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# Irish YouthWork

 **Scene** 

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# Youth Information

Tony Murphy

Contents  
Contents  
Contents

Youth Information Services have proven to be a very important access route for young people over the past 15 years. Many doors have opened as a result of the support and availability of relevant information which young people have received through professional staff and volunteers working in centrally based services and outreach points. Within the context of the forthcoming National Youth Work Development Plan 2002 - 2006 the consolidation and development of existing services and the establishment of new services should be central. Youth Information Centres often end up being the flagship for the local youth service. It forms part of an integrated range of services provided by a team of staff and volunteers who can support the 'in-formation' of young people using many different but inter-related learning opportunities.

Though technology is a means towards achieving local access and developing these facilities in outer lying rural areas, it should never replace the human touch operating professional standards in assisting young people to reach informed decisions. Not to encourage and support the expansion of such services within the forthcoming plan would be short-sighted, possibly linked to a capital expansion programme, which would allow for Youth Information Centres to be located where young people gather in attractive and accessible facilities to avail of a menu of services and flexible supports.

Over the past two years only two new services were established by the Department of Education and Science in Castlebar and Athlone. A map of Ireland will show that beyond Sligo in the North West two new centres under Peace and Reconciliation Funding were established in 1998, namely Donegal Town and Letterkenny, while to the North East, Castleblayney (plus 3 outreach points) commenced in January 1999. Within the past two weeks the Minister of State, Mr Willie O'Dea has confirmed that mainstream funding will be made available for the Youth Information Services in Counties Donegal and Monaghan. Thanks are due to all who participated in whatever way to influence the decision makers to save jobs and enable vital services to continue - given that the initial response was "Sorry there is no money"!

The European Commission aspires to establish Europe and its citizens as the most advanced knowledge based society by 2010. Currently in Ireland, 10% of Primary students leave school with literacy problems, while 19% of Second level students do not complete the cycle. Surely the consolidation and expansion of Youth Information Services must therefore, form an integral part of supporting young people in a non-formal way to negotiate their particular path(s) through the information labyrinth. Knowledge without understanding will serve them poorly. Youth Services can and will serve them richly on both fronts and beyond into adulthood.

Victim Support Empowers Young People as Partners Against Crime .....	3
Bringing Rural Youth In From the Cold .....	5
How to Set Up a Youth Action Team .....	6
Policy & Funding .....	8
Resources .....	10
Round-Up .....	13
Noticeboard .....	14

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

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# Victim Support Empowers Young People As Partners Against Crime

By Geraldine Byrne

## Introduction

Every day the newspapers and television zealously report on crime - who did what to whom, where, when and why. But each story is quickly forgotten, as there is always another sensational headline just around the corner. However, every crime leaves behind people who have to pick up the pieces, who have to learn to live with the consequences of what they have been through, away from the media spotlight.

When Sinead said goodbye to her son Michael that day, she took it for granted he would be safe. He was a responsible, sensitive boy, and he was with friends whom she trusted. But when the doorbell rang at three in the morning, she knew something was terribly, terribly wrong - something that would change her family forever. She barely remembers what the Gardaí said to her, about Michael being in the wrong place at the wrong time, a random attack, and a senseless crime. All Sinead knew is that her son had been murdered. But the nightmare only began with the news of her son's death. Her family now faced the long and arduous road of a murder investigation: the coroner, the criminal investigation, and (over two years later) the ordeal of the court case.

Sinead's experience is difficult to imagine, and murder is a crime of the extreme. But no matter what the offence, victims of crime are seriously impacted in a myriad of ways, both emotionally and practically. The tragedy is that so many people affected by crime just suffer in silence, unable to speak out or seek help. But it is not easy to talk openly and freely about one's experiences, especially when those experiences have been of a particularly violent or gruesome nature.

## Victim Support

This is where Victim Support comes in. Victim Support is a nationwide voluntary organisation that is committed to the best interests of those whose lives have been touched by crime, by actively supporting them, identifying their needs and advocating for their rights. The aim of the

organisation is to help people who are finding it difficult to come to terms with what has happened to them or their loved ones. By lobbying relevant bodies, Victim Support also seeks to have the statutory provisions and compensations available to victims updated and approved.

There are three main strands to what Victim Support does: one is to support individuals and families affected by crime; the second is to deal with the more practical issues involved by seeking to maximise the compensation and legal redress due to victims; and the third is to promote educational and preventative programmes. This article documents the work to date in developing crime prevention Youth Awareness Programme (YAP)

## Youth Awareness Programme

### The Youth Awareness Programme (YAP) - a crime prevention initiative

The (YAP) was launched by John O Donoghue T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform last February. In his opening remarks the Minister stated:

*"Your Youth Awareness Programme displays important insights into how we can, as a society, influence attitudes to crime and its victims. Your target population are the citizens of our future society and how appropriate and timely is your emphasis on educating them on the effects of crime and focussing their minds on their personal decisions and the consequences of their actions on other members of society"*

During 2000, the programme was presented to 50 groups of Transition Year students throughout the country by Victim Support volunteers and staff. Over 1,500 students participated. The Youth Awareness Programme was evaluated for its effectiveness by both students and presenters. The evaluation indicated that initially, 61% of participants in the Programme knew nothing about Victim Support. When the Programme was completed, 67% stated that they knew a lot about Victim Support. Another key learning area for students was the consequences of crime. They learned that crime

can affect people on many different levels; psychologically, physically and financially, even as a result of seemingly minor offences. Furthermore, they observed that a single crime can affect a whole circle of people, not just the victim but their families and friends as well. The use of real-life stories seemed to be particularly effective in communicating this message to the students. The programme also created the awareness of how anyone can become a victim of crime. Many students reported that they had previously been unaware of the extent of crime in their own communities and in the country at large, prompting some to resolve that they would take extra care in future.

