and welfare system has been found to be at best extremely underdeveloped, and at worst, grossly inadequate (McGuinness, 1993) and the Law Reform Commission (1990, p. 16) suggested that there was a degree of procedural informality, or even laxity. Kieran McGrath, the editor of the Irish Social Worker admits, "*no one would be foolish enough to suggest that we have the best of systems here in Ireland*" (1993, p.10). They are aware that that there is now a national public concern with regard to the whole area of child protection and welfare.

The Response of the 'Expert Systems'

The German sociologist Ulrich Beck (1997, p.10) makes the point that "*sociologically there is a big difference between those who take risks and those who are victimised by risks others take*". The children I regularly study have been termed 'high risk' by the expert discourse which invokes symbolic meanings of 'otherness'. They are frequently depicted in the media as a threat to society. It has been noted by academics that this 'high risk' tag frequently denotes moral failure, weakness and a lack of control over the self. Beck claims society has actually become a laboratory where there is really "*nobody responsible for the outcomes of experiments*" (1997, p.10).

With this in mind, I argue that social policy here has had the effect of (re)creating a risk society for children already defined as 'at risk' by an 'expert' system. I note

that one of the difficulties with the risk society is that relevant 'experts' have misinterpreted risk probabilities so often and so publicly in the past few decades. The result of this has been a massive increase in the amount of official inquiries into childcare practice such as the Madonna House Inquiry in the Eastern Health Board, the Kilkenny Incest Case Inquiry in the South Eastern Health Board and the Kelly Fitzgerald Inquiry in the Western Health Board. Attempts at *colonising the future* will be held in check by child protection and welfare becoming more sociologically reflexive in the next few years. The fact that Irish Governments have been prone to confusion, uncertainty and has mixed interests in child care issues is not lost on those working directly with children and adolescents at risk. Even the publication of reports such as the influential Kilkenny Incest Report do not mean that things will change and that child protection and welfare policies and practice will be significantly changed (IASW, 1993, p.4).

Legalised and Proceduralised Responses to Children 'At Risk'

Lowrance (1984, p.4) makes the interesting observation that we now live in an age that is characterised by tragedy. We embrace a *tragic awareness* of risks, we make *tragic choices* among life-expensive goals and we have to bear *tragic commitments* in terms of the consequences of our actions or, indeed, inactions.

The nature of care professionals work with children and adolescents can cause particular problems when it comes to the identification and intervention in potential and real cases of child abuse and neglect (Ferguson, 1992, 1997; Parton et al, 1997) and we now live in an era of intense bureaucratisation in child protection. Child protection and welfare has increasingly become both legalised and proceduralised and professionals ('experts') are being held responsible for decisions taken or not taken and are increasingly being required to account for themselves as 'experts'. Yeomans (1984, p.15) makes the valuable point that, "different risks are evaluated by different expert groups and by different parts of government" and this is particularly applicable to the children 'at risk' debate in the Republic of Ireland.

The question must be asked, why are there so many scandals in a society that has become obsessed with the (albeit public) protection of children and adolescents and their removal from risk environments? Part of the answer lies in issues surrounding policy and control. Despite the fact that we have (some) very clear legislation in place, exactly who controls child | social care in the Republic of Ireland is debatable and the actual translation of child protection policy into practice is invariably a complex one (Ferguson, 1996). A real, structured, thought-out commitment to intervention, prevention and forward thinking policy has been

noticeably absent, despite the fact that the government claims that it is committed to 'risk removal'.

Despite the recommendations of the Devlin Report in 1970 where it was acknowledged that senior officials in the Departments of State were too busy to engage in the formulation of overall policy not a great deal has changed. What has occurred, in the Republic of Ireland, is an extremely piecemeal response by the State to protect children and adolescents at risk and place controls on the development of child/social care services and for the professionals involved in this milieu. Indeed, the policy makers themselves have been recommended to (re)train (INTO, 1994) in "areas related to their responsibilities".

A Time of Unparalleled Change?

