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Youth
work
SCENE

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**Education Policy
and the Youth Service**

**Production Schools
in Denmark**

A magazine for Irish youth workers ...

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It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward your point of views. Send in news, photos (black & white only), comments, letters or articles to the editor.

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Honest Work, Honest Pay

Youthwork is about education. Every year one quarter of a million young people willingly participate in some type of leisure activity with the potential to assist their personal development. A key aspect of this "informal education" agenda is social education, including preparation for citizenship and awareness of community interdependence. The youth service has a proud history of innovation and success in this regard.

It is ironic therefore that the 400 or so career youthworkers who develop such programmes and support thousands of volunteer leaders to run them is being so poorly served by the community at large, and by the government in particular. The issue which prompts this observation is the youth service pay bill and the government's failure to accept any responsibility for it.

Speaking in the Dail in June, 1991 the then Minister for Education Mrs Mary O'Rourke TD stated that: "Grants are paid by my Department towards the costs of various voluntary youth organisations under the youth programme both in respect of their general activities and in respect of specific projects. As these are private organisations the conditions of employment and remuneration of their employees is a matter for determination by the organisations themselves within their total budget."

This position may be understandable in terms of political expediency but it also verges on the dishonest. The government funded the growth of the youth service by paying for the employment of additional youthworkers. It must either acknowledge that it is no longer willing or able to fund these posts properly or else it must ensure that grant support matches the underlying rate of wage inflation.

It is nothing new for the government to trade upon the motivation of employees in the "caring professions". And in general terms youthworkers have shown themselves willing to make sacrifices to preserve their co-workers jobs and the programmes of their organisations. But this is not a sustainable strategy - particularly when the government appears willing to treat different organisations and groups of staff differently.

The government acknowledges that its own wage bill increased by almost 10% per year for each of the past two years. This growth was made up of the basic PESP cost-of-living increase, incremental pay awards and special pay awards. One such special award of particular relevance to the youth service was that made to teachers whose salary scales provide a clear benchmark for youthworker salaries.

At the same time as the public service pay bill climbed by 20% grants to most youth organisations stayed roughly frozen - and in some cases actually fell. With pay accounting for the overwhelming part of organisational budgets this position is simply untenable. Most organisations have attempted to compensate by economising, pay capping and deficit budgeting. None of these are sustainable strategies in the longer term. Already there has been a small number of redundancies. This can only be the prelude to a more substantial round of job cuts during 1993 unless something significant is done.

In fairness it must also be acknowledged that the Department of Education has improved other aspects of funding for youth organisations over the past two years - particularly in regard to confirmation of grant support levels and more timely release of payments - which have greatly assisted budgeting and cashflow management. Such changes are very welcome and deserve to be acknowledged. But the financial problems of voluntary youth organisations cannot be properly resolved without an adequate response to the pay issue. And the options available to youth organisations acting by themselves are very limited.

JD

Education Policy & the Youth Service

Youth work

FOCUS

This article is based on an address by Micheál Ó Néill, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education to a consultative forum on the Green Paper "Education for A Changing World", organised by Minister for Youth Affairs, Liam Aylward TD on 4 November, 1992.

The consultation process we are embarking on is taking place as part of the Green Paper process.

This is an advantage in that it provides the opportunity of stitching youth work firmly into the education system once and for all.

It could be seen as a disadvantage in that it subjects the process to a wider agenda and a wider time table.

The wider timetable envisages completion of the Green Paper discussion phase by the end of the year and a White Paper and heads of a bill early in the new year. This timetable requires decisions on how youth work should be represented in the White Paper and in subsequent legislation.

The wider agenda means that we have to fit youth work into an education system which is itself in the process of review and change. The most relevant issue here is the debate on an intermediate tier between schools and the Department and the future of the VECs. The outcome of that debate will have a direct impact on our proposed framework.

"we have to fit youth work into an education system which is itself in the process of review and change"

In approaching the youth work entry in the Green Paper, we started with the belief that there is general agreement that the current arrangements are not perfect.

We put a strong emphasis on organisation and on structures as we believe that this is where much of the weakness lies. This emphasis should not be misinterpreted. Good organisation, to my mind, is unobtrusive. With good organisation, the right thing gets done at the right time without fuss or bother. People know where they stand. They know the limits within which they can make their own choices and decisions. They know how to set about getting

resources and how these resources are distributed. They know on what grounds their efforts will be judged. Good organisation is not rigid or inflexible. It supports people in their work and is not an undue hindrance.

What we have in mind is to get the structure right once and for all so that we can all concentrate our attention on the core business.

The core business is the delivery of youth work, i.e. the interaction between young people and youth workers and the educational outcomes of this interaction.

Everything else constitutes support and must be judged on the contribution it makes to the actual delivery of youth work.

What we set out in the Green Paper is merely the outline of a framework for the future. We could have spelt it out in minute detail. We consider it preferable, however, to block out the outline only so that we can involve youth organisations in a real and constructive partnership in fleshing out the proposals.

We want certain things out of this process. We are not assuming that there is only one way in which our requirements can be met. The main things we will be looking for are:

- effective mechanisms for ensuring quality of service and value for money;
- a clear formula for distributing resources between organisations and projects capable of taking account of changing needs and circumstances;
- consistency of service across areas/regions;
- clarity in distinction between youth work and other social services accompanied by greater co-ordination and co-operation between them both at local and national levels
- retention and support of the volunteer element of youth work.

We are very conscious that change of any kind awakens fears, fears that there will be big winners and losers.

We want big winners out of this exercise. We want young people to be the big winners. But we do not want any of your organisations to see themselves as losers and this will be a major concern of ours during the consultation process. A good deal is a deal which leaves everyone reasonably happy.

