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Irish YouthWork

 Scene

a journal for youth workers

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Respect, Recognition and Resourcing

Tony Murphy

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This time of year sees many young people enjoying summer programmes. It probably helps to highlight that the work undertaken by voluntary youth organisations does have its moment in the sun and ultimately, between all of the talk, is about positive action in favour of young people's participation, their enjoyment and encouragement to be role models for each other and for generations to come.

Within the sector at present we have much to be proud of. Hard work is a key characteristic and yes, the voluntary contribution no matter what financial mechanism is used cannot be adequately quantified - it is invaluable to the quality and texture of our society. At a structural level it is true to say that the proposed Youth Work Legislation has been put on hold. However, the National Youth Work Advisory Committee has achieved a lot in its lifetime. Currently the draft National Youth Work Development Plan 2002 - 2006 is being progressed based on the variety of consultation methods used (National Consultative Conference, written submissions, completed questionnaires plus a range of bilateral interviews), Though not viewed in isolation it is at present helping to inform draft estimates to be submitted by Youth Affairs (DES) to the Department of Finance. This development should not be understated. For the first time the sector is having an opportunity to name priorities, drawn from reasonable consensus, to argue a strong case for substantial funding next year to develop how the sector works and how it delivers responses to and with young people.

At another level, a Child Protection implementation plan has been approved and submitted to the Minister, while the make-up of the NYWAC Membership has now two IVEA representatives as observers in anticipation of new legislation being put in place.

On a wider front though, the issue of co-ordination is central: the Children's Strategy is been driven with much energy by Mary Hanafin (Minister of State for Health and Children); Mr Eoin Ryan (Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation) has launched the new Drugs Strategy in order to address the plague that drug abuse presents to our young people. A review and further consultation takes place on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the recent attention drawn to the National Children's Anti-Poverty Alliance is most welcome in highlighting that riches may abound for a lot of people in the country but nevertheless, many young people still experience significant levels of poverty and disadvantage. The establishment of the recent Education Welfare Board gives some hope for a co-ordinated response between informal and non-formal educational responses both of which are vital to protect and develop our young people.

An acknowledgement of the International Year of the Volunteer has been achieved with 80 plus groups receiving small grants of 3K (approx), though the National Youth Work Development Plan will have to significantly address the issue of volunteer support and development in a much more strategic and comprehensive fashion. Periods of intense discussion and consultation have their time and place. Rest and reflection are similarly important in order to provide energy for our future advocacy on behalf of a sector that requires increasing respect, recognition and resourcing.

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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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The Reel Thing - A Cinema in Every Town

By Joe Saunders

Introduction

On 1 June Millennium Minister, Seamus Brennan T.D. launched Ireland's travelling cinema before a gathering of over 200 people in Spiddal, County Galway. The 100-seater Cinemobile will travel the 32 counties, visiting towns and villages which otherwise have no access to the world of cinema.

The Cinemobile travels as a large, articulated vehicle which, on arrival at each venue, hydraulically unfolds to three times its width revealing a state-of-the-art, 100 seater, wheelchair-accessible cinema with full projection facilities.

Minister Seamus Brennan, Chairman of the National Millennium Committee said:

"The Cinemobile will bring alive the magic of the cinema for people of all ages, the length and breadth of the country. It is a simple but very progressive idea which will reach all parts of the island and bring communities together in the most convivial of atmospheres. I think it will really captivate children through its educational role as well as the novelty of having a cinema stopping by for their entertainment. I look forward to the Cinemobile becoming an exciting feature of the rural Irish landscape for a long time to come."

Public Support

Speaking from Canada where he's currently filming, Gabriel Byrne said he was delighted to welcome the launch of the Cinemobile,

"it's vital that cinema is brought to as many people as possible, not just in cities but right across the country in towns and villages. Watching a film on the big screen in the company of others is an experience which television can never match. Children, especially, should be able to experience the magic of the movies and what better way than in a moving cinema that comes right to your road."

Film director, Gerry Stembridge, said,

"The Cinemobile is a wonderfully romantic introduction to cinema-going. It will bring joy and delight and passionate discussion wherever it parks itself and unfolds its magic."

Funding & Sponsors

Backed by a National Millennium Committee award of £531,000 (€674,230) which allowed for the manufacture, outfitting and launch costs of the project, the Cinemobile partners include Bord Scannan na hEireann, ESAT Fusion, ESB, the Film Institute of Ireland, RTE, The Arts Council (An Comhairle Ealain) and the national Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

The Cinemobile will be on the road for 48 weeks each year, with three daily screenings in each location. It will show features, short films, documentaries and animation as well as educational films to support the school curriculum. Seminars and workshops will also be held in association with the Film Institute of Ireland's Outreach Programme.