Having said all of the above, there is no doubt that the past three decades have witnessed unparalleled change and children 'at risk' are crawling centre stage in public discourse (Ferguson, 1996; McElwee, 1998) but the process has been labourious. In 1979 a Child Care Division was established within the Department of Health. The Task Force on Child Care Services within this State did not publish its final report until 1981. It was not until 1983 that the Department of Health began to collect statistics on non-accidental injury from their Health Boards. The Criminal Justice (Community Service) Act came into effect in 1983. The National Youth Policy Committee published its final report in 1983. The Child Care (Care and Protection) Bill was not published until 1985 and then failed. The Department of Health did not convene its Working Party for revising guidelines on child abuse until 1985. Two years later, in 1987, they published revised guidelines on the management of child abuse (identification, management and co-ordination with emphasis on roles and responsibilities of professionals). In 1988 the Status of Children Act came into effect and the Child Care Bill 1988 superceded the Child (Care and Protection Bill) 1985. The Children Act of 1989 returned Health Boards to act as 'fit persons'. In 1991 the much publicised Child Care Act was finally published. The Juvenile Justice Bill is currently being discussed in Dáil Eireann.

Conclusion

It has been noted that the first decade of sociological discussion on 'risk' was marked as one of productive chaos (Machlis & Rosa, 1989) and Kasperson et al (1988) comment that, "*a comprehensive theory is needed that is capable of integrating the technical analysis of risk and the cultural, social and individual response structures that shape the public experience of risk*". There are important connections worth teasing out around the concepts and constructs of children 'at risk' actively seeking out 'desired risk' and living in the 'risk society' as is working in the 'risk society' for child protection and welfare personnel. Whether the majority of children currently deemed to be 'at risk'

become adolescents and adults 'at risk' remains to be seen...

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The Localise Programme

by Lorna Maxwell

Introduction

The Localise programme arose out of a recognition that young adults were increasingly being seen as consumers of youthwork provision & services, rather than "major players" in shaping youth and community work in their locality. It is a programme of the Peace Corps and was officially launched by the Minister for Youth, Adult Education and School Transport, Mr. Willie O'Dea on 26 March, 1998 in Government Buildings.

It is an experiential learning programme, consisting of seven sessions, which seeks to invite young people to take on the challenge of collective voluntary action in their communities. It promotes and facilitates youth participation in local decision making, through involvement with local community resource groups and local voluntary youth services, towards the empowerment of young adults for the development of themselves and their communities.

Target Group

Localise is targeted at the 16 years and upwards age group and while it is appropriate to a broad range of groups and localities, it will be particularly beneficial in areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and where young adults are opting out of education and/or existing youth & community provision.

It is not the intention that the programme would duplicate existing provision for young people in a particular area but rather serve as a useful tool for youth/community workers in attempting to address the alarming drop-out rate of young people from youth clubs and youth organisations as they get older.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Localise programme is to help young people plan, act and review together in order to develop themselves and their local community.

In short, Localise aims:

- to aid individual and group development through activity based learning

- to develop a cohesive group of young people with a distinctive identity and ethos
- to encourage a sense of community ownership among participants where the young adults are actively involved in working together towards self-reliance as well as personal and community development.

Methodology

Localise is based on the principle of empowerment for the target group through their active participation in the planning and decision making processes which affect their lives and work. With this in mind, the programme seeks to encourage young people to become involved in community action through:

- Identifying local community and group needs
- Planning activities designed to address that need
- Working together on an "action plan" for themselves, their group, and their community
- Reviewing these activities in order to promote learning and development.

Benefits

There are relatively few resource implications for local groups who benefit from the fact that the programme can be run on a very low budget and with the practical and ongoing support of the Localise Resource Worker.

Localise focuses on the leadership training and skills development of young adults. Its greatest strength is the potential for greater development and it is hoped that it will kick-start many projects and activities throughout communities.

