

# Irish YouthWork Scene

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a journal for youth workers

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# Endorsing Quality

**Tony Murphy, NYF Chief Executive**

The recent launch of a Code of Good Practice (Child Protection for the Youth Work Sector) by the Minister of State for Youth, Ms Sile DeValera is certainly welcome. It was a well-managed event and the location within an attractive youth centre (Clare Youth Service, Ennis) gave added impetus to the word on everybody's lips: "Implementation". When will it happen? How will it be rolled out? Who will ensure the quality of delivery? What review mechanism will be put in place to ensure ongoing proofing of existing volunteers and staff personnel, as well as new recruits?

Prior to the publication of "Children First" (1999) and this Code of Practice (2002) most organisations realised that they carried an individual responsibility to produce guidelines for implementation. Some were quite proactive in doing so, while others waited in the wings far too long for the arrival of customised guidelines for the sector. But the youth work landscape is larger than those particular guidelines. We are still without proper screening facilities though it is muted that the Minister of State for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan is to establish an appropriate and adequate screening facility for all those working with children. This means not providing exclusive screening to Health Board Staff, Teachers, or making exceptions for Supervisors in school or those working with the Special Olympics Programme. Screening would, at minimum, ensure an additional safeguard.

Yet this would need to be supported by an island wide register of recognised and qualified staff as well as volunteers working within the system. Current discussions north and south with regard to agreeing professional endorsement for workers could help to move towards this in the short-term. It would also provide the facility whereby what has been available in Northern Ireland to Employers by way of the Pre-Employment Consultancy Service could now be available in the south - another quality standard for the provision of best practice youth work. We need to avoid the "tail wagging the youth work dog". Those trained in child protection procedures need not become 'moral police' dictating that anything and everything happening within a youth organisation shall now be determined by child protection procedures. We have had good practices prior to codes or national guidelines being introduced. The latter can certainly improve how we approach our work and how we may best do it.

But the correct emphasis could be more appropriately driven by thoughtful implementation of the proposals for the National Youth Work Plan 2002 - 2006 and linked to best practice youth work. To move towards Designating Local Groups, Establishing Local Voluntary Youth Councils, Approving and/or Authorising National Organisations are facilities that will help to check, proof, encourage and develop the standards that young people deserve, as well as those working with them. Child Protection and Volunteer Development cannot be taken as an either/or choice! Similarly, it may be time to speak of professional endorsement as having a link to a particular standard of employment for staff (i.e. salaries, grades, in-service opportunities etc.). For the State to value the work of the voluntary youth work sector, it should become a model of good practice in itself by endorsing the current and future quality of our work.

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## DISCLAIMER

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 or the Irish YouthWork Centre.

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# Promoting Youth Participation in Youth Service Provision

By Mary Doyle

## Introduction

If there is any area of provision where young peoples opinion should be heard and acted on it is in the development and provision of Youth Services. The generation has thankfully moved from an era where the opinion of the time was that young people should be "seen and not heard" to an era where young people can be heard but there remains a gap, in many cases, where the interaction stops with the hearing and where there is no action on the opinions or suggestions that come forward. All areas of development include consultation, but consultation only has value if there is a structure into which it can feed and be acted on. Without this structure consultation only leads to expectations that when not met lead to frustration.

During the early stages of the development of the first Strategic Plan for the Youth Service in Carlow, it was decided that we should consult with as many young people from the region as possible. To facilitate this process on an ongoing basis Carlow Youth Forum was set up. The success of the forum and the ideas coming from it created an awareness that a formal structure should be put in place to meet the representational needs of young people in the region. (See structural diagram on next page)

## Youth Forum

The Youth Forum, which is open to all young people in the County, meets each year in October. This timing enables consultation on the operational plan of the Youth Service for the coming year. The young people also have space to flag issues particular to their area that they feel should be brought to the attention of the decision makers. Before the General Election the forum met with all public representatives seeking election in the constituency to put their issues and opinions to the candidates.

The structure of the forum meeting is based on color-coded discussion groups with a facilitator and reporter for each group. There are usually twelve such groups with a membership of ten to twelve

delegates. Each group nominates a member to the advisory sub committee group. From this twelve two members are elected to the board.

At the election each person has a ballot paper on which they stick the color code they receive when they register, no code no vote. Each candidate makes a "political" speech outlining why they should be elected to the board. This part of the forum is a very formal process but is facilitated in a way that is fun for the participants.

