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Spring
Special Edition

Irish YouthWork Scene

The Future of

■ European White Paper on Youth

Irish Youth Work

■ Youth Work Act 2001

■ National Youth Work Development Plan

a journal for youth workers

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We Need a Champion

Tony Murphy

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It may have something to do with the early Spring and mild weather, but there is a noticeable climate of optimism among youth service personnel. With the Youth Work Act 2001 awaiting enactment and the recent circulation of *Proposals for the National Youth Work Development Plan*, new possibilities present themselves. And yet, there are significant challenges facing us. It would be wrong for us to be overly myopic in our concentration on the National Youth Work Advisory Committee or the Plan as solely relating to youth work. Much of what we are involved in is trying to achieve social change for the benefit of young people and their local communities. Inevitably this will have an impact on the potential quality of life for a whole range of other people. Appropriately, we should be asking what values are we trying to inculcate within the young people who participate in youth work experiences, services and programmes? What values will they bring with them into adult life as leaders within Irish society or overseas?

Currently there are some important signals requiring our attention as we listen to the movement of our national network of local communities across villages, towns and cities:

- Political indifference as reflected by low turnout in the recent referendum;
- A society in transition trying to cope with its own histories, prejudices and multi-cultural relationships;
- A significantly ageing population forming over the next 25 years and no apparent long-term investment in a volunteering strategy;
- Equality and inclusiveness with respect to minority groups, while Youth Services find themselves struggling with funders who want the focus to be on "problem young people";
- Purpose built youth centres wherein young people can take leadership roles are significantly absent from our landscapes;
- A sector that 21 months on having produced the generous offer of a draft child protection policy has not yet seen a Minister launch such a policy for the protection and safety of young people.

Above are some of the potential values and goals which we are part of when we work with young people. When we seek to underpin with energy and commitment the implementation of the Development Plan priorities, this broader picture must remain in focus. Rumours circulate at present that there is little left within the DES purse to actually implement the tentative but important beginnings of the Development Plan. The wind may be taken temporarily from our sails! Nevertheless, what the sector needs in advance of a proposed general election is a clear commitment communicated by all and perhaps, most strongly by the NYCI, that this sector deserves a committed champion who will advance in an integrated way across Government Departments the priorities of young people, which is not about "problem young people" - it is about the magnificence of their potential to direct, support and build our future inter-generational relationships.

Regardless of what the make-up is of our next Government, nobody should put themselves forward for the position of Minister of State for Youth (provided a full Cabinet Ministry is not on offer), unless they are willing to be that visionary and that heartfelt champion on behalf of the undervalued volunteers and under resourced staff that currently work within the sector, and that regrettably are diminishing in numbers by the week because parity of esteem and resources has not been achieved within the current brief of our present Minister. We need a future champion who will advocate passionately on our behalf and challenge us to continue to give of our best.

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A New Impetus? The EU White Paper on Youth

By Dr. Maurice Devlin

Introduction

Most readers of Irish Youth Work Scene will probably be familiar, at least in outline, with the provisions of the Youth Work Act 2001, and will be aware that proposals for a National Youth Work Development Plan were recently presented to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs by the National Youth Work Advisory Committee, and subsequently circulated to youth organisations for comment. It is possible, however, that there is less awareness of a further important recent development, which may have a significant impact on youth work and youth policy in Ireland. This is the publication in November 2001 of a European Commission White Paper, *A New Impetus for European Youth*.

The very fact that there is an EU White Paper on Youth is in itself of interest, and some would say it is highly surprising. There have not been many 'White Papers' in the history of the Union (and, before that, of the 'Communities'): only about twenty, in fact. The legal basis for European-level action specifically in the youth field is very narrow, and is confined to Article 149 of the Treaty, which provides for cooperation in the '*development of quality education*' and allows for exchanges of young people and of 'socioeducational instructors'. This is the basis for the development of the SOCRATES and YOUTH programmes, but it would not allow for a 'European youth policy', or anything like it.

So the initial decision of the Commission to publish the White Paper, and the extensive (uniquely so, in fact) process of consultation subsequently engaged in, perhaps raised unrealistic expectations among many interested parties as to what the document might ultimately contain. This is perhaps particularly true in countries such as Britain and Ireland, where the term 'White Paper' has a meaning (namely a definitive statement of governmental policy and intent), which it does not have in the broader EU context.

Nonetheless, the existence of the White Paper is in itself a tribute to the work of the European Youth Forum and its constituent parts (national youth

councils and international youth organisations) over the years. 'Youth' had been put sufficiently forcefully on the agenda of the European Commission for it to announce (or specifically, for Commissioner Viviane Reding to announce) in November 1999 that it intended to prepare a White Paper on the subject of youth policy.

Over the next two years, the Commission embarked on a consultation process unprecedented at EU level, involving young people (17 national conferences and a 'European Youth Gathering' in Paris), meetings with officials, administrators and youth councils at national level throughout the Member States, hearings with the EU's Economic and Social Committee and debates in the European Parliament, and contributions from a small team of youth researchers throughout the EU (including the present writer). Following these consultations, the White Paper was 'launched' at a colloquium in Ghent in November 2001 and has just been officially published.

Content of the White Paper

So what is in it? Well, in terms of simple volume, not a lot! The final published document runs to 99 pages, but only 21 of these contain the substance of the Commission's White Paper, the rest consisting of annexes summarising the findings from the consultative process and giving an overview of European action 'on the youth front'. Even within the White Paper 'proper', substantial sections are devoted to background and contextual material and a summary of the consultations and the 'key messages' arising.

It is relatively easy therefore to extract the key elements of the Commission's conclusions and proposals. Firstly, it acknowledges the limited legal basis, as things stand, for EU-level actions on youth, and acknowledges also that the principle of subsidiarity must continue to apply, 'for reasons of principle and for the sake of efficiency' (this principle in effect means that '*youth policy proper is the responsibility of the Member States*') (p. 20).

However, it argues that there is a profound danger of a 'citizenship deficit' in the EU, and an enormous challenge to get young people more involved in the life of the local, national and European communities:

'We need to put in place the right conditions to enable young people in Europe to see themselves and behave more as supportive, responsible, active and tolerant citizens in plural societies' (p. 15).

It strikes a rather materialistic note of 'youth as resource', which will be familiar to anyone who has ever read a youth policy document!

'Investing in youth is an investment in the richness of our societies, today and tomorrow. It is therefore one of the keys to achieving the political objectives laid down by the Lisbon European Council [in March 2000]: making Europe 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world' ' (p. 9).

Given these objectives, and in the broader context of the Commission's desire (as reflected in another recent White Paper, 2001) to promote 'new forms of European governance' and open up the EU decision-making process to the people affected by those decisions, including the young, the White Paper argues that the current system of cooperation in the field of youth 'has reached its limits'. Previous resolutions or declarations on youth, for instance by the Council of Ministers for Youth, 'have often gone no further than good intentions' and there is an urgent need to be able to respond to new challenges (pp. 9-10).