The Film Institute of Ireland owns the Cinemobile and operates it through a subsidiary company, Fis na Milaoise, which has its headquarters in Galway.

**Cinemobile Admission Prices are Adult £4.00
Concession £3.25 Children £2.50**

Further Information:

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Website: www.cinemobile.net**

Racism and the Youth Sector: Shaping Future Responses

By Fran Bissett

Introduction

On Thursday 14 June, a conference took place in the Russell Court Hotel, Dublin on Racism and the Youth Sector. The event was jointly organised by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI), the Youth Action Against Racism & Discrimination Project (YARD), DEFY and the NYCI.

Although the representation of youth organisations at the event was somewhat disappointing, the primary aim of the conference was to provide an opportunity for youth organisations to contribute to a process, which will ultimately help to shape the outcomes of a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) in September.

Given the recent media attention and reported rise in racism in Ireland from various sources, this opportunity is very timely. A recent survey indicated that one in five asylum seekers in Tralee had experienced racial abuse. This was welcomed as lower than normal which illustrates the scale of the problem. A recent Amnesty International Audit reported that the Irish Government was failing international standards on human rights in relation to asylum seekers and in responding to racism in general.

The NCCRI have also noted that a significantly increased number of racial abuse incidents were being reported to them.

WCAR

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will take place in Durban, South Africa, from **31 August to 7 September**. At the Conference, National Governments will adopt a **Declaration** which takes stock of what has been done to combat racism and intolerance since the last WCAR in 1983 and they will negotiate and agree a future **Programme of Action** to respond to racism and

intolerance in all its forms.

Immediately preceding WCAR two other significant events will take place, both of which will feed into the Conference. There will be an NGO Forum from **28 August to 1 September** and a Youth Summit from **26 to 27 August**. There will be an opening ceremony on 26 August, with the Summit proper taking place on 27 August. It is organised by the WCAR Youth Secretariat & the Youth Task Team, both from South Africa, and the International Youth Committee.

The Youth Summit will involve some 200 young people and youth representatives from NGO's and government delegations gathering to discuss issues of particular concern to them in relation to the fight against racism. The High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary General for the WCAR, Mary Robinson, requested governments to consider including in their delegation a youth leader with experience in the field.

Summit Objectives

The objectives of the Youth Summit are three-fold:

- To create a global network of youth organisations and leaders committed to combating racism.
- To influence the political decision-making process.
- To serve as a catalyst for a series of action-oriented initiatives at the International, regional and the national level that fully involve youth in anti-racism activities.

The WCAR, NGO Forum, and the Youth Summit in particular, present a great challenge and opportunity for everyone involved in the fight against racism. If these events are successful, and the Programme of Action that is agreed is duly supported and implemented by national Governments and appropriate national structures, it has the potential to significantly improve the situation globally over the coming years.

There is a detailed registration and accreditation

procedure for the Summit outlined below, but further information is available on the website addresses which are listed in the next few paragraphs.

Summit Registration and Accreditation

The WCAR NGO Secretariat and Youth Secretariats in South Africa are in charge of registration for the Summit. Individuals under the age of 25 may register for participation in the Summit. The registration fee of 100 US\$ for the Forum covers participation in the Summit, provided one mentions on the registration form that one wishes to attend the Summit.

For further information contact:
www.racism.org.za.

Young people who are designated members of government delegations are accredited to attend the WCAR through their governments and thus do not need to go through the accreditation procedure. They do, however, need to register for the Summit.

Youth representatives from NGO's with ECOSOC status or organisations especially accredited to the WCAR can apply for a travel agent grant by filling out the form available on the website www.unhchr.ch. In addition to typing the region the delegate belongs to, it should clearly indicate "Youth Summit" in the subject field.

Financial Support

Funds are also available to enable young people from developing countries on government delegations to participate in the Youth Summit and the WCAR. The government that has designated a youth representative as a member of the official delegation is requested to send a letter to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, stating the name of the person on their delegation that will attend the Summit.