The following points were made by those who participated in the programme:

- It was very comforting to know that there is someone to go to if you were ever a victim of crime.
- I never thought that crime could be so devastating for people, it was a real eye-opener. I would like to become a volunteer when I am older.
- The session was interesting because we got to hear from real people, not just actors pretending.

## The YAP Rationale

The Youth awareness Programme is a positive and pro-active response to the increase of violent crime in society among young people. This Programme is driven by the belief that by empowering young people as partners against crime, longer-term solutions will be achieved in securing a safe environment. As a crime prevention initiative this Programme aims to:

- a) inform young people about the work of Victim Support.
- b) educate and sensitise young people as to the effects of crime
- c) focus students minds on their personal decisions and consequences of their actions.

The method adopted is one of collaboration with young people. Students are encouraged to engage in the programme and are led into an expression and examination of their feelings about the effects of crime. What makes this programme different from other crime prevention initiatives is that crime is approached from the perspective of the person who becomes the victim of crime. The real life stories of pain, hurt, injury, trauma and even death as a consequence of crime are discussed. It is also emphasised that people's reactions to being victimised are individual and unpredictable. Participants in the programme begin to realise that

an incident of crime - which might only last a minute may in fact have consequences for the victim, which will last a lifetime. Crime can call cherished assumptions into question; what seemed like a safe, orderly world is suddenly threatening and unpredictable.

## Programme Content

The programme is delivered through:

- the Victim Support video 'The Impact of Crime on People's Lives'
- oral presentation
- group discussion
- role play
- information sheets

It is hoped to extend the Programme in 2001 to 100 groups of Transition Year students nationwide which will be presented by Victim Support volunteers and Development Officers. Contact with the non-formal youth groups/organisations will also be developed in view of extending the programme to a wider sector of young people.

## Conclusion

In summary, the YAP approaches crime from the perspective of those who live with its consequences. While accepting that young people are the leaders/adults of tomorrow, the focus is on the part young people can play in changing the stream of violence and criminal behaviour present in contemporary society. It is too early to draw conclusions on the importance and crime preventive effect of this programme. However, it is hoped that it will be a platform for the exchange of experience and further training of professional groups within the formal and non-formal sector with the responsibility for crime prevention and welfare of our young population.

### For further information contact:

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Dublin 7  
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Email: [info@victimsupport.ie](mailto:info@victimsupport.ie)

*Geraldine Byrne is editor of the Victim Support magazine and National Co-ordinator of the Youth Awareness Programme.*

# Bringing Rural Youth "In From the Cold"

By Fran Bissett

## Introduction

A major piece of research on rural young people was launched on Tuesday 22 May by the Minister for Justice Equality and Law Reform, Mr. John O'Donoghue T.D., in the National Offices of the National Youth Federation. The research is entitled '*In From the Cold: Towards a Strategy for Rural Youth Work*' and was undertaken by Kerry Diocesan Youth Service, one the National Youth Federation Member Youth Services, and was sponsored by the Irish Youth Foundation.

The report is one of the most significant pieces of research to specifically explore and analyse the circumstances of young people in rural areas and how their quality of life can be improved. Given the relative dearth of Irish research on rural youth, this report is both timely and welcome and will hopefully be of great assistance in influencing decision-making at both local and national level.

The research is particularly timely against the current backdrop of the Youth Service with the Youth Work Bill at committee stage in the Dáil and the National Youth Work Plan currently in the process of being finalised.

## Research Brief

The brief of the research was:

- To identify the needs and issues facing young people in rural areas of the Kerry diocese
- To identify the needs of youth workers (voluntary and paid)
- To analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the existing club development approach
- To analyse the relationship between rural youth work and the wider environment e.g. The Youth Work Bill, The National Youth Work Plan, County Development Plan, and Local Development Social Inclusion Programme etc.
- To review current literature on rural youth work at home and abroad
- To recommend appropriate responses to the needs of rural young people at both policy and practice level

## Research Findings

The key findings of the research were presented by the action researcher Ann O'Dwyer, who highlighted the sense of isolation of young people in rural areas and the neglect of rural youth for decades both in terms of service provision, and in naming it as an issue on the political agenda. The report contains extremely comprehensive findings and recommendations, and for those working with young people in rural areas it makes essential reading.

There are key recommendations made in relation to the following areas, among others:

- Quality Rural Youth Work Provision
- Development of Human Resources
- Development of Access to Youth Information for Rural Young People
- The Need for a National Rural Youth Work Policy
- The Needs of Under 15's and Over 15's
- Service Integration
- Transport
- Under-Age Drinking
- Further Research

Dr. Maurice Devlin, NUI Maynooth and Chairperson of the National Youth Work Plan Committee, a working sub-group of NYWAC, responded to the research. In response he gave high praise to the research and drew attention to the absence of the needs of rural young people being given due consideration in recent policy developments such as the White Paper on Rural Development. Dr. Devlin also highlighted the need to respond to the specific circumstances of rural youth, and that traditional centre-based/drop-in models, which work in urban settings, are not practical for these young people.