For this purpose, the Commission proposes a 'new framework for cooperation in the field of youth', with two main aspects:

1) application of the 'open method of coordination' in the youth sector;

2) taking more account of youth in other policies (what might be called "mainstreaming").

The 'open method of coordination' (OMC) is an approach which the EU is already developing in other areas, such as economy and employment, social integration and education. As previously defined, it involves greatly enhanced cooperation at European level between Member States, with guidelines, goals and timetables agreed collectively and then '**translated into national and regional**

policies by setting specific targets and adopting measures' (Lisbon European Council 2000).

Framework of Roles and Relationships

The White Paper on youth does not itself set out guidelines, targets, measures or timetables for how the OMC might operate in the youth field. Some have criticised it on this basis, but it is difficult to see how it could have done so: the Commission needs to get the agreement of the Council of Ministers and other relevant bodies within the EU that OMC is a good and valid idea in the first place. The White Paper does propose a broad framework of roles and relationships:

- Acting on proposals from the Commission, the Council of Ministers decides priority themes or areas of common interest;
- An appointed coordinator for each Member State acts as interlocutor with the Commission, providing information on existing national policies and practices in these areas;
- The Commission presents a summary and analysis to the Council of Ministers, with proposals for common objectives; and the Council of Ministers then agrees guidelines and objectives for each topic, with monitoring procedures and if appropriate benchmarks and indicators for progress;
- A role (not specified) is also envisaged for the European Parliament, and for the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (these latter two being important consultative committees within the EU); while it is intended that 'young people are consulted on the priority themes and their follow-up' and '*applicant countries are associated as far as possible*'.

In the first instance, the White Paper proposes that the OMC might be implemented with regard to four 'priority themes', which it says '**correspond very largely to the kind of activities and resources normally associated with youth policies at national level**' (p. 22). These are: participation, information, voluntary service, and research into youth issues. Its remarks on participation are particularly significant from the point of view of youth organisations. It suggests in effect that regional and national youth councils and, at European level, the Youth Forum need to be 'remodelled' to be

representative of young people not already involved in organisations.

Mainstreaming of Youth in Other Policy Areas

The second aspect of the White Paper's 'new cooperation framework' can be presented very briefly: it is simply that the Commission and the Council of Ministers should play their appropriate and respective parts in ensuring that more account is taken of youth in other policy areas, both nationally and at EU level. The areas proposed for particular attention in relation to 'mainstreaming' are:

- Education, lifelong learning and mobility
- Employment
- Social integration
- Racism and Xenophobia

The White Paper also argues that the question of young people's autonomy 'warrants in-depth examination', and proposes that a 'high-level working group' be set up to advise the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Reaction to the White Paper

Having presented this factual summary of the White Paper's content, it is also of interest to explore briefly how some of the relevant bodies and interest groups outside the Commission have reacted to it. Not surprisingly, youth organisations have responded very unfavourably to some of its elements. As far as I am aware, the strongest negative response of all came from the National Youth Council of Ireland (whose membership, of course, includes the National Youth Federation).

NYCI was in the fortuitous position of having its AGM between the date of the release of the White Paper and the date of the Ghent colloquium, so (albeit very hurriedly) it was able to marshal an immediate collective response, which also took into account the views of the 20 young Irish people who had been at the 'Youth Gathering' in Paris. The NYCI response was, in its own words, '**overwhelmingly negative**':

it described the White Paper as '*a missed opportunity... fundamentally flawed...inoperable...too vague...extremely limited*'.

While acknowledging certain positive aspects of the White Paper, it took particular issue with the lack of regard for the role of youth organisations and associations and their representativeness and autonomy; and it highlighted their absence (at least explicitly) from the OMC framework suggested.

The European Youth Forum's response on behalf of its members, while welcoming the White Paper, reflected many of NYCI's objections, and reiterated the need for an active and explicit role for national youth councils and for the Forum itself in the OMC process. It lamented the absence of sufficient consideration of the candidate countries and members of the European Economic Area, and of important issues and inequalities such as gender. It argued that the White Paper should have had clear and strategic objectives and that the areas proposed for OMC are unduly limited; what is needed is a genuine cross-sectoral European youth policy.

In relation to 'mainstreaming', it suggested that the steps to be taken should have been much more concrete, and it adverted to 'equal opportunities' as an exemplar in this regard: new structures and systems have been put in place (a Group of Commissioners, an Advisory Committee etc.) to ensure that mainstreaming of equal opportunity takes place across a range of policy areas. It also restated its view that a new Treaty provision is necessary for an adequate EU response to youth issues, and that the recently established Convention on the Future of Europe should examine this.

Within the EU institutions themselves, some reactions are beginning to emerge. The draft response of the European Parliament is broadly positive, although not surprisingly it suggests that the Parliament itself should be consulted before the Council of Ministers approves Commission proposals on OMC. It also calls for a new article in the Treaty to strengthen the legislative basis for youth policy initiatives, and for the establishment of a specific Directorate of Children and Young People within the Commission's Directorate-General on Education and Culture.

Importantly, it insists that sufficient additional resources must be made available for the implementation of the White Paper's proposals rather than funds being taken from the existing YOUTH programme. Many of these views of the European Parliament appear to be closely paralleled

in the response of the EU's Economic and Social Committee (although this has not been made formally available at the time of writing); and such a correspondence will strengthen the case for some of the points being made (regarding, for example, the need for legislative change).

As for the Council of Ministers for Youth itself, approval in principle has been given to the two key 'strands' of the White Paper's proposals: the open method of coordination and 'mainstreaming'. The current Spanish Presidency of the EU will now prepare a Council Resolution for the Ministers' next meeting on 30th May.

As the Youth Forum has stressed, it is crucially important that this resolution marks, and provides an further impetus for, real progress in the evolution of this 'new framework of cooperation', rather than being another expression of good intentions towards young people.

Conclusion

To conclude, the view of this writer is that the White Paper, while undoubtedly limited in depth and scope, is already of very considerable symbolic value; and it could, given the political will (and sustained pressure from the youth organisations and their supporters within the EU) have the potential to be of longer-term value in important practical ways. The Commission most certainly deserves credit for getting this far: the process was highly political and there was resistance from within and without. Even a few years ago a European White Paper on youth would not have seemed a realistic proposition at all.

Let's hope now for two things: firstly that the flaws in the document can be overcome or remedied; and secondly that the existence of the White Paper provides an impetus - since 'impetus' is what it's meant to be about! - for the full and unequivocal implementation of the two key initiatives here at national level - the Youth Work Act and the National Youth Work Development Plan.

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Youth Work Act 2001: A National Perspective

By James Doorley

Introduction

In November 2001, the Youth Work Act was finally passed and signed into law by President McAleese. While it was a long wait, it is welcome that we finally now have legislation that recognises the value and contribution of Youth Work to Irish society and that provides a statutory framework for its delivery. At this stage it is important to recognise the input of many, particularly those in the voluntary youth sector who as far back as the 1970's have been contributing to and campaigning for Youth Work legislation.

