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Irish Youth Work Scene

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It is open to all our readers to exchange information or to put forward points of view. Send in news, comments, letters or articles to the editors. Views expressed in this magazine are the contributor's own and do not reflect those of the Irish YouthWork Centre or Youth Work Ireland.

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The Time to Work Collectively for Young People is Now!

By Diarmuid Kearney, CEO Youth Work Ireland

It seems incredible that in a short period of time the economy could have faltered to such an extent but I have to say that it's even more incredible that little has been done to cushion the most vulnerable from the worst ravages of recession. It does not bode well that in the first of what has been signalled as a series of hard hitting budgets Minister Lenihan (former Minister for Children) has seen fit to cut between eight and ten per cent of Youth Affairs funding. Youth services will suffer reductions in funding from a range of other quarters and there is little doubt that we will be left reeling from the experience. There is no fat to be trimmed within the Youth Sector. In fact our operations are perhaps too lean, with essential support systems being sacrificed in favour of frontline services. The consequences of this level of cut will inevitably mean job losses and a serious diminution of services to young people.

What an appalling lack of foresight this represents. If we've learned anything from previous lean times, it's been that the most vulnerable and in particular the young are disproportionately impacted upon. This then demands a significant injection of resources to redress some of that impact on youth employment, formal education, youth crime, health etc. It seems logical to invest in preventative measures but then logic seems to have no place in the post Thatcher/Reagan free market economy where profit is god and social responsibility the subject of abstract musings on Government's annual retreat.

At the risk of offending earnest and capable colleagues the time has come to question whether we will ever see the implementation of the Youth Work Act and under the circumstances whether it is appropriate to invest in an infrastructure within the VEC's to support the implementation of that Act? There is, not surprisingly, little agreement within the sector on this issue. The Act when first presented heralded a long awaited development where we would have a planned and considered approach to the delivery of youth services. Seven years on (despite those years being flush with money) we are no closer to that vision. It is vital that as a sector we take our heads out of the sand and work collectively to deliver for young people.

The economy has changed and the politics have changed since the drafting of the Act. There is enormous potential and opportunity presented in the move of Youth Affairs to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and if we are to avail of these for the benefit of young people then we must be considered and unified in our approach. We do not have a history of unity in the sector and despite my own strongly held beliefs I'm sure my words and actions have not always been seen as helpful in this regard. But, as we've heard from the other side of the pond, 'it's time for change!'. It's also time to be radical. Time to ask what we can give up and what we can hold onto? Time to question whether we are motivated to serve the needs of our agency or the needs of young people? Perhaps most importantly it's a time to listen and to be considered in our action.

We have a serious duty to serve the needs of young people and this must be at the core of our deliberations on the future. We also have a serious duty to learn from our experience and to act based on this learning.

Charities Bill Update

by

Ivan Cooper, *The Wheel*

Introduction

The 4th (Report) Stage of the Charities Bill concluded in the Dáil on Wednesday 5th November when the Bill in its entirety was also passed at 5th Stage. The Wheel is very happy to report that the Bill is much improved by the amendments that were accepted, many of which address key concerns that we have been advocating around. There is however one disappointing exception - an opposition amendment to include the promotion of Human Rights as a charitable purpose was voted down.

For the benefit of those who are not sure what happens next in the legislative process, the Bill has now moved to the Seanad for consideration there. As some additional amendments have been accepted in the Seanad, the Bill will return to the Dáil for approval of the Seanad amendments and will then pass to the President to be signed into law. Following enactment, the provisions will then be commenced in stages (establishing the regulator, setting up a register of charities, reporting etc.).

The Wheel has been concentrating its advocacy around the Bill on a number of central points and I have selected a few key points that you might be interested to know about:

Organisations that promote a political cause that is directly related to the advancement of their charitable purpose will be able to register as charities

This is a big improvement on the original treatment where there was a clear possibility that organisations that promoted a political cause would be excluded from being charities.