## Youth Advisory Sub Committee

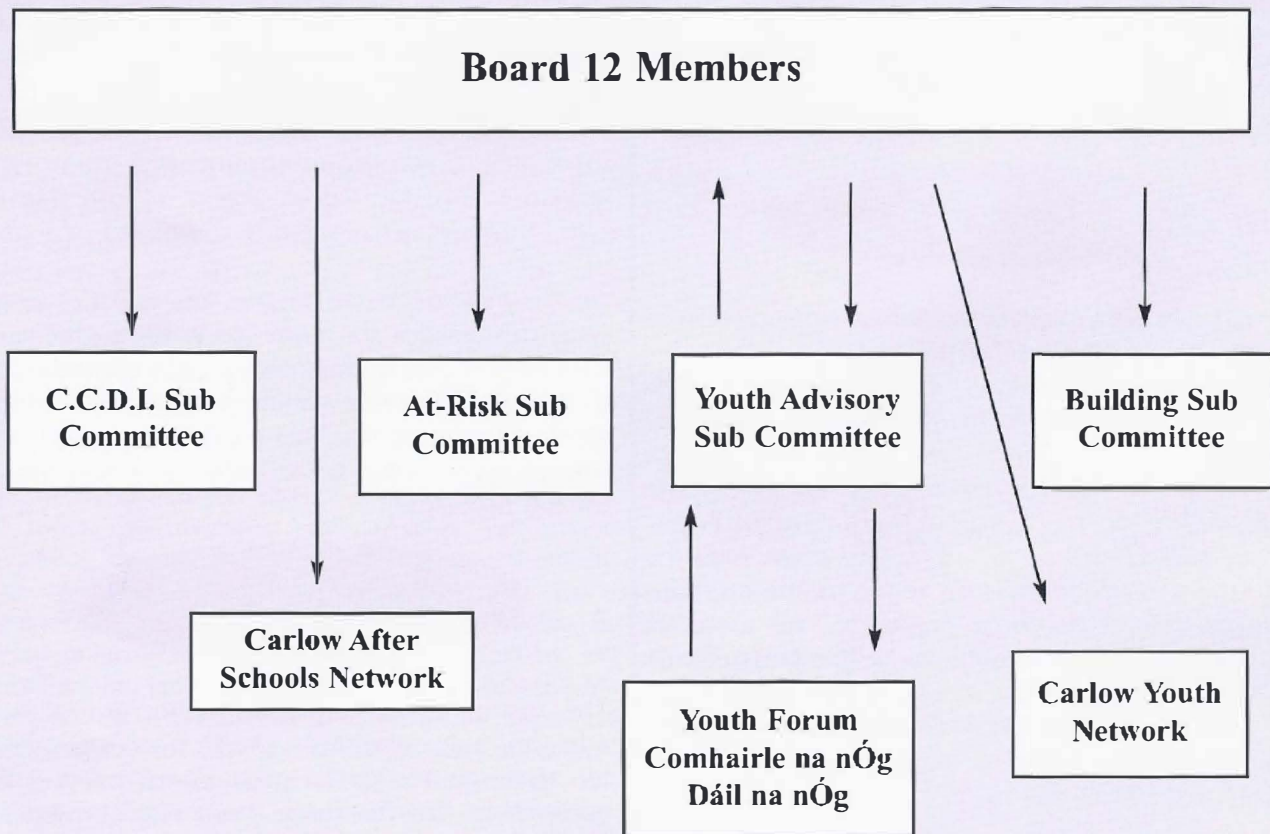
The forum elects ten young people to the youth advisory sub committee of the board, two of these ten then go forward to the board itself. This sub committee, like the three other sub committees for the board meets every two months. With the Development of Dáil Na nÓg and Comhairle Na nÓg the forum also elects two members to the Comhairle and one member to the Dáil as the forum now has representation on both these bodies.

## Support Structures

If there is to be meaningful participation by the young people the structures must be supported at all levels. A particular worker supports the Youth Forum and the sub committee. The Youth Forum members of the board each work with a board member who acts as their mentor. Without this support the young people would find it difficult to participate in the formal structures and working of the board and would quickly loose interest.

One of the difficulties we have is finding a venue that is attractive to young people but is not associated with alcohol sales. The forum ends with a Disco where one of the young bands facilitated by the Youth Service has an opportunity to show their talents to their peers. This group becomes the band of the year.

## The Structure



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# Irish Youth Work Training & Certification Forum

By Kevin Power

## Introduction

Youth work services has undergone substantial expansion in recent years. This has contributed to the increased professionalisation of youth work. Developments in the youth work sector increase the need for professional standards in the training and certification of youth workers. The Irish Youth Work Training And Certification Forum is an interagency grouping, which aims to promote and develop best practice on issues of training and certification for volunteers and staff within the sector.

Membership of the Forum includes representatives from:

- National Youth Council Of Ireland
- National Youth Federation
- City Of Dublin Youth Services Board
- Catholic Youth Council
- Foróige
- National Association For Youth Drama
- Irish Girl Guides
- Scouting Association Of Ireland.

## Current Focus

The Forum is currently working to identify and promote strategic initiatives to ensure that the differing needs of volunteers and staff are accommodated in best practise delivery of accredited training. Facilitating the network of youth organisations, the Forum provides an opportunity for developing a common agreement on standards, which will become recognised within the sector and beyond.

The Forum also provides a strong representative group to lobby and negotiate with relevant statutory bodies on all matters relating to training and certification. Currently The Forum is working

with FETAC on training issues, which include consultation meetings and submissions on proposed quality assurance systems for training providers.

## Other Roles

Members of the Forum will monitor the outcomes from the National Youth Work Advisory Committee and their impact on the training and needs of youth workers. Currently the Forum is seeking to be part of the dialogue on these matters with the NYWAC Sub Committee on Education and Training.

Under the leadership of an independent chair the Forum continues to develop as an organisational group and recent developments sees the forum recognised as the most strategically placed group to advise and consult on youth work training matters, the Forum provides a good structure for interagency collaboration so as to influence policymaking on training issues.

## Contact Details

The Forum will disseminate the outcomes from its work through the respective organisations. However if there are people who are interested in finding out more about the work, the Forum can be contacted at:

**Irish Youth Work Training and Certification  
Forum Secretariat**  
c/o 20 Dominick Street,  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8729933  
Fax: 01/8724183  
OR  
E-mail: r.griffin@nyci.ie

**Kevin Power is Quality Standards and Training Co-ordinator with the National Youth Federation and is a member of the Forum.**

# The Citizen Traveller Youth Charter

By Jacinta Brack

## Background

**Did you know? 80% of the 25,000 Travellers living in Ireland are under the age of 25 years.**

In February 2002, Citizen Traveller brought together a group of young Travellers aged 16 to 22 years from around Ireland, to chart their opinions on the issues, which affect their lives and compile a Youth Charter, to coincide with events planned for Traveller Focus Week (an annual one-week initiative).

To launch the Charter the young Traveller participants sent out a pre-election message to the Government in a media briefing, which stated, "Do not neglect our needs". The briefing was addressed by a number of young Travellers who had participated in the Charter.

Like all Travellers, young Travellers are not a homogenous group. They have different needs according to their living circumstances and lifestyles. So, both formal and informal responses to their needs should take their cultural and varying needs into consideration.

The central idea behind the Charter is to highlight the fact that all of the effects of racism and discrimination experienced by the community as a whole also impacts on young Travellers as a minority in a minority. It also focused on the need for specific measures to address matters of concern to them in a culturally appropriate way.

## Citizen Traveller Youth Charter

The Charter which follows highlights some of the issues of concern and recommendations by the young people themselves and how they can be addressed. However the areas identified are by no means exhaustive and highlight the main concerns of this particular group of young Travellers.

