

ISSUE 25 - MAY 1999

ISSN 0791-6302

irish youthwork

SCENE

a journal for youth workers

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL YOUTH FEDERATION

INSIDE

**Irish Community & Youth
Workers Union**

**The Lunchtime Helpers
Scheme**

**Cross-Border Leadership
Programme for Young People**

**Thinking about Youth Work
Training**

**Local Government and Social
Exclusion Project**

**Bumper New Resources
Section**

News Update

Events Noticeboard

Education and (Welfare) Bill 1999

by Tony Murphy, Chief Executive, NYF

The recent publication of the Education (Welfare) Bill, 1999 is to be welcomed. A repeated issue upon which the National Youth Federation had lobbied over the past number of years has been the repeal of the School Attendance Act 1926 to 1967. The proposed new legislation allows for this and for the minimum school leaving age to be raised from the present 15 years to 16 years or the completion of three years post primary education, whichever is the later. More importantly, from a youth work perspective, there is a commitment to provide a minimum standard of education outside the recognised school system where this is actually appropriate and necessary.

There is also a commitment given to ongoing assessment of such educational provision and linkages to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. This raises interesting questions as to what is the curriculum of youth work and how it actually complements the formal educational system. It also, arising from proposals within the act, begs the question as to what level of resourcing will be provided to youth services and whether staff can hope to receive the same recognition as is now being accorded to home school liaison staff and school attendance officers who will be employed throughout the country for the first time - a welcome development on the out-dated legislation under which small numbers of staff had to undertake an impossible task in a few designated locations.

The establishment of a National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) on a statutory basis will be obliged to co-operate and co-ordinate its activities with other persons and agencies involved in educational provision. Specific reference is made to the National Youth Work Advisory Committee which could facilitate a merging of proposed plans to enhance the educational opportunities for young people whether they be within school or outside of it. This affords an opportunity for the youth sector to promote the distinctive value of youth work given its flexible approaches and its ability to respond outside of "office hours". The proposed legislation intends to prevent Boards of Management from expelling young people without reference to anybody and such Boards, though few in number, must submit a plan to the NEWB for the alternative minimal education of the individuals concerned. This will eliminate the current exercise of dumping young people outside the school gates and expecting others, such as the youth service, to take on the responsibility - where as things currently stand, the necessary resources and the multidisciplinary team approach to address the needs of particular young people, in most instances, does not exist.

The constitutional rights of the child to receive adequate education cannot take second place to the right to work or the current weakness within "the tiger economy" whereby young people are enticed to leave school early for below minimum wages. This type of employment is short term and, based on the experience of Member Youth Services, falls into a six to eight week cycle which offers no long term career development for the individuals concerned and may ultimately feed into long term unemployment when the economy is not as healthy. Perhaps, the central axis around which all educational endeavours and future employment paths with respect to young people should strategically evolve is the appointment of a Minister at Cabinet level with responsibility for this brief. Then, the hoped for co-ordination might just be possible. There lies ahead an interesting debate for parents, educationalists, employers and the youth sector.

Time for Youth Workers to Get Serious about being Organised	3
Unionisation: Issues for Youth and Community Workers	5
The Lunch-Time Helpers Scheme	7
Thinking about Training for Youth Work	9
Cross-border Leadership Course for Young People	10
Local Government & Social Exclusion	11
News	12
Resources.....	14
Noticeboard	18

Production Editor: Fran Bissett
Contributors: Fran Bissett, Lorraine Boyle, Martin Geoghegan, Sean Gibbons, Tony Murphy, Mary Sheehy, Hilary Tierney, Community Workers Co-operative
Layout: Bríd Horan **Printing:** REPRINT

IRISH YOUTHWORK SCENE
 20 Lr Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
 Tel: 01 8729933 Fax: 01 8724183
 Email: fbissett@nyf.ie

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.

Yet as, Dunphy points out, youth workers are:

“expected to work in catchment areas that are often vast, and they are, to use a cliché, ridiculously overworked and understaffed. They are often paid at the same level as unskilled workers”

It is the young people in the communities in which we work who suffer, and will continue to suffer, unless this situation changes. It is only we youth workers who, by organising ourselves, and working in partnership with the youth work agencies, can change this situation. Nobody else will do it for us.

Community and Youth Workers Union

There has been a specialist trade union for Youth and Community Workers operating in the UK for over 68 years that understand the needs of face to face workers. The Community and Youth Workers Union will work to protect the essential services for young people and their communities that we provide. By raising the profile of the work that members do we can put up a better fight for the level of investment required to ensure that the youth service is no longer the Cinderella of the Education system.

The Northern Ireland region has recently been reactivated and a new branch of the Union has been set up in Galway. Youth workers in the Republic can, by joining the CYWU, avail of the expertise of the Union to improve the terms and conditions of youth and community workers. We believe that the valuable work that youth and community workers do needs to be properly rewarded by employers in terms of pay. We think all volunteers, part-time workers and full-time workers in the Youth Service deserve excellence and equality of treatment at work. We should all be treated professionally and fairly. Sadly, too many of us know from bitter personal experience that this is not always the case.

Conclusion

But it is not all about terms and conditions. As a Union made up of dedicated youth and community workers we also care about the

quality of the work that is done and the nature of training and qualification. We want to work in partnership with the employers to fight for more resources and better legislation to support youth and community services. Like all Unions we are only as good as our membership. We believe you have a lot to offer us in return for the benefits you gain from being part of a Trade Union. CYWU is a democratic organisation and it is good fun being an active member.