The Promotion of Human Rights is not included as a charitable purpose

Unfortunately, amendments proposed by Fine Gael and Labour to include the advancement of human rights were defeated by a vote. The Minister noted however that the Bill was not intended to expand the list of charitable purposes currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners and that the *Pro-*

motion of Human Rights is not currently recognised as being a charitable purpose. In addition, the Minister reported that all charities currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners that work in the *Human Rights* field will be automatically included in the new register of charities (see immediately below).

All organisations currently recognised by the Revenue Commissioners as charities (i.e. with CHY numbers) will be included automatically in the new register when it is established

We welcome this practical solution that will remove any concerns that existing charities might have about whether they will be included in the new Register. This provision will enable organisations that have been awarded charitable tax exemptions by the Revenue Commissioners to be deemed to be registered until their charitable credentials can in time be endorsed by the Regulator.

The promotion of Environmental Sustainability is included as a charitable purpose

This is a welcome development as there was no reference to working to address environmental issues in the original Bill

The Companies Registration Office will automatically forward the annual returns made by charities-that-are-companies to the Charities Regulator (so there will be no dual filing for corporate charities)

This is a welcome contribution to reducing to a minimum the additional reporting-burden that will result from the introduction of regulation. Please note, however, that *charities that are companies, and that are not required to attach financial returns to their annual return under company law, will be required to send them to the Charities Regulator with the required Annual Activity Report.* The Annual Activity Report will be a requirement for *all* charities. All other charities (i.e. charities that are not companies) will have to supply financial statements to the Charities Regulator together with their Annual Activity Report.

It will be an offence for an organisation that is not a registered charity to describe itself in terms that would cause the public to believe that it is a charity
The Wheel has argued for the need to ensure that organisations that *purport* to be charities, but are not charities, (such as bogus second hand clothes collectors or other bogus charities) should not be able to continue their activities after the Bill is enacted. We are happy to report that this amendment will make it an offence for an organisation (other than a registered charitable organisation) to publish materials i.e. notices, advertisements, promotional material or any other publications *describing itself or its activities in such terms as would cause members of the public to reasonably believe that it is a charitable organisation*. This should put an end to the activities of bogus clothing collectors etc.

The Minister is to bring forward a proposal to regulate the sale of pre-signed Mass Cards

There was a considerable debate on the issue of regulating the sale of Mass Cards, and it was noted that the Government amendment around bogus charities (see immediately above) did not include anything to regulate this area to prevent the commercial exploitation of the sale of bogus mass-cards. The Minister has committed to look at this issue once again when the Bill goes to the Seanad, noting that if the issue could be dealt with in the legislation it would be.

A charity will be permitted to remunerate a trustee/s for providing a service for it as long as that service does not relate to the performance of their duty as a Trustee

Many charities have skilled or professionally qualified trustees who would be willing to provide a service for a charity at a reduced rate, thus saving the charity money. Charities are currently prohibited from making payments of any description to trustees. Following this amendment, charities will be permitted to make such payments - so long as they are reasonable and proportionate - for services carried out by trustees *that are not related to their duties as a Trustee*. Please note that trustees must never be paid for performing their role as trustees - and this will remain the same in future. It is proposed that the charity's trustees must be satisfied that such a payment would be in the best interests of the charity and where there is only one charity trustee that person must have the approval of the Charity Regulator before proceeding. This section

does not apply to employees - who will continue to be prohibited from being trustees.

Charities will be permitted to indemnify trustees from charitable funds

Charities will now be able to indemnify their trustees out of charitable funds for any act done, or omitted from being done, in good faith and in the performance of his or her functions as a charity trustee.

Applications for both Cash and Non-Cash collection-permits will be afforded equal treatment

The Wheel has argued strongly that cash collections and non-cash collections should be treated equally in relation to the issuing of collection-permits by the relevant Garda Superintendent. We are happy to report that Chief Superintendents will be given the discretion to allow both *cash* and *non-cash* collections to be held in the same locality simultaneously.