Possible future framework

The framework for the future, as I would see it, would be as follows:

Delivery of youth work by four categories of groups:

- independent local entities, i.e. clubs, projects, community groupings unaffiliated to any larger organisation;
- local affiliates of national federated bodies;
- local elements of national unitary bodies;
- local elements of area youth service, through special projects perhaps.

Support for the delivery of youth work would be provided both at area and at national level.

"we want young people to be the big winners"

Support would be provided at area level by an area youth service commissioned to provide the service for a specific period. This area support would include:

- assistance with programme development;
- training;
- identification of local needs and promotion of arrangements to meet these needs including facilitating recruitment of local volunteers;
- information and advice. *over*

Support would be provided at national level by the national organisations.

Apart from delivery and direct support, there remains another essential function.

This is co-ordination and liaison. This need arises both at local level and at national level. It involves in the first instance co-ordination and liaison between the various organisations directly involved in youth work. It must also extend, however, to organisations involved in providing other services to young people.

The area youth service will meet part of this need at local level but will not be enough. There is a continued role, therefore, for the Local Voluntary Youth Council, operating within two circles - the youth work constituency and the broader constituency of those *working with young people from a variety of statutory and voluntary services*. This role would include providing a forum for interacting with the VEC in its role as a commissioning agency. Developing this relationship will be one of the tasks for the consultation process and we would envisage a role in this discussion for the Monitoring Committee of the Local Voluntary Youth Councils.

"We see advantages in the diversity of approach which different organisations bring to youth work."

At national level, a forum such as we are setting up for this current consultation process could make a permanent contribution. Again, two groupings are involved - one consisting of the Department and the youth organisations and the other including Justice, Health, Social Welfare etc.

You will see that we are providing for a continuing role for national youth organisations.

We see advantages in the diversity of approach which different organisations bring to youth work. We see advantages in the extra commitment individuals make to an organisation with which they have a particular affinity or association.

It is true that a diversity of organisations does not make for a simple structure but we should be able to devise arrangements which will accommodate this diversity without duplication or waste of resources.

Neither is this diversity of approach inconsistent with uniformity

in other areas, such as objectives and standards.

"distribution of resources to areas or regions as global allocations ... leaving decisions on the application of these resources to be taken at these subordinate levels"

The Department wants to divest itself of as much routine executive work as possible so that it can concentrate in future on what it sees as its real function - the management of the education system at a macro level.

We want to see decisions taken as near to the action as possible.

This would be done within a number of frameworks and a quality control and assurance framework.

For youth work, this points to the distribution of resources to areas or regions as global allocations based on some general criteria, leaving decisions on the application of these resources to be taken at these subordinate levels in a way which will take account of local circumstances, local needs, knowledge and local choices.

A continuing role for national organisations requires a continuation of funding to them. In specifying youth work support, we will need to identify the respective contributions of the national organisation head offices and of the area youth services. This, in turn, will point to the amount of the funding to be distributed through national organisations and through area youth services.

It is not unreasonable to suggest that the geographic distribution of resources for mainline youth work should reflect some general criterion such as population distribution, or the distribution of young people between 15 and 25. One could argue for the inclusion of other factors such as the effect of distance in sparsely-populated rural areas.

Similarly, the distribution of resources targeted towards the disadvantaged should reflect some general indicators of disadvantage. We have seen such a development within the formal education system where considerable effort has been put into developing a systematic process for identifying schools entitled to benefit from additional funding and teaching posts. This has resulted in a fair and

transparent mechanism for distributing the additional resources as they become available.

Because of the way in which funding is allocated at the moment, we do not know how the benefits of the overall funding is distributed geographically. This is something which we will have to establish as part of the discussion process.

It will be necessary during the discussion process to develop models for the distribution of resources and, as part of their assessment, to be able to compare their potential effects with the current distribution.

The discussion and decision on the division of resources between the area and the national tiers might pivot on the proposition that some supports for organisations delivering youth work on the ground must come from their parent national organisation in developing new programme areas for distribution throughout the youth services.

These separate roles for national and area support would not preclude representatives of national organisations providing organisation-specific support to their own local entities on an area/regional basis out of their head office funding while more general support is provided simultaneously by the area youth service.

"We need to agree on a precise definition of youth work."

The production of a Green Paper on the entire education system is not something that is done overnight. It is a long and arduous process involving inputs from many people and substantial give and take before a consistent presentation can emerge. The issue of an intermediary tier is back on the agenda as part of the on-going discussions and debate. The reference to the VECs in our proposals must be read in that light.

We need to agree on a precise definition of youth work. We have had many definitions so far. However, there is still confusion about where various services fit.

We are also proposing greater specification of youth work support services to promote equality of standards and continuity.

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Underage drinking & substance abuse

Most underage drinkers go no further than their own homes and their friends to get alcohol according to a new report presented to the Minister for Education, Mr Seamus Brennan TD, by the Cider Industry Council.

The report by social psychologist Dr Mark Morgan of St Patrick's College, Dublin examines research relating to underage drinking and evaluates the effectiveness of initiatives undertaken to combat this problem.

The influence of Parents

Dr Morgan, states "*Domestic factors are most likely to lead to problem drinking amongst children. For example, where parents hold strong or extreme views of either approval or disapproval, this can have a negative effect on children. Similarly, frequent conflict between parents and children can cause young people to turn to alcohol abuse. Frequent criticism has a similar negative effect. Finally, regular problem drinking in the home is a major catalyst in the area of alcohol abuse amongst young people*".

ID Cards

In addition to highlighting the influence of parents and the home atmosphere, the report concluded that ID schemes are an effective way of preventing underage drinking. A survey carried out as part of the Wexford programme shows that over 70% of parents

back the introduction of ID schemes as a way of combating underage drinking.

Pub Staff

A unique feature of the Wexford project examined in the report is the "Server Intervention" Programme. The programme equips barstaff with relevant practical knowledge while giving them the necessary skills to cope successfully with situations involving underage drinking.