Membership is open to all youth workers, youth officers, community workers, community arts workers, playworkers, etc whether student, volunteer, part-time or full-time.

We look forward to having you in membership.

For further information about joining CYWU contact: ***Sean Gibbons through National Office on 0044 - 121 - 244 3344 or by E-mail on sgibbons@tinet.ie***

Sean Gibbons is a worker with a Community Development Project in Bohermore, Galway.

The real issue

What I'm actually arguing is that the problem is not really around pay or conditions really - but rather around a lack of recognition for the work. If you want to pursue better conditions for all youth and community workers then the challenge is to change the culture of central government to actually value the work - or even better, challenge society's understanding that youth and community work is "normal". Most people seem to feel that the existence of such projects is a natural and everyday thing, but this underlines the casual nature with which poverty and social exclusion are accepted.

An example of the extent to which the work is not truly valued is that youth work is often referred to as the "non-formal education sector", however there is no way that it has parity of esteem with the formal education sector within the Department of Education and Science. If it did, we would all be in permanent, pensionable, well-paid, salary-scaled jobs. We're not, and I doubt we ever will be. It is a very similar situation for community workers - many of whom can recount experiences of the marginalised nature of their work.

There is even a sizeable number of youth and community workers who feel uncomfortable about developing *any* further links with central government - even if it means an increase in pay - because they see huge divisions in our society, and how central government often facilitates these divisions. This article is too short to go into this argument in detail but simply put, the closer youth and community workers are linked to central government then the more like civil servants they are likely to become, and this brings with it problems about openly disagreeing with government policy.

Networking and Unionising

So far you would be forgiven for thinking that I'm against unionising - actually nothing could be farther from the truth. I'm actually all for it, but it needs to have a wider agenda than just pay and conditions. What might be useful is a different idea about unity...something new and invigorating...What if we networked with others on the basis of a shared understanding of social exclusion? Not only would this meet a need that is going unmet at the moment, but would open up all sorts of exciting possibilities like linking the youth and community sectors [although there is some crossover, it is quite minimal]. This coalition could be expanded to groups that share our concerns about the structure of society such as groups that fight for women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, on environmental issues, on racial discrimination - in short we unionise and network on the basis of a shared vision - and not on narrow instrumental concerns around pay and conditions. Imagine that type of union!

Some of this [all of this?] may be pie in the sky, but in the Ireland of today with its ever widening gap between the rich and those living in poverty, it is a time for increased solidarity. By all means, let's have a union - but let's make it one that cuts *across* sectors to include all those that can contribute to changing society, and not one that by focusing on our position in the system's food chain actually divides us into artificial sectors called "youth", "community", "human rights" or whatever.

Successful networking could also provide alternative ways of improving pay and conditions. For instance we could work with the management and board of our and other organisations and our national umbrella organisations [e.g. the National Youth Federation, the Community Workers' Co-op etc.] about negotiating increased funding out of which a better package can be put together.

A further advantage of unionising is that it might offer opportunities for all of us involved in this type of work to think about issues that currently aren't being fully addressed. Some that spring to mind are the difference in roles between paid and voluntary activists, the professionalisation of youth and community work [and whether this is a useful development], the allocation of funds, and the development of ourselves and our organisations.

And finally

I am often accused of taking things too seriously, and maybe this article bears this out. But I do believe very strongly in looking before you leap, and hence this longwinded article on an issue that most people are likely to think is just a good idea. I could sum the whole thing up in a few sentences [and, I hear you say, maybe I should have!]:

- *let's work out what the underlying issues are*
- *let's think critically about who we should be in union with and - crucially - against*
- *let's think creatively about how we look after our own financial welfare*
- *let's identify other groups that we can make strategic alliances with, so that we can address our own issues and the wider societal issues that we deal with at one and the same time*

Martin Geoghegan is the Youth Information Co-ordinator with the Waterford Regional Youth Service

The Lunch-Time Helpers Scheme

by Mary Sheehy

"If a child has a bad experience in the yard at lunch time; he/she returns to class and is unable to learn for the rest of the day".

Introduction

Lunchtime can seem a long time to a young child if there is nothing to do or no one to play with. Some children get bored with little to occupy or stimulate them for up to 30 minutes and it is not surprising that this can lead to arguments, kicking and fighting or to children being isolated with no one to play with. A **"Lunch Time helpers Scheme"** has recently been introduced to many primary schools in the North - West area of Cork City.

Recruitment and Training

The scheme involves lunchtime helpers organising a variety of games and activities for other children in the yard at lunch time. A youth worker and a designated teacher recruit volunteers from fifth and sixth class to be the helpers. The potential volunteers fill in application forms to become a lunchtime helper and are then interviewed.

A group of approximately eight to ten volunteers take part in a training programme, which covers topics amongst others such as;

- Friendship
- Bullying
- Team Work
- The role of the lunchtime helper
- How to organise games.

Developing a Lunchtime Policy Checklist (checking for problems occurring in your school during the lunchtime period)

- Bad behaviour, eg. Lots of kicking or spoiling of each other's games.
- Bullying from individual children to other children ranging from verbal threat to

physical fight, formation of 'gangs' leading to conflict and exclusion of certain children who are told allowed to join in, victimisation of a particular child.