Charities will be able to apply for fundraising permits up to 12 months in advance of the proposed collection

This is a big improvement on the six month restriction originally proposed and will allow charities to plan their fundraising well in advance.

There will be a range of new requirements that will apply to both Cash and Non-Cash Collectors

Similar general requirements will now apply for all collectors - cash AND non cash - including such things as the wearing of garments, the display of charity details, the purpose of the collection etc.

The presumption of public benefit attaching to religious charities will now be rebuttable by the Regulator

Under current practice, if a charity's stated purpose is to promote religion, there is an automatic assumption that it provides public benefit (unlike all other charities that have to clearly demonstrate that they provide public benefit). This situation will now change so that the existing *presumption of public benefit for religious organisations* will be rebuttable by the Regulator who will be able to make a determination (with the consent of the Attorney General) if it has concerns about any particular cases where the presumption of public benefit is in doubt. The Minister pointed out that this will not

affect existing religious charities which will be automatically entered in the register in the same way as all existing charities.

There will be no requirement for foreign-based charities to have a registered place of business in Ireland prior to their registering with the Regulator

There were many other amendments of a technical nature agreed during the 4th Stage of the Bill and we have restricted ourselves to advising on the most significant issues where we had sought changes.

Update - Third Committee Stage in the Seanad

On Thursday 4 December the Third (Committee) Stage of the Charities Bill took place in the Seanad and there were some useful amendments accepted which further improve the Bill. There was, once again, protracted debate on the question of including the promotion of human rights as a charitable purpose in the Bill with senators David Norris, Jerry Buttimer, Ivana Bacik, Dominic Hannigan, and Alex White all participating.

Once again, as in the Dáil, the Minister noted that the intention of the Bill was simply to reflect and embody current practice in the Bill (the promotion of human rights not being currently recognised as a charitable purpose). Again, as in the Dáil, an amendment was put to a vote and defeated.

However, a number of Government amendments were accepted to the effect that:

■ The Regulator will have no role to play in determining eligibility for charitable tax

■ exemptions (a role reserved for the Revenue Commissioners)

The Regulator will be empowered to enter into agreements with “persons other than charitable organisations” in relation to obtaining information for the purpose of main-

■ taining the register of charities (the role that an Irish *Guidestar* could play here was specifically referenced by the Minister)

The Regulator will have discretion to reduce the amount of documentation required from a charity when registering (if it

■ thinks that supplying all the specified information would be unduly

onerous to the charity concerned)

Small charities with an annual income/expenditure of less than €10,000 will not be required to file annual statements of accounts (but they will still be required to submit an annual activity report)

The Regulator will have the discretion to make exceptions to the sealed-collection-box rule (which will remain the default position) - this should enable those charities that sell fixed-price tokens - and have to make change for donors - to do so with the consent of the authority

Charities will only have to show their charity name and number on collectors’ garments and on collection boxes - rather than, as was originally proposed, including these details AND naming the specific “purpose” of the appeal (which would have meant that charities that organise collections for different purposes would have had to get their collectors’ garments and boxes re-labeled for each collection).

The Minister noted again his intention to bring forward an amendment at 4th Report Stage in relation to addressing the sale of bogus mass cards.

For those interested, the full list of proposed amendments is available at: <http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2007/3107/B3107D-SCN.pdf> For further information on the progress of the Bill please contact:

If you are interested, you can also read the debate at: <http://debates.oireachtas.ie/Debate.aspx?F=SEN20081204.xml&Page=1&EFAbs=N355>

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The Computer Clubhouse

Creative Use of Technology in Education

by
Janice Feighery

Introduction

The Computer Clubhouse provides a safe and creative learning environment in multimedia technology for young people, aged 8 - 18 yrs old from under-served communities. Located in the heart of The Liberties, Dublin, it is a creative place where a "community of learners" - young people, mentors and staff, use technology as a tool for learning and creative expression.