This research will be an invaluable resource to those working with young people in rural areas. It should prove an excellent tool for those aiming to improve the quality of life of young people in rural areas and also influence policy and decision-making agencies at national level to develop an equity of service for rural young people with their urban counterparts.

*For further information/copies of the research please contact: Nicola O'Sullivan, KDYS, Tralee Youth Service, Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.*

Tel: (066) 7121674 Fax: (066) 7128966

Email: [tralyc@iol.ie](mailto:tralyc@iol.ie)

# How To Set Up A Youth Action Team

By Youth & Schools Unit, British Red Cross

Over the past few years British Red Cross Youth Action Teams have brought benefits to young people and their communities. This article gives a brief guide as what they are, how to proceed with setting one up and some of the issues to be considered.

## Introduction

The large display which promotes many youth action projects leads with the words - see it, think it, plan it, do it. That's a good starting point for looking at how to set up a youth action team project. But first, a word about what they are.

Most youth action team projects involve groups of young people producing a benefit to their community and at the same time developing their skills in some way. Key to their character is that they are youth-led. That means young people have decided what to do, checked it out, and then done it.

The adult youth worker is a crucial part of that team. But she or he operates by lending support and encouragement, providing the means so that young people can take ownership and control.

## Youth Action Teams & The Community

One person cannot be a team. But two can - and this is the minimum size of group for an effective youth action team, although most teams include more people. If they are taking action on their concerns in the community they can be an action team.

People often take a very narrow view of what community is. For many it relates first and foremost to the immediate physical neighbourhood. And doing something in the community is generally taken to mean some good deed for that community. That's why so many minds turn to things like clearing up a local eyesore, turning waste ground into a garden, dragging rubbish out of a canal ...

But communities exist everywhere, on different

levels. We are all members of several different ones. Young people's community might be based on their membership of a group like the Red Cross, or of people who share a disability, or of a youth group or school or college, or music group ... all these are communities.

A key part of youth action teams is that they are based on communities that young people are themselves members of - and have defined in their own way. They see them, and make sense of them and feel a sense of identity and belonging. That makes sense of the philosophy, and makes it more likely that the team will succeed in its aim.

## See It

Youth Action Teams happen because young people have seen a need. They have spotted it and that means it matters to them. Working on it will make a difference. That is an excellent start for any work with young people. Already they have a sense of ownership over it and a healthy amount of commitment to it. They will need that - because the road ahead is unlikely to be as straightforward and problem-free as it might seem at this stage.

## Think It

At this stage, young people need to take a sceptical approach to their idea. What are the pros and cons? Is it really needed? Healthy scepticism is not the same as negativity. There is a real and important role for testing out, criticising and snagging, which will lead to improvements in the idea. Keep it positive and provide answers to outsiders as well as satisfying yourself that the idea is a good one.

## Plan It

This is the detailed planning stage. It needs to be careful, thorough and comprehensive. Common sense is needed, but research will also be required to check out that the plan is workable. You will need a systematic checklist to work through to make sure you cover all aspects. They will include a clear

statement of the benefits of the project, its goals, the budget, the timescale and relationships with others. Advice is available - see the contact address given - on monitoring, evaluating and running the project.

## Do It

That's it. You know what the project is for, what it hopes to achieve and how. All that remains is to put the plan into action. But even with the best planning in the world, you are likely to come up against surprises and unforeseen events.

So expect the unexpected and be happy to fine tune as you go along. Keep records of what you do and why. That way you will be able to see the forces that shaped your decisions - and how the project turned out as it did!

## The Benefits

The real value lies in the process as much as the end result. Young people will develop skills, they will learn something about the world around them and about themselves. This can happen whatever the apparent success of the project. The planning stage might not even get off the ground.

The final result might be vastly different from what was imagined at the outset. This doesn't matter. If young people have tried something new in a safe but challenging environment they will have picked up skills and learning useful throughout their life.

The British Red Cross can offer advice, consultation and resources on youth action teams.

### For more information contact:

**Andrew Lloyd**  
 Youth & Schools Unit,  
 British Red Cross,  
 9 Grosvenor Crescent,  
 London  
 SW1X 7EJ.  
 Tel: 0044 20 7235 5454.  
 E-mail: [alloyd@redcross.org.uk](mailto:alloyd@redcross.org.uk)

*Article extracted and adapted from Issue 5, Spring/Summer 2001 of Red Cross Education, the magazine of the Youth and Schools Unit of the British Red Cross.*

## Organisational Profile

The **British Red Cross** cares for people in crisis in local communities throughout the British Isles and overseas as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In the British Isles, the British Red Cross supports the statutory services at the scenes of major emergencies, such as train crashes, floods, or public evacuations, by providing first aid and welfare services to victims and their families. In meeting these needs our volunteers can develop and practice skills, which will become essential in the event of a major emergency.

In addition the British Red Cross provides a number of local community services, designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people facing personal crises, like the temporary loss of a regular carer, or the short term need for a wheelchair.

This work is carried out by a network of some 80,000 volunteers, who maintain their skills by delivering services to vulnerable people in local communities. These services include helping the elderly or infirm on discharge from hospital, loaning medical equipment on a short-term basis, or helping those separated from their families to be reunited

## Red Cross Youth

Red Cross Youth focuses on involving young people in crises in two ways. They can and do play an important role as part of the emergency response teams at incidents in the UK. They also have emergencies of their own - which they need to be equipped to deal with.