If sponsoring is needed, the youth on the delegation can apply for a travel grant by filling the same travel grant form described above. In addition to typing the region they belong to, they should clearly indicate "Youth Summit/government delegation" in the subject field and send a copy of the form to bvanhout.hchr@unog.ch

Conclusion

Finally, every person who wishes to attend the World Conference must fill out the registration form for a participant that is available on the UNHCHR website, attaching two photographs and posting to:

**Sarah-Jane Brodier, OHCHR, Palais Wilson,
Room 4-020, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.**

For further information on the Irish input to the summit and the outcomes of the conference which took place on 14 June, please contact any of the three organisations involved which are named below:

NCCRI
26 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 478 5777
Fax: (01) 478 5778
E-mail: nccri@eircom.net

**Blanca Blanco
YARD
DEFY**
17 Upper Stephen Street
Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 4751826
Fax: (01) 4751970
E-mail: defy@iol.ie

**Donall Geoghegan
National Youth Council of Ireland**
3 Montague Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 4784122
Fax: (01) 4783974
E-mail: info@nyci.ie

Vincent De Paul Volunteers Help Build Better Life

By Stuart Kenny

Introduction

The 9,000 voluntary members of Ireland's largest organisation of social concern and action are working as hard as ever - even in the midst of Celtic Tiger prosperity. It may be hard to believe but not everyone has been able to benefit from the great improvements in living standards over the past few years.

This is particularly true for the 500,000 adults of working age - and their dependents - who still need social welfare help to make ends meet. But there are also thousands of others struggling to cope with life in the new Ireland of the 21st century.

Long-term unemployment and low-income jobs are still a problem; major shortcomings in Irish health, public transport and education services hit the most vulnerable harder. The housing crisis is actually getting worse - and child poverty in Ireland is still one of the worst in the EU.

Work with Young People

Work With Young People - a Major SVP Commitment

Vincent de Paul has a long and growing record of working with disadvantaged children and young people.



The Society runs some Breakfast Clubs to give needy school-going children a necessary meal and Homework Clubs to help

them do their study in a supportive environment.

Education grants are regularly made to help parents meet the costs of our so-called "Free" education system and also to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds stay in school and go onto third level. A Network of SVP Youth Clubs provide safe, enjoyable leisure and sporting activities as well as educational input through such activities as computer training, cooking, Shared-Reading and other activities.

Holidays

Holidays for Children - With a Difference

Over 100 young children every week from disadvantaged areas of Dublin city and surrounding suburbs - who would never otherwise get such a break - are given a 7 day holiday by the sea in Sunshine House in Balbriggan.



Vincent de Paul volunteers work with the children to give them an action-packed week of fresh air, fun and unconditional love. For every adult who volunteers, the Society can take eight more children for a week's break.

Teenhols

Teenhols Gives At-Risk Teens a Break

One of SVP's newer youth initiatives, Teenhols, specialises in giving around 250 teenagers from difficult backgrounds a 6-day outdoor adventure break in Ireland during June and August every year. The Teens are chosen from nominations by ERHA, Social Welfare and SVP workers. They are the ones most likely to benefit from special attention.



Vincent de Paul volunteers act as stewards (6/7 with each group of 30/35 teens) to ensure a high level of individual attention. They encourage participation in all activities by the teens and also help them learn how to behave and relate with each other and the adults around them.

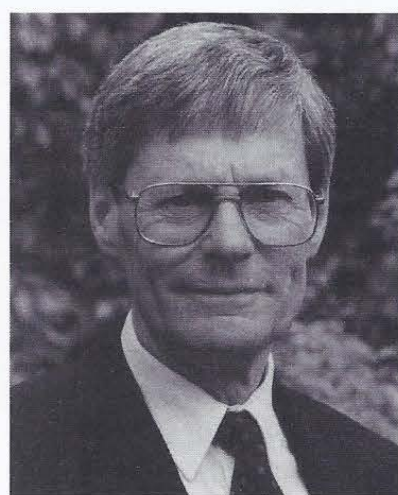
Vital Role of SVP Volunteers

"Obviously, the Society couldn't do anything like it does without the commitment of our 9,000 volunteers,"

Noel Clear, SVP President says.

"As a service organisation, they are a crucial element coming as they do from all walks of life"

he adds.



Noel Clear, National President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Vincent de Paul volunteers have skills and experience ranging from the best of traditional to the highest of the hi-tech. Women now account for over half SVP volunteers and young adults and early retirees are also particularly important to the Society.

Noel Clear again -

"Last year the Society spent £16.5 million in cash fighting poverty and exclusion in Ireland. If you put a price on our volunteers work you could probably double that - but we know they're actually priceless."

SVP Needs Your Help

"In this International Year of the Volunteer, I would encourage young people especially, to think seriously about volunteering to help us in our work"

Noel Clear adds.

To find out more about SVP or how you could help, contact:

SVP Head Office,
8 New Cabra Road,
Dublin 7.
Tel: (01) 8384164.
Website: www.svp.ie

Policy & Funding

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL LAUNCHED

Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Children launched the new National Children's Advisory Council in Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel on Tuesday 15 May. The Council is being set up as part of the implementation of the National Children's Strategy. The Council will advise the Minister on children's issues and will undertake extensive research in this area. It is expected to have a major influence on children's policy and services over the 10-year life span of the National Children's Strategy. Children's organisations, parents and children themselves are all represented on the Council.