The philosophy of the Computer Clubhouse is "beyond access," a place where young people use professional software to create computer-based projects inspired by their own ideas.

The Clubhouse is a non-profit organization and is part of a global network based on a best practice template for after-school learning.



Computer Clubhouse Relaunch - Minister for State Sean Power talking with Anto and Jade during the Relaunch in November 2008

Global Computer Clubhouse Network

The Computer Clubhouse is part of a global network of 105 Clubhouses. The network was established in 1993 by the Boston Museum of Science in

collaboration with the MIT Media Laboratory, and it represents best practice in education and after-school learning environments.

Seed funding from the Intel Foundation has helped the network to develop globally. The Clubhouse in The Liberties area is one of three in Ireland, with one in Blanchardstown, Dublin and one in Belfast. The Clubhouse model has also inspired two additional technology enabled learning centres in Limerick and Dublin.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Clubhouse is to provide the young people with new skills, confidence and choices that are not otherwise available to them, helping them to succeed in their careers and lives.

The resultant benefits - to the young people - are fully aligned with our national imperative to improve technology and science literacy and to increase the availability of technology professionals in Ireland.

Who We Are

The Computer Clubhouse in the Liberties is hosted by SWICN (South West Inner City Network), a community development organization. Funding is raised each year through various Government departments and external fund-raising activities. In 2008 the Community Gain Fund administered by Dublin City Council, Dormant Accounts Fund administered by Pobail and the Intel Foundation were the main funders.

The Clubhouse is managed by two full time Coordinators with relevant backgrounds in multimedia, supported by an enthusiastic team of volunteer Mentors from different backgrounds, including two Youth Workers seconded for 3 hours each per week. The daily management of the Computer Clubhouse is complimented by an Advisory Group, which includes a number of independent volunteers from industry and academia.

What We Do

Through our mentoring approach, The Clubhouse gives participants the opportunity to become designers and creators of technology, rather than just passive consumers. Mentors work with young people on programmes in areas such as film-making, website building, animation, game design and music production, using industry standard software.

The Clubhouse is equipped with state of the art hardware and software to facilitate creative development of projects in the following areas:

- Graphic Design
- Web Design
- Photography
- Game Design
- Animation
- Film, TV, Music Production
- Electronics + Robotics
- IT - Computer Building & Maintenance
- Programming

Rather than playing games with computers, young people learn how to use professional software for design, exploration, and experimentation. In the Clubhouse, young people can gain an insight into what it is like to be an architect, engineer, composer, artist, journalist, etc.

The Mentors offer one-to-one guidance to the youth members, based on an informal social constructivist approach, which allows members the freedom to ex-

periment and explore their own creativity. The volunteer Mentors are typically self-motivated people with specialist knowledge coming from industry and universities.



Clubhouse member Abdul working with one Clubhouse Mentor, Mags on Lego Mindstorms

What Makes Us Unique

The Clubhouse uses digital media to engage young people, and to inspire a passion for life-long learning in an innovative and creative environment. Our goal is to ensure that young people are offered educational pathways and have the facilities, support, opportunities and confidence to achieve their full potential.

Members are encouraged to discover what their next step will be after school. They work with Mentors who are typically from universities and Industry so our young people get to chat to them regularly about their different careers. We offer the following initiatives to inspire their further education:

C2C Programme

The Clubhouse offers a dynamic C2C Programme (Clubhouse to College - Clubhouse to Career) as part of the global network of Clubhouses.

College Scholarships: each year Members can apply for Intel C2C Scholarships to financially support their college costs.

Teen Summit: there is bi-annual summit in Boston and 3 Members get the opportunity to represent the Clubhouse as a Teen Ambassador.

Alumni: as Members grow older they get they become a part of the global Clubhouse Alumni network.