Red Cross Youth is currently working in the following areas:

- Peer Befriending
- Youth Action Teams
- Peer Education
- Global Awareness
- International Volunteering
- Youth Worker Training
- Count me in Programme!
- Rural Strategy Team
- National Youth Forum
- Youth Achievement Awards

# Policy & Funding

## CPA WORKING AGAINST POVERTY GRANTS SCHEME

This annual scheme aims to help community and voluntary groups trying to understand and influence public policy for the benefit of those affected by poverty. The scheme supports work under three separate strands: public awareness, evaluation and research and in particular will support work that relates to the Combat Poverty Agency's strategic plan objectives. The following general criteria will be used to assess grant applications under the scheme:

Applications must be from community and voluntary groups. The Agency will favour those operating from community development principles.

- Proposals must have a clear anti-poverty focus.
- Proposals must have the potential to influence policy-making in favour of those affected by poverty locally, regionally or nationally.
- Proposed work must not already have taken place i.e. retrospective work will not be funded.
- The proposed work should be once off.
- Applicant groups must submit a tax number or a charity number when making an application. Applications will not be processed without this information. Advice on how to obtain tax/charity numbers is provided in the brochure).
- Proposals must include clear, detailed, realistic costings and timescales.
- In general proposals must relate to the CPA current strategic objectives or goals.

The scheme will not fund individuals; ongoing work; core or retrospective costs; employment or capital costs; promotional materials; newsletters or directories, annual reports or conferences. There are two separate application deadlines during the year to submit applications: **1 June and 15 September.**

For copies of the application form or brochure and application guidelines please contact:

Yvonne O'Rourke,  
 Combat Poverty Agency,  
 Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road,  
 Islandbridge, Dublin 8.  
 Tel: (01) 6706746/6026623  
 Fax: (01) 6706760 E-mail: [info@cpa.ie](mailto:info@cpa.ie)  
 Website: [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie)

## GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY

On 10 May the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern launched a new seven-year National Drug Strategy. The new strategy follows a lengthy public consultation and review of existing drugs policy and will involve ongoing work by a variety of agencies, Government departments and community groups. It builds on an existing strategy, although it is the first time that a single policy framework has been devised and responsibilities clearly allocated. Minister of State Eoin Ryan will have responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the strategy. The National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 sets targets under four areas of supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research. It aims to:

- Increase Garda resources in Local Drugs Task Force areas by the end of 2001.
- Increase by 50 per cent the volume of drugs seized by the end of 2008.
- Reduce drug misuse by school goers to below the EU average.
- Start a national awareness campaign in 2001.
- Introduce substance misuse prevention programmes in schools.
- Increase the number of methadone treatment places from 5,000 to 6,500 by the end of 2002.
- Offer drug addicts immediate access to professional assessment and counselling, with treatment to start less than a month after the assessment.
- Eliminate all major drug research gaps by the end of 2003.



- Publish an annual report on progress in achieving these targets.

The strategy will also entail the establishment of 11 Regional Drugs task Forces in health board areas by the end of this year. These will be in addition to 14 Local Drugs Task Forces set up in the late 1990's, 13 in heroin blighted parts of Dublin and one in Cork. The task forces, with members from community and voluntary groups and State agencies, provide a range of local anti-drugs programmes.

**For further information contact:**

**Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation**  
 Kildare Street  
 Dublin 2  
 Tel: (01) 6313800 Fax: (01) 6611201  
 E-mail: [web\\_master@tourism-sport.irlgov.ie](mailto:web_master@tourism-sport.irlgov.ie)  
 Website: [www.doh.ie](http://www.doh.ie)

**NEW HOMELESS STRATEGY LAUNCHED**

The government is to spend £180 million over the next three years to help the homeless under a plan to eliminate the problem completely within a decade. A new Homeless Agency will administer the budget, using it to increase the number of emergency beds, transition rooms and permanent residences for homeless people as well as ensure better use of the existing supply. Around £130 million will be used to buy or build the following:

- 100 extra emergency places for people sleeping rough
- 200 dwellings for medium-term shelter
- 1,500 permanent residences, including 300 sheltered or supported units.

All the new acquisitions will be in Dublin where, on any given night, there are 1,400 people in hostels and bed and breakfasts and a further 200 people sleeping rough. These represent about 75% of the country's total homeless population, 95% of them are concentrated within the Dublin city boundaries.

The new Agency is also planning to set up two 24-hour drop-in information centres, in central Dublin and in Dun Laoghaire, to relay up-to-the-minute information on bed availability and other services.

Other initiatives will include a 24-hour free phone helpline and a mediation service to help people leaving the family home or rented accommodation in crisis circumstances to return until a longer-term solution is found.

There will be two further 3 year plans in addition to an inaugural plan by which time it is hoped that the work of the Agency would be complete.

**For further information contact:**

**Department of Environment & Local Government**  
 Custom House  
 Dublin 1  
 Tel: (01) 8882000 Fax: (01) 8882888  
 E-mail: [press\\_office@environ.irlgov.ie](mailto:press_office@environ.irlgov.ie)  
 Website: [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)

**NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT FOR WORKING GROUP ON THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Following the recent consultation process within the Community and Voluntary Sector, nominations have been invited for six representatives from the sector to participate on the Implementation and Advisory group for the White Paper on the relationship between the Community and Voluntary sector and the State.

This Committee will oversee the implementation of the commitments in the White Paper and other relevant issues within the sector. National organisations within the Community and Voluntary Sector, including national federations, platforms/umbrella groups, are entitled to nominate persons to the positions. A selection committee will select six candidates and six alternates based on information supplied in the submitted Nomination Forms.