One of the central features of the new Youth Work legislation is that of partnership between the voluntary youth sector and the statutory sector. I know some are sceptical and weary of what appears to be endless partnership arrangements that permeate every sector of economic and social activity.

However, the experience is that when fully committed to by all, partnership can make a significant difference. To date NYCI has worked very closely with the Irish Vocational Education Association, the representative body for the VECs in the formulation of the Youth Work legislation. I look forward as we move from the formulation of the legislation to its implementation for a continuance of this partnership at local and national level.

The Role of the VEC's

The VECs have a very strong record of achievement in the formal education sector as a former pupil of a Vocational school I can testify to that. While some VECs have been very active in supporting Youth Work at a local level, others have little experience. As for the youth sector, the implementation of the legislation will be a challenge for the VECs.

I know one of the concerns many youth organisations have is that different VECs will interpret and apply the Youth Work Act differently which will make it very difficult for national organisations to support their local and regional structures.

I am confident however, that through the National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC) and the implementation guidelines it is currently producing and the proposed NYCI/IVEA seminar later this year on the implementation of the Act, we can address any concerns on both sides.

The devolution of certain statutory powers and responsibilities to the VECs and the establishment of Youth Work committees under the Act, will mean for the first time that youth organisations will have a formal role in shaping and deciding policies and actions at a local and regional level.

It makes sense and is only right that those most aware and experienced of the needs and wants of young people at community level help shape and co-ordinate the Youth Work service in their area. In particular the preparation and approval of the three-year development plans in each VEC area provide a great opportunity for the voluntary youth sector to do this.

Resource Implications

However, we need to avoid the mistakes made in the local government reform process and need to ensure that the youth sector is fully resourced at local, regional and national level to actively participate in working the Act.

Firstly, we need to ensure that the new Voluntary Youth Councils are properly resourced and funded so that they become a forum and strong voice for Youth Work in their VEC area.

POLICY

Secondly the voluntary sector representatives on the VEC Youth Work committee need to be facilitated and supported to fully participate. This is not just about having meetings at times that suit us in the voluntary sector, more importantly it means that our representatives are not only able to fully contribute but believe their contributions are making a difference.

Thirdly, if the Act is to be fully implemented in the short and long term, we need strong national organisations that are fully resourced to support their local and regional affiliates. The national or central headquarters of youth organisations have a vital role to play in training and supporting representatives on the various new structures, in advising and assisting their local and regional affiliates on an ongoing basis to maximise the potential of the new legislative environment.

Likewise as issues and challenges arise as we work through the legislation, these will be best addressed through the national structures of all youth organisations, NYCI and through NYWAC. This work will have to be done on top of the current workload and while it may be possible for organisations to meet some of these extra demands from within existing resources, NYCI believes extra funding for national organisations will be required.

Fourthly, and most importantly, if the promise of the Act is to become a reality, the VECs must have an adequate budget to fund the voluntary youth sector within their area to fill the gaps in existing provision and develop a comprehensive youth service in all areas which respects the diversity of existing youth organisations.

Conclusion

While the implementation of the Youth Work Act presents a challenge for all of us in policy and operational respects, it also presents a long awaited opportunity. Along with the National Youth Work Development Plan we have the opportunity to build a well resourced and even higher quality youth service to which all young people can participate and develop in irrespective of their sex, location, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability. That possibility makes the next few years an exciting time to be involved in youth work.

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Youth Work Act 2001: A Regional Perspective

By Pat Forde

Introduction

I view the passing of the Youth Work Act 2001 as an enormous breakthrough in the evolution of youth work. It presents many opportunities and challenges to all involved in the provision of services in the non-formal sector.

For Government having passed the legislation it needs a clear commitment of financial resources, and a planned programme of enactment and implementation of the full act within a specific time frame. A working Partnership between the National Youth Work Advisory Committee, and the Minister of Youth Affairs is essential if the Act is to achieve its full potential for all concerned. An agreed framework and timetable for the implementation of the National Youth Work Development Plan is also an essential element for the development of youth work services.

Regional Youth Service Perspective

From the perspective of a Regional Youth Service providing a service in three counties the Youth Work Act provides us with a myriad of opportunities and challenges. The fact that we cover more than one Vocational Education area means that potentially the Minister may in writing approve us as an approved national voluntary youth organisation.

Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating guidelines and Codes of Practice covering a multitude of issues ranging from codes of practice for Youth Clubs to regulations from the Companies Office represents the reality of youth sector provisions in 2002, for all youth service providers. Maintaining the voluntary ethos underpinning youth work provisions in Ireland, while implementing these requirements represents the one of the greatest challenges facing youth work provision in the light of the Youth Work Act 2001.

Relationships & Networking

Maintaining good relationships and networking with statutory and voluntary agencies involved in the provision of services to and for young people will be vital for all involved in Youth Work. Apprehensions as to what Model of a Voluntary Youth Council will evolve, how the three year plans developed by Vocational Education Committees will or could impinge on local youth service providers, and how effective will Youth Work Committees be, are very real worries from the perspective of operating a Local Youth Service.

Conclusion

Ultimately the Youth Work Act 2001 if and when fully enacted and provided with adequate financial resources, in tandem with the National Youth Work Development Plan can only be of enormous benefit to young people and all involved in service provision in the non-formal sector. I again greatly welcome it and look forward to the positive outcomes it will provide.

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Myopic Youth Policies Leave Young People Out In The Cold

By Colm Ó Mongáin

Introduction

Saturday November 3rd, 2001 saw young people come together in the first youth-led north-south conference held in Ireland. The **Blood, Sweat and Volunteers** conference was organised by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and YouthNet, its Northern Ireland counterpart.

Instead of prescriptive discussion by older volunteers, the young people were the contributors. The conclusion across the board was that young people in volunteering felt they should be consulted more both within the field of youth work and also with regard to youth policy.

Real Participation

The delegates felt that young people should be consulted on good-practice guidelines. On a higher level, they wanted to be consulted on local and national policy. They wanted to work with public representatives to improve volunteering opportunities. Present consultation levels were seen as non-existent or token-istic. So, it's not hard to see why young people would not be encouraged to become involved in volunteering.

After all, voluntary organisations are currently treated as stop-gap measures to gainfully occupy a potentially rowdy youth, rather than a vital resource that could feed into long-term youth policy. Real consultation would foster volunteerism in the community as well as encouraging active citizenship by showing young people that their views can have a meaningful impact.

The **Taking Part** workshop of the Youth Future Conference, organised by NYCI and the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science in July 2000, concluded that **"young people know what they want."**

The workshop said,

"They want to participate at a higher level in society in order to have more control over their own existence. What they need, however, is practical support from parents and others to deliver it."

Active Consultation

Community and voluntary organisations do try to involve young people, as a report last year by the NYCI shows. The **Taking the Initiative** report on young people in decision making revealed that, of the respondents, 70 per cent:

"have directly involved young people in decision-making and an additional 10 per cent plan to involve young people in the near future".

Furthermore, 51 per cent involved young people in their everyday work.

"Respondents" is the operative word. Government Departments hardly responded and, of those which did, not one addressed the issue of involving young people in decision-making. Vocational Education Committees (VEC's) and Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) also yielded a low response.