Work experience from 15 years upwards: we organize work experience based on Members individual aspirations, from computer maintenance technicians to graphic designer to shadowing an aeronautical engineer.

Field trips: Members regularly visit universities, galleries, museums, voluntary organizations to broaden their experience.

Global network: Members network with 105 Clubhouses in over 20 countries. Members get to collaborate through the Clubhouse intranet www.clubhousevillage.org



Rebecca, Anto and Louise, members of the Clubhouse working on a project in the music studio

Guiding Principles for the Learning Environment:

The learning model is based around a constructionist approach – that is learning by doing, building and demonstrating. The development of the learning environment is guided by four principles:

1. Learning through Design Experience

The Clubhouse focuses on “constructionist” activities, encouraging young people to work as designers, inventors, and creators.

2. Follow your Interests

The Clubhouse encourages youth to work on projects related to their own interests.

3. Building a Community

The Clubhouse aims to create a sense of community, where young people work together with one another with support and inspiration from adult mentors.

4. Respect and Trust

The Clubhouse is dedicated to offering resources and opportunities to those who would not otherwise have access to them. At Clubhouses, young people are treated with trust and respect - and are expected to treat others the same way. At the Clubhouse, the goal is to create an environment in which participants feel safe to experiment, explore and innovate. Young people are given the time they need to play out their ideas; it is understood that ideas (and people) need time to develop.

See for Yourself - www.theclubhouse.ie

The energy and sense of achievement that pervades the young under-served members of the Clubhouse cannot be captured in a written document. Please visit the above web link to get an insight into the fantastic environment that is created to build the skills and confidence in these young people, giving them the opportunities in life that are taken for granted in much of our society.

itrek – a Digital Learning Experience - www.itrek.ie

Over the past 2 years the Computer Clubhouse has developed and hosted one of Ireland’s most exciting and innovative summer educational experiences.

The Clubhouse was delighted to work in partnership with the Digital Hub Learning Initiative both years. In 2008 the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT) joined as our Educational Partner. A cross-border collaboration was also introduced with Members of the Belfast Computer Clubhouse

taking part.

The project work in the Computer Clubhouse is complimented by several additional initiatives, the most innovative of which is iTrek – a joint project with the Digital Hub Learning Initiative and iTrek is a game – a digital, physical and mental challenge, run in real time across the city of Dublin and beyond, over one week.

24 children participated in 2008, using 3G mobile phones, wireless systems and software technology to solve clues, track down codes and exchange information, in an effort to save the planet from environmental disaster.

The educational merit, including using technology to explore ecological issues, is enhanced by a cross-border mission, where the children cooperate during the game with the Belfast Computer Clubhouse.

Strategic Development

Building on the success and experience gained to date, the team behind the Computer Clubhouse has developed a strategic plan to address the period from 2009 to 2011. At the highest level, the plan addresses four key themes:

- Funding & Communication
- Improvements in current services, resources & processes
- Evolution of current services with options for formal education/accreditation
- Extension of geographic reach

The implementation of this plan requires a significant development of our links and partnerships with Industry, Academia and local Government, driven by the mutual benefits and value that accrue to all concerned.

How You Can Support Us

The Computer Clubhouse depends largely on the time of Volunteers and on donations from the private sector to compliment our public sector funding.

We facilitate very rewarding CSR Programmes (Corporate Social Responsibility) for industry and also partnerships with educational institutions.

Please contact us to discuss how you can get involved.

A Bigger Vision – Extending the Model

The Computer Clubhouse model of after-school education in multimedia technologies provides an excellent basis for a more comprehensive national programme based on public private partnership.

Although targeted initially at socially disadvantaged communities, the model is equally relevant to all communities as a catalyst to greatly improve our use and expertise, as a country, in the technologies of the Information Age.

A rollout of community based Clubhouses, perhaps hosted by third level institutions and supported by industry, would provide a key contribution to bringing Ireland into the next era of the global ‘e-economy’ as a true leader.