Main findings:

The main findings to emerge from the report are:

- Most young people in Ireland experiment with alcohol before the legal age-limit for purchase - in some cases as low as 13 years of age;
- There are no differences between young people of varying social backgrounds and relatively small differences between adolescents from rural and urban backgrounds;
- Parents are unaware of their influence and tend to overestimate the power of the media and peer pressure;
- Focusing on the short-term negative effects of alcohol abuse rather than on its long-term negative effects is more effective in persuading young people not to abuse alcohol. However, it is found that exaggerating the negative effects of alcohol in education efforts may be counterproductive;
- Domestic factors likely to lead to problem drinking among young people are extreme attitudes by

Youth work

PRACTICE

parents toward alcohol, frequent conflict and criticism and a regular drinking problem at home;

- Apart from at home and friends, the most frequent source of alcohol is from pubs, discos, off-licences and supermarkets;
- Top of the list in order of drink preference is beer (including stout and lager) followed by wine, spirits and cider;
- Schools also play an important prevention role but more often, those who might benefit most from prevention efforts are least likely to be exposed to them in schools because absenteeism and drop-out rates are highest among adolescents who are at greatest risk of abusing alcohol.

Meath Youth Federation has also completed a survey on alcohol and substance abuse among second level students from 14 schools in the county which substantiates the findings from the survey in Wexford.

In addition, the Meath survey recommends a graded intervention programme throughout the cycle of second level education with anti-smoking programmes beginning in sixth class in primary school. A positive support programme for people who wish to give up smoking is also recommended in fourth/fifth year when smokers themselves have stated their wish to give up smoking.

Other suggestions from the Meath survey include requiring licensed discos in the Meath area to run a number of alcohol-free discos; the establishment of more youth clubs and a more active involvement of parents in community activities.

AGE WHEN YOU FIRST TRIED...

Years	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Cigarettes %	9.5	1.05	5.25	11.6	27.7	23.1	8.4	11.55	2.1
Alcohol %	0	1.27	0.9	7.9	11.1	23.7	31.8	12.4	2.8
Other Substances %	0	0	0	0	5.74	9.84	32.8	42.64	8.2

The first substance abused by young people are cigarettes and the majority of users are smoking by the age of fourteen (78.2%). The majority of drinkers are during by the age of fifteen (76.67%) and the majority of 'other' substance abusers begin at fourteen and the vast majority of users are using by sixteen (90.8%).

Source: Meath Youth Federation Survey (October 1992)

AS

Youth work PRACTICE

Production Schools



A fresh approach to Vocational Training



The Culliton review of Ireland's industrial policy has prompted a fresh look at manpower training and development policies in Ireland. One result is a discernible shift towards adopting the German "dual system" approach. There are a number of other equally useful models of training - particularly of less advantaged young unemployed - which also merit consideration for adoption in Ireland. Production schools, found in many northern European countries but particularly associated with Denmark, are one such innovation.

Production schools are locally-based and controlled institutions with considerable liberty to plan their activities in a manner to best suit the needs of the local community. They adopt the common continental approach of seeking to develop academic and practical skills together through

combined training and production schemes.

CLIENT GROUP

A very important characteristic of the schools is that they cater for people from vastly different backgrounds and qualifications. Whilst candidates are required to be under the age of 30 there are no educational prerequisites. Participants can be referred to a school from either the local job centre, social security office or youth guidance.

There is no set enrolment time, enrolment takes place when vacancies permit. Duration of stay at a production school varies in accordance with each individual's ability to secure employment or a

place in education. Overall one third of the participants stay between one and three months, another third stay for more than nine months.

Participants receive a weekly remuneration and in some circumstances living quarters are also provided. This flexibility ensures that production schools do not become a concentration of either weaker or more advantaged members of the target group of young unemployed.

METHOD

The production schools attitude towards young people is that they already possess the talents and potential needed in trades and as an active member of society at large. Many of the young people starting as participants at the production schools are ready to begin real work as if they were in an ordinary job. The youth's own motivation is the key and the starting point. Right from the beginning participants begin solving a number of practical assignments on the school's workshop. The education which takes place on the schoolbench does not begin until the participants are motivated for it.

The main element in pedagogy is the participation in workshop training / production. The individual schools have divided these branches into separate production lines. In the workshops the participants are taught the style, tone and tradition which characterise a certain vocational area. Work is planned so the tasks are varied in subject and difficulties and often an apprenticeship at a private or public company is arranged.

Vocational Courses for young people in Denmark

Due to the fact that 800,000 people in Denmark, adding up to 21% of the 16-66 year old population, are permanently out of work and on different schemes of public assistance, the Danish government have set up a Social Commission.

In its report the situation of young people is discussed and a wide range of proposals for education, training, social security payments and active labour market measures are put forward. Among the most interesting ideas is the suggestion of new models of vocational education and training for the least school-motivated among the young.

Thirty-three per cent of young people still do not get any formal vocational qualification as they find existing vocational courses too demanding. The reform of the Danish vocational education and training system in 1989 increased the theoretical level of courses and made it even more difficult for practically-oriented school leavers.

New courses of 2-3 years duration with an emphasis on practical training in the companies combined with short courses at vocational schools are suggested, as more on-the-job training of a practical nature and less theory and school teaching are expected to strike a better balance for this group.

At the same time it is suggested that young people under 25 should never be offered passive (ie money only) provision, but should be activated through instant offers of education and training of temporary job schemes.

The participants learn responsibility and demands for quality through practical tasks. They also learn versatility and independent working. The workshops guide and qualify a participant in a certain direction thereby improving the chances of success. They participate in the whole production process from the original idea, through to manufacturing and finally sales and delivery.