The largest response came from Health Boards describing health promotion initiatives. After the disaster of the *Cool Choices* website and the decidedly cool response it got from young people, it's good to see health promotion initiatives open to consulting with young people.

The example of *Cool Choices* is indicative of the Government's attitude towards young people. The Government didn't consult young people on it. Then, after a brief, but intensive storm of ridicule and anger on the part of young people, the project was scrapped. The lessons learnt by Government? Apparently none. The criticism was written off as typical of a cynical, ingrate modern youth.

Money, time and face could have been saved by consulting young people in the first place. This mistake is destined to be repeated unless the non-respondents (LAPs, VECs and Government Departments) in the Taking the Initiative survey pay attention to the lesson: **If young people are involved in the planning and execution of an initiative, they will be more interested in its success.**

Statutory Supports Lacking

This is particularly important in the area of LAPs, where successful engagement of local young people has a direct impact on community spirit and public order in an area. However, in order for local initiatives to begin consulting with young people, it would be fitting for the Government to take the lead by fully implementing the National Children's Strategy 2000, which stated that "*children will have a voice in all matters that affect them*".

This does not mean press-ganging bewildered and inexperienced young people into committee. There are plenty of experienced young people in youth work and voluntary organisations who have ideas and energy.

Unfortunately, as indicated in the recent budget, there does not appear to be any major change in attitude by the powers that be. James Doorley, NYCI President, described the budget as "*overcautious and underwhelming*" - and this is particularly the case in the area of the National Youth Work Development Plan and the Youth Work Act 2001. Huge amounts of work went into formulating these documents, but adequate funds have not been allocated for implementation.

The net result of this myopic youth policy can be seen in declining voter turnout. As young people feel they are being ignored, they lose their sense of contact with the political process. Yet, despite this downturn in registration and voting, no real effort has been made to treat the symptoms, never mind the causes. No evidence has been seen of the €1.3 million, promised under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, being spent to boost registration and voting. It would seem that consultation is unwanted, not just in decision making, but also in voting.

Conclusions

Ireland has the highest proportion of young people in Europe and also the highest rate of child poverty in the western world outside the US. Despite this, the proposed €19 million quoted in the Estimates for 2002 to combat educational disadvantage did not appear in the Budget.

Instead of questioning what is to be done about today's youth, young people should be seen as a resource whose energy, intellect and creativity can be drawn on in local and national decision making. Unless young people are engaged, they will become increasingly cynical about public service and volunteerism will be further eroded.

This article is reproduced from the Irish Times Supplement, "Volunteering in Ireland", a special commercial report produced in association with Volunteering Ireland (23 February, 2002).

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Policy & Funding

MINISTER ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN

On 14 February 2002 Minister Mary Hanafin T.D. published the Ombudsman for Children Bill 2002. ***"The Bill is a great step forward in protecting the rights and welfare of our children,"*** said Minister Mary Hanafin. Both the National Children's Strategy and the Programme for Government contain a commitment to the establishment of an Ombudsman for Children. The Ombudsman will have two primary functions, which are:

- To promote the rights and welfare of children
- To examine and investigate complaints against public bodies and against schools and voluntary hospitals.

The Ombudsman for Children will be independent in performing the functions, which will be assigned. In promoting the rights and welfare of children the Ombudsman for Children can, amongst other things, provide advice to the Government, encourage the development of policies, practices and procedures to promote children's rights and welfare, highlight issues that are of concern to children and monitor and review the operation of legislation insofar as it refers to children. The Ombudsman will also have regard to the U.N Convention on the Rights of the Child.

With regard to examining and investigating complaints, the remit of the Ombudsman for Children extends to public bodies, schools and voluntary hospitals. Complaints can be made by a child, a parent of the child or a person who has either a personal or professional relationship to the child concerned and is considered a suitable person by the Ombudsman for Children. Before investigating a complaint a parent of the child must be informed. The action complained of must be one that is taken in the performance of an administrative function.

The Ombudsman for Children can investigate, make recommendations and seek a response to a

complaint. The Ombudsman will have regard to the best interests of the child taking into account the age and understanding of the child when promoting the rights and welfare and when investigating complaints. Due consideration must be given to the child's own wishes.

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NEW HOMELESS PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR THOSE RELEASED FROM INSTITUTIONAL CARE LAUNCHED

On 27 February a new strategy is aimed at preventing homelessness among patients leaving hospitals and mental health care as well as adult and young offenders leaving custodial care was launched. It will encompass a co-ordinated approach from a number of different Government departments including Justice, Health, Education and Housing.

On the justice side, the strategy will establish a specialist unit by the Probation and Welfare Service to assist homeless people. The provision of transitional housing units to prepare offenders for release is also intended. The strategy also recognises the importance of providing education and training for offenders on their release from custody.

On the health side, psychiatric hospitals will employ discharge officers to liaise with patients' next of kin or to ensure that patients have suitable accommodation after release.

It is estimated that 6,000 people are currently

homeless in Ireland while thousands more are on waiting lists for houses.

In welcoming the strategy the head of Focus Ireland, Mr Declan Jones, said:

“Recent research had found that two thirds of those leaving health board care and one third of those leaving special schools for young offenders experienced homelessness in the first two years of leaving care.” ... “This served to highlight the urgent need for measures to address these problems.”

For further information, please contact:

Department of the Environment & Local
Government
Custom House
Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 8882632/8882630
Fax: (01) 8786678
E-mail: moseenviron.irl.gov.ie
Website: www.environ.ie

MINISTER ANNOUNCES LATEST GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE CHILDCARE SECTOR

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr John O'Donoghue T.D. recently announced the approval of a further 80 grants amounting to over £4.9 million (€6.28 million) from the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, funded by the Irish Government and the European Union under the National Development Plan 2000 - 2006.

The Programme is supporting measures that will have both a social inclusion and equal opportunities focus. Assistance is provided for capital developments, for staffing costs in disadvantaged areas and for work on the development of quality enhancement.

As well as supporting over 15,000 existing childcare places, the allocation of grants to date will lead to the creation of almost 13,000 new places bringing the total number of childcare places supported nationwide to over 28,000.