For further information on the Computer Clubhouse please contact:

Computer Clubhouse,
Rainsford Street
Dublin 8.

Coordinator | Ciaran McGuinness
Assistant Coordinator | Janice Feighery

Tel: 01 4536674

Email: info@theclubhouse.ie

Website: www.theclubhouse.ie

Round Up

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN LAUNCHES A NEW FREE-PHONE LINE

The Ombudsman for Children has launched a free-phone telephone number to make it easier for children and families to contact the office with any concerns or complaints. The Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) is the independent body responsible for promoting children's rights in Ireland. One of the main functions of the OCO is its complaints and investigation role. The OCO can accept complaints from children and young people, or adults on their behalf about services provided by public organisations, schools and hospitals. The majority of complaints received since the OCO commenced in 2004 concern actions or inactions by organisations responsible for providing services to children and young people in relation to health, education and housing.

Free-phone number
1800 202040



ombudsman
for children : do leanaf

The Community Foundation for Ireland's Small Grants Scheme 2009

The Community Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit and voluntary groups working in communities throughout the Republic of Ireland. The Community Foundation will favour projects leading to the social inclusion of people and communities who are excluded by reason of geography, race, age, disability, family circumstances, poverty, gender or race.

General Criteria:

Carers - Support for carers including actions such as the development of social networks, local respite initiatives.

Older People -

a) For outreach schemes which assist older people to join social groups and networks in their community. This is a pilot scheme whereby grants will be a maximum of euro 2,000. The foundation will require grantees to share learning of the strategies employed.

b) For projects promoting social contact for older isolated men

c) For groups who are working with older people through visitation/ phone services and with older people who are in hospitals/ nursing homes for long periods.

Families at Risk - Pilot Grants Scheme - Aimed at very vulnerable children, this scheme is for projects which provide supports allowing children at particular risk to participate in social and educational activities within their community. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that children are at particular risk. Indicators include substance misuse issues in the family setting, if they are in receipt of social work services, or in consistent poverty.

Sexual Minorities - Supports for sexual minorities, especially outreach projects to LGBT ethnic minorities and those in rural areas.

Ethnic Minorities - Assisting the building of networks and structures for ethnic minorities, with a particular emphasis on Integration.

Mental Health and Integration - Community integration and supports for people who have mental health difficulties.

For further information please see:

www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/

To submit your application please email it as an attachment to: info@foundation.ie.

Contact details: Community Foundation for Ireland, 32 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Tel: 01 8747354

Arts Activity Supplement

by
Gina Halpin

Youth work is about enabling a young person to grow, art in youth work can be used as a tool to engage young people in creative and innovative ways. Through art self-expression and creativity builds individuality and self-confidence, and ultimately expands a young person's horizons. This activity supplement contains some arts activities to be used with young people in a club or group environment.

Activity One: Feeling Flowers



Aim: To use art work to get young people to identify their feelings.

Materials: A4 paper & markers

- Photocopy an image of a flower with large petals onto an A4 page.
- Give one to each of the young people.
- Ask the young people to fill in each petal of the flower with their feelings which relate to the following statements state

I am angry when...

I feel sad when...

I feel silly when...

I get scared when...

I am happy when...

I am a good friend when...

I like.....

At the centre of the flower the young people can either write their names or insert a photo of themselves.

Source: www.teacherideas.co.uk

Activity Two:

Life Size Person Portrait Puppets.

Aim: To help young people to express themselves through self reflection.