It is important that the manufactured products are saleable and of a quality which can live up to market standards. The fact that goods and services are bought and sold tell the participants that they have carried out a proper piece of work and that there is a need for them too.

Participating in manufacturing gives the young people courage and a desire to learn more than the workshops can offer. Therefore the production schools initiate a number of other educational courses such as literacy, arithmetic, languages etc. which strengthen personal development and development in knowledge.

Workshops give the participants practical experience and real qualifications. They get a chance to try themselves in more than one workshop and possible job. They learn to keep an open mind toward new work methods and techniques and are better equipped to enter into an education or employment.

When the participants in production schools experience that they can work independently and become more skilled, a sense of worth and confidence is created which usually gives them the inducement to learn more. The young people are thereby given a personal lift. This lift is the most important result of the production school's pedagogical efforts.

PRODUCTS

There is a wide selection of products and services available from the schools which generally reflects the needs and potential of the local area. For example, art

work, printing, running museums, making lunches for the local primary and secondary schools etc. are carried out according to the specific needs of the local area. Schools also produce goods for the commercial market

Some of the many products manufactured include solar heating relays, playground equipment, furniture, a large variety of textile products such as children's clothing, rugs and recently several schools have also been engaged in assignments within gardening, farming and fishing and numerous schools have run canteens.

In several cases a local company has turned to a school to have a product developed. There are also instances of local private companies taking over finished products which means the school has contributed to securing jobs in their area.

Several production schools work almost solely with environmental problems. Under their motto "*Think Globally - Act Locally*" they work with cleaning water streams, stocking fish fry of threatened species, raising and putting out pheasants, partridges etc. and ecological farming.

SELLING THE PRODUCT

A clause in the legislation which provide for production schools determines that the school's production can be sold on the condition that it does not cause unfair competition on the local market and that income from sales be included in the budget. A Labour Market Committee comprising of local authority representatives of employees, employers and others was set up to ensure that all new activities are in accordance with the local market.

CONCLUSION

Production schools seek to improve the life chances of young people who have failed to secure employment, vocational training or further education after completing their statutory education. There is

a significant population of young people in similar circumstances in Ireland. Has the time come for a pilot production school in Ireland?

PHASES OF PRODUCTION SCHOOL PROCESS

Production schools accept and release participants at any time of the year. This makes it impossible to sustain general programme "cycles" in the operation of the school. To compensate for this there is a clearly-defined structure of phases through which each individual participant is taken:

Induction:

Participant challenged on the terms of the "contract" implied in joining the school at an induction briefing with counsellors and other school staff;

Acceptance:

Participant is given a chance to settle into the school, with easy practical assignments designed to enhance self-esteem;

Orientation:

This phase focuses upon discovering hidden talents and potential in the participant and attempting to outline realistic future plans;

Development:

Vocational skills and social skills are developed, basic qualifications are pursued;

End of stay:

Emphasis on investigating the options available to participants in terms of employment/training or further education;

Networking:

After the formal participation phase ends there is a system of continued support in completing education/keeping a job.

JD/AS

Youth work POLICY

Dáil Watch

Major Dáil Debate on the Green Paper

The Dáil held a major debate on the Education Green Paper on 16 October, 1992. Youthwork as such was not an issue but some of the points raised were relevant to the broader context of youth organisations.

The Fine Gael spokesperson on education, Jim Higgins TD urged the Minister to incorporate a binding commitment in the Green Paper that the resources would be provided to ensure that all children would get the opportunity to realise their true educational worth. He warned that without the inclusion of this aim, the entire exercise would count for nothing. He expressed total opposition to the creation of "larger impersonal and supposedly more cost-effective factory-type schools."

Brian O'Shea TD, Labour spokesperson on education, said the absence of a clearly defined philosophy of education was a major deficiency in the Green Paper. A major problem was posed by the existence of autonomous schools. While he believed in autonomy, there was a need for a local or regional administration.

The Democratic Left spokesperson on education, Eamon Gilmore TD, claiming that the Green Paper contained no statement of policy on resources, asked "as is being implied in the Green Paper, and as is happening in practice, the Government intends to only partially fund the education system, who is going to pay for the rest?"

The PD spokesperson on education, Mairin Quill TD, said the Green Paper was a document of great potential, but it

could only be realised if the main provisions were adequately funded and fully implemented.

Michael D Higgins TD (Labour) said the absence of a philosophy for education was the Green Paper's greatest failure; it was even more significant than the missing resources. It made no reference to the greatest need of all - how to create a participating citizenry.

Dr Carret FitzGerald TD (FG) described as misconceived and dangerous the emphasis placed on enterprise and technology. It was an idea abandoned in many other countries, where it was found that people trained to do specific tasks were unable to convert themselves to other tasks when their work environment changed, he said. There was a confusion in the Culliton Report between training and education, which was also contained in the Green Paper.

Dr James Mc Daid TD (FF) said the Minister should make a start on dismantling the points system. The pressure it created had been the cause of many young people committing suicide, and the rigid way it operated led to others winding up in university courses for which they were vocationally unsuited.

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Greater clarity and greater certainty are needed as more state departments and statutory agencies develop programmes to take account of special groupings or special problems. I could mention YouthReach and the Department's home/school liaison scheme.

Greater clarity and certainty are needed as a base for an agreed evaluation criteria.

Greater clarity and certainty are needed to support the case for resources as more and more worthy programmes compete for the limited resources available.

A definition is not a description. A description of an entity can be shared with other entities. A definition is unique. It distinguishes an entity from all other entities.

There has been some concern that this will take from the uniqueness of youth work. We see it as doing precisely the opposite. We collectively want to articulate what we mean by youth work and we want others to understand this and accept it.

We can look for uniformity in objectives, in the process employed and in the criteria for evaluation without affecting the unique contribution of individual organisations. This would be done through flexibility in programmes and in structures for participation. We are not looking for a core curriculum.