- Tale-telling after lunchtime.
- Children standing against the wall.
- Queues outside the head-teacher's office.
- Lunchtime supervisors frequently shouting at children.
- General apathy amongst lunchtime supervisors about playing games with children in the playground
- Lunchtime supervisors feeling resentful because of inconsistencies between playtime and lunchtime standards of behaviour.
- Wet playtimes being barely manageable for the lunchtime supervisors
- Occasional complaints from parents

Guidelines for Lunchtime Helpers

• **Treat All Children Fairly and Equally**

It is all too easy to jump to wrong conclusions about a situation. The children must be given an opportunity to explain their behaviour. Don't act on hearsay, only act on what you are sure you saw.

• **Be Friendly and Approachable**

Children need see you as someone who is approachable and ready to listen to them. A cold or distant manner will stop them from approaching you.

• **Give Gentle reminders**

Children often simply forget some rules eg. running in the corridor. A gentle reminder is often all that is needed to correct this.

• **Stay Calm**

Try to stay calm at all times. This will help you to remain in authority and be effective.

• **Smile**

Try and remember to smile at the children, they will then see you as someone warm and friendly.

practice practice

- **Try and Chat**

Be willing to chat to the children about their news, interests and activities.

- **Give Praise**

Praise is more effective than criticism so try and use praise frequently.

- **Give Incentives**

Ask the school if there are any special stickers or incentives that you could use.

- **Be Fair**

Be fair with whatever punishment system is in use. If you didn't spot the trouble don't rely on the word of other children - take time to talk it through but look out for it deliberately.

- **Be Polite**

Set a good example to the children by speaking politely to them. Ask girls as well as boys to do the heavy jobs.

- **Avoid Getting into a Confrontation**

Don't argue with a child, this undermines your authority. Repeat your request calmly, then use your sanctions system

- **Help a Child 'Back Out' of an Awkward Situation**

If a child is deliberately rude ask them to repeat what they said. This allows the child to retract the statement or apologise. Accept any apology graciously and don't continue to scold.

- **Don't Shout**

Avoid shouting at all times. If the noise level is high ask the school for other ways you can gain silence. Don't shout in anger.

- **Don't Use Sarcasm.**

Don't belittle children by using sarcasm - this leads to resentment.

- **Don't Use Labels**

Don't give children negative labels such as, 'naughty', 'rude'. or 'stupid'. Tell the child their behaviour is unacceptable, but remember labels 'stick'.

- **Watch Out for Loners**

Watch out for lonely or isolated children. Talk to them and try and involve them in games with the other children.

How it Works

These lunchtime helpers can be spotted in the yard as they wear red caps. A "**Friendship Corner**" is also set up in the yard, where a child can go if they feel they have no one to play with. The lunchtime helpers will assist this child in making friends. The yard can be divided into various areas such as:

- Make Believe Area
- Skipping Area
- Games Area

Benefits

The Scheme has proved very successful in promoting the self esteem of many young people. Not alone in developing leadership skills of the volunteers themselves, but also in enhancing positive behaviour and experiences in the schoolyard. The lunchtime helpers are also awarded certificates and given ongoing support by the youth worker and the designated teacher in the school. The scheme has also provided a means of promoting the value of youth work in and out of school time.

For further information on this scheme contact:
Mary Sheehy, National Youth Federation Cork, 11 Cook Street, Cork. Tel: 021/251103 Fax: 021/251102

The scheme is adapted from an idea devised by Jenny Mosley, an educational consultant based in Britain who runs occasional workshops in Ireland on the topic. Further details: **Jenny Mosley Consultants, 8 Westbourne Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0AJ. Tel: 0044 1225 767157 Fax: 0044 1225 755631**

Cross-Border Leadership Course for Young People

by Lorraine Boyle

Preference will be given to young people who have already participated in a personal development course or senior member training. Those who successfully complete the course will receive an OCN Certificate at Level 2 Credit 3.

Introduction

Donegal Youth Service in partnership with **Omagh Boys and Girls Club** are currently running an accredited leadership course for young people. To date both organisations have been running 'in-house' personal development and leadership courses for young people with no formal recognition for the learning achieved. The purpose of this course is to identify young people with leadership skills and to enhance these skills through developmental, issue based learning.. This process will facilitate the empowerment of the participants allowing them to become advocates for youth issues within their community and youth settings. Each programme will consist of 20 participants – 10 from Northern Ireland and 10 Southern Ireland.

Accreditation

To attain formal recognition the **Northern Ireland Open College Network (OCN)** have been approached, they accredit tailor made programmes which do not fit easily within existing accreditation frameworks. In order to achieve accreditation the first stage was to produce a course submission with the help of a development worker from OCN. When a satisfactory final draft is produced the provide/tutor presents it at a recognition panel (purpose of panel to assure quality of the course documentation and produce panel report in respect of same). The OCN appoints a moderator who provides support, advice and assures the quality of the programme. As a result of the moderation process a recommendation for the award or credit is made and participants receive their certification.

Selection Criteria

The target group for the course are young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years. Participants are identified through their participation and interest in youth organisations.

Programme Content

The course will consist of nine topics:

- Teambuilding
- Group Dynamics;
- Communication Skills;
- Group Roles and Processes;
- Youth Leadership Skills;
- Peer Pressure;
- Power and Prejudice;
- Youth Provision North and South
- Further Opportunities.

Each participant commits to 60 hours of learning, this includes tutoring and participants research. Assessment will carried out by OCN at the end of the course. Each participant will have compiled a portfolio to provide evidence to support their learning outcomes.

Programme Costs

Funding has been accessed from the special support programme for Peace and Reconciliation to enable the delivery of three courses within the next eighteen months.