Underpinning all issues outlined below is that accurate and comprehensive data in relation to Travellers in Ireland should be available through the work of the Central Statistics Office, particularly through the National Census.

## Traveller Accommodation

There is an immediate need for Local Authorities to implement Traveller Accommodation Programmes required under the Housing & Traveller Accommodation Act, 1998 so that all Travellers will be living in good quality accommodation of their choice by the end of 2004. In the meantime some of the youth specific issues recounted by young Travellers on accommodation included:

### Actions

- Develop sites for the future ensuring security of accommodation for next generation
- Consult with young Travellers on the design & planning of recreational space on sites / schemes
- Plan for sites to be developed with access to other services and not in isolated areas

## Education

Education will play a key role in the future of Travellers lives. The numbers of Travellers participating in school is only part of the story. The absence of a comprehensive anti-bias and inter-cultural education system means that attendance at school is often a double-edged experience for Travellers. While benefiting from the skills offered through schooling, the school can also be a place where their cultural identity is threatened.

**Actions**

- Make Schools more accessible to Travellers, this may encourage Traveller children to continue with their education
- Prioritise education about Travellers for teachers and pupils
- Educate young people about the value of cultural diversity
- Ensure there is no segregation of Travellers in classes
- Develop models based on Mutual Respect

**Traveller Youth Services**

Youth work, as an educational process is expected to play a key role in enabling young people to analyse society. It is also expected to help them to develop the skills and capabilities they need to become involved in affecting change. Due to the gaps in education provision and the low uptake in the formal education sector, it is important that young Travellers have access to youth work services.

**Actions**

- Develop more on site services for young Travellers including outreach style courses
- Develop contemporary skills in training centres
- Encourage FAS and similar organisations to target and include young Travellers when they are entering the workforce

**Discrimination**

A citizen Traveller commissioned survey revealed that 42% of Irish people held negative views towards Travellers while 93% of Irish people would not accept a Traveller as part of his/her family, highlighting a high level of intolerance and discrimination within Irish society.

It is hopeful that the enforcement of the equality legislation and the implementation of proactive measures to create a more equal society would mean that Travellers live their lives free of discrimination. However, Traveller youth expressed immediate concerns related to inadequacies in Equal Status Legislation, e.g.

many service providers using Members Only policies

**Actions**

- To provide simplified information on acts passed including Equal Status Act and to encourage young Travellers to know their rights
- To provide employment opportunities for young Travellers and to encourage employers to proactively target Travellers in recruitment drives

**Drugs**

Research has highlighted that drug use is connected to both young people and those marginalised in society. There are clear connections in that Travellers are one of the youngest and most marginalised communities in Irish society.

**Actions**

- Develop education materials / messages on effects of Drugs and drive through Youth Reach /Youth Services
- To provide drugs information in a culturally appropriate way
- Advertise the services available to Traveller addicts in a culturally appropriate way and to be aware of difficulties in reading and writing
- Tackle the issues which lead to drug addiction including peer pressure & lack of recreational facilities
- To prioritise production of drugs materials in visual form for e.g. Video, as opposed to written literature

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# Research Profiling Participants in Garda Youth Diversion Projects Findings

By Fran Bissett

## Introduction

On 23 August the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Michael McDowell, T.D., published a research report that provides an in-depth profile of participants on Garda Youth Diversion Projects. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform commissioned The Centre for Social and Educational Research (CSER), at the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), to conduct an examination of participants of Garda Special Projects.

Since 1991, An Garda Síochána has operated Special Projects (Youth Diversion Projects), which aim to identify and work with young people at risk of involving themselves in criminal/anti-social behaviour. In recent years the number of Garda Youth Diversion Projects has increased significantly, from 12 in 1997 to 64 at present, with a corresponding budgetary increase, which now amounts to €6 million approx. per annum. The brief of the study was to develop a profile of the 'risk factors' which are thought to be prevalent in the lives of young people involved with the projects, which projects could then use to target their intake procedures towards those young persons most 'at risk'.

## Youth Diversion Projects Objectives

The Department funds the Projects and those involved in the management and running of the Projects include An Garda Síochána, Probation and Welfare Service, Youth Organisations, statutory and voluntary groups and local residents. Through a combination of intervention and prevention methods, the Projects aim to:

- Divert young people from becoming involved in criminal/anti social behaviour and;

- Provide suitable activities to facilitate personal development and encourage civic responsibility, and work towards improving the long-term employability prospects of the participants.

The long-term objective of these Projects is to enable the target group of 10-18 year olds to integrate into the labour force in a systematic manner and to prevent them becoming unemployable. Each project targets a number of young people 'at risk' and engages them in activities designed to achieve these objectives.

## Project Target Group

The Projects target young people in the 10-18 age group who are:

- Seriously at risk of becoming involved in the drugs and crime cycle;
- Already involved with crime, or likely to drop out of the educational system prematurely;
- In need of emotional and development support due to family circumstances;
- Unable to participate in other youth activities due to behavioural difficulties. (An Garda Síochána Special Projects, Policy Directive).

## Study Objectives

The aim of the research study launched by the Minister was to develop a profile of risk factors, which are thought to be prevalent in the lives of young people involved with the Gardaí Special Projects. The profile focuses on various aspects of the young people's lives including; socio-economic factors, i.e. focusing on the wider community in which the young people reside, e.g. types of housing, unemployment rates, etc; the



young people's general life styles, young people's perception of education and their levels of educational attainment, the nature of young people's relationships with family and friends and history of offending.

## Methodology

The profile of participants of Garda Special Projects was compiled through the collection and analysis of a range of data: (a) information from young people themselves on various aspects of their lives as well as their experiences of the Projects, (b) the use of Small Area Population Statistics in relation to the areas where Projects included in this study are located and (c) through the views of policy makers and service providers within the sector. In total 130 young people were included in the study.

## Report Outline

**Section One** provides a brief overview of the background, rationale and aims of this study and a brief summary of the research methodology.