**For a copy of the Information Sheet and/or Nomination Form please contact:**

**Ad Hoc Committee,**  
 C/o Carmichael House,  
 North Brunswick Street,  
 Dublin 7  
 Tel: (01) 8749720  
 E-mail: [carmichaelcentre@eircom.net](mailto:carmichaelcentre@eircom.net)

# Resources

## ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION

### Raising Awareness, Diversity and Racism: An Activity Pack for Schools and Youth Workers

By the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism

Activity pack produced by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) in the Republic of Ireland in partnership with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. It is intended to be a first stage awareness raising initiative developed in advance of the United Nations World Conference on racism in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001.

The activity pack aims to provide a range of ideas for those working with young people in schools or more informal education settings who are interested in exploring cultural diversity and raising awareness about racism. It is consistent with the preparations for forthcoming public awareness programmes to highlight racism in Ireland.

This pack is being produced in an accessible format so that those who use it will be able to add their own materials and resources. The pack will be updated from time to time. The pack and updates will be available through the websites of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the NCCRI.

## CHILDREN IN CARE

### Promoting Resilience: A Resource Guide On Working With Children in the Care System

By Robbie Gilligan

As the author states "*The needs and problems of many children in care are complex and difficult to serve appropriately. Or more correctly, their needs are deceptively simple, but delivering the right response is deceptively complex. Whether at the level of a single child, or at the level of all children in a regional or national system of out-of-home care, it can be difficult to ensure that the right thing is done all of the time*"

This book is written on a hopeful note maintaining that that the lives and experience of children in the care

system can be made better, even by little things, and that what social workers do can indeed make a difference. The book also promotes the idea of looking first at strengths and positives in a child's profile and in their social context and not focusing first on the '*deficits, the pathology, the problem*'.

The book is written in a way that seeks to give a direct voice to experience of young people in care and includes extracts drawn from research on their lives as well as quotes from young people themselves. In addition, there are many quotes from other sources, which illuminate the realities and possibilities of living in care. In many sections the reader is offered questions or exercises that can be used to stimulate private reflection or group discussion.

## FUNDING

### CAFÉ Funding Handbook - A Directory of Funding and Support for Community and Voluntary Work

By CAFÉ

Latest edition of CAFÉ's Funding Handbook, which offers information, advice and guidance to funding sources and opportunities for the community and voluntary sector. The publication is organised in two parts.

#### Part 1 - Funding Issues

**Chapter 1** considers the funding needs of the voluntary and community sector in a wider policy context. It suggests that what is required is a funding environment that recognises and supports the unique and vital contribution that the sector has to make. It includes the criteria suggested for funders and fundraisers from the Green Paper.

**Chapter 2** sets out guidelines for planning and making funding applications and discusses ethics in fundraising.

**Chapter 3** outlines European Union funding, and its various programmes, and reviews information available at the time of publication.

**Chapter 4** looks at Corporate Sponsorship and explains some of the ways in which it differs from the more general fundraising. It includes practical guidelines on seeking sponsorship.

**Chapter 5** explains the significance of charitable status. It includes information on tax incentives for charitable

giving and the legal regulation of lotteries and collections.

## **Part 2 - Directory of Funding Sources**

This part of the handbook is divided into five parts as follows:

1. Government departments, statutory agencies and intermediary funding-bodies operating in the Republic of Ireland that provide funding for voluntary and community organisations.
2. Government departments, statutory agencies and intermediary funding-bodies operating in Northern Ireland.
3. Grant making trusts and other funds operating in Northern Ireland and/or in the Republic.
4. Corporate social sponsors and companies operating in Northern Ireland and/or in the Republic.
5. Information, listings and contact information is provided on local administration and local development agencies.

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Insights - Community Groups Series: A Series of nine booklets on aspects of the Community Groups and the Local Urban and Rural Development Programme**

**By ADM Ltd**

The Local Urban and Rural Development Programme formed an integral part of the National Development Plan and the Community Support Framework (1994-1999). The principal objective of **Sub Programme 2: The Integrated Development of Designated Disadvantaged and Other Areas** was to counter disadvantage through support for communities that make a collective effort to implement an Action Plan and have committed an appropriate level of resources to that process. The Programme aimed to accelerate economic development and thereby increase employment and to tackle exclusion and marginalisation resulting from long-term unemployment, poor educational attainment, poverty and welfare dependency.

Three strands were supported under the Programme:

- Partnerships in designated disadvantaged areas
- Communities outside of designated areas
- Selected organisations

Thirty-three Community Groups outside of designated areas were allocated funding under the programme on the basis of having prepared strategic local development plans specifically designed to meet the objectives of Sub programme 2 within those communities. The plans included actions in the areas of enterprise creation and development, environment and infrastructural works,

services for unemployed people, education and training and community development.

The nine titles in the series are:

**No. 1: Preventive Education - a review of learning and good practice.**

**No. 2: Community Development - a review of some primary local initiatives.**

**No. 3: Enterprise Creation and Development - a review of learning and good practice.**

**No. 4: Environment and Infrastructure Developing a Resource Centre - a review of learning and good practice**

**No. 5: Internal Structures - a review of learning and good practice.**

**No. 6: Community Groups Meeting the Needs of the Unemployed**

**No. 7: The Inclusion and participation of Disadvantaged Women in the Local Development Programme.**

**No. 8: Linkages within the Statutory Sector - a review of learning and good practice.**

**No. 9: Networking - its role and value within local development.**

### **PEER EDUCATION**

**Ciderpunks**

**Directed and Animated by Joel Simon**

*"Ciderpunks"* is an animated film that was produced in Belfast by a small team of young filmmakers over a two-year period. It offers a humorous insight into the frantic life of Becky, aged 17 and her circle of friends who share a passion protest, body piercing and army surplus clothing. This film features the voice talents of Radio One's Mark Radcliffe and various local artists.