For further information on any of the above, please contact: **Lorraine Boyle, Letterkenny Youth Information Centre, Ardmore House, 108 Lower Main St, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Tel:074/29640 E-mail: yicletterkenny@tinet.ie**

Or **Tracey McNally, Omagh Boys and Girls Club 32a Brookmount Rd, Omagh, Co Tyrone. Tel: 0801662/251908 E-mail: the.biz@dial.pipex.com**

Local Government and Social Exclusion

by Community Workers Co-operative

Introduction

Shortly before Christmas, the Community Workers Co-operative (CWC) received confirmation from DGV of the European Commission that funding would be provided to carry out a programme of activities looking at the role and potential role of local government in tackling social exclusion. This project is being carried out in conjunction with partners from a number of other European countries (Sweden, Portugal and England) and must be completed before the end of 1999.

Project Aims

The aim of the project is to develop an understanding of the role of local government in promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, in co-operation with NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) and to develop strategies to enhance this activity.

In doing so the project will serve a number of objectives. It will:

- ◆ examine existing local government practice in this area, developing a profile of both positive and less positive interventions.
- ◆ locate local government in the broader context of local governance, in particular, looking at levels of Cupertino of with other, locally based, state institutions and local development bodies/partnerships.
- look at the development of appropriate mechanisms within or alongside local government structures.
- assess the development and use by local authorities of inclusion and I or equality indicators.
- examine the practice of local government in building co-operation with NGOs in the field of social inclusion.
- examine the linkage and synergy between local government and the policies of national, government bodies.
- examine the role of local government in relation to national anti poverty and/or inclusion strategies, if and where these exist.

- finally, and based on the above, it will develop an agenda for local government to initiate or enhance its action in combating poverty and promoting social inclusion.

Project Actions

A number of actions are planned as part of the project:

- An initial workshop with project partners to:
 - a) identify key issues with respect to the role of local government in each of the four participating member states.
 - b) review project plan
 - c) finalise and agree evaluation framework
- Undertaking more detailed research into the role of and strategies (especially innovative ones) employed by local government in addressing social exclusion in the four participating states.
- Jointly hosting a conference to present the findings of the research and to initiate discussion on how the role of local government in tackling poverty and exclusion can be enhanced. This conference would be aimed at interested NGOs, local government representative bodies, representatives of relevant national government departments, representatives of the EU Commission and Parliament and media interests. Participants at this conference would be directly targeted.
- It is also proposed that a pre conference, preparatory seminar would be organised in each member state in advance of the conference.
- Publishing the research and the outcomes of the conference, for dissemination in the participating member states and with the EU Commission. The findings will also be disseminated via European NGO networks.

The project will be overseen by the Local Government Sub Group of CWC.

For further information contact: **Community Workers Co-operative, 78 Prospect Hill, Galway. Tel: 091/563644 Fax: 091/563656 Email: cwc@aonad.ie**

Reproduced from News & Views, Volume 5., Issue 1, 1999

project profile PROJECT PROJECT project profile PROJECT PROFILE PROJECT profile project profile

New Training Programme for Homeless

Trust, the Dublin-based befriending, social and health service for people who are homeless, has come together with Dublin Corporation to provide a one-day training programme on homelessness. Aimed at the voluntary, statutory and community sector, the programme consists of a training pack supported by a course providing practical information on the services available to homeless people. It also tries to give insight into the difficulties experienced by people who are vulnerable and to help focus individuals and organisations on responses and possible interventions.

Training days will be provided both at local and national level. For more information please contact: **Trust, Bride Road, Dublin 8 Tel/Fax: 01/4543799.**

New Animal Assisted Therapy Service Opens

Finwey Farm is a new and innovative service, opened in May, 1999, which brings together a team of experienced professionals who can provide practical advice, guidance and supervised programmes in self discovery, behavioural analysis/modification, psychological stabilisation and reconciliation.

The service is part of a network of people in health care, administration, research and science who are committed to creating new partnerships between people, animals and nature. The service will provide Animal Assisted Therapy on an individual and group basis tailored to client needs, for people with:

- Special needs: physical emotional, psychological
- Families and Individuals dealing with trauma of depression, dissension and stress related problems
- Conduct and Behaviour disorders
- Assistance with Problems arising from:
- Relationships and Loneliness
- Post-traumatic Syndrome
- Phobias
- Sexual Abuse
- Bereavement, Loss and Separation
- Education and Skills Training
- Mediation and Conflict

The service provides a variety of options from a half-day, one day, three days, weekends or evening programmes for every day of the week. Accommodation and catering can also be arranged locally as well as assistance with organising transport to and from airports, bus and train stations etc. The Farm is located four miles from the Dublin Cork road out of Abbyleix, and is situated within fifteen miles of Kilkenny and Portlaoise.

For further information/bookings contact: **Finwey Farm, Spink, Abbyleix, Co. Laois. Tel/Fax: 0502/31958**

Inaugural National Internet Access Event

The Information Society Commission and the National Centre for Technology in Education has announced details of a major national Internet access initiative aimed at those with little familiarity or access to the

Internet. The **Netd@ys Ireland 99** initiative will take place from the **13 - 21 November, 1999** and will be co-ordinated at national level by the Information Society Commission and the National Centre for Technology in Education. The existing **Netd@ays** initiative will be significantly expanded to appeal to a broader audience.

The initiative will involve over 4,000 schools throughout the country who will be invited to share their projects with the wider community, encouraging Internet access in a practical manner. As a follow up to this, Internet demonstrations and tutorials for the public will be organised on a regional basis and **mobile computer gyms** will also be set up also regionally. The initiative hopes to give people who do are not normally Internet users or have no access to it the opportunity to learn about if and use the Internet in a practical way.