Its functions include:

- Advising Minister on all aspects of children's lives.
- Advising Minister on the better co-ordination and delivery of services to children.
- Contributing to monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy at national and local level.
- Undertaking and advising on research.
- Advising on training in relation to the Strategy.
- Advising on the development of mechanisms to consult with children.

The members of the Council are as follows:

Statutory Sector

Mr. John Collins, National Children's Office.
Ms. Catherine Hazlett, Family Affairs Unit, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs.
Mr. John Fanning, Dept. of Education & Science.
Mr. Ger Deering, City/County Development Boards.
Ms. Mary Lee-Stapleton, National Co-ordination Childcare Committee.
Ms. Breeda Long, Health Boards.
Mr. John Treacy, Irish Sports Council.
Ms. Helen O'Donoghue, The Arts Council.

Voluntary Sector

Mr. Diarmuid Kearney, National Youth Council of Ireland.
Mr. Edward Colfer, National Parents Council - Post Primary.
Ms. Fionnuala Kilfeather, National Parents Council - Primary.
Sr. Teresa McCormack, Conference of Religious in Ireland.
Ms. Margaret Webb, Sugradh.
Mr. Eoin Keenan (temp), Barnardo's.
Mr. Paul Gilligan, ISPC.
Ms. Catherine Lynch, National Consultative Committee on Racism & Interculturalism.
Mr. Maurice O'Kane, People with Disability in Ireland Ltd.
Mr. Ray Dooley, Children's Rights Alliance.
Ms. Colette Murray, Pavee Point.
Mr. Mamar Merzouk, Focus Ireland.

Research/Training Sector

Ms. Noirin Hayes, Centre for Social & Educational Research, DIT Rathmines.
Prof. Robbie Gilligan, Children's Research Centre, Trinity College.
A.N.Other, To cover training/development issues

Children

Mr. David Cawley, Age 17.
Ms. Jeannie Kelly, Age 13.
Ms. Leonie O'Connell, Age 16.

EDUCATION WELFARE BOARD ESTABLISHED

The Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods T.D., announced the establishment of the new National Educational Welfare Board. The Board, established on an interim basis pending full implementation of the Education (Welfare) Act, will be chaired by Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan. Dr. Gilligan is a lecturer in St. Patrick's College, Department of Education, Drumcondra where she is also Co-ordinator of the Support Unit on Educational Disadvantage.

There will now be a single national authority with the remit to monitor school attendance, assist children at risk and those who experience difficulties in or out of school, and, in co-operation with schools provide a range of supports/strategies to discourage absenteeism & early school leaving.

Membership of the Board will represent all the main groups which have an active interest and involvement in the education and welfare of young people, including teachers, parents, school management, school attendance officers, community/voluntary bodies and relevant Government Departments and agencies.

The members of the Board are:

- Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan, Chairperson.**
- Ms. Fionnuala Kilfeather, National Parents Council - Primary.**
- Sr. Eileen Randles, Catholic Primary School Managers Association.**
- Mr. Don McCluskey, Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland.**
- Mr. John Flanagan, School Attendance Service.**
- Mr. Gearóid Ó' Maoilmhichíl, National Youth Federation.**
- Ms. Catherine Hazlett, Dept. of Social, Community & Family Affairs.**
- Dr. Tony Crooks, Area Development Management Ltd.**
- Ms. Michelle Shannon, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform.**
- Mr. Gus O'Connell, FAS.**
- Ms. Cate Hartigan, Dept. of Health & Children.**
- Mr. Eddie Ward, Dept. of Education & Science.**

The Board will also appoint Education Welfare Officers around the country to work in close co-operation with schools, teachers, parents, community & voluntary bodies and relevant statutory authorities with a view to encouraging regular school attendance and developing strategies to reduce absenteeism and early school leaving. These officers will focus in particular on children at risk and those who are experiencing difficulties in school attendance to resolve any impediments to their regular attendance at school

NCCA TO BE ESTABLISHED ON STATUTORY BASIS

On 18 June, The Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods T.D., announced the signing of orders establishing the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on a statutory basis

effective from 12 July, 2001 and providing for the appointment of members to the Council. He also announced that a review of the structure of the Council would be undertaken to ensure that it continues to carry out its important functions in relation to curricular development effectively.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE TO BE EXPANDED

On 20 May, the Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods, T.D., announced a new initiative to improve access to educational psychological assessment services for children with special educational needs. £1.25 million is being made available this year to purchase assessment services from suitably qualified private practitioners pending the recruitment of the full complement of psychologists to the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS).