**Section Two** presents a comprehensive review of related literature, to reflect on the importance of identifying risk factors with regard to young offending. The review reflects on the results of relevant European research and also describes a number of relevant prevention and intervention programmes.

**Section Three** presents a profile of young people involved in Garda Special Projects, with data collected from three sources, which include; Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from the 1996 Census of the Population, and individual and focus group interviews conducted with young people.

**Section Four** presents the views of service providers in relation to their perception of 'risk factors' and the group of young people with whom they work. This includes information collected from Project Co-ordinators and Community Gardaí working with Projects, which have been included in this study. A summary of data collected from additional interviews with other key personnel involved with the Projects

(including representatives from national Gardaí and youth organisations) is also provided.

## Participants Profile

The final section of the study (Section 5) provides a summary profile of participants currently participating in Garda Special Projects. The summary profile (outlined in the summary report) of the sample of participants of Garda Special Projects included in this study is as follows:

- This research has highlighted the extent to which the majority of areas in which the young people grow up and reside are homogenous, in the sense that they share many of the same characteristics and associated social problems. However, when considering risk factors a number of important variables must be accounted for. The risk indicators identified in this study are regarded as multifaceted and inter-related. A clear cycle of disadvantage exists with regard to the types of social problems faced by this group of young people within their communities;
- Key indicators of risk identified with regard to the communities in which young people live include high youth populations, the general lack of youth facilities and high levels of anti-social behaviour and intimidation;
- In addition, unemployment rates, rates of dependency on social welfare, levels of early school leaving, numbers of one parent families and households with more than four children were above the national average for all of the areas in which Projects included in this study were located;
- This group of young people also have very common needs. These include the needs of safe and structured environments, the need to have fun and to learn and experience new things and the need for positive role models in their lives. Service providers also identified the real need to support and promote parental involvement in the young people's lives;
- Aspirations of educational achievement

amongst the young people were low. Although 94 (85.5%) young people in the sample were currently attending school, just over half of these wished to complete their Leaving Certificate. The girls in the sample were more likely to want to complete either Junior or Leaving Certificate when compared to boys. On completion of school, boys were more likely to want to seek either an apprenticeship or employment. Higher proportions of girls (71.5%) to boys (8; 28.5%) wished to continue to third level education. Sixty-five young people in the sample had previously been suspended from school;

● Of the 16 young people (10 boys and 6 girls) in the sample who were currently not attending school, 11 had not completed any state examinations. Although this number is small relative to those currently attending school, the Gardaí Projects clearly have an important role to play in enhancing the future educational/employment aspects of this particular group of young people;

● The extent to which young people can be determined 'at risk' can also be examined by focusing on the young people's familial backgrounds. Research shows that young people living in two-parent households face a lower than average risk with regard to becoming involved in serious or persistent offending. The majority of young people (58; 52.8%) in this sample currently lived with both parents. Thirty-nine (35.5%) of the young people reported living in single parent households, mostly headed by women;

● Only 10 (9.1%) young people in the sample referred to their father as the most important person in their lives, perhaps indicating the lack of a significant male in the young people's lives;

● The number of young people included in the sample who reported previously being in trouble with the Gardaí was high (65; 59.1%). The most common reasons why young people had previously been in trouble with Gardaí related to robbing cars/vans/bikes;

● The frequency of young people's involvement in anti-social behaviours was also examined. A high number of young people were reported to having previously drunk alcohol (69). Following alcohol use, over half of the sample also reported being involved in the following behaviours to some degree - skipping school (65) and stealing from a shop/supermarket (59);

● Research has also shown a strong correlation between offending behaviour/antisocial behaviour of individual young people and that of their peers. 62 (56.4%) young people reported that someone close to them had previously been in trouble with the Gardaí.

## Conclusion

The study concludes by proposing that a longitudinal research study needs to be commissioned which could follow a number of young people's entry in to and exit out of Garda Special Projects. It relates this both to the need to evaluate the work of the Projects with young people 'at risk' over time and the commitment made in the National Development Plan (2000-2006) to significantly expand Gardaí Special Projects making it important that any future development of the programme is based on a sound theoretical basis and current research information, which adequately addresses user needs and programme aims

It is planned that the findings in the study will contribute to the development of comprehensive guidelines for the establishment, operation and management of Garda Youth Diversion projects. These guidelines are currently under preparation by the Department and the Garda Síochána, in conjunction with external consultants.

The study provides valuable reading and insight for anyone involved in or considering involvement in a youth diversion project and indeed any other youth project, that works with disadvantaged or disaffected young people. The section on *Understanding and Preventing Juvenile Offending* and the examples profiled in Section 2 is of particular interest.

**Copies of the research report and summary versions are available from:**

**Department of Justice,  
Equality and Law Reform  
72-76, St. Stephens Green  
Dublin 2  
Ireland.  
Tel: 01 6028202  
Fax: 0 6615461  
Email: [info@justice.ie](mailto:info@justice.ie)**

# Listening To The Voice of Young People

By Fran Bissett

## Introduction

On 5 September in Buswells Hotel, The Minister for Children, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., launched an important study on young people's participation in society, which was commissioned by the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative\*.

The study, entitled **Hearing Young Voices**, was conducted over the past year by Karen McAuley, Education Officer, Children's Rights Alliance, working with Marian Brattman, Research Officer, National Youth Council of Ireland.

The study is closely linked to the first National Goal of the National Children's Strategy which closely mirrors Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and states that "**children will have a voice in all matters that affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity**".

Hearing Young Voices identifies key issues for consideration in the development of good practice for consulting children and young people in relation to public policy developments affecting them at national and local level in Ireland. Particular attention is given to the challenge of enabling children and young people experiencing poverty or other forms of social exclusion to be heard.

## Research Methodology

The following research methodologies were selected and completed between August 2001 and March 2002:

- Undertook a substantial literature review
- Surveyed 124 relevant policy-makers and practitioners

- Conducted face-to-face interviews with ten policy-makers and practitioners, and
- Undertook focus group consultations with over sixty children and young people aged between 7 and 18 years.