In the process of obtaining funds for the film, Kate Campbell, Community Projects Officer with the NI Voluntary Trust, suggested that given the characters featured and the subjects touched upon, the film could be made available to youth groups accompanied by a peer education pack. Hence a group of young people were contacted through the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and asked to review the film's screenplay. The workshop topics and questions to be addressed were identified by this group of young people and by members of the YMCA for Ireland's Peer Education project.

The peer education pack offers a range of ideas and instructions for youth leaders to run discussion groups on a variety of difficult yet important topics with young people. It is not intended as a rulebook but as a guide, a resource that can be adapted to fit the interests and needs of the specific group and in conjunction with the accompanying video it is intended to stimulate thought and debate.

## WORKING WITH EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

### Models of Good Practice: A Guide for Organisations Working with Early School Leavers in Vocational Training

By St. Vincent's Trust

Document produced as a resource material for those who are working with early school leavers. It is specifically focused on those who are working with "disadvantaged youth and vocational training". Good practice taking place in St. Vincent's Trust is the context from which this resource material has been drawn.

**Part 1** is for use by staff, management and others wishing to understand practice with early school leavers, or wishing to develop resources in their work.

**Part 2** of the document is seen as the induction pack for new trainees commencing the training programme in St. Vincent's.

## YOUNG PEOPLE AND VOLUNTEERING

### Young People's Active Community Involvement: The Role of Local Youth Services

By National Youth Agency

During 2000, as part of a programme of work funded by the Home Office, the National Youth Agency investigated the extent of explicit youth service support for the development of voluntary action by young people - activity increasingly being referred to by government as **Active Community Involvement (ACI)**. Among the main findings of the research were that:

- There was little understanding of the term Active Community Involvement.
- Support for ACI outside of long-established projects appeared low within authorities.
- There was little integration within policy or with related practice.
- The voluntary sector demonstrated greater awareness and understanding.
- Specialist training relating to voluntary action and ACI issues was scarce.
- There exists a clear demand for better and more accessible information and advice.
- The demands of Best Value and the Connexions Strategy/Service will increase the need to consult young people.

This report makes proposals to central government to take the lead in displaying joined up thinking in relation to

young people's active community involvement. It also calls on local authorities to develop clearer policies and strategies, including identifying the resources available for activity and taking initiatives to reduce barriers to the effective involvement of young people. The report also explains how the NYA is already responding to the issues raised by the research. But, as well as decision makers in national and local government, the report has much to say to youth service practitioners and managers and local and national agencies promoting voluntary action with and by young people.

## YOUTH FORUM

### Youth Power: A Resource Pack

By Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Believing young people in Northern Ireland to be interested in, yet alienated from, politics, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) dedicated a significant amount of time to exploring how young people could participate more effectively in the immediate and wider society in which they lived. The upshot of those deliberations is the **Youth Power Project**, a pioneering political education programme which responds to the real, identified needs of young people who participate in it.

Embracing the need for change, the Youth Forum has developed this strategy reflecting how the organisation's strengths can contribute to improving quality of life for young people. This strategy provides a guide for the organisation's work for the next three years from 2000-2003 and provides a developmental framework to enable young people and adults to continue working in partnership to actively promote change in society.

The organisation seeks to provide a regional Forum for young people to meet and work together developing understanding and respect for diversity and living out models of participative partnerships in a safe and comfortable environment.

All of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan (NOT SALE) to IYWC members. The IYWC is an official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Russell House Publishing, Nightshift Publications, Directory of Social Change, National Youth Council of Ireland, and the Combat Poverty Agency.

Further Information from:  
Fran Bissett & Michelle Drumm  
Irish YouthWork Centre  
National Youth Federation  
20 Lower Dominick Street  
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8729933 Fax: (01) 8724183  
E-mail: fbissett@nyf.ie or mdrumm@nyf.ie

# Round-Up

## NEW SUPPORT AGENCY FOR FAMILIES LAUNCHED

On 15 May, the Minister for Social Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern T.D. marked the International Day for Families with the launch of a new support agency for families: the **Family Support and Mediation Service**.

The service will co-ordinate the main government programmes aimed at helping to prevent marital breakdown; assist couple in the process of separating; support ongoing parenting relationships; raise awareness about family and parenting issues and working with voluntary agencies to promote the well-being of families. The service will be overseen by a Board made up of people with experience and expertise in the fields of family mediation, counselling, research, family law and parenting. The service will be accountable for investment totalling £12 million this year and the Minister will be publishing the necessary legislation for its operation in the coming months.

**For further information, please contact:  
Department of Social, Community and  
Family Affairs,**

**Store Street, Dublin 1.**

**Tel: 01/7043860/7043184**

**Fax: 01/7043870/7043776**

**Email: [press.office@welfare.ie](mailto:press.office@welfare.ie) Website:**

**[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**

## SUBMISSION OUTLINES TARGETS TO ELIMINATE CHILD POVERTY

The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative has proposed a series of targets for the elimination of child poverty in a submission to the current review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative proposes the targets in a submission to the current review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. This strategy published in 1997 sets out a 10-year plan incorporating a series of goals towards eliminating poverty under specified

areas including educational disadvantage, income adequacy, rural poverty and unemployment.