When launched last year NEPS employed 48 psychologists. By June of this year, there will be some 100 psychologists in the service. A further 28 psychologists will be recruited before the end of the calendar year and recruitment will continue until the target of 200 psychologists is reached.

For Further Information on the NCCA or NEPS contact:

**Department of Education & Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 873 4700
Fax: (01) 874 6649
Website: www.irlgov.ie/educ**

MINISTER ANNOUNCES INFORMATION & ADVICE OFFICERS FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

On 6 June Minister Hanafin announced the appointment of Information and Advice Officers for Child Protection and Welfare. Speaking at the presentation of certificates to participants of the Keeping Safe Child Protection Training Programme in the Marino Institute, the Minister announced the appointment of the Officers by the health boards to promote good practice and procedures for organisations dealing with children. For further details contact your local health board.

Resources

DRUG RESEARCH

Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative - Report on Young People and Drugs Misuse in the Mid Tipperary Region: Survey Analysis and Recommendations.
By *Sinead O'Mahony*

The Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative began in December 1999 in response to the concerns of all bodies in the Tipperary, Cashel and Fethard area. It was based in the Tipperary Regional Youth Service office in Tipperary Town and was multi-faceted working in partnership with relevant local statutory and voluntary agencies.

Project Aims

- To support young people in acquiring knowledge, skills and attitudes to make positive life choices in relation to drugs issues.
- To increase awareness of drugs related issues among parents and the wider community and to develop their competence to respond appropriately.
- To develop a community based strategy to identify and respond to local needs relating to drugs issues.
- To have the necessary knowledge and skills to address drugs related issues.

The Project steering committee recognised the need for:

- Information on the nature/extent of drug misuse amongst young people in the Mid Tipperary Region.
- The extent of drugs prevention and education work available in the Mid Tipperary Region.
- Recommendations for a drugs misuse prevention strategy.

The committee decided that the initial action of the project would be to do research on the perceived extent of drugs misuse amongst young people in the Mid Tipperary region. This report outlines the findings, and draws conclusions from the research.

FUNDING

**All In A Good Cause:
A Creative Handbook for Fund-raisers**
By *Pamela Westland*

The secrets of getting the maximum return on fund-raising ventures are revealed with advice on every aspect, from

the logistics of catering for a crowd, to the importance of good publicity, from the legal restrictions on selling alcoholic drink (or offering it as prizes) to the art of running a raffle - and a thousand other tips to help the enthusiastic but inexperienced charity supporter.

It also demonstrates how to put the fun into fund-raising - by giving functions enticing names /themes, by making everything, from posters to venues, sales goods, stalls and food, visually enticing, and by staging sponsored stunts to attract publicity by their very improbability.

LABOUR MARKET & HUMAN RESOURCES

Investing in People: The Labour Market Impact of Human Resource Interventions Funded under the 1994-1999 Community Support Framework in Ireland
By *Kevin Denny, Colm Harmon & Philip J. O'Connell*

Expenditure on human resource development represents a very large and important component of public expenditure and represented about one-third of total European Union aid to Ireland under the 1994-1999 Community Support Framework (CSF). The main objectives of the CSF expenditures were to boost human capital by enhancing education and skill levels to enhance the employment prospects of unemployed people. This study focuses exclusively on the labour market impact of human resource interventions. The review of developments in the labour market during the 1990's, presented in Chapter 2, shows clearly that labour market conditions were transformed over the course of the 1994-1999 Community Support Framework. Over that brief period the booming economy led to a shift from mass unemployment to labour shortages.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

A compilation of Case Studies on Themes and Issues within the Local Development Programme: Insights No. 7, Improving the Co-ordination and Integrated Approach at Local Level of Mainstream Programmes and Policies
By *ADM*

Based on four case studies by Partnership Companies

on the role of the Local Development Programme, this booklet emphasises the importance of co-ordination and integrated strategies when dealing with the main target groups of the LDP i.e. the long term unemployed, those in danger of long term unemployment and people who are socially excluded in other ways. The booklet provides:

- a source of information about the strategies and approaches being developed by individual Partnerships in improving the co-ordination and integration at local level of mainstream programmes and policies.
- a means of identifying changes and improvements which need to take place, if effective co-ordination and integration are to take place at the local level
- a mechanism for encouraging partner organisations to think about ways they might develop more co-ordinated and integrated strategies and actions at local level.