Lorna Maxwell is the Localise Resource Worker with the Peace Corps

For further information on the Localise programme and the Training Pack (price £4.00), please contact: **Localise Resource Worker, Peace Corps, Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6.**
Tel: (01) 491 0503 Fax: (01) 496 4399
E-mail: peacecor@iol.ie

Survey of Youth Needs in Monaghan

Monaghan Youth Federation have recently launched the findings of a piece of research they undertook having secured the funding through a seeding grant from the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation under Measure 4.3 - Promoting the Inclusion of Children and Young People of alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. The report is entitled **Teenage Perspectives - Get The Message?** and it is anticipated that the results of the research will be used by a variety of youth organisations, community groups and statutory bodies who are interested in developing initiatives specifically designed for the young people of County Monaghan. The aims of the research were three-fold:

- To identify the needs of young people, in general, and in particular, to identify their information needs.
- To identify what services currently exist for young people throughout the County and to assess where there are gaps in service provision.
- To provide a comprehensive profile of communities in County Monaghan that can be used as a reference point for future action.

Monaghan Youth Federation invited the voluntary youth organisations in the County to a meeting to assess their interest in establishing a Youth Information Service. At the information meeting it was proposed that a survey be conducted through the second level schools throughout the County to assess youth needs and their information needs in particular. This research was by no means an absolute account of youth service provision and youth needs in County Monaghan. The survey was limited to those who are in full time education, and as such does not reflect the opinions and needs of early school leavers, those in schemes such as Young Enterprise or Youth Reach, or those who are in the workforce. In addition the scope of the survey was limited in terms of addressing issues such as disability, which was beyond the remit of the research. The survey gives an insight into the perceptions of young people aged 15-18 years in full time second level education.

The main findings of the report were:

- The current "social scene" for a large number of young people throughout the County revolves mainly around alcohol and "hanging out" on the streets.
- The majority of young people feel that they are neglected in the community. There is little for them to do in their free time and nowhere for young people to socialise apart from pubs.
- Approximately one third of young people indicated that they are not involved in any social groups/clubs currently being provided in their area.

- Young people feel that many groups and organisations do not cater for their needs or are targeting young teenagers or adults. There is a high degree of apathy amongst young people regarding involvement in local groups/organisations as they feel there are few groups catering for young people from 15-18 years of age.

- A significant number of young people indicated that parents and adults in general do not understand young people and are not willing to get involved in initiatives for young people.
- Young people lack information and access to information services that could empower them to improve their life chances, such as employment opportunities, careers etc.
- Young people expressed a need for a locally based counselling service in each of the five urban centres in the County.
- of young people are using alcohol on a regular basis and have no problems in purchasing alcohol despite being under the legal age requirement.
- The availability and usage of drugs, such as cannabis and ecstasy in the young people's social groups, is on the increase.
- A large number of the respondents indicated that they experienced feelings of isolation as they were inhibited from being involved in social activities due to non-existent or inadequate public transport system.

In summary, the young people identified boredom and the lack of facilities as a major problem in the area, forcing them to socialise in public houses which in turn had a contributory factor to the worrying levels of use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs by young people. Other significant issues identified were the sexual behaviour of young people influenced by a lack of sex education/knowledge and rural isolation.

The primary recommendation of the survey was the need for a Youth Information/Drop-in Centre for young people which would allow young people to:

- access general information which was accurate
- meet with their peers
- discuss sensitive/personal issues and problems with someone who does not know them
- access a service which was confidential.

The report and the process undertaken should be of interest to anyone considering undertaking a locally based needs analysis of young people or research to highlight the absence of specific service provision for young people. Copies of the report are available from: **Anne Marie Murphy, Monaghan Youth Federation, Community Enterprise Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Tel: (042) 49412.**

National Youth Federation, Just In, Jurys, Bewleys, Cadburys, USIT, Microsoft, Becton Dickinson, Department of Health, Green Isle, American Chamber of Commerce and Aer Rianta.

The training Pack is available in a presentation box. It comprises a video, a leader's guide to presentation and workshop, participants' workbooks, and reference materials to be retained by the participating company. The video, produced by Midas Production, portrays employees with learning disability in a variety of work settings. A diverse range of employers are interviewed about their experience, views and approaches to employing people with learning disabilities. The pack is available from: **St Michael's House Research Department, National Management House, Sandyford Road, Dublin 16. Tel: (01) 2959788**