An update on the Strategy was agreed under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, and the review is due to conclude by September. Working groups with representatives from the social partners will review targets as set out in the Strategy. In its submission, the initiative proposes a number of targets including the following:

- By 2006 the numbers of children living in households with incomes below 50 per cent of the average industrial wage should be halved.
- By 2006 no child should live in households experiencing consistent poverty.
- By 2012 eliminate child poverty.

For further information on the submission or the initiative itself contact any of the organisations involved in the initiative:

**Barnardo's: (01) 4530355**

**Children's Rights Alliance: (01) 8733199**

**Combat Poverty Agency: (01) 6706746**

**Focus Ireland: (01) 6712555**

**NYCI: (01) 4784122**

**Pavee Point: (01) 8780255**

**People with Disabilities in Ireland: (01) 8721744**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul: (01) 8384164**

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES EXHIBITION

The Community and Youth Information Centre in Dublin is hosting an exhibition on activities to do over the summer. The exhibition is aimed at all ages and will contain information on summer camps, summer schools, activity camps, art & craft courses, music courses and many more ideas for whiling away the summer months.

The viewing hours for the exhibition, which will run from May to July, 2001 are: **Monday - Wednesday 9.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Thursday - Saturday 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.**

*The location is: **The Community and Youth Information Centre, Sackville House, Sackville Place, Dublin 1 (behind Cleary's Dept. Store).***

# Noticeboard

## IRELAND

### "Body & Mind"

**An exploration of the influences on young people relating to food, self-esteem, body image & eating disorders.**

**Date:** Saturday 9 June 2001.

**Venue:** The Dublin Writers Museum, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

One-day national training seminar for those working with young people in youth and community organisations. It offers an opportunity to explore the range of issues relating to young peoples' eating habits with particular reference to self-esteem, body image and eating disorders. It further identifies methodologies for promoting healthy eating with young people in order to prevent food-related illnesses.

The objectives of the course are:

- To develop a basic understanding of the healthy eating needs of young people.
- To gain an understanding of the societal influences on young people regarding self-esteem and body image.
- To explore conflicts experienced by young people in coping with food and body image.
- To examine the physical and emotional effects of eating disorders on young people.
- To identify the skills required to empower young people to gain control of their eating habits.
- To explore methodologies for promoting healthy eating with young people.

**Cost:** £30 (this covers coffees, lunch and relevant course materials). 50 participants max.

#### Further Details:

**National Youth Health Programme,  
3 Montague Street,  
Dublin 2.  
Tel: (01) 4784122  
Fax: (01) 4783974**

### Team Building

**Date:** Friday 15 June, 2001.

**Venue:** Conference Room, Barnardo's, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.

Half-day session which will look at teams in terms of their life cycle; communication and how it works with them; examination of individual/personal teamwork skills, video material on team dynamics.

**Cost:** £35.00.

#### Further Details:

**Martina Dumpleton, Barnardo's, NCRC,  
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.  
Tel: (01) 4158372  
Fax: (01) 4530300  
E-mail: [martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie](mailto:martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie)**

### Running Effective Meetings

**Date:** Saturday 16 June, 2001.

**Venue:** Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

One-day course for chairpersons and secretaries who want to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and excitement of their meetings.

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Plan meetings effectively
- Facilitate constructive participation
- Balance the tasks of the groups with the needs of the committee members
- Clarify the role of the chair and secretary

#### Further details:

**Training & Support Service Manager,  
Carmichael Centre,  
North Brunswick Street,  
Dublin 7  
Tel: (01) 8725550  
Fax: (01) 8735737  
E-mail: [carmichaelcentre@tinet.ie](mailto:carmichaelcentre@tinet.ie)**

## Economy, Culture and Community - Perspectives on Drug Problems and Drug Policies.

**Date:** Thursday, 21 June, 2001

**Venue:** Goldsmith Hall, Trinity College Dublin.

First Annual Conference of the Addiction Research Centre in TCD. This inaugural conference will explore a number of papers on drug problems and drug policies, which will be presented over the course of 3 sessions listed below:

### Session 1: Drug Problems in a Changing Society

**Chair - Marguerite Woods, Lecturer in Addiction Studies, Trinity College Dublin.**

**Paper 1: Drug Problems: Economic and Social Impact**

*Barry Cullen - Director of Addiction Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin.*

**Paper 2: Social Exclusion, Culture and Informal Drug Economics**

*Philippe Bourgois - Professor in Medical Anthropology, University of California, San Francisco.*

### Session 2: Drug Problems in Ireland: Emerging Issues

**Chair - Fergus McCabe, National Drug Strategy Team.**

**Paper 3: Drug Problems and Homeless.**

*Gemma Cox - Researcher, Addiction Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin.*

**Paper 4: Cocaine-Use and Changing Drug Scenes**

*Paula Mayock - Researcher, Addiction Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin.*

**Paper 5: Drug-use and Client Violence in Community-Based Treatment.**

*Paul Quigley - Public Health Doctor, Northern Area Health Board.*

### Session 3: Changing Drug Policies

**Chair: Eoin Ryan TD, Minister of State for National Drug Strategy.**

**Paper 6: The Public Health Paradigm and Drug Problems**

*Margaret Hamilton - Director of Turning Point Alcohol and Drug centre and Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Melbourne.*