Insights No. 8: Partnership Business Supports and the Area Allowance Scheme *By ADM*

Partnerships have developed a very wide range of services to clients availing of the Area Allowance payments to start a business. Services include:

- Business and Financial Advice through an Enterprise Officer.
- Bookkeeping
- Secretarial Support Services
- Financial Training
- Training in Sales and Marketing
- Mentoring
- Enterprise Networks
- Start-up Finance through Grants, Revolving Loans or Loan Guarantees
- Incubation Units for Start-up Business
- Legal Advice

This study demonstrates that the Area Allowance has been a successful mechanism for facilitating the return to work of people who were long-term unemployed and features the results of a survey involving 269 businesses established in 1992/93 in six partnership areas.

Insights No. 9: Partnerships: Meeting the Needs of the Unemployed *By ADM*

Case study which describes the services that are being provided by partnerships to unemployed people and highlights the very comprehensive and considerable impact they are having on their communities. It also suggests and describes a number of recommendations including: Local Employment Service; Emphasis on Self Employment; Rural Partnerships; Resources; Links with Employers; Staff Training; Code of Practice.

PEER EDUCATION

Ballybeen Peer Education Project: An Evaluation *By Jackie Thomson*

The Ballybeen Peer Education Project was established in October 1992 thanks to generous funding from the Charity to employ a Community Health Education Officer for a two year period and to cover costs of evaluating the project. It was set up and funded as a pilot project and its continuance beyond the two year period was dependent on its success. The interest generated by the project was such, that the South and East Belfast Trust ensured its continuance for a further three year period.

The Women's Centre had identified a gap in both the provision and accessibility of health information for young people in the Ballybeen Estate. Through the development of an innovative Peer Education Project, based on the principles of community development, it was believed that the health needs of young people could be identified and addressed. This report outlines the achievements of the young people involved and the success of the project.

VOLUNTARISM & CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship and Public Service: Voluntary and Statutory Relationships in Irish Healthcare *By Fergus O'Farrell*

Book of very obvious significance for the Irish healthcare system which includes a unique case of the controversial issues faced by the Board of the new public voluntary Hospital at Tallaght between 1996 and 1999. It has, however, a much wider significance for everyone involved in community and voluntary organisations and for all concerned about the relationship of these organisations with the State. It sets out the characteristics of what is described as a 'new voluntarism' for the twenty-first century and a 'usable theory' on how voluntary organisations should be governed and managed so as to promote their essential characteristics.

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, DEFY 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 MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

An innovative programme targeted at 14 -18 years olds entitled **Mental Health Matters** was launched by the Minister for Health & Children, Michael Martin, T.D. on Thursday 31st May in the Mont Clare Hotel in Dublin.

The launch of the programme is timely when there is growing concern about the mental health of young people with an increasing number suffering from depression and suicide rates in Ireland in this age group still showing an upward trend.

Mental Health Matters is a Mental Health Association of Ireland Project researched and written by Tom Jones (Teacher) and Niall McCarthy (Mental Health professional) as a direct response to the concerns expressed by young people regarding a wide range of mental health issues. The Project materials will include a booklet of six modular based units, supported by a video, which can be used in either schools or through youth groups.

It is hoped that participation in this project will help young people to identify crises in their lives and to seek help should they need it. This essential foundation of good mental health will aim to help reduce depression amongst young people and to assist in reducing the rising suicide rates in this age group by developing positive coping strategies for responding to various crises that may effect them.

The programme is designed to help young people respond in appropriate ways to emerging issues in their lives and how to identify and access relevant support mechanisms.

Mental Health Matters hopes to address the issues of mental health in a realistic and relevant manner appropriate to this age group while also looking critically at society's attitude to mental illness and the factors which influence such attitudes.

Further Information:

Mental Health Association of Ireland
Mensana House,
6 Adelaide Street
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 2841166 Fax: (01) 2841736
E-mail: info@mensana.org
Website: www.mensana.org

"CUSTOMS CLEARANCE" PROJECT REPORT

Introduction

Customs Clearance is a report published by the Irish Committee of the European Cultural Foundation, identifying cultural differences between newly-arrived immigrants and the native Irish population. The report was presented to Mary McAleese on Wednesday, 13 June, 2001 at Aras an Uachtarain. It makes some practical recommendations that could make mutual experiences and contact more fruitful for all involved.

Report Findings

The report indicates that many non-nationals arrive in Ireland unaware of the nuances of Irish culture and consequently experience difficulties in dealing with Irish customs and habits. The report points out that, conversely, many Irish people have little knowledge and experience of other cultures and have a tendency to generalise from the little that they know.

The report agrees with other work indicating that reaction to immigrants in Ireland has deteriorated considerably over the past twelve months. It seems that the occurrence of unacceptable behaviour tends to depend on how "foreign" the non-nationals

appear. Apart from serious incidents, there are daily, perhaps one-sided, clashes between new immigrants and native Irish people.