The Minister added that grants are available over

the period of the National Development Plan, which runs from 2000 to 2006, and that he looks forward to ongoing developments over that period. He invited applications from all those interested in developing childcare facilities both from the private and community sector. Finally, he reminded those who are interested in the grant schemes or considering a business venture in childcare that information on the funding that is available and the relevant application forms can be obtained by calling the **Equal Opportunities Childcare Section, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform at Lo-Call: 1890 209030.**

NEW INITIATIVES LAUNCHED IN ADULT EDUCATION PROVISION

On 16 January, 2002, the Minister of State for Adult Education, Mr. Willie O'Dea T.D., announced a number of new initiatives in adult education:

- The establishment of a **National Adult Learning Council (NALC)** as an executive agency of the Department of Education and Science. It will represent education, training, social partner, community and voluntary sector and learner interests to ensure a co-ordinated strategy in the provision of adult learning. The Council will advise on policy, promote co-ordination and liaison, engage in research and staff development, and support international co-operation. It will also have a specific remit to progress such issues as workplace learning, community education, an equality strategy, and to establish an advisory group on the integration of people with physical and learning disabilities into adult education

- The implementation of a **Back to Education Initiative**, providing some 4000 extra part-time places under PLC, Youthreach, Traveller, and VTOS programmes, including part time senior cycle or equivalent options, principally aimed at young people and adults in the population with less than upper secondary education. There will a further 2000 places from September/October. Information packs on the initiative will be issued at an early date to all interested parties. 10% of all expansion will be earmarked exclusively for community education providers and the scheme will be adapted to cater for this sector. An Adult ICT Skills programme will be implemented as part of the measure. The initiative will be expanded with a view to having 20,000 extra part time places per annum in place by 2006.

**FUNDING ANNOUNCED
FOR A COMHAIRLE NA NÓG
(CHILDREN'S COUNCIL) IN EACH
CITY AND COUNTY**

■ The appointment of **35 Community Education Facilitators** throughout the country. These posts will be based in the VECs, and their work programme will be determined initially by the ad hoc Adult Education Boards, and in future years by the Local Adult Learning Boards when they are established. The facilitators will support the development of new community-based learning groups, network providers and help them access funding, share good practice and monitor quality, and promote the development of partnerships with the statutory sector, particularly in relation to outreach and referral.

■ An increase of €2.92 million for adult literacy funding up to €16.47m. in 2002. This will enable the service to continue to expand, building on the existing initiatives, such as the TV series 'Read Write Now' and extending family learning and work place literacy provision, special needs provision and programmes for those for whom English is not the mother tongue.

■ The further extension of the **Adult Educational Guidance Service**, supporting students in literacy, VTOS and adult and community education programmes (currently operational in 19 areas). Advertisements have been placed seeking proposals for an expansion to further areas in 2002 aimed at having a comprehensive national service in place by 2006. A feasibility study is under way to develop a publicly accessible database of adult learning options, integrated with a national telephone helpline.

■ The appointment of **2 Co-ordinators of Further Education Development** — Ms. Mary Kett and Ms. Bernie Judge to help progress the White Paper agenda in adult education.

■ A feasibility study on the development of a **computerised Further Education Management Information System**, which will enable the progress of specific groups to be monitored over time as part of an equality strategy.

For further information, please contact:

Department of Education & Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8734700
Fax: 01 8787932
Website: www.irlgov.ie/educ

On 15 February 2002, the Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin T.D. announced that funding of €2,500 will be made available to each City and County Development Board to hold a Comhairle na nÓg (Children's Council) in their area. This follows the successful first Dáil na nÓg (National Children's Parliament), which was held in September 2001.

The Comhairle na nÓg has two purposes:

■ To give children a voice in their local community in line with the first goal of the National Children's Strategy

■ To select local delegates for the next Dáil na nÓg in the autumn.

The first Comhairle na nÓg in the Country is being held by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board and up to 100 children between the ages of 9 and 17 are attending. The Directors of Community and Enterprise of each of the City and County Development Boards have been invited to observe this Comhairle na nÓg, with a view to holding one in their area. The topics for discussion at the Comhairle na nÓg include: Play and Recreation; Safety and Pride in my area.

For further information, please contact:

Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6354000
Fax: (01) 6354001
LoCall: 1890 200311
Website: www.doh.ie

Resources

CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY

Citizenship & Community (1999) *By Tom Hall & Howard Williamson*

Citizenship and community are words that relate to the fundamentally human business of living with others. They are important concepts for young people today, and for those who work with and for them. This guide reviews these concepts and explores the different definitions of citizenship and community; what is at stake in these definitions; and what relevance they have for young people.

It looks at the social, structural and policy developments which provide the present-day context for the ideas implicit in notions of citizenship and community, how to start work on citizenship and community with young people and where to look for further information, advice and practical assistance. It proves essential reading for those working with young people, those thinking about or planning to do so and those with a more general interest in young people's issues, as well as young people themselves.

Pride of Place - Manchester's Developmental Approach to Young People's Needs:

Developing Local Communities and Young People as Active Citizens (1997) *By the National Youth Agency*

Publication which documents a review of Manchester Youth Service with a view to developing a coherent strategy for services to young people across the City. The review examines and makes recommendations to the City Council on the following issues:

- An assessment of whether current Youth Service provision meets the needs of young people in the City.
- The future balance between universal provision and targeted provision.
- The use of premises and premises-based provision

- within the context of overall City Council services.
- The relationship with other council services which are targeted to young people, e.g. schools, colleges, leisure, Social Services.
- The development of the consultation process with young people and their involvement in decision making.
- The relationship with the voluntary sector and other non-Council services.
- The location of the Youth service in departmental and management team.

GROUP WORK

Redefining Success: Groupwork with Young People (2000) *By Tobias Mayer & Tim Webb*

Resource book for those involved in face-to-face work with young people, exploring ways of working with groups of young people to foster personal development, independent thought and self and peer respect, as well as looking at groupwork as a tool for personal and social change.

The five principles of groupwork are studied and the interconnected sections of the book look at the theory and practice of groupwork as well as offering practical support for the facilitator. It offers support and guidance to those interested in introducing groupwork methods into their work and shows how groupwork can be exciting and challenging to all those working with young people.

PEER EDUCATION

Youth Researching Youth The Triumph and Success Peer Research Project (2000) *By Alan France*

Report on a two-year research project entitled 'Triumph and Success', funded by the Joseph

Rowntree Foundation's Young People Programme which highlights a research method that puts young people at the heart of decision-making processes. **The first section** outlines the key principles and methods of delivery used, highlighting a youth-centred peer education project. **The second section** explores the young people's experiences of the project and the final section examines the key findings and learning. It provides essential reading for youth workers and other professionals working to enable young people's voices to be heard more clearly.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

Sexangle: The Sex and Relationship Education Training Game (1999) *By the National Youth Agency & Sex Education Forum*

Training game designed to encourage part-time, paid and volunteer youth workers to respond effectively to sex and relationship issues as they arise in conversation with young people. It is intended to be used in the context of a centre/project workers' staff meeting, facilitated by the key worker or worker in charge, or alternatively within an 'off the job' training event, facilitated by a group worker or trainer. It can also be used with young people, particularly as part of a peer education project.

The game is played by considering comments and questions from young people relating to particular categories:

- Safer Sex
- Abuse
- Relationships
- Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual
- Pregnancy
- Race and Religion
- Sex and Sexuality

The Youth Service Sex and Relationships Education Training Programme (1999) *By Mark Price*

Publication which provides youth service trainers with a comprehensive, easy to use and fully-integrated training course which will motivate part-time and volunteer youth workers and develop their confidence and skills in building appropriate relationships and making effective interventions with

young people. The pack has three main aims:

- To support youth service trainers and training managers, including health promotion advisers and voluntary sector trainers, in the design and co-ordination of programmes for sex and relationships education training.
- To provide youth service trainers with training plans which can be adapted or used directly with part-time and volunteer youth workers.
- To provide pointers to further information and resources for use in training with part-time and volunteer youth workers (that might also be used directly with young people).