## Research Aims

- To identify key issues for consideration in the development of good practice for consulting children and young people
- To promote an exploratory and child-centred approach to consultation with children and young people at the level of public policy
- To make recommendations on the actions required to progress the creation of meaningful, equitable and sustainable opportunities for children and young people to be heard at the level of public policy.

## Research Findings

The findings of the study are intended to:

- Encourage an exploratory and child-centred approach to consulting children and young people at the level of public policy, one that recognises children and young people as individuals and accommodates their specific needs and capacities
- Facilitate reflection by all statutory organisations and NGOs whose work impacts on children and young people on how they might create opportunities for children and young people to be heard that are meaningful, inclusive, sustainable and hence to the production of beneficial outcomes for all concerned

- Provide a foundation for future, in-depth research into one or more of the issues addressed in the study.

## Conclusion

The study makes comprehensive recommendations under a wide variety of headings including specific recommendations to both the National Children's Office and National Children's Strategy.

The study hopes that the findings and recommendations will facilitate relevant Government Departments, statutory agencies such as the National Children's Office and National Children's Strategy and NGOs at national and local level with meeting their responsibilities under Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Goal One of the National Children's Strategy.

The study itself comes to 220 pages but can be downloaded, either in full or in part, from the websites of the NYCI ([www.youth.ie](http://www.youth.ie)) or the Children's Rights Alliance ([www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)).

A comprehensive 50 page executive summary is also available.

**For copies of the study, executive summary or further information please contact:**

**Children's Rights Alliance**  
13 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2.  
Tel: 01 4054823  
Email: [info@cra.ie](mailto:info@cra.ie)  
Website: [www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)

**OR**

**National Youth Council of Ireland**  
3 Montague Street  
Dublin 2.  
Tel: 01 4784122  
Email: [info@nyci.ie](mailto:info@nyci.ie)  
Website: [www.nyci.ie](http://www.nyci.ie)

*\* Hearing Young Voices was funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and commissioned by the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative.*

The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative comprises the following eight agencies:

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**Children's Rights Alliance, 13 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.**  
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Website: [www.childrensrights.ie](http://www.childrensrights.ie)

**Combat Poverty Agency, Bridgewater Centre, Conynham Road, Dublin 8.**  
Tel: (01) 6706746  
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Website: [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie)

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Tel: (01) 6712555  
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Website: [www.focusireland.ie](http://www.focusireland.ie)

**National Youth Council of Ireland, 3 Montague Street, Dublin 2.**  
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Website: [www.paveepoint.ie](http://www.paveepoint.ie)

**People with Disabilities Ireland, Richmond Square, Morning Star Avenue, Dublin 7.**  
Tel: (01) 8721744  
E-mail: [info@pwdi.ie](mailto:info@pwdi.ie)

**Saint Vincent de Paul, 8 New Cabra Road, Dublin 7.**  
Tel: (01) 8384164  
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Website: [www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

# Policy & Funding

## MINISTER LAUNCHES NEW CHILD PROTECTION CODE OF PRACTICE

On 5 September in the Ennis Youth Centre, the Minister for Youth Affairs, Ms. Sile De Valera T.D., launched the long awaited Code of Good Practice: Child Protection for The Youth Work Sector, produced by the National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC) in consultation with youth organisations.

The primary aim of the code is to give guidance and direction to the youth work sector in dealing with allegations/suspicion of child abuse. It also aims to provide sufficient, relevant and current information for those involved in the youth work sector to be vigilant and aware of how to respond in situations where child abuse may be a concern or suspicion.

The Code is divided into the following eight sections:

- Section One: Introduction and Legal Framework
- Section Two: Principles of Youth Policy
- Section Three: The Rights of the Young Person
- Section Four: The Development of Quality Standards in Youth Work
- Section Five: Safe Practices in Youth Work
- Section Six: Understanding and Recognising Child Abuse (includes the issues of disclosure and confidentiality)
- Section Seven: Reporting Procedures in Respect of Respected or Actual Child Abuse
- Section Eight: Action to be taken when an Allegation is made Against Employees, Volunteers or other Members of the Organisation/Group

The Code also contains a useful and valuable set of Appendices including:

- Sample Volunteer Application Form
- Sample Volunteer Reference Form
- Form for Reporting Child Protection and/or Welfare Concerns
- Listing of Health Board Child Care Managers
- Implications on both the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts on the storage of information
- Reference and resource materials and useful contacts.

For further information/copies of the Code contact:

Department of Education & Science  
 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.  
 Tel: 01 8734700 Fax: 01 8787932 Website:  
[www.irlgov.ie/educ](http://www.irlgov.ie/educ) OR

Government Publications Sales Office  
 Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street  
 Dublin 2. Tel 01 6476000

## MINISTER ANNOUNCES ALLOCATION OF FUNDING UNDER THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND

On 19 August, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D. announced that 18 organisations/groups are to receive funding under the European Refugee Fund (ERF) for projects related to the reception of asylum seekers, integration of refugees and voluntary repatriation for budget year 2002.

In September, 2000 the Council of the European Union adopted a decision establishing a European Refugee Fund (ERF). Its purpose is to support and encourage the efforts made by Member States in receiving asylum seekers, integrating refugees and voluntary repatriation projects. €917,000 has been allocated to Ireland for funding projects for the budget year 2002. The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) is the designated responsible authority for administration of the fund in Ireland.

Following the publication of advertisements in the national press, a Selection Committee comprising non-governmental organisations was established by the Reception and Integration Agency to assess eligible proposals and allocate the available funding.