The report has a general introduction and three sections:

Part A focuses on some of the main voluntary and statutory organisations working with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland;

Part B contains a brief list of some of the main day-to-day cultural differences occurring in an increasingly multi-cultural Ireland; and

Part C deals with benefits arising from intercultural education and identifies some resource material available for those engaging with a multicultural environment.

Recommendations

The primary recommendations of the report are as follows:

- A comprehensive list of organisations dealing with non-nationals and integration issues should be given to all new arrivals and widely distributed to the general public
- Projects to increase intercultural education throughout the country should be supported and encouraged through the provision of public funding
- Agencies dealing with non-nationals must ensure that their staff are trained to provide information and are aware of what information is available.
- Organisations should come together to form a single, strong voice to represent their views
- Those dealing with non-Irish people in the course of their work should be given education on cultural diversity as a matter of priority. Intercultural education should become a normal part of training for professionals and providers of services - irrespective of whether or not they deal directly with non-nationals in the course of their work
- New arrivals should be given information and guidance on Irish law, culture and habits. This information should be produced in a range of languages
- Irish nationals should be assisted in appreciating culture distinctiveness

- The teaching of English as a foreign language should include Irish customs
- Ireland-specific educational material should be developed.
- The National Committee for Development education's "Tools for Change" should be widely disseminated.

Further Information:

Irish National Committee
The European Cultural Foundation
32 Nassau Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6714300 Fax: (01) 6798203
Website: www.europeanmovement.ie

'CONNECTING VOLUNTEERS WALK'

To celebrate the UN Year of the Volunteer 2001 Comhlámh is organising a high-profile event to give voluntary organisations an opportunity to publicise their work and recruit new volunteers.

This will take the form of a 'Volunteer Walk' in Dublin city centre on Saturday 8th September from 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Effectively it is a large number of organisations holding Open Days simultaneously. By your organisation taking part prospective volunteers will be directed to you to find out about opportunities for volunteering with your organisation.

The Connecting Volunteers Walk is open to organisations from every area of volunteering.

Further Information and Registration Form:

Conall Ó'Caomh
Comhlámh
10 Upper Camden Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 478 3490
Fax: (01) 478 3738
E-mail: conall@comhlamh.org
Website: www.comhlamh.org

Noticeboard

IRELAND

The International Forum for Child Welfare World Forum 2001

The Children's Agenda - Familiar Issues, Emerging Concerns

Date: 28 - 31 August 2001.

Venue: Limerick.

Four day conference hosted by Barnardos, which will seek to address the agenda for children under the sub-themes of:

- Children and Health
- Children and Education
- Children and Violence and Discrimination
- Children and the Environment

Further Details:

Conference Partners
96 Haddington Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 6777188

E-mail: info@conferencepartners.ie

Applying for Funding

Date: Tuesday 4 September 2001.

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

Facilitator: Isabelle Wallace, Fundraising and Communications Consultant.

One-day course for directors, treasurers, senior staff and committee members of voluntary organisations. Funding is an important subject for many groups and good planning is vital if an application is to be successful. Having attended this one-day course the participants will have the skills to develop an effective fundraising plan and know how to identify and research local and national funding sources.

Cost: £50.00

Further Details:

Training and Development Service
Comhairle

7th Floor, Hume House

Ballsbridge

Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 6059000

Fax: (01) 6059099

E-mail: comhairle@comhairle.ie

Training for Trainers

Date: Tuesday 11 September & Tuesday 9 October 2001.

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

Facilitators: Gwyn Grace and Wynne Gordon, Training Executives, Comhairle.

Date: Tuesday 23 October and Tuesday 6 November 2001.

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

Facilitators: Gwyn Grace and Wynne Gordon, Training Executives, Comhairle.

Two-day course aimed at those responsible for planning and implementing training in their organisations. Course content will include understanding adult learning; identifying training needs; drawing up a training plan; using training resources and training methods. There will be a break between sessions to allow participants apply learning in their own organisation. The second session will provide an opportunity to present and receive feedback on aspects of design, delivery, training materials and exercises. Sessions will involve lecture, group work and presentation by participants.

Cost: £100.00

Further Details:

Training and Development Service
Comhairle

7th Floor, Hume House

Ballsbridge

Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 6059000

Fax: (01) 6059099

E-mail: comhairle@comhairle.ie

Financial Management

Date: Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 September 2001.

Venue: Ardsallagh Training and Development Centre, Youghal, Co. Waterford.

Facilitator: Maria Power

Two-day introduction to financial management skills for voluntary management committees and staff.

Cost: £130.00

Further Details:

Ardsallagh Training and Development
Centre
Youghal
Co. Waterford
Tel: (024) 93579

Staff Support & Supervision

Date: Thursday 27 & Friday 28 September, 2001.