MA IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

The National Youth Federation in conjunction with Brunel University, London is again offering the MA in Youth and Community Studies. It is a two year course run on a distance learning basis with study blocks. The study blocks will be held in Dublin. For further information and application forms contact either: **Centre For Youth Work Studies, Brunel University, 300 St. Margaret's Road, Twickenham, TW1 1PT, England. Tel: (0044) 181 8910121 Ext. 2039 or National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 8729933**

NYCI YOUTH SURVEY

"Get Your Facts Right" is the title of the recently launched survey on young peoples attitudes, in particular to drugs which received extensive media coverage upon its launch. It was commissioned by the National Youth Council of Ireland and carried out by the market research company Covanberg Consultants. Included is some the most detailed and insightful research on young Irish people and drugs ever published. The survey interviewed 1,400 people between 15 and 24 years of age (1,000 from the Republic of Ireland, 400 from Northern Ireland) and asked 48 questions at 64 separate geographic locations. Those involved came from a variety of backgrounds including school, college, unemployed, working, self-employed, on training courses, etc. Copies of the survey are available for sale from: **NYCI, Dominick Court, 41 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 8733199**

NEW CPA DATABASE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EVALUATORS

The Combat Poverty Agency is establishing a database of evaluators interested in undertaking evaluation of community development work. This is in addition to its existing research database. The new database will be made available to Community Development Projects, recipients of Agency evaluation grants and other projects seeking assistance in this area. The Agency would like to hear from people with a background or experience in evaluating community

development and/or anti-poverty projects. Those available or interested in working outside the Dublin area are particularly encouraged to register on the database. A registration form and further information are available from: **Yvonne O'Rourke or Carmel Corrigan Tel: (01) 6706746 Fax: (01) 6706760 E-mail: info@cpa.ie**

NEW RESOURCE PACK FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITATORS

The Centre for Adult and Community Education in N.U.I. Maynooth supported by the EU INTERREG Programme has produced a pack aimed at rural development facilitators who are working with groups, who have experience of facilitation work and who wish to enhance their skills and knowledge in this area. The material incorporates background information, together with suggested activities for use when working with groups. It provides a framework for effective and strategic planning in a community context and the promotion of sustainable local development. The pack includes: Facilitators Tips; Planning for Local Development; Gender Awareness; Community-Based Rural Tourism; Local Heritage; Group Skills for Community Development; Group Structure and Organisation. Copies of the pack are available at a cost of £10.00 (£5.00 students/unwaged) from: **Dorothy Kenny, Centre For Adult and Community Education, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**

NEW COURSE IN HOUSING & COMMUNITY STUDIES

Respond! Voluntary Housing Association is running a one-year Certificate/Diploma in Housing & Community Studies (Tenant Participation in Estate Management). The course goal is to equip participants with the desired skills, knowledge and strategies to facilitate tenant participation courses for estate management. However it includes a broader focus on concerns of housing management and local government policy and structure as well as elements of strategic planning.

In 1998/9 the course will be offered in Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick and/or Galway (depending on geographical spread of applicants) and the Certificates/Diplomas will be recognised and accredited by a number of colleges and professional bodies including the Chartered Institute of Housing (UK), the Dublin Institute of Technology, the University of Northumbria, Priority Estates Project (PEP), (UK) as well as being approved by the Department of the Environment.

The course will consist of ten modules between September 1998 and June 1999 and will involve two consecutive days in college per month with additional workshops, seminars, tutorials and Project. The course cost is £1,500 (sponsorship/funding may be available). For further information/application form, contact: **Course Co-ordinator, Respond! Senior House, All Hallows College, Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Tel: (01) 8572020 Fax: (01) 8572066**

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Changing the World: A Directory of Global Youth Work Resources by Development Education Association

Many young people have shown their concern about the inequalities that exist in the world. *Changing the World* contains a wealth of material which can help teachers and youth workers to work with young people to explore, understand and question the world around them. Most of the materials use active learning methods, helping to promote skills in discussion, co-operation and small group work. *Changing the World* is an invaluable guide to the key resources and contacts in global youth work today, and provides an ideal basis from which to develop projects and plan sessions.

TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

Changing Places: Preparing Young People for Independence by Lucy White

Pack of laminated cards which aims to prepare young people for independent living by promoting discussion about the choices and decisions they will have to face. The 35 activities in the pack can be used in small or large group settings with young people aged 13 and over and aim to be fun as well as informative. The five sections, Being Healthy, Relationships, Housing, Money, and Employment and Training, help to address issues including self-image, sexuality and drugs as well as focusing on the rights and responsibilities of young people becoming independent. An educative and exciting pack which will help young people learn more about the leaving home process.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Holding The Baby: Video and Guidance Notes by FPA

25 minute video pack which comes with guidance on running group sessions to help teenagers explore the realities surrounding teenage pregnancy and parenthood. Filmed and produced in Northern Ireland.

WORKING WITH YOUNG WOMEN

Girl Power: How Far Does It Go? by Jo Adams, The Sheffield Centre for HIV and Sexual Health

Girl Power is a practical action plan designed to help raise self-esteem in girls and young women. It explores the factors which boost and inhibit self-esteem in young women and offers a flexible programme of group activities (all extensively piloted), designed to boost self-worth. Topics include: practical ways of building self-esteem; strategies for positive thinking; assertiveness and communication within sexual relationships; friends and friendship as a source of self-esteem; social and political influences on self-esteem; and positive role models for young women.

WORKING WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS

The Group Works: ideas for offending-related groupwork with young people by SPACE

Resource pack which is a compilation of ideas and exercises to help stimulate and enable offending-focused groupwork by challenging offending behaviour and helping young people to stay out of trouble. Included in the pack are some practical solutions for dealing with difficult behaviour in adolescents and ideas on how to challenge offending in less direct ways. The pack contains a facilitators' handbook and a number of photo-copiable handout sheets which are used in conjunction with the 29 games and exercises found in the handbook. A vital resource for those challenging young people's offending behaviour.

The Nature of Adolescence: Working With Young People in Custody by Juliet Lyon and John Coleman, TSA & HM Prison Service, 1998, 2nd (Revised) Edition

New updated edition of this training pack. First produced in 1994, this pack contains updated material including statistics and new data recently made available. Updated material includes: Booklist and Resources Section; 3 New Papers including a summary of "Young People & Crime" by John Graham & Ben Bowling, Home Office Research & Statistics Department; and New Exercises.

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 Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8729933 **Fax:** 01 8724183 **Email:** fbissett@nyf.ie

International Conference on Family Support in Disadvantaged Communities: *Informing Practice for the Next Millennium.*

Date: Wednesday 17 - Friday 19
June, 1998

Venue: National University of Ireland,
Galway

In recent times Family Support has emerged as a key strategic orientation in the delivery of social services in many developed societies. Part of its appeal is that it involves practitioners of various hues working in multi and inter-disciplinary contexts. Similarly, it has an eclectic theoretical base drawing concepts and perspectives from a variety of academic disciplines. Viewed positively, the integrative nature of Family Support both in theory and in practice represent an opportunity for the optimal use of knowledge in planning for the in planning for the delivery of effective services for children and families. This conference is founded on the belief that as we approach the new millennium now is an opportune time to consolidate current knowledge and to plan for the future development of Family Support Services. Recognising this, the conference will operate as a forum for the discussion and elaboration of key principles of Family Support, grounding them in critical areas of practice from Irish and International sources.

The conference is a joint initiative between the Child Care Unit of the Western Health Board and the Department of Political Science and Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Galway. It is expected that a total of 200 people will attend, comprising Irish and international delegates. The audience will be multi-disciplinary and will include professionals at middle to senior management levels from Social Work, Child Care, Health, Education, Justice and Local Government sectors, among others. In addition, it is envisaged that a range of personal from the Higher Education sector will attend.

Cost: £140 (Non Residential Attendance)
£185 (Residential Attendance)

Further Details: *Conference Secretary, Child Care Unit, Western Health Board, Merlin Park, Galway.*

Tel: 091 751131 **Fax:** 091 755632

E-mail: fiona@whb.iol.ie

Researching Children's Experiences II: Children's Experiences of Harm

Date: 9 June, 1998

Venue: The Usher Theatre, Trinity College
Dublin

Second in a series of conferences by The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin dealing with methods for involving children in research in ways that directly target their own perspectives and lived experiences. It will address the issues involved in conducting research with children who have experienced abuse, neglect or other harm.