For further information, please contact: **Hugh Gillanders/Darren Connolly, Edelman Public Relations. Tel: 087/2604441 Fax: 01/6614408**

British Irish Youth Exchange Programme

Causeway is a youth exchange programme which has been developed as a means of helping to strengthen and improve relationships between young people on the islands of Britain and Ireland. The programme is open to all young people, and adults who work with them, but will be targeted primarily at those who are socially excluded, disadvantaged or those who would not normally get the opportunity to take part in such projects. It is intended that the programme should be as flexible as possible to encourage a wide variety of contexts for exchange - types of activities that will be funded include: special projects, study visits, multiplier activities, youth exchanges, advance planning visits.

For special projects there are no fixed deadlines but Causeway should receive applications at a minimum of two months notice prior to the commencement of the activity. For youth exchanges and advance planning visits there are three deadlines a year for submission of applications. The next round of exchanges /advance planning visits taking place from: **mid-July to mid-January**, deadline **1 June, 1999** and **mid-January to mid-May**, deadline **1 December, 1999.**

For further information contact: **AnnMarie Manning, Leargas - The Exchange Bureau, 189-193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01/8731411 Fax: 01/8731316 Email: amanning@leargas.ie**

New Play on Youth in the Inner City

On the Run, is an unsentimental play exploring the struggles and triumphs of youth in a rapidly changing world of the modern inner city is devised by the Balcony Belles women's theatre group and the Sheriff Youth Drama Group. The play runs from 21 - 29 May (excluding 23 & 24 May) at the Olivian Theatre, Gardiner Place, Dublin 1. For bookings contact **01/8365399 (9am-3pm)**/ Further information contact: **Deirdre Garvey @ 045/864115**

LITERACY

Learning in Practice: A Resource Pack of Training Ideas for In-service Development with Students and Tutors in Literacy by NALA

Learning resource pack developed in response to requests for guidelines on understanding the learning process. The exercises and activities have been piloted in different schemes and at national student training events around the country over the last three years. The pack is primarily concerned with understanding the process people go through when they learn. It is the "how" rather than the "what" they learn. It is also about understanding that we all have a personal learning style i.e. different ways of receiving information (seeing, hearing, touching) and different ways of organising and processing information.

The learning process also involves: identifying the barriers to learning; setting goals; choosing how, when and what to learn; evaluating progress; experimenting with different learning strategies; clarifying the role of learner and tutor; understanding motivation; promotion of self-reliance, independence and responsibility; recognition of different intelligences - artistic, logical, practical, interpersonal, etc.

The sessions have been designed as additional resources for trainers when planning in-service training on the learning process. While the topics are presented in a certain sequence, they are designed to stand alone so that they can be used at appropriate times in the learning programme. Trainers may need to adapt certain parts of the sessions or worksheets to meet the needs and interests of their particular groups.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Strategies to Encourage Participation: A series of practical case studies from local, regional and national development in Ireland by *The Community Workers Co-operative (CWC)*

First in a series of three Strategy Guides produced by CWC as part of an ADM funded **Local Development Research and Information Project**. It contains a series of practical case studies outlining various strategies and actions used to encourage participation in local, regional and national development. Participation, particularly of those who suffer from social exclusion and organisations that represent their interests, is seen as central to the Local Development Programme and much regional and national policy making. This guide has been produced in order to assist local community groups learn from the experience of others, examine ways in which participation can be encouraged and develop models action locally.

Many of the case studies examine strategies used by organisations involved in the Local Development

Programme, such as the establishment of community subgroups and fora, and the participation of particular target groups e.g. the long-term unemployed, Travellers, young people and people with a disability. However, a range of other perspectives are also included with examples for community business, tenant participation, the Community Development Programme and local authority planning. Regional case studies include the monitoring of Structural Funds, and local development co-ordination with a Regional Health Board. Case studies from a national level include the development of the Community Platform and the National Economic & Social Forum (NESF).

Strategies to Develop the Social Economy: A series of practical case studies.

by *The Community Workers Co-operative*

Second in the series of strategy guides to assist community groups and organisations translate theory into practical actions. It contains a series of practical case studies outlining various strategies and actions used to encourage the development of the social economy. This guide has been produced in order to assist community groups and local development agencies, learn from the experience of others, and examine ways in which they can support, develop and promote the social economy.

Section One presents some of the issues and concerns in relation to the development of the social economy, the European context, definitions and subsets of the social economy, its link with local development and barriers that have been identified. It also discusses recent Irish policy developments and recommendations and presents some European examples of the social economy in action. **Section Two** is a series of case studies examining different strategies and practical actions to promote the social economy. Each case study gives background to the initiative, what practical actions were undertaken, elements of good practice, and issues and concerns which may have arisen.

Strategies to Encourage Tenant Participation: A series of practical case studies.

by *Community Workers Co-operative*

Third in the series of strategy guides to assist community groups and local development organisations translate theory into practical actions, learn from the experience of others and examine ways in which they can support, develop and promote tenant participation. It contains a series of practical case studies outlining various strategies and actions used to encourage tenant and resident participation.

Section One, 'Tenant Participation - From Theory to Practice' begins with an overview of the development of tenant participation in estate management. This section outlines the development of these concepts in Ireland in the context of developing participative democracy, links between community development, the role of the Local Development Programme, challenges for the

community sector, and different perspectives on tenant participation. This section also contains practical guidelines for establishing tenant participation projects.