Arising from that process, grants ranging between €3,400 and €150,000 have been approved for the following organisations/groups:

**SOCRATES EU MINERVA PROGRAMME  
CALLS FOR PRE-PROPOSALS**

- A Part of Ireland Now Project
- African Refugee Network
- African Solidarity Centre
- Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Clann Housing Association Limited
- Comhlámh
- Development Organisation for Refugee and Asylum Seekers (DORAS Luimni)
- Ennis Development Education Group (EDEG)/Clare Women's Network
- Galway Refugee Support Group
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Irish Refugee Council (IRC)
- Longford Women's Centre
- Pavee Point Travellers Centre (Roma Initiative)
- Spiritan Asylum Services Initiative (SPIRASI)
- Tallaght Intercultural Action (TIA)
- Tralee Refugee and Asylum Support Network
- The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (CFJ)
- Vincentian Refugee Centre

Examples of the type of initiatives being grant-aided

include the following:

- Continued support of a specialist centre for the care and rehabilitation of those who have survived torture in their pre-migratory environments;
- Provision of information, advice and support at local level by the development of 'Drop in Centres';
- Provision of support and links for women who have lodged applications for asylum or applications for leave to remain within the State with local women's networks;
- Developing stronger links and a support network for the Roma community within the State;
- Raising better awareness and understanding among the general public to issues facing asylum seekers and refugees and explain the root causes that lead them to flee their countries of origin.

In making the announcement, the Minister emphasised the particular role that local community based groups can play in this regard. The Minister also said that ERF funding will be available in due course in respect of the budget year 2003 and the Reception and Integration Agency expects to advertise a further national call for proposals towards the end of the year.

The Socrates EU Minerva Action seeks to promote European co-operation in the field of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education.

The Action has three main objectives, (1) to promote understanding among teachers, learners, decision-makers and the public at large of the implications of ODL and ICT for education, as well as the critical and responsible use of ICT for educational purposes; (2) to ensure that pedagogical considerations are given proper weight in the development of ICT and multimedia-based educational products and services; and (3) to promote access to improved methods and educational resources as well as to results and best practices in this field.

Minerva is open to all institutions and organisations:

- Working in the area of ICT and ODL
- Resource centres or other organisations with expertise in the field of "ICT in Education" and/or ODL
- All types of educational institutions and providers
- Distance education institutions; Associations of Teachers and Learners
- Research teams working in the field of "ICT in Education" and/or ODL
- Academic/educational associations or consortia at national or European level
- Organisations/institutions involved in educational innovation
- Public or private publishers /producers/ broadcasters and agencies in the field of ICT and multimedia.

For projects under Minerva, a partnership must include at least one eligible institution in each of at least three participating countries, at least one of which must be a member state of the European Union. A call for pre-proposals is now being issued for submission directly to the EU Commission no later than 1 November 2002.

**For further information contact:**  
 Department of Justice,  
 Equality and Law Reform  
 72-76, St. Stephens Green  
 Dublin 2.  
 Tel: 01 6028202 Fax: 01 6615461  
 Email: info@justice.ie

**For further information and application forms contact:**  
 Gerry O'Sullivan, Minerva  
 The Higher Education Authority  
 An tÚdarás um Ard Oideachas  
 Marine House, Clanwilliam Court,  
 Dublin 2 Tel. 01 4392191 Email:  
 Gerry@hea.ie Website: www.heia.ie

# Resources

## ALCOHOL AWARENESS

**Drinking - Know the Score (2002)**  
*By the Garda Schools Programme & the  
 Cider Industry Council*

Video aid for schools, youth groups and youth sports clubs aimed at 12-18 year olds. Produced to facilitate members of an Garda Siochana, Juvenile Liaison Officers, teachers and group leaders in opening up the topic of 'underage drinking' to young people, assisting them in their decision-making and outlining to them the realistic problems that can be associated with underage and binge drinking.

It comprises a series of vox pops and four separate scenarios to be used as stand alone items or as the basis of a discussion programme as a whole. It should promote discussion and debate and improve young people's awareness and understanding of the affects and outcomes of alcohol.

## COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

**So you're on a Committee Now ... (1999)**  
*By Michael Kindred  
 and Malcolm Goldsmith*

Guide which covers a number of different aspects of committees and how we can make them more effective. Some of the areas covered include:

- Coming to terms with committees
- What is the purpose of a committee
- The role of the chairperson
- The role of the secretary
- The role of the treasurer
- Drawing up an agenda
- Proposing a Motion ... and Voting
- Confidentiality
- Standing and Executive and Sub-committees
- The 'powers' behind the committee

## COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

**Community Education and  
 Neighbourhood Renewal (2002)**  
*By Jane Thompson*

Practical guide which examines community education and neighbourhood renewal. It points out the opportunities, challenges and dilemmas raised by government policy, and offers practical advice to allow for sustainable initiatives, active citizenship and social change.

Based on over 25 years' experience of working in community education in poor neighbourhoods, this publication offers insight, advice, examples and resources aimed at community education practitioners who want to make a difference. It is an essential guide for anyone involved in neighbourhood renewal strategies and interested in the part that community education has to play.

**Spreading the Word: Reaching  
 Out to New Learners (2002)**  
*By Veronica McGivney*

Concise guide which brings together different aspects of outreach education: what it is, its position in the current learning environment and essential resource implications, as well as point-by-point stages in setting up and implementing an outreach strategy. With the help of checklists and trouble-shooting tips it also provides help in assessing the impact of outreach activities and methods for achieving sustainable provision.

**Managing Community Projects  
 for Change (2002)**  
*By Jan Eldred*

Practical guide based on experience of running and managing projects in adult and community learning contexts. It covers the essential features of managing staff, information and funding as well as partnership planning and includes useful tips, checklists and a glossary. It documents the project management stages from bidding for funding to exit planning and dissemination and offers insights into the importance of short-term projects and how to get the most out of them.

## GROUP & TEAM WORK

### **Once Upon A Group ... (1998)** **A Book to Help Members of Groups** **By Michael and Maggie Kindred**

Practical handbook which offers ways of gaining insights into group dynamics, while at the same time helping to overcome some of the anxieties and doubts which can make people shy away from anything to do with groups and their workings.

### **Once Upon a Group: Exercises (1998)** **By Michael and Maggie Kindred**

Practical workbook which aims to build on the 'things which go on in a group' set out in *Once Upon A Group*. The exercises apply to task centred training groups and addresses particular aspects of people's identity based on their race, age, sexual orientation, degree of physical ability, or gender.

### **Developing Teamwork ... (2002)** **By Malcolm Goldsmith and Michael Kindred**

Handbook which defines what a team is, what they are for and the elements that make up an efficient and effective team in the context of understanding personalities and how personality differences can be used to advantage in team situations.