The Youth Service Sex and Relationships Education Policy Toolkit (1999) *By Linda Taylor*

Resource produced to help organisations develop a policy framework or set of guidelines for sex and relationships education. It is designed for statutory Youth Services who are working with young people aged 11-25 and can be easily adapted by voluntary sector organisations through selecting the information appropriate to their needs.

The toolkit can also be used as guidance for reviewing and updating existing policies in sex and relationships education. It aims to:

- Look at the wider issues associated with sex and relationships education and how these impact on policy decisions
- Offer policy-makers in the youth work field a step-by-step guide for policy development
- Ensure that youth workers are given the confidence, knowledge, skills and reassurance to deliver sex and relationships education to young people.

TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE

In Our Own Words: What Young People Think about the Transition from Education to Work (2000) *By the National Youth Agency*

Publication which brings together four consultations with young people on the transition from education

RESOURCES

to work, which took place in 1999 under the aegis of the Carnegie Young People Initiative. It gives a direct account of young people's own views on matters that are vital to shaping such crucial policies as the New Deal and the new Connexions service and demonstrates the effectiveness and practicality of a number of methods engaging and consulting young people, especially through peer research.

Family Formation (1999)
By Charlotte Ritchie & Ann Buchanan

RESOURCES

Guide which aims to help local projects and professionals to meet the needs of young people as they make the transition from independence into parenthood. It puts aside family stereotypes of the past, and taps into the realities of family life today, the issues that need tackling, the agencies that can help and the implications for the future.

The **first chapter** outlines the main changes in family life and the implications of these changes. The **second chapter** reviews the many government initiatives, including the plans outlined in 'supporting families'. The **third chapter** explores the different stages of becoming a parent in greater depth; planning for a family, becoming a parent, young fathers, family support, returning to work. The **fourth chapter** considers specific challenges in family life and the final chapter considers what a local project can do to help. Examples of successful local projects are given throughout and at the end of each section suggestions are made for further reading.

**Independent Living:
Income and Housing (1999)**
By Robert Bell & Gill Jones

RESOURCES

Publication which discusses ways in which the transition to independent living has changed for young people over the last few decades, and indicate why these changes have come about. It outlines the government policies which affect young people's incomes and ability to set up independent homes and identify the problems that young people are now experiencing.

Through examining the current methods of transition the guide is able to determine the kinds of support needed by young people today and where this support should be coming from, and highlight some national and local initiatives which address some of the current needs of young people in Britain.

YOUNG PEOPLE & CRIME

**Youth Work & Youth Crime
Guide to Policy and Practice (2000)**
By the National Youth Agency

Publication which aims to provide a guide to core policy and practice information in relation to youth work and crime prevention. It is aimed at youth work policy makers and practitioners and provides a useful reference guide to a wide variety of issues relating to youth crime.

It also provides examples of good practice to demonstrate the advantages of working with a range of other agencies and departments in crime reduction project along with updated information on legislative and funding contexts, examples of good practice and other information on youth crime issues that may be useful for the youth work field.

**Young People, Offending
& Local Action (2000)**
**By Cathy Lloyd & Kate Preller with James
Sandman & George Smith**

Publication which focuses on offending by young people and ways of reducing it. It aims to provide background material on the scope of the problem, the factors associated with offending behaviour, the policy background and information on local projects. It examines:

- Current trends in offending behaviour by young people
- Risk and protective factors associated with youth offending
- The policy background
- Practical steps to establish local projects
- Further sources of information.

**YOUTH SERVICE
DEVELOPMENT**

**Voices Unheard: Young People at the
Beginning of the 21st Century (2000)**
Edited by Roger Frost

RESOURCES

Young people feel their views are often ignored or paid 'lip service' when it comes to services used by them or decisions that will affect them. This report

gives a series of views from leading commentators, such as Chris Woodhead and Tom Bentley, along with young people on the challenges of a new century for youth policy.

It marks the launch of a new programme by the Carnegie Young People Initiative, designed to set standards in the public and voluntary sectors for the involvement of young people in decision making.

Joined-Up Youth Research, Policy and Practice: a New Agenda for Change? (2000)
By Bob Coles

Publication which aims to provide a review of youth policy and encourage the creation of a forward looking policy agenda for action for researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to engage successfully with young people and youth affairs. The overall objective of the book is to provide an overview of the changing condition of youth in Britain, the emerging policy agenda which has developed in an attempt to meet young people's needs, and attempts made through a range of different 'youth projects' to deliver this.

It considers unemployment, education, housing and homelessness, teenage pregnancy, young people in care and leaving care, health and crime from three perspectives - what current research can tell us about the issues; what policies are being developed in these areas; and, through snapshots of practice, what local projects are doing about them and with what degree of success.

**Towards a Youth Strategy:
 The Sunderland Youth Review (1998)**
By Bernard Davies and Mary Marken

Report which documents a review of the services catering for young people in the Sunderland area which would inform and guide the development of a corporate youth strategy and the targeted action this would require.

The aims of the youth review are to establish:

- How well services in Sunderland are responding to young people's needs and demands.
- How effectively the different services and departments are working together to respond to these demands and needs.
- What gaps exist in council provision for young people.
- In what ways delivery of services to young people could be better co-ordinated and more effective.

**Young People as Citizens Now:
 Towards More Inclusive and Coherent
 Policies for Young People (1997)**
By the National Youth Agency

Arising from a consultation on youth policy held at St. George's House, within Windsor Castle, this publication offers a contribution to the debate about the future shape and direction of youth policy and the youth service. The focus is on key national issues affecting young people who are bearing disproportionate burdens from structural changes in both the economy and home life.

It urges that a range of strategic changes and shifts of investment have to be made to increase the sense of security and civic purpose of many young people either in need or at risk of further social alienation, and argues that change and reform should be both sensitive and inclusive.

**Modern Services for Young People:
 Proposals for Action (1999)**
By the National Youth Agency

The National Youth Agency aims to advance youth work to promote young people's personal and social development, and their voice, their influence and place in society. This report highlights the work of the National Youth Agency and what its proposals are in terms of improving and extending youth services and youth work.

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

YOUNG MOTHERS HANDBOOK LAUNCHED

On Monday, 21 January 2002 in Cassidy's Hotel in Dublin, the Minister for Education & Science Dr. Michael Woods T.D. launched the *Moving On Young Mothers and Employment Project: A Handbook for Trainers* on behalf of the Moving On Consortium. The Consortium which oversaw the Moving On Project comprised four partners: two national agencies - National Youth Federation and TREOIR and two locally based agencies - Louth Youth Federation and St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow.



From Left to Right: Margot Doherty, Treoir; Minister for Education & Science, Dr. Michael Woods & Tony Murphy, Chief Executive, National Youth Federation at the launch of the Moving On Young Mothers & Employment Project Handbook.