Venue: Ardsallagh Training and Development Centre, Youghal, Co. Waterford.

Facilitator: Margaret McArdle

Two day course aimed at voluntary management members and staff with responsibility for supervising others.

Cost: £130.00

Further Details:

Ardsallagh Training and Development
Centre
Youghal
Co. Waterford
Tel: (024) 93579

Strategic Planning for Voluntary Organisations

Date: Friday 28 September 2001.

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

Facilitator: Sean Gannon, Comhairle.

One-day course which will include: definition of strategic planning; how to prepare a strategic plan; implementing the strategic plan. Participants are required to bring a copy of the mission statement and /or the aims and objectives of their organisation to the course.

Cost: £50.00

Further Details:

Training and Development Service
Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 6059000
Fax: (01) 6059099
E-mail: comhairle@comhairle.ie

Introduction to Community Development

Date: Tuesday 2 October & Tuesday 9 October 2001. (2 evenings)

Venue: Ardsallagh Training and Development Centre, Youghal, Co. Waterford.

Facilitators: Maria Power & Margaret McArdle.

Course for volunteers who are new to community development and wish to know more.

Cost: £50.00

Further Details:

Ardsallagh Training and Development
Centre
Youghal
Co. Waterford
Tel: (024) 93579

Groupwork Skills

Date: Thursday 11 October & Friday 12 October.
Thursday 25 October & Friday 26 October
Thursday 8 November & Friday 9 November
(2001)

Venue: Ardsallagh Training and Development Centre, Youghal, Co. Waterford.

Facilitators: Miriam Uhlemann & Margaret McArdle.

Six-day course for group workers wishing to advance their groupwork skills within an experiential and theoretical framework.

Cost: £480.00.

Further Details:

Ardsallagh Training and Development
Centre
Youghal
Co. Waterford
Tel: (024) 93579

Maximising Use of I.T. for Information Givers

Date: Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 October 2001.

Venue: 'Get Tallaght Working' Bolbrook Enterprise Centre, Avonmore Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Facilitator: McGrath Barrett & Associates.

Two-day course designed for those using computers within their organisations, or planning new systems who want to increase their skills in using databases, spreadsheets and the internet. All participants must have a basic familiarity with computers.

Day one will deal with choosing equipment and software, arranging support, and with using databases and spreadsheets. **Day two** will deal with using the internet, including e-mail, mailing lists, newsgroups and basic searching in the context of information-giving. The course includes presentation and practical sessions.

Cost: £100.00

Further Details:

Training and Development Service
Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 6059000
Fax: (01) 6059099
E-mail: comhairle@comhairle.ie

BRITAIN

Fun Lovin' Activists - Young People and Citizenship

Date: Saturday 8 September & Sunday 9 September 2001.

Venue: The University of Warwick, Coventry.

Two-day conference offering a real and creative chance for active dialogue and learning between young people and professionals. There will be opportunity to exchange best practice and time to take a fresh look at alternative ways to support young people's participation and action in their communities.

Its aims are:

- To articulate and celebrate young people's active citizenship and the benefits of their contribution to their communities.
- To create new partnerships to support action and learning in relation to citizenship.

There will be an option for each delegate to participate in one of three conference themes: Citizenship; Young People's Rights and Action in the Community.

Further Details:

Helen Rose
Fun Lovin' Activists, Conference
Organiser
C/o NCVYS, 2 Plough Yard
Shoreditch High Street
London EC2A 3LP
Tel: (0044) 020 7422 8630 or
(0044) 020 8444 5787
Fax: (0044) 020 7422 8631
E-mail: thehmrsolution@hotmail.com

Transitions - Experiential Learning and the Process of Change.

Date: 17 -19 September 2001.

Venue: St. Martin's College, Ambleside (English Lake District)

Brathay youth conference aimed at policy-makers and those who use, or are interested in, experiential methods to support the development of young people, in both formal and informal settings. The conference programme will include keynote presentations from influential figures in the field, a range of participative workshops, and presentations focusing on practice and research. It will explore the theme of Transitions in the following ways:

Defining the Context: examining the issues and challenges affecting young people and those working with them during key transitional stages.

Sharing Research: sharing findings from current research into transitions and experiential learning. Considering how best to evaluate practice.

Exploring the Breadth of Experiential Approaches: exploring the rich diversity of experiential methods and approaches that aim to support young people through transitions. Being inspired by new ideas and celebrating best practice.

Further Details:

Sarah Singleton
Brathay Hall
Ambleside
Cumbria LA22 OHP
Tel: (0044) 015394 33041
Fax: (0044) 015394 39701
E-mail: youth@brathay.org.uk
Website: www.brathay.org.uk