Section Two is a collection of practical case studies such as the experiences of the Urban Initiative in South Dublin, Paul Partnership in Limerick, and County Leitrim Partnership. There is also a number of community based projects outlined .i.e. Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Sonas Social Housing, O'Malley Park Estate in Limerick, Ard Bhaile Estate Management in Cork and St Michael's Estate in Dublin. These case studies have been developed by practitioners and community activists in the field. Each case study gives background to the initiative, what practical actions were undertaken, elements of good practice, and issues/concerns which may have arisen.

Section Three contains a summary of elements of good practice identified in the case studies. **Section Four** outlines some sources of further information on tenant participation and includes a listing of CWC publications.

POLICY MAKING

Working for Change - A Guide to Influencing Policy in Ireland

by Brian Harvey

Working for Change - A Guide to Influencing Policy in Ireland provides a handbook for voluntary and community organisations in Ireland on how to influence the policy making process. The guide is targeted at community development groups and organisations active in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion, for example in the areas of unemployment and labour market issues, educational disadvantage, local and community development, urban and rural poverty, housing policy, drugs, work with women and community arts. It is designed for national organisations and local community groups.

An important part of the guide is the inclusion of the case studies. Their purpose is to bring a practical dimension to the publication. These are designed to be illustrative only and should not be taken as complete, definitive histories of the stories in question. They illustrate examples where voluntary and community organisations have succeeded in changing or modifying policy, or, at least, made some progress in getting a hearing for their viewpoint. For every such success, there must be examples where groups have not influenced policy or the authorities in the way they would have liked. The handbook is divided into the following four chapters each of which includes various organisational case studies:

Chapter 1 introduces the Irish political system and its relationship with voluntary and community organisations working to overcome poverty and social exclusion. **Chapter 2 *Getting to Know the System***, outlines and describes the key elements of the Irish

political and administrative system from the Oireachtas to ombudsman services and concludes by taking a quick look at the European Union. **Chapter 3 *Getting Organised*** starts from the perspective of a voluntary or community organisation setting out to influence the political system, examining such questions as setting objectives, finding resources and networking and goes on to look at media strategies and mailing lists. **Chapter 4 *Getting Results*** examines how a group or organisation can effectively work with the political system, public representatives and public bodies.

Working for Change - A Guide to Influencing Policy in Ireland: Part 2 Directory

by Brian Harvey

Directory which accompanies the above handbook and which provides basic information on the Oireachtas, information sources, local government, State agencies, advisory bodies, social partners, key national voluntary organisations, research bodies, commenting, where appropriate, on the relative importance and relevance of these different bodies. The description of each body briefly outlines its status, function, composition, work and provides contact details. The directory is not intended as an exhaustive guide to Irish government and public administration, for it focuses on those aspects likely to be of most interest to voluntary and community organisations.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Making Safer Places: a resource book for neighbourhood safety audits

by Women's Design Service/Youth Clubs UK/London Union of Youth Clubs

'*Making Safer Places: a resource book for neighbourhood safety audits*' was researched and written by Women's Design Service in response to mounting evidence that safety in urban areas is of enormous concern to many who live there, particularly women and others who may be vulnerable due to their age, ethnic background, sexuality or other cause.

This resource book is intended for use by youth and community workers and volunteers, independent groups, teachers and individuals who wish to take action to improve the quality and safety of their local neighbourhoods. The material has been drawn from several projects with youth and community groups in London initiated by Women's Design Service, including the '*Neighbourhood Health and Safety Audit: working with minority ethnic groups in Camden 1996-1999*' and the '*Young Women Into Safe Surroundings Project 1996-1999*', in partnership with the London Union of Youth Clubs and Youth Clubs UK and funded by a development grant from the National Youth Agency. Although London is the main focus of the work of Women's Design Service, the information in this book should be relevant to any urban area. It should help groups explore how a sense of personal safety is often connected to the design of the physical environment, and how such design may encourage or discourage certain kinds of social activity.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

From Disaffection to Social Inclusion: a social skills approach to developing active citizenship and lifelong learning.

by John Huskins

Handbook for those working with disaffected young people about the management of learning in youth programmes which is designed to address disaffection. It provides guidance for managers responsible for planning provision and detailed resource material for youth workers, teachers, other face-to-face workers, and volunteers, including mentors, to help them prepare for their work with disaffected young people. The focus is on two main groups:

- 14 - 16 year olds, (in years 10 and 11), prevention, with those who are underachieving at school, truanting, or are at risk of exclusion, and restoration with those who have been excluded, and may be involved in other risk behaviours, and their predecessors, the
- 16 - 20 year olds who have little, if anything, to show for their ten years of compulsory schooling and are not in a position to make use of the opportunities available for further education, training and employment. These may also be involved in crime and other risk behaviours.

The same principles used here can be applied to other programmes with the same target groups, for example, crime diversion, drugs and sex education and youth counselling for emotional problems. In fact any successful youth programme must address young people's needs as a whole, and that includes addressing the five inter-related risk behaviours below which have many of the same underlying causes in terms of the need for improved personal and social skills: school underachievement, truancy and exclusion; drugs misuse; risky sexual behaviour ; leading to unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS; emotional problems, depression and suicide attempts; and crime.

All such programmes should be about empowering young people, helping them to develop what has been termed emotional literacy, the social skills, including values development, necessary to take control of their lives within society. Based on accurate information and a consideration of the various options and their consequences, they will then be able to make their own decisions and implement them. Workers in these fields should have no difficulty in deciding the sections which are most appropriate for their needs.