As you know, we embarked some time back, following the appointment of David Treacy as an Assessor, on a process intended to result in a method of evaluation of community-based projects. This process has resulted in a draft report which we will be

presenting at the start of the discussion process. This will be suggesting a more precise definition of youth work, a basis for evaluation and an outline of an area youth service.

We have also proposed direct financial support for those delivering youth work on the ground, a practice currently confined to a few areas. In the interests of raising and maintaining standards this will be tied to a simple contract between the area youth service and the youth work provider. To develop an effective model we will review existing schemes and pilot a new development in a designated disadvantaged area. We have already started this process.

The outcome of the consultation process we are starting will affect each youth organisation.

However, it would not be practicable to have each organisation directly involved throughout the process. We need a group which is small enough to be manageable but including as broad a spectrum of interests as possible.

However, we want this process to be as open as possible and we do not wish to have any individual organisation feel that it is being left out in any way. We would envisage that discussion papers presented would be made available. The normal direct lines of communication between individual organisations and the Department will continue to be open and we hope that they will be well used.

Consideration will be given to an open forum before proposals are fully firmed up.

Micheál Ó Néill

Local Education Authorities

Speaking in the Dáil Debate on the Green Paper the Minister said that the "case has still not been made" for local education authorities. He had asked for a study on the cost implications and what services such administrative bodies would deliver.

Speaking after a consultative meeting in Sligo on 6 November, the Minister disclosed that he was now coming to the conclusion that an "intermediate tier" of administration between his Department and schools was necessary. Most of the 70 submissions already received on the Green Paper favoured such a tier, he said.

The Irish Vocational Education Association adopted a tough motion which deplored the Green Paper's "pre-emptive rejection of intermediate structures to support, co-ordinate, monitor and safeguard the effective delivery of education and training services at all levels of Irish society" at its conference on 7 November.

JD

Youth Exchange to Romania

"Romania is like a bird who's been locked in a cage for 40 years. Then suddenly the door of the cage is opened, the bird comes out, but does not know which direction to fly".

When I first heard Interculture Ireland was organising an exchange for youth and community workers to Romania, I must admit I was a little apprehensive. My image of Romania was that of orphanages and many of the guide books said to avoid it.

But Romania was a unique experience, sometimes giving me the sensation of going back in time and being in a different world. Yes, it did lack the amenities of The West - varieties of food, clean toilets, modern technology that we take so much for granted, but what it lacked for in material goods, it made up for in its lifestyle and moreover in its people. The newsness and freshness of its people were to be felt everywhere. You sensed you were in a country just starting out, just learning and in a way that is what's happening.

Fresh from the Communist regime and only free since 1990, much of what you see still reflects that era. As one young person explained, "Romania is like a bird who's been locked in a cage for 40 years. Then suddenly the door of the cage is opened, the bird comes out, but does not know which direction to fly".

Romania's Youth Service is a credit to all who work in it. The Youth Department under the Ministry for Youth and Sport is the overall governing body. The first youth organisations appeared just after the

revolution but before that there existed a number of youth associations mostly affiliated to political parties. Today some of these still remain, but the emphasis is on choice and many associations incorporate the word free in their names.

Each region we visited we met with youth representatives from that area. The overwhelming thing about the young people we met was how interested they were in us and their eagerness to be like the West was very evident. We tried explaining that the Capitalist system is not without its problems. Not enough jobs for the people being the predominant one at the moment and all the social problems that spring from that - crime, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse but they couldn't see this happening in Romania. During Communism everybody had a chance to work. A person left school and according to his exam results, chose a career, trained or went to college and then worked. So the unemployment problem has just begun.

Many of the places we visited has special "Houses for Youth". These would be equivalent to our youth club but far from being in old parish halls and dingy rooms, these houses were specifically for young people. One such place was House of Youth in Mangalia, a town on the Black Sea Coast.

Youth work

FEATURE

The facilities included games and meeting rooms, gym facilities, theatre and even a computer room, and these were all available free of charge. I've seen nothing in Ireland that would compare to it. But given time some young people are inevitably going to be left behind. At some stage they will need to charge for these facilities and not everybody will have the money. Again the Romanians we spoke to couldn't imagine this happening.

The way of life in Romania is simple, so uninterfered with by Western culture and society so lacking in materialism yet full of quality. But that's changing. Already Coca Cola have invaded and all over their countryside Coca Cola adverts are to be seen.

They have a beautiful lifestyle - we may see them as under developed but they aren't. They may not have what we term as necessities but that terrible social divide that exists here has not yet reached Romania. Given time it will.

Freedom is the most important basic human right but sometimes the price you pay for being free can be more that you bargained for. The freedom of Romania now lives in the hands of its young people.

I wish them well.

by Maria Cronan, a young freelance journalist who regularly writes for youth-related magazines.

For further information on Interculture Ireland contact:
10A Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2
Ph: 01 782046

Youth work

RESOURCES

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A Social Portrait of Europe

By Eurostat

- This publication offers one of the most wide ranging comparative statistical studies ever compiled on the countries of the E C areas, included are education, (unemployment, health, population, working & living conditions, housing, environment, demography and leisure. These statistical indicators are combined to give a unique social portrait of an ever changing Europe. This publication is available for consultation/photocopying purposes only.

ADOLESCENCE

Parents & Teenagers

By The Open University

- This study pack is primarily designed for parents of teenagers to help them build up skills they can apply in everyday living with a teenager. Subjects covered include communication skills, decision making, negotiation, lifeskills, and assessment. The Pack uses audio and video cassettes as part of the overall programme.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

How We See The World

By The Open University

- Study pack compiled as the result of a project undertaken by the OU on behalf of the NCYVS, NYB and INSTEP, three national

youth agencies in the UK. The pack focuses on the issues which adults face when working with young people, covered by two videos and accompanying booklet. Issues tackled include group work, lifestyle, lifeskills and self evaluation.