The **Moving On: Young Mothers and Employment Project** was established because the small amount of research carried out in Ireland relating to young mothers pointed to a strong association between poverty, young mothers and their low level of formal educational qualifications. The aim of the Project was to enable young mothers to gain access to employment, education and training by developing and delivering needs based, accredited, prevocational training. A number of the young mothers who had either completed the programme or were currently undertaking it spoke at the launch, and outlined the benefits of the

programme, what it provided for them and how they have progressed in terms of further education, training and/or employment.



Minister Woods with young mothers from the Moving On Project who spoke at the launch.

From Left to Right: Caroline Flanagan & Gemma Smyth from Dundalk & Natasha Bolger & Leah Kumar from Carlow.

The Handbook that was launched is one of the outcomes of the training programme and is based on the experience of those who delivered the Moving On Programme to young mothers in Carlow and Dundalk. Forty-four young mothers availed of the original three training programmes which ran from 1996 - 98. These training programmes consisted of 9 months training at 20 hours per week. The programme, which has undergone ongoing revision and development, is still in operation in both Carlow and Dundalk.

The Handbook outlines the training element of the programme in detail and includes:

- Recruitment and outreach phase of the work
- Programme content and structure
- Accreditation routes and assessment
- Progression routes taken by the mothers on the programme
- Human and physical resources necessary to run the programme.

In addition it also includes valuable baseline information for those working with young mothers including:

- A profile of the Moving On Project
- A profile of young mothers in Ireland

- A summary of the research findings undertaken as part of the Project
- Comprehensive resources section including resource/reference materials, national service agencies, community-based initiatives, funding sources, and accrediting bodies.

The handbook is available at a cost of €10 plus post & packing from:

Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: 01/8729933 Fax: 01/8724183
email: fbissett@nyf.ie OR
mdrumm@myf.ie

NEW SUICIDE GUIDELINES LAUNCHED

In February, 2002 President Mary McAleese launched new suicide guidelines for schools produced by the Irish Association of Suicidology and the National Suicide Review Group launched. The guidelines entitled **Suicide Prevention in Schools: Best Practice Guidelines** are very comprehensive and are broken down into four sections:

- Section I: Suicide - An Overview
- Section II: Prevention of Suicide in the School Setting
- Section III: Intervention in the School Setting
- Section IV: Postvention Protocols in the School Setting

The guidelines also include 16 appendices that contain baseline information on hard copy and electronic resources, voluntary and support organisations, emergency contacts, fact sheets and recent statistical data.

For further information/copies of the guidelines, please contact:

Dr. John Connolly
Irish Association of Suicidology
St. Mary's Hospital
Castlebar
Co. Mayo. Tel: 094 42084
Email: drjfc@iol.ie

NACD PRODUCES ITS FIRST MAJOR REPORT

On 7 December, 2001, Eoin Ryan TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy launched the first NACD Report "Drug Use Prevention: an overview of research".

The NACD (National Advisory Committee on Drugs) is made up of a range of academic, community, voluntary and statutory interests who are currently overseeing a three year programme of research and evaluation on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug misuse in Ireland. The Report is the first piece of research produced by NACD and summarises the main findings of research in Ireland and abroad on drug use prevention.

It identifies the main risk factors for drug use and examines approaches/strategies for preventing use. It highlights the fact that there is no single drug problem; there are a variety of different problems each of which requires a different response. The most serious drug problem involves opiates and is particularly likely to occur where other factors such as social and educational disadvantage and deprivation are involved.

The report recommends the following:

- Targeted initiatives tackling social origins of drugs problems that are comprehensive, involve inter-agency co-operation and community involvement.
- The use of broad based programmes focussing on experimental drug use among young people.
- The use of measures to prevent early school leaving.
- That new ways to use the role (limited to date) played by the mass media in prevention be explored
- That further research is undertaken e.g. to examine implementation level of existing school programmes/strategies.
- The evaluation of some Task Force funded prevention programmes, now being mainstreamed.

The Minister also launched the NACD Website and drew attention to:

- Two school-based substance misuse prevention programmes the "Walk Tall" and "On My Own Two Feet" Programmes, which will be implemented in all Local Drugs Task Force areas during the academic year 2001/02.
- The launching of an on-going **National Awareness Campaign**, highlighting the dangers of drug misuse,

in the early part of 2002.

For copies of the report or further information on the work of the NACD contact:

National Advisory Committee on Drugs
3rd Floor
Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 6670760 Fax: 01 6670828
E-mail: info@nacd.ie
www.nacd.ie

NEW DRUG & ALCOHOL EDUCATION WEBSITES LAUNCHED

The **Cider Industry Council** has recently launched a new website aimed at helping parents to deal with underage drinking. The website forms part of a wider €120,000 anti-underage drinking campaign and was developed under the supervision of Dr. Mark Morgan, a social psychologist who has written extensively on underage drinking in Ireland. **The web address is: www.ciderindustrycouncil.com**

Dun Laoghaire Youth Information Centre, funded by the Young Persons' Facilities and Services Fund has developed a new drug information website. It includes a survival guide for parents, resources for those working with young people, basic facts and information on drug and alcohol use and contact details and information links in relation to education, treatment and rehabilitation. **The website address is: www.drugquest.ie**

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR IRISH ISP'S & CHILD PORNOGRAPHY HOTLINE REPORT LAUNCHED

On 5 February 2002, a new Code of Practice and Ethics for Irish Internet Service Providers (ISP's) and the First Report of Child Pornography Hotline were launched by Minister Mary Hanafin. The hotline itself was established in November, 2000 for the reporting of child pornography on the Web. The report shows that on average a complaint a day is made about child pornography on the net.

In welcoming the establishment of a code of practice, Minister Hanafin said *"The launch of the new codes of practice and ethics is one of the significant milestones set by the Government Review Group on the illegal and harmful use of the Internet in the path to self regulation"*.

For further information on the Hotline and the Code of Practice go to: www.hotline.ie

COMMUNITY APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (CAIT) SEEKS NEW FUNDING PROPOSALS

The Community Application of Information Technology programme (CAIT) was launched in December, 2000 by The Minister for Public Enterprise, Mary O'Rourke, TD, with an overall budget of £4 million over the period from July 2001 to December, 2002. CAIT is aimed at opening up the world new technology and information systems to those in society who are either unfamiliar with or do not use these new technologies in their everyday lives.

Calls are now being invited for a second round of CAIT funding. Up to €3 million Euro is available over the period March 2002 to December 2002 to fund this phase of the initiative. Funding from €1,500 Euro to a maximum of €127,000 Euro is available to any one project. Applications for this second round of CAIT funding will be accepted anytime after the announcement, until all the funding has been allocated.

Full details on the programme including a list of successful applicants from the first round (plus their proposals), application forms, reporting and financial control procedures are available on the CAIT website.