The approach to addressing disaffection in this handbook builds on the principles of quality youth work developed in the training handbook *Quality work with young people - developing social skills and diversion from risk* by the same author (*both publications available from Youth Clubs UK*). It provides a systematic and accountable approach to delivering effective personal development programmes for all young people, including those at risk.

SOCIAL SERVICES

**Irish Social Services: Third Edition
by John Curry**

Social services affect practically everyone in our society at some stage in their life. Two fifths of the population depend solely or mainly on income maintenance payments; a third of the population is entitled to free health service; more than a quarter is engaged in full-time education; and most of the housing stock has been either provided or subsidised by the state. Just under a half of all government current expenditure is devoted to the social service.

Irish Social Services provides an up-to-date guide to the evolution, nature and scope of the - social services in Ireland - Income maintenance, housing, education, health and welfare services. Of particular relevance to students and practitioners in the field of social administration, this book will be of interest to anyone concerned with how basic social needs and problems are catered for in Ireland.

WORKING WITH YOUNG MEN

**Young Men Talking About Talking
by Youth Clubs UK Young Male Mental Health Programme**

Video for anyone involved in or wishing to engage young men positively. Using four ground-breaking projects in inner city Liverpool, Cheshire, Cornwall and Leicester, the video makes suggestions about how one can start encouraging young men to talk about their lives, feelings, attitudes and behaviour. The video shows workers describing different approaches to work with young men which support effective communication and how workers can take a positive approach in their own communication with young men.

All of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan (**NOT SALE**) from the Irish YouthWork Centre, an official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Nightshift Publications, Russell House Publishing, Directory of Social Change, Combat Poverty Agency and NYCI among others.

For further information please contact:

Fran Bissett and Bríd Horan

Irish YouthWork Centre,

20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8729933

Fax: 01 8724183

Email: fbissett@nyf.ie

IRELAND

Youth Conference

Venue: University of Ulster, Jordanstown

Date: Tuesday 15 - Thursday 17 June, 1999

Three-day conference which will explore some of the current issues on the field of community youth work at local and international level. The conference is actively seeking abstracts, research papers and proposals for presentations for the conference which will be presented and mixed with seminars, workshops and plenary sessions.

Abstracts, research papers and proposals for presentations should be forwarded to: **Tony Morgan & Isobel Hawthorne, Room 21C13, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT37 0QB, Northern Ireland. Tel: 0801232 366688 or 366973 Fax: 0801232 368201 Email: tmorgan@ulst.ac.uk**

Planned workshops will include the following areas of youth work practice: disability, health issues, drugs, alcohol, gender, gangs, isolation, ethnicity, religious diversity, racial discrimination, peer pressure, relationships, crisis situations and conflict resolution among others.

Cost: £125.00 (B&B accommodation available in the University's Halls of Residence @ £20.00 per person per night)

Further Details: The Conference Secretariat, Short Course and Professional Development Unit, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT37 0QB, Northern Ireland. **Brochures also available from Irish YouthWork Centre**

Tel: 0801232 366680 **Fax:** 0801232 366060

Email: scpdu@ulst.ac.uk

Capacity Building North and South: Links and Lessons

Venue: Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor, Dublin

Date: Friday 18 - Saturday 19 June, 1999

One-day conference aimed at critically examining the concept of capacity building across different sections within the development community. It will provide a forum for development practitioners, community activists, educators, researchers, policy-makers and analysts to share their knowledge, insights and experiences concerning capacity building.

Participants will have the choice of 8 workshops as well as a number of keynote presentations. Workshops will include: Capacity Building; Working in Partnership; Marrying Best Practice in Business & Development; Linking Human Rights & Development Agendas; Building in Development Education; Role of the Church in Development in the 21st Century; Role of the Community Activist in Building Capacity for Social Change.

Cost: £25.00

Further Details: Conference Co-ordinator, Development Studies Centre, Kimmage Manor, Dublin 12.

Tel: 01 4560075 **Fax:** 01 4560089 **Email:** dsckim@iol.ie

Third International Rural Development School : "Planning Economic Development at Micro-regional level"

Venue: Galway

Date: Friday 25 June - Saturday 3 July, 1999

Carrefour and The International Centre for Development Studies, both situated in NUI, Galway, in association with the Gibson Institute for Rural Studies in Queens University Belfast, will jointly host the Third International Rural Development School. The principal objective of the School is to combine the efforts of researchers and practitioners in suggesting plausible and feasible actions to be taken at the micro-regional level.

The core theme for the week will be to present a **Planning for local development: a schematic framework** and satellite themes to be addressed throughout the school will include:

- Globalisation and Local Endogenous Development;
- EU Policy and Local Development;
- Information Technology;
- Institutional Structures and Local Development;
- Environment and Local Development;
- Inclusiveness and Local Development;
- Planning Economic Development at Micro-regional Level.

Cost: £495 (There will be a limited number of reduced rates available for members of community groups). Accommodation for the duration of the School can be arranged in Corrib Village (the on campus accommodation at NUI, Galway).

Further Details: Caoilinn DeBairead or Anne Dolan, Carrefour Galway, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Tel: 091 524411 ext 3042 or 3040 **Fax:** 091 524130

Email: caoilinn.orourke@nuigalway.ie or anne.dolan@nuigalway.ie

RDS Youth Science & Arts Week 1999

Venue: RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin

Date: Monday 5 - Saturday 10 July, 1999

One-week event which offers 14 - 17 year olds the opportunity to meet in a friendly atmosphere and to experience a wide range of activities in the areas of Science and Arts. The activities covered range from talks, visits, protocol workshops, karaoke, discos, quizzes, debates and a home entertainment cabaret evening. The event is non-residential but attempts will be made to match up participants from outside the country with the families of Dublin participants.