ENVIRONMENT

Irish Forestry Today

By Forest Service (Dept of Energy)

- Educational pack on forestry in Ireland intended mainly for use with primary school age groupings. The pack contains two videos (i) "Forests of Ireland", (ii) "The Timber Trade", a teachers handbook, posters, leaflets and information on ENFO, ECO and Crann. The pack is designed to increase awareness and understanding of forestry and the role it plays in our lives.

CULTURAL EDUCATION

Irish Cultural Studies

By Tom Arkell

- This pack has been designed as a starter or resource pack for teachers to use selectively. It has been divided into three sections (a) Finding out about Ireland today, (b) Irish cultural heritage, and (c) Irish migration.

WORKING WITH YOUNG WOMEN

Lifting The Limits

By Anita Mountain

- Practical guide for women working with groups of young women. It focuses on young women at risk or in trouble covering the setting up, facilitating and completing of a project from beginning to end. Also includes resource organisations further reading lists, and statistical information.

GROUPWORK

Common Groupwork Problems

By T Douglas

- This handbook is a self-help guide for all groupworkers offering practical advice on common groupwork problems and issues that arise. Strong emphasis in the book is placed on the operational skills in running groups, particularly useful for trainers.

Available from: Routledge, 11 New Fetterlane, London EC4P 4EE
Cost: £10.99 Stg

PARTNERSHIP

Consensus or Censorship?

By Community Workers Co-op

- Series of twelve articles combining theoretical and experiential perspectives on the concept of partnership between the community work sector and the state. Contributors include Stasia Crickley, Hugh Fraser, Niall Crowley and Bill Rolston.

Available from: Community Workers Co-op, Pavee Pt. Centre, North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1

CHURCH YOUTH WORK

Building Bridges

By Salford Diocesan Youth Service

- This training pack aimed primarily at church youth workers highlights issues such as relationship skills, conflict resolution, friendship, listening skills and authority/peer relations. The pack is geared mainly towards those working with the 13+ age group.

Available from: Area Youth Officer, Salford Diocesan Youth Service, 366 Blackburn Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 0AA. Cost: £6.50 Stg

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Promoting Community Development In Europe

By Community Development Foundation

- This report commissioned by the Council of Europe deals with the need to develop support organisations to promote community development as a factor in social, economic and environmental regeneration in Europe. The report examines the changing role of local government and community development in EC and Scandinavian countries.

Available from: Community Development Foundation, 60 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AG. Cost: £3.99 Stg

WOMEN'S TRAINING

How to Create and Run Positive Action Training Programmes for Women only

By Evelyne Sullerot

- Practical manual written by the co-ordination of the EC's network on the "diversification of vocational choices for girls and women". The manual is based on the experiences of this network.

Available from: EC Commission Directorate-General Employment, Industrial Relations & Social Affairs, 200 Rue de la Loi, B-1044 Brussels

ADOLESCENCE

Forging Links - Trading Places

By Trocaire/ICYU Project

- This handbook sets out to investigate questions on development, injustice, poverty inequality and peace. This book encourages participative learning

with practical guidelines for individual trade unionists and unions acting with others.

Available from: Trocaire Resource Centre, 169a Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin. Cost: £5.00

YOUNG UNEMPLOYED

The Good, The Bad and The Swaythling

By Swaythling Youth Group

- Video documentary made by a group of young unemployed people in the Swaythling area of Southampton. The video deals with the issues affecting young people such as crime, the environment and homelessness.

Available from: City Eye, 1st Floor Northam Centre, Kent Street, Northam, Southampton SO1 1SP. Cost: £15.00 + £1.50 p+p Stg

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Playing With Fire

By Nic Fine & Fiona Macbeth

- This manual is a fully integrated 60-hour training course designed to assist people in dealing with conflict in their everyday lives. It offers an extensive training and technique guide with practical games & simulations and group discussion to build on participants interpersonal skills.

Available from: Sales Dept, National Youth Agency, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD. Cost: £14.95

YOUTHWORK POLICY

Youth Policy in the 1990s

Edited by John C. Coleman & Chris Warren-Anderson

- This book is an excellent introductory reader, providing a useful base for understanding and thinking about contemporary policies affecting

young people. It has been designed to act as a catalyst for the establishment of a government minister responsible for co-ordinating social policy development affecting young people.

Available from: Routledge, 11 New Fetterlane, London EC4P 4EE
Cost: £14.99stg

SMOKING EDUCATION

From Bogart To Bon Jovi

By Youth Clubs Scotland

- This video and report describes a project undertaken to work with young people on the issue of smoking. It explains the origins of the project, the involvement of young people in it, the conference that resulted and how the project was evaluated.
Available from:

Youth Clubs Scotland, Balfour House, 17 Bonnington Grove, Edinburgh EH6 4DP
Cost: £15.00stg

FB



Many of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan from the **Irish YouthWork Centre**.

The **Irish YouthWork Centre** is pleased to announce that it has recently reached agreement with both the **National Youth Agency** and **Youth Clubs UK** to become their official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland. The wide range of topics covered by the materials we have selected to sell include youth service management policy and curriculum, detached and rural youth work, health education, art education, social and political education, leaving home, counselling, club work, games and simulations, youth work training and working with girls and young women.

Detailed sales brochures and order forms and further information on the **Centre** is available from:

Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Special Youth Services Conference

Research on burn out amongst Youth Workers

Workers from Community-based youth projects attending a special conference organised by the National Youth Federation were told that inadequate youth policy for disadvantaged young people is the main cause of stress resulting in high 'turn over', 'wastage', and 'casualty rates' amongst youth workers just at the point when they are beginning to be most effective in their work with young people.