**Paper 7: The Potential and Limitations of Community Responses**

*Susanne MacGregor - Professor at Social Policy Research Centre, University of Middlesex, London.*

**Paper 8: Mainstreaming Successful Policies**

*Joe Barry - Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Trinity College Dublin and Specialist in Public Health Medicine, Eastern Regional Health Authority.*

**Cost:** £40.00; £32.00 (students/unwaged); £32.00 (group rate for 3 or more participants)

#### Further Details:

**Fiona Clarke,  
Addiction Research Centre,  
Goldsmith Hall,  
Trinity College,  
Dublin 2.**

**Tel: (01) 608 3647**

**Fax: (01) 608 3790**

**E-mail: [addiction.research@tcd.ie](mailto:addiction.research@tcd.ie)**

### Social Policy Work - Making a Difference at Local and National Level

**Date:** Wednesday 4 July, 2001.

**Venue:** Brooks Hotel, 59-62 Drury Street, Dublin 2.

**Facilitator:** Michael Browne, Research Consultant, Comhairle.

**Date:** Thursday 6 September, 2001.

**Venue:** Comhairle Regional Office, 4 The Parade, Kilkenny.

**Facilitator:** Ian Coulter, Area Executive, Comhairle.

**Date:** Wednesday 19 September, 2001.

**Venue:** Jury's Inn, Lower Mallow Street, Limerick.

**Facilitator:** Helen Broughan, Regional Manager, Comhairle.

One-day workshop designed for information givers, organisers and development managers in Citizen Information Centres and other organisations that have an interest and some experience in social policy work. The focus will be on:

- Identifying and researching social policy issues.
- Collecting, analysing and communicating information on the operation of social policies in practise.
- Networking and taking initiatives at local/regional level.
- Making submissions to relevant organisations and authorities.
- Liaising with Comhairle and other statutory agencies.

**Cost:** £50.00

#### Further Details:

**Training & Development Service  
Comhairle  
7th Floor, Hume House, Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4**

**Tel: (01) 6059000**

**Fax: (01) 6059099**

**E-mail: [comhairle@comhairle.ie](mailto:comhairle@comhairle.ie)**

## Self-Esteem in Children

**Date:** Friday 6 July, 2001 (full day).

**Venue:** Conference Room Barnardo's, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.

One-day training event, which will explore a number of issues related to self-esteem in children including: Perceptions of self-esteem; what is self-esteem? Finding a definition of self-esteem; how might low self-esteem in children be recognisable? What can child carers do in practice to bolster the self-esteem of children in their care? Links between issues of low self-esteem in child carers and children's self-esteem; and ideas/techniques to address issues of low self-esteem in children.

**Cost:** £70.00

### Further Details:

Martina Dumpleton,  
Barnardo's, NCRC,  
Christchurch Square,  
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 4158372 Fax: (01) 4530300  
E-mail: [martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie](mailto:martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie)

## Managing a Child Care Enterprise

**Date:** Saturday(s), 7 July to 18 August, 2001 (1 day per week over 6 weeks).

**Venue:** St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Sligo.

Six-week course, which aims to provide participants with the information, knowledge, attitudes and skills essential to the successful management of a childcare service.

**Cost:** £330.00.

### Further Details:

Martina Dumpleton,  
Barnardo's, NCRC,  
Christchurch Square,  
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 4158372  
Fax: (01) 4530300

E-mail: [martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie](mailto:martina.dumpleton@barnardos.ie)

## BRITAIN

**Towards a Safer Society:  
Creating non-violent environments for  
children and young people.**

**Date:** Thursday 21 June 2001.

**Venue:** London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre. One-day conference, in association with the Forum

on Children and Violence and Save the Children, which will review the evidence through a number of perspectives and try to establish what has already been achieved and what more needs to be done to work towards creating a safer society for all children and young people.

### Further details:

National Children's Bureau,  
Conference & Events Department,  
8 Wakley Street,  
London EC1V 7QE  
Tel: (0044) 207843 ext6042/40  
Fax: (0044) 207843 6039  
E-mail: [conferences@ncb.org.uk](mailto:conferences@ncb.org.uk)

## Sixth Social Action Network Summer School

**Date:** Wednesday 26 - Friday 28 June, 2001.

**Venue:** The National Tenants Resource Centre, Trafford Hall, Chester, England.

A three-day residential training event, the Social Action Summer School offers a varied and exciting programme to those working in all aspects of the social education, social welfare and community work fields.

The event revolves around 'peer education', an empowerment model which forms the basis of the Social Action approach and which assumes that everyone, practitioners, service-users and academics has a range of knowledge and skills to share. All participants are encouraged to share their experiences and learn from each other.

The programme for the Summer School is decided and facilitated by the participants themselves, based on principles of self directed education and peer learning. This year, some workshops will be planned in advance and the facilitators will present them at the beginning of three days.

**Cost:** The full cost for attending the Summer School is £210 (twin room sharing). The concessionary rate of £160 (twin room sharing) applies to volunteers and service-users only. To book a single occupancy room, the price is £290. The cost covers two nights stay, including meals from lunch on the 26th June through to lunch on the 28th June.

### Further Details:

Centre for Social Action,  
De Montfort University,  
Scraptoft Campus,  
Scraptoft, Leicester LE7 9SU.  
Tel: (0044) 116 257 7777/7891  
Fax: (0044) 116 257 7778  
E-mail: [dmucs@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:dmucs@dmu.ac.uk)