Further Details: *Pauline Quinn, Administrative Support, The Children's Research Centre, Áras an Phiarsaigh, Trinity College, Dublin 2.*

Tel: 01 6082901 **Fax:** 01 6082347

Youth Science and Arts Week

Date: 13 - 18 July, 1998

Venue: RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin

RDS Summer Youth Events offers 14-17 year olds the opportunity to meet in a friendly atmosphere. The theme is Science and Arts with an emphasis on fun and participation. Activities include talks and visits; practical workshops in samba & drumming, dance, creative writing, art; sports, discos, debates and quizzes. The Youth Science and Arts Week is an annual event run by the Royal Dublin Society as part of its cultural programme.

The number of places is restricted to 250. The week is essentially non-residential but efforts are made to match up participants from outside the Republic of Ireland with the families of Dublin participants. This arrangement is on the B&B paying guest basis (£60.00 for six nights). If you wish to participate in homestay accommodation, as a host or guest, it is essential to book before 9 June.

Cost: Before 9 June: £55 (Includes all activities, excludes accommodation and meals) £115 (Includes all activities and accommodation, excludes meals).

After 9 June £65 and £125 respectively.

Further Details: Carol Power, RDS,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Tel: 01 6680866 **Fax:** 01 6604014

Email: carol.power@rds.ie

Young People in Care: New Research and Innovative Practice

Date: Tuesday 30 June 1998 - AGM Edition
Venue: National Children's Bureau, London

Following the publication of Sir William Utting's report, and with the enquiries into childcare in Wales very much in the news, the subject of young people in care is extremely topical. The conference will provide an opportunity of considering some important new research, as well as hearing about innovative work with young people who are looked after by local authorities. Topics to be covered will include:

- Young people who go missing from children's homes
- The health of looked after young people
- Mental health
- Evaluation of care practices
- Leaving care
- Establishing a specialised foster care scheme

Cost: £158.00stg

Further Details: TSA Ltd, 23 New Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1WZ.

Tel: 0044 1273 693311 **Fax:** 0044 1273 679909

Email: tsa@pavilion.co.uk

Sex Education Foundation Course

Date: Monday 6 - Wednesday 8 July, 1998
Venue: London

Three day course for those working with young people in voluntary or statutory settings including youth workers, teachers and childcare staff. The course is designed to increase awareness, confidence and skills in delivering sex education.

Further Details: Contact the Family Planning Association.

Tel: 0044 171 837 5432.

Social Action Network Summer School

Date: Monday 6 - Wednesday 8 July, 1998
Venue: Northampton

Three day residential training and practice event for workers from a variety of disciplines which will use the peer education model as its central tenet, a process which aims to provide skill sharing opportunities and a chance to look at current issues and re-think practice.

Cost: £151.00/£115.75st (residential rate)

Further Details: Course Co-ordinator, Centre For Social Action.

Tel: 0044 116 2577777

E-mail: dmucsa@dmu.sc.uk

The Third European Congress for Outdoor Adventure

Date: September 1998

Venue: Edinburgh

Congress to look at how we are doing and who is doing what - in youth work and school-based work. A number of key issues will be explored including professionalism; sustainability; ethnic issues; gender issues; and a project update. The gathering is an ideal opportunity for workers to introduce themselves to fellow practitioners in Europe

Further Details, Tel: 0044 1392 272 372

E-mail: eurocongress@ukoi.demon.co.uk

Teenage Suicide and Self-Harm

Date: Thursday 22 & Friday 23
October, 1998

Venue: Caldecott College, Kent

Two-day training conference limited to a maximum of 40 participants to enable people to discuss their own professional concerns. Each participant will receive a copy of the pack "Teenage Suicide and Self-Harm", funded by the Department of Health. Topics to be covered will include:

- Listening to young people in distress
- Assessment and management of risk
- Current research on effective interventions
- Work with families
- Reducing professional isolation
- Working with young people in custody

Cost: £158.00stg

Further Details: TSA Ltd, 23 New Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 1WZ.

Tel: 0044 1273 693311 **Fax:** 0044 1273 679909

Email: tsa@pavilion.co.uk