The two-day conference in All Hallows College was attended by over forty special project youth workers from around the country.

Mr Denis Staunton, from the Department of Social Administration and Social Work in UCC, outlined to the conference the results of a study carried out among youth workers on stress and burn-out.

Mr Staunton told the group that every year some ten thousand young people leave the education system without any formal qualifications. The youth services and especially community based youth projects are responding to their needs but the present Government policy ensures that youth workers are inadequately funded and resourced to cater for their educational and recreational needs.

This situation is characterised by insecurity among youth workers. It leads to workers being employed on one year temporary contracts with little or no security and unable to plan and organise the work in any coherent and sustained fashion. Mr Staunton advocated that the time is now ripe for community groups concerned with their own young people and the youth service to make a vigorous input into the present political discussion on the recently published Green Paper on Education. The enormous and valuable contribution it makes to the personal development and social needs of young people needs to be recognised, valued and above all adequately resourced.



Denis Staunton presenting John Dunne, Chief Executive, NYF, with his report titled 'Burn out Among Youth Workers'.

White Paper for Voluntary Organisations

Charlie Mc Creevy TD, Minister for Social Welfare has set up an interdepartmental Task Force to develop proposals for a White Paper on voluntary activity.

A group from the voluntary sector has also been established and is made up of people who have experience of voluntary activity and a working knowledge of the issues facing the voluntary sector in this country.

The group, which includes Fr. Paul Murphy, NYF President and Tom Curran, NYCI's Director, will act as a resource to the Task Force by way of advising on certain issues to be addressed in the White Paper. It will also be involved in analysing the nature of the existing relationships between the voluntary and statutory sectors and how it might develop.

Design A Christmas Card WINNERS

The winner of this years *Design a Christmas Card Competition* is **Mary Greene** (14) from Killeigh Youth Club, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Mary wins a £100 clothes voucher kindly sponsored by **LEVI'S** and her card will be printed and sold nationwide.

Runner-up vouchers worth £25 are on there way to:

- Juleen Keegan (13)
Bagenalstown Youth Club,
Carlow Region;
- Kay Byrne (14)
Genesis Youth Club
Kildare Region and
- Niamh Sheedy (17)
Quasar Youth Club
Limerick Region



Packets of the winning card are available from Avril Soper, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Sex Abuse Counselling Centre opens in Dublin



CARI House in Drumcondra, Dublin 9, was officially opened three months ago to tackle the enormous task of responding to the needs of sexually abused children and young people. The CARI Foundation (Children at Risk in Ireland) was formed in 1989 by a group of people from the medical, social and support areas who identified the need for such a centre to care for and counsel sexually abused children.

CARI is not an investigative unit designed to assess or validate cases of sexual abuse. It provides post-assessment support and long-term therapy to sexually abused children and non-abusing members of their families.

The emphasis is on long-term care. "We would envisage children having the opportunity to return to CARI at different life stages. For example, during puberty, adolescence or indeed when they become parents themselves" said Geraldine Mc Loughlin, psychologist at the foundation.

A 1987 MRBI pilot survey for TRE and Sanctuary Trust showed 6% of 500 Dublin adults admitting to have been sexually abused as children. Department of Health figures for 1989 show 1242 cases of alleged child sexual abuse reported. This is a frightening statistic, as in some cases a considerable amount of time will have elapsed before the child or children reveal their ordeal. Some children never tell. The pain they suffer is horrific. In most cases they suffer in silence, out of fear.

Donations may be sent to:

- The Chief Executive,
The CARI Foundation
110 Lower Drumcondra Road
Dublin 9
- Eileen Prendiville
CARI, 29 Upper Mallow Street
Limerick.

Youth Focus on Airwaves

Few youth services can boast its very own weekly radio programme but that is exactly what Ferns Diocesan Youth Services have had for the past few years. The programme **Youth Focus** which is entirely produced by FDYS has a large and loyal following in the South East and the fringe counties.

It follows the style of a magazine-type show which combines music, interviews and information on a variety of topics and listeners of all ages will usually find something of interest.

The half hour radio programme allows the FDYS to promote the topics which affect the interest young people. The Youth Information Centre provides a regular information bulletin on items of topical interest such as budget implications, jobs etc.



Jenny Mc Nally and Ronan O'Donoghue with President Mary Robinson

Recently, producer Nicky Rossiter, has promoted the idea of young presenters and reporters and this has proven to be a great success. In fact two young presenters Jenny Mc Nally and Ronan O'Donoghue became among the youngest ever formal interviewers of President Robinson when they recently interviewed her for the show.

Young are dirty and unfit!

A startling picture of British teenagers emerges in a new study entitled 'Young People in 1991'. The survey which was carried out by the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter University questioned nearly thirty thousand young people from mixed schools around England.

It found that the majority of young people rarely take exercise or regular meals and some don't follow even basic rules of hygiene such as brushing their teeth. Around a quarter of boys surveyed did not always wash their hands after using the lavatory.

A worrying number of older school children are experimenting with drugs including cannabis, solvents and mind-bending amphetamines and they are spending more money than ever before on alcohol, cigarettes and clothes.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

OPPORTUNITIES



England (July 1993)

Opportunity for groups to be hosted by Boys Clubs in various areas of Britain for one week to come together for a further week at an international adventure camp. (IFKYO Europe) Contact Peter Bragg - NABC



France (July 1993)

Opportunity to visit France for two weeks, week one on an exchange with a group from La Ligue and week two at the International IFKYO conference at Toulouse from July 17-24. Contact Conny Reuter - La Ligue



Germany (Summer 1993)

Return exchange visit with Richenback, a town in the former East Germany from which a group visited the Carlow region last year. Contact Wolfgang Heuer - IB



Iceland

Invitation for club or project leaders to visit clubs in the Reykjavik area. A programme of visits to Island Youth Clubs and initiatives would be arranged. Contact Happa Fastporsdoitir - Samfes

For more information on international exchanges and international opportunities contact Ken Keogh, National Youth Federation.