### **Once Upon a Team: Exercises (2001)** **By Michael and Maggie Kindred**

Workbook which focuses on making teamwork, which covers everything from a sports club to a family group, more effective, enriching and fun by an understanding of its processes and ingredients which distinguish teams from groups. It provides a number of exercises including questionnaires, action sheets, work sheets and debriefing sessions which all aim to encourage team development.

## HOMELESSNESS

### **Putting People First: A Good Practice Handbook for Homeless Services (2002)** **By Roger Courtney**

Handbook produced by the Homeless Initiative to be used as a tool by the providers of services to homeless people in developing and improving service quality and practice. It contains quality standards and performance measures for homeless services. They are designed to provide targets and a framework for the continuous

improvement of services for homeless people and form part of an overall quality improvement programme.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

### **My Names Not Down ... (2002)** **By Youthstart & the Department of Education & Science**

Video resource which was developed as part of young people's contribution to a conference entitled '*Future Directions*', aiming to improve guidance provision for young people at risk by bringing together persons with responsibility for the policy and practice of guidance in formal education and in support programmes such as Youthreach.

## VIOLENCE & YOUNG PEOPLE

### **Working it Out: A Handbook for Violence Prevention in Work with Young People** **By Stephen Briault (2002)**

Handbook which aims to contribute to work on the prevention of all kinds of violence involving young people. It offers help for daily practice with ideas and activities on the following themes:

- Youth violence as a current social phenomenon.
- The significant role of further education and the social professions in preventing violence.
- Some definitions of violence.
- Background/ causes of violence in young people.
- Developing strategies to deal with violence.
- Educational measures to prevent violence.
- Intervention techniques for acute situations.
- Dealing with violent incidents.
- Staff development requirements.
- Violence prevention as an integrated process in the development of organisations.

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 CPA, DEFY, Directory of Social Change, NYCI, Nightshift Publications and Russell House Publishing.

Further Information from:  
Fran Bissett  
Irish YouthWork Centre  
National Youth Federation  
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: (01) 8729933 Fax: (01) 8724183  
E-mail: fbissett@nyf.ie



# Round-Up

## BACK TO EDUCATION SCHEME TO ASSIST SOCIAL WELFARE CUSTOMERS

On 22 August Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, announced the extension of the scheme which includes a once off start of term payment of €254 and a weekly allowance, which is also paid during holidays, to people who want to return to second or third level education.

Minister Coughlan said.

*"Education is key to economic and social empowerment - this allowance can help provide some of the most marginalized people in our society with a second-chance to access educational opportunities and skills. I urge Social Welfare customers who are thinking about full-time education to consider this allowance and contact my Department."*

The Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) is an educational opportunities scheme for people who are getting certain payments from the Department of Social and Family Affairs and who wish to pursue approved full time second or third level education courses. Examples of those who could qualify include unemployed people, lone parents, people with disabilities and people receiving Farm Assist. The scheme has grown significantly from 1990/91 where less than 100 people participated, this has increased to 5,314 during the 2001/02 academic year.

The allowance is payable at the equivalent of the maximum rate of the current social welfare payment being received by the individual and is not means tested. It is paid each week during the full duration of the course, including holidays. The amount of the payment is not affected if the person gets part-time or summer work and secondary benefits, such as Christmas bonus and fuel allowance are retained.

The allowance also includes increases for a qualified adult and children where applicable. In

addition to the weekly payment, the applicant is also entitled to an annual allowance, currently €254, payable at the start of each academic year.

The Qualified Adult, of a person who is eligible for the BTEA, can qualify for the allowance in his or her own right. They can receive an allowance equivalent to the maximum weekly personal rate of the relevant social welfare payment, which their spouse/partner receives. They are also entitled to the annual allowance. Thus both partners can receive the allowance while pursuing approved courses.

Application forms and more information are available from:

Local Social Welfare Offices or the  
Department's Information Service  
(Tel: 01 704300)

Information is also available on the  
Department's website at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS FOR FIXED-TERM CONTRACT WORKERS ON THE WAY

On 22 August, Mr. Frank Fahey TD, Minister for Labour Affairs, announced that he would be bringing proposals to Government seeking approval to have a Bill drafted which will give employment rights entitlements to fixed-term contract workers arising from an EU Directive.

The proposed legislation is designed to give effect to the provisions of EU Council Directive 1999/70/EC of 28 June 1999 concerning the Framework Agreement on Fixed-Term Work concluded by the general cross-industry organisations at European level - UNICE (the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe), CEEP (the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation) and ETUC (the European Trade Union Confederation) on 18 March 1999.

The scope of this Directive is expressed as applying to fixed-term workers who have an employment contract or employment relationship as defined by the law, collective agreement or practice in force in each Member State.

Minister Fahey stated, *"the proposed Bill will provide for the removal of discrimination against fixed-term workers where such exists and will also guarantee that fixed-term workers may not be treated less favourably than comparable permanent workers."*

The proposed Bill will also improve the quality of fixed-term work by:

- Putting limits on the number of times fixed-term contracts can be renewed with the objective being to move such workers into permanent employment;
- Obliging employers to inform fixed-term workers about vacancies for permanent employment that become available in the workplace and
- Obliging employers to include fixed term-workers when calculating the thresholds above which workers' representative bodies may be constituted in an undertaking, as required by national laws.

The Minister thanked both ICTU and IBEC for their inputs to the process of drafting the Directive at European level and during the work of the Group set up by his Department to examine thoroughly the measures necessary for the implementation of the Directive in Ireland and concluded by stating:

*"that he hopes to have the Bill published in the near future and bring it before the Oireachtas in the next session".*

## ENTITLEMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BOOKLET PUBLISHED

9th edition of this guide first published in 1981 by Comhairle, the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy to members of the public on social services. Comhairle has a particular remit to support people with disabilities in accessing their entitlements.

The booklet aims to explain, as clearly and simply as possible, the various cash payments, benefits,

and other services available to people who are ill or who have a disability.