Cost: Before 9 June: £60, includes all activities, £130 all activities plus accommodation and meals.

After 9 June: £70, includes all activities, £140 all activities plus accommodation and meals

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

Tel: 01 6680866 ext. 217 **Fax:** 01 6604014 **Email:** carol.power@rds.ie

Leadership & Management of Voluntary Groups

Venue: All Hallows College, Dublin

Date: Friday 23 - Sunday 25 July, 1999

Three-day programme designed for professional staff, board members and leaders of non-profit organisations, as well as those interested in pursuing a future in the field. The objectives of the course are to: enhance the leadership and management of paid managers, workers and volunteers involved with voluntary organisations and programmes in Ireland; enhance their understanding of voluntary organisations and the non-profit voluntary sector and how such organisations are similar and different from others; increase their knowledge and skills in managing and leading such organisations; increase their effectiveness at managing volunteers and volunteer programmes. The course topics are:

- The dynamics of voluntary organisations: the relationships between paid staff, management boards and volunteer workers:
- Leading and governing voluntary organisations: staff, management and board roles:
- Fundraising for voluntary organisations;
- Mobilising volunteers for organisational effectiveness: e.g. structuring a volunteer programme, making the most of volunteer involvement

Cost: £220 (non-residential) £250 (residential) £200 (for a group of 3 or more). £30.00 deposit required.

Further Details: Summer Events, All Hallows College, Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Tel: 01 83737445 **Fax:** 01 8377642 **Email:** ahallows@iol.ie

BRITAIN

Managing and Transferring Best Practices in Innovation, Leadership and Knowledge

Venue: London

Date: Tuesday 8 - Wednesday 9 June, 1999

Two-day conference aimed at sharing best practice in Innovation, Leadership and Knowledge via the use of inputs, 10 cutting edge case studies and 3 interactive workshops form a range of leading business, management and marketing agencies

Cost: £1286.63stg (includes VAT)

Further Details: Business Intelligence Ltd, Third Floor, 22-24 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4DD.

Tel: 0044 181 8793355 **Fax:** 0044 181 8791122

Youth Homelessness - The Shelter/Midland Bank Network Project

Date: Monday 14 June, 1999

Venue: London

One-day free conference which is the culmination of two years of research examining the problems facing young homeless people in inner city, urban and rural areas, and how agencies in these areas are assisting them. It will focus on developing long-term strategies to tackle youth homelessness across the country.

Further Details: *Postcard to Shelter*, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU, England, quoting reference number **MDI4**.

EUROPE

Training Seminar for Young Social Scientists Active or Interested in Youth Studies

Date: Thursday 2 - Tuesday 7 September 1999

Venue: European Youth Centre, Budapest

One week event to present and discuss present day methodologies and agendas of youth research and the strategies for integrating youth research, youth policy and youth work; To look into the situation of youth research in Eastern and Central Europe and the ways of reinforcing its participation in European research co-operation; To provide information and basic training in research networking, paper drafting and conference presentation. Participants will be up to 20 young researchers, up to 35 years of age, having some knowledge of youth issues, or students intending to pursue an academic career in the field of youth research who will be required to present an abstract at the conference.

Costs: The Council of Europe will cover participants' travel expenses and provide board and lodging at the Centre. Participants will pay a contribution of 280FF (£35-£40)

Further Details: Irena Guidokova, Centre Europeen de la Jeunesse, 30 Rue Pierre De Coubertin, F-67000 Strasbourg, France

Tel: 0033 3 88412000 ext 3219 **Fax:** 0033 3 88412777 **Email:** irena.guidokova@coe.fr

Training Course on Organisational Management

Date: Friday 10 - Sunday 19 September, 1999

Venue: European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

Intensive training course to introduce representatives of youth organisations to European Youth Structures and European Youth Programmes and to train them in managerial skills needed to run a youth organisation and its projects at a regional level. The application deadline is **1 June, 1999**.

Further Details: The Youth Work Service, Leargas - The Exchange Bureau, 189-193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8731411 **Fax:** 01 8731316 **Email:** youthforeurope@leargas.ie

CONFERENCE 99

The last National Youth Federation Conference of the Millennium will be a significant moment for volunteers, youth workers and managers from around the Irish Youth Work Sector to share, reflect and learn together at a dynamic and creative event.

THEME Local Youth Services at the Crossroads



The Role of Youth Work in Community Development
Volunteerism
Young People and Youth Culture

CONFERENCE INFORMATION



Professionally managed event in an excellent venue
Meeting participants' needs
Local, National and International contributors
Exploring burning issues
Visionary and challenging
Theory, policy and practice
A marketplace of opportunities

DATE: 8-10 October, 1999
VENUE: Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin

NATIONAL
youth
FEDERATION



CÓNASCADH
NÁISIÚNTA
na nÓg

For further information on this event contact:

Frank Nealis (*Conference Manager*)

or

Brid Horan (*Conference Co-ordinator*)

Ph: 01 872 9933 Fax: 01 872 4183

Email: bhoran@nyf.ie



IRISH
YOUTH
FOUNDATION

This event is financially supported by the Irish Youth Foundation.

WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY, THERE IS NO ACHIEVEMENT