Materials: Large roll or sheets of paper, scissors, markers, pencils, glue, magazine cuttings and other art materials, old newspaper



- Have a young person lie down on a double thickness of the sheets of paper.
- Trace the young person's whole body on the paper with markers.
- Cut out the shape at least three inches larger than the body outline.
- Staple the 2 sheets together leaving a gap so later when the decorating is done they can stuff the portrait puppet with paper (*the portraits can be made using just a single sheet of paper but it looks better and are more fun stuffed*)
- Get the young person to decorate the paper shape with the art materials, both front and back.
- Ask them to try to express themselves, their personality, likes & dislikes through the art they are using to decorate their portrait puppet.
- When they have finished the decorating, stuff the puppet with old newspaper then staple the gap closed.
- Hang all the puppets around the room and see if the young people can guess which puppet represents which young person.

Source: Art After School

Activity Three: Peel Away Tape Design

Materials: White mat board, masking tape (blue painter's masking tape works best), crayon, paint, colored markers & scissors



- Stick strips of masking tape to a square of mat board in an intentional, planned design.
- Employ features of design by crossing the tape over itself, overlapping strips, and tearing off small pieces to stick to the mat design. It is important to plan to leave areas of white mat board showing between tape pieces.
- Color the spaces left between the tape-lines with crayon, paint, or colored markers. The colors may be solid, or patterns and designs may be drawn to fill in the spaces.
- Carefully and slowly peel away the tape to see the stencil effect remaining on the mat board.

Other tape and stencil ideas:

- Spray the masking tape design with thinned tempera paint or liquid watercolor paint. Then remove the making tape.
- Create with contact paper instead of tape. Peel away after coloring the spaces and areas outside the contact paper.
- Tape designs on a blank t-shirt. Color in the open spaces with fabric marker. Then peel off the tape.

Source: www.brightwing.com

Activity Four: Group Clay Sculpture

Aim: Clay work can be relaxing, and promotes imagination, creativity, and exploration.

Materials: Wet potters clay, large plywood base, about 3' x 3', small containers of water, sponges, pottery tools - craft sticks, flat sticks, spatulas, sponges, knives, forks, paints &



paintbrushes. Both the potters clay & pottery tools can be bought cheaply from any art shop

- Each young person will need about 1/2 pound of clay.
- Gather the young people around the plywood base and working together with individual mounds of clay, build and create a joined big group clay sculpture of either a random abstract design, or something more pictorial and realistic.
- Use wet sponges for smoothing the clay.
- Use pottery tools for creating textures or straight edges.
- Explore and have fun! If it doesn't look just so, smash it down and start over again.
- When the young people agree that the masterpiece is complete, let dry until a soft, dusty color, then paint.



Source: www.brightwing.com

Activity Four: Your Own Flag



Materials: colored stiff paper, scissors, tape, glue glitter, feathers, buttons, ribbons, crayons, markers, stapler and coat hangers.

- Every country has its own flag, so this activity asks young people to design their own flag which represents themselves using the arts materials.
- Fold the paper over the long bar of the coat hanger. Selotape or staple the folded edge so it is secured over the hanger bar.
- Decorate the flag with colored paper cut into various shapes. Use crayons and markers to draw extra designs. Add glitter, feathers, buttons and other art materials to add more pizzazz to the flag.

Source: Aft After School

Activity Five: Christmas Piñata

Based on the traditional Mexican Piñata this is a great craft that can be made by a group of young people and then used at their Christmas.



Materials: Large paper shopping bag, newspaper, wrapped sweets, sticking tape, tissue paper - red, green & white, glue, glitter, scissors and a stick.

- Take the shopping bag and fill it with lightly crinkled newspaper, add the wrapped sweets and tape the bag closed.
- Cut tissue paper into three inch strips. Fringe the strips by cutting along the edge. Be careful not to cut all the way through.
- Starting at the bottom - glue the strips around the bag, overlapping the fringes slightly.
- Decorate your Piñata to look like a Christmas ornament, Santa Claus, donkey or snowman.
- Give each young person the chance to break the Piñata with a stick while blind folded.

Source: There's Something to Do

Activity Six: Make Me Healthy

Aim: To look at the physical and personal characteristics of a healthy and unhealthy person.



Materials: Large sheets of paper