Sections covered in the booklet include the following:

- Payments for the sick and those with disabilities
- Payments for carers
- Widows, widowers, and one parent families
- Payments for unemployed people
- Payments for older people
- Other payments
- Benefits in kind
- Benefits under E.U. regulations and bilateral social security agreements
- Health services
- Community care services
- Transport and travel
- Legal
- Housing
- Income tax
- Education
- Training
- Employment
- Equality
- Further information and support
- Rates of payment

The booklet is a useful and practical guide to services and rights for people with disabilities, their families and carers, and for information givers and the general public.

It is available in large print format, in Braille, on audiotape or on floppy disc upon request from:

Comhairle  
7th Floor  
Hume House  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4.  
Tel: (01) 605 9000.

It is also available on the Comhairle website at [www.comhairle.ie](http://www.comhairle.ie) or from your local Citizens Information Centre.

# Noticeboard

## The Future is Ours - Be the Change

**Date:** Tuesday 22 October & Wednesday 23 October, 2002.

**Venue:** Jury's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Two-day participative conference organised by The Wheel which aims to explore the concept of 'Civil Society' in the 21st century. It aims to provide a greater understanding of the different forces that are shaping the world in which we live and work; an opportunity to meet and network with people from all sections of Irish society in a unique environment; and to debate how citizens, who are passive become active through civil society.

**Cost:** €125 (Community & Voluntary Sector)  
€550 (Other Sectors)

### Further Details/Booking Forms contact:

The Wheel  
ISFC  
10 Grattan Crescent  
Inchicore  
Dublin 8  
Tel: (01) 4548727  
E-mail: [info@wheel.ie](mailto:info@wheel.ie)  
Website: [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

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

**Date:** Thursday 31 October, 2002.

**Venue:** Glentworth Hotel, Limerick.

**Date:** Tuesday 12 November, 2002.

**Venue:** All Hallows College, Drumcondra.

One-day training course provided by the National Youth Health Programme (NYHP) and the Health Promotion Departments of the Regional Health Boards, which 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.

**Cost:** €50 per person.

## "It's Your Choice!" - Exploring the Issue of Alcohol with Young People Using Arts-based Methodologies

**Date:** Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 November, 2002.

**Venue:** Marino Institute of Education, Dublin 9.

**Date:** Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 November, 2002.

**Venue:** To be decided.

Two-day course aimed at those who plan to address the issue of alcohol with young people in out-of-school settings. It will provide opportunities to explore ways of addressing young people's relationship with alcohol using drama and video. The course is based on "It's Your Choice" alcohol issues and video resource manual developed by the NYHP in 2001.

**Cost:** €100 per person.

## Defusing Anger When Working with Young People

**Date:** Thursday 21 November, 2002.

**Venue:** Star of the Sea Retreat Centre, Sligo.

One-day training course for all those working with young people in out-of-school settings.

Its objectives are:

- To explore the experiences of workers in dealing with anger when working with young people
- To identify situations where workers encounter anger with young people
- To identify the skills required by workers to deal with these situations
- To examine strategies for defusing anger with young people.

**Cost:** €50.00 per person.

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

**Date:** Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 November, 2002.

**Venue:** Wexford.

Two-day training course focusing on stress management techniques and strategies for those working in out-of-school settings. It will provide participants with an opportunity to explore the

issues relating to how they deal with stress in the workplace and how to manage stress more effectively.

**Cost:** €100 per person.

### **The Social Network Map - A Tool for Examining Social Networks with Young People**

**Date:** Thursday 28 November, 2002.

**Venue:** Limerick.

One-day training course which will train participants in the use of the Social Network Map (SNM) as a methodology for working with young people. The SNM is a work practice tool that can be used with young people to help them identify and access the strengths and weaknesses of their social supports.

**Cost:** €50.00 per person.

### **Influencing Health Behaviour Change with Young People**

**Date:** Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 December, 2002.

**Venue:** Merlin Park Hospital, Co. Galway.

Two-day practical training course for those working with young people on health related issues in out-of-school settings. It is being jointly organised by the National Youth Health programme and the Health Promotion Department of the Regional Health Boards.

**Cost:** €100.00

### **Developing a Strategy for Dealing with the Drugs Issue in Out-of-School Settings**

**Date:** Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 December, 2002.

**Venue:** Drogheda.

Two-day training course based on the Youth Work Support pack for Dealing with the Drugs Issue which offers workers an approach for dealing with the Drugs Issue from an organisational perspective. The primary focus of this course is to facilitate and support workers towards the development of an organisational strategy and drugs policy for their own work setting.

**Cost:** €100 per person.

**Further Details/Booking Forms on above courses contact:**

**The National Youth Health Programme**  
 3 Montague Street  
 Dublin 2  
 Tel: (01) 478 4122  
 Fax: (01) 4783974  
 E-mail: nyhp@nyci.ie

### **Writing Funding Proposals**

**Date:** Thursday 21 November, 2002.

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

**Facilitator:** Isabelle Wallace.

One-day course aimed at anyone who wants to produce successful funding proposals for their group. By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Compile the background information for a funding proposal
- Write a clear project description
- Produce a detailed and compelling statement of need
- Identify and estimate relevant costs - including budget narrative.

### **Training Design & Delivery**

**Date:** Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 & Friday 13 December, 2002.

**Venue:** Coleraine House, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7.

**Facilitators:** Sheila Cahill, Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups & Ann-Marie McFeeley, Accelerate.

Three-day course designed to bring together state-of-the-art training methodology with a sound understanding of the voluntary and community sector. It is hoped that trainers who attend this course will go on to deliver courses on the Carmichael Centre training programme. Applications from freelance trainers, or those prepared to deliver training outside their own organisation, will be given priority.

**Cost:** €195 (Community & Voluntary Sector)  
 €320 (Statutory Organisations/Training Companies)

**Further Details/Booking Forms on above courses contact:**

**Emily O'Neill**  
**Training & Development Officer**  
 Carmichael Centre  
 North Brunswick Street  
 Dublin 7  
 Tel: (01) 873 5282  
 E-mail: tdocarmichaelcentre@eircom.net  
 Website: www.carmichaelcentre.ie