For further details contact:

Orlaith Gallagher, Communications
(Development) Division
Department of Public Enterprise
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 6041018/6041648
Email: orlaithgallagher@dpe.ie Website:
www.cait.ie

Noticeboard

Raising Your Profile

Date: Saturday 20th April, 2002 (10am - 4pm)
Venue: Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Is the work of your group or organisation going unnoticed? If you want to raise awareness of your group and the benefits of the work that it does, this one-day course is for you. By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Assess your current profile
- Identify and target your audience
- Define your message
- Identify appropriate communication tools for your group
- Develop a promotional strategy

Costs: €50 for Carmichael Centre members, non-staffed groups, €70 for Voluntary and community groups employing staff, €80 for FAS project participants, statutory sector staff.

Further Details/Booking Forms:

Gráinne Foy
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups
North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7.
Tel: 01 873 5282 Fax: 01 873 5283
Email: tdocarmichaelcentre@eircom.net

Strategic Planning for Voluntary Organisations

Date: Thursday 14 May, 2002(10am - 4.30pm).
Venue: Brooks Hotel, Drury Street, Dublin 2.

Date: Thursday 11 June, 2002(10am - 4.30pm).
Venue: Newpark Hotel, Castlecomer, Kilkenny.

One-day workshop that will cover:

- Definition of Strategic Planning
- How to Prepare a Strategic Plan
- Implementing a Strategic Plan

Participants are required to bring a copy of their organisation's mission statement and or their aims/objectives to the course. **Trainer: Derek Bell, Management Consultant.**

Costs: €70

Further Details/Booking Forms:

Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House,
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 6059000 Fax: 01 6059099
Email: Comhairle@comhairle.ie

"Defusing Anger When Working with Young People" - Strategies for Anger Management & Conflict Resolution

Date: Thursday 16 May, 2002.

Venue: Limerick.

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 26 April, 2002.

One-day introductory course for those working with young people in out-of-school settings. It is designed to enable participants to develop the knowledge and skills to manage anger and conflict situations when working with young people. The maximum number of participants is 20.

Cost: €50 per person (covers coffees, lunch and relevant course materials).

Further Information/Booking Form:

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

"Spotlight on Young Men's Health" Working with Young Men in Out-of-School Settings

Date: Thursday 23 May, 2002.

Venue: Portlaoise.

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 10 May, 2002.

Date: Tuesday 28 May, 2002.
Venue: Castlebar.
Closing Date for Applications: Friday 10 May, 2002.

Date: Thursday 20 June, 2002.
Venue: Donegal.
Closing date for Applications: 7 June, 2002.
One-day training course resulting from the outcomes of a National Conference of the same title organised by the NYHP and MHB in November 2001. The training course will explore the practical skills required for engaging with young men and a range of strategies for supporting young men both in groups and on a one-to-one level. The course will identify best practice in working with young men particularly around personal development issues. The maximum numbers of participants is 20.
Cost: €50 per person (covers coffees, lunch and relevant course materials)

Further Information/Booking Form:

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

Social Policy Work - Making a Difference at Local & National Level

Date: Thursday 30 May, 2002 (10am - 4.30pm)
Venue: Brooks Hotel, Drury Street, Dublin 2.

One-day workshop aimed at those in organisations who have an interest and experience in social policy work and have some responsibility for social policy development within their organisation. The workshop will focus on developing local policy initiatives and influencing local channels for policy development and will cover:

- Identifying and researching social policy issues;
- Collecting analysing and communicating information on the operation of social policies in practice;
- Networking and taking initiatives at local/regional level;
- Making submissions to relevant organisations and authorities;

*Liaising with Comhairle/ other statutory agencies
Trainer: Michael Browne, Research/Social Policy Consultant, Comhairle.
Costs: €70

Further Details/Booking Forms:

Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 6059000
Fax: 01 6059099
Email: Comhairle@comhairle.ie

Intercultural Awareness for Information Givers

Date: Wednesday 5 June, 2002 (10am - 4.30pm).
Venue: Brooks Hotel, Drury Street, Dublin 2.
Date: Tuesday 11 June, 2002 (10am - 4.30pm).
Venue: Dooley's Hotel, The Quay, Waterford.
One-day course aimed at helping participants to acquire the necessary awareness and information to understand the challenges associated with living and working in a multi-ethnic society in a participative manner including case studies and group work. The course will include information on the pressures and manifestations of racism, strategies to address it.
Trainer: Kensika Monshengwo, Training Officer, NCCRI.
Costs: €70

Further Details/Booking Forms:

Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 6059000 Fax: 01 6059099 Email: Comhairle@comhairle.ie

**"Too Hot to Handle?"
Promoting Sexual Health with Young People
in Out-of-School Settings**

Date: Thursday 6 & Friday 7 June, 2002.
Venue: Galway.
Closing Date for Applications: 17 May, 2002.

Date: Thursday 27 & Friday 28 June, 2002.
Venue: Dublin North.
Closing Date for Applications: 7 June, 2002.
Two-day training seminar for all those workers whose role it is to address the issues of relationships, sexuality and sexual health with young

people. It focuses on the key issues that need to be addressed with young people as well as providing participants with a range of skills and expertise to deal more effectively and professionally with these issues in out-of-school settings. This course is organised by the National Youth Health Programme and facilitated by the Alliance Centre for Sexual Health in Cork. The maximum number of participants is 20.

Cost: €100 per person (covers coffees, lunch and relevant course materials).

Further Information/Booking Form:

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

Tackling Drugs in the Community

Date: Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 June, 2002

Venue: Clontarf Castle, Hotel, Clontarf, Dublin 3.

Two-day conference, which will explore models of drug education with particular reference to the use of a Peer Education approach to tackling drug issues within the youth work sector. The conference format will include keynote addresses, inputs, workshops and plenary discussion and aims to:

- Provide an overview of drug issues and their impact on the daily lives of young people
- Support and facilitate participants to contribute their experiences in this field of work
- Highlight outcomes of the SUPER Programme
- Promote the benefits of Peer Education as a strategy in tackling drug issues
- Build awareness of initiatives developed by a range of agencies and to showcase Models of Good Practice
- Explore the measures available to develop initiatives and the factors that influence policy and practice at local level.

The conference will also incorporate the launch of the SUPER Resource Manual. This manual will draw upon exercises and activities used during the training phase of the National Youth Federation's SUPER (Substance Use Peer Education Responses) Programme. It will provide a practical resource for Local Youth Services and youth workers interested in working with young people to develop

peer led approaches to tackling drug issues in the local community. The exercises and activities, supported with facilitator's notes, will be designed for use in the youth club or youth project setting.

Further Details/Booking Forms:

**Fran Bissett
Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8729933
Fax: 01 8724183
Email: fbissett@nyf.ie**

"Stressed Out?" - Stress Management for those Working in Youth Work Settings

Date: Thursday 20 & Friday 21 June, 2002.

Venue: Castlebar.

Closing Date: Friday 31 May, 2002.

Two-day training course focusing on stress management techniques and strategies for those working in Out-of-School Settings. It provides workers and volunteers with an opportunity to explore the issues relating to how they deal with stress in the workplace and how to manage stress more effectively. The maximum number of participants is 20.

Cost: €100 per person (this covers coffees, lunch and relevant course materials).

Further Information/Booking Form:

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