Outline from Preliminary Census - some significant implications for youth workers

The 1991 census of population confirms the ongoing and accelerating shift in Irish population structure since the 1970's. The average age of an Irish person is 33 years while the proportion aged under 25 has fallen from 48% in 1980 to 44% in 1991. Over the same period the annual birth rate has fallen from 74,000 in 1980 to 53,000 in 1990 - a drop of almost 30%. That peak birth rate of just over a decade ago represents a current bulge in the teen population with obvious youthwork implications. But it will be transient because in ten years time will be facing at a reduction of at least 30% in the teenage population of the country compared to today.

These demographic changes have two major implications for youth organisations. The first is the impact on the government's budgetary position. As our younger population is declining our population of aged people will be increasing rapidly with attendant rises in expenditure on pensions and health care. There is a danger that as pressure comes upon the education budget to identify potential savings in line with the falling youth population such moves will be resisted by powerful interest groups such as teacher's unions and other areas such as youthwork may present softer targets of opportunity.

The second is that numbers entering the labour market will remain very high for the next decade - approximately 23,000 per year. Given that the net annual job creation record of the government for the last two decades has been on average 7,000 we are likely to see unemployment grow at a rate of approximately 15,000 every year. The cumulative impact of this trend would translate into a peak unemployment rate of about 40% at the beginning of the next millennium. Inevitably a large number of those unemployed will be young people which suggests that there will be an increasing need both in terms of volume and in terms of degree for services for the young unemployed.

Another remarkable statistic to emerge from the census is that over 14% of all births now take place outside marriage and almost 30% of all births in 1991 were to mothers under the age of twenty.

DANCE THEATRE OF IRELAND

present

DANCE POP

Dance Theatre of Ireland once again present their popular and inventive Dance Pop - Dance Performance Outreach Programme.

The workshops are designed to introduce participants to some of the basics of contemporary dance. They encourage the expressive use of the body and imagination and develop co-ordination, musicality and initiative. Interested groups may arrange that dance workshops be given especially for their groups at a local venue and taught by the performers.

Dances in Dreams, their current production, will be performed in March at the Tivoli Theatre in Dublin. It is a work of images and beauty evoking ancient voices which examines our relationships - past and present - with Earth and each other.

Dances Pop provides discounts of up to 50% for group bookings.

For further information on workshops and performances call:

- *Kymerely Dunne*
Dance Theatre of Ireland
Digges Lane
Dublin 1
01 784205



Select Committee on Juvenile Crime:

Recommendations

The select committee urged the Government to introduce new juvenile justice legislation which reflects the needs of modern society. The following are some of the Committees recommendations to be incorporated into the new Juvenile Justice Act.

- Raising the age of criminal responsibility from seven to twelve;
- A short statement of the Act to involve the main intentions;
- The establishment of Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee for each Garda division and larger urban areas and a National Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee.
- The establishment of special juvenile and family courts, with training for judges and lay assistants;
- Rationalising options in relation to residential/custodial sentences and the conditions attaching to their use.

- Provision for mandatory regulations on residential and custodial centres for young offenders;
 - The development of structures to maximise the involvement by volunteers in the juvenile justice system.
 - A review of the law in relations to loitering;
 - A complete ban on the use of adult prisons to accommodate young people under 17 years;
- Requirements on the Department of Justice to fund research into all aspects of the operation of the juvenile justice system.

Drug-Laced Tattoo Scare

The Garda Drug Squad has confirmed that the recent scare on drug-laced tattoos is a spoof. Information sheets circulated around primary schools in the Dublin area warned parents that stamp-shaped pieces of paper with cartoon characters and coloured shapes were being sold as tattoos but in fact were laced with LSD which could be absorbed through the skin.

However, Bart Simpson "drug cards" soaked with massive doses of LSD have claimed the lives of two young people in England. The latest victim died after eating a stamp-shaped 'tab' containing about 10 times the normal amount of the drug.

TO ALL READERS

If you have news, issues of concern, interesting photographs or general information on activities that you would like featured in Irish Youth Work Scene, write to
Avril Soper, National Youth Federation,
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1 or telephone (01) 729933

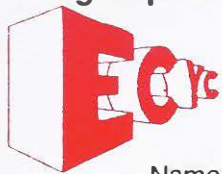
KYSIE



CLUB - TO - CLUB EXCHANGE

The European Community of Youth Clubs (ECYC) are presently working on a youth exchange database which is hoped will eventually be available to all member clubs (your club is a member through affiliation to National Youth Federation).

The database provides basic information on possible youth exchange partners all over Europe. If your club or project is interested in getting involved in exchanges with groups from the rest of Europe then simply photocopy this questionnaire, fill it in and send it to:



ECYC Secretariat, Ørnevej 45, DK2400, Copenhagen NV, Denmark.

Name of Youth Club:

Address:

.....

Phone Number, including area code:

Contact Person:

Maximum number to be received (including leaders):

Please state the type of accommodation which you can provide:

In the Youth Club (on the floor/dormitory):

Private accommodation with club members:

Dormitories/Youth Hostel:

Do you charge any fee for accommodation in the youth club?

Can you receive visiting clubs all year?

Only during Summer: Only during Winter:

We can only accommodate visitors within the period:

Do you have leaders and/or members in your club, who speak any foreign languages?

If yes, please state which:

What age group do you want to receive:

Could you, in brief, describe some of the activities of your club. Sometimes it is an advantage to link up with a club interested in the same type of activity - but even the opposite might be a challenge!

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(If necessary, please use a separate piece of paper for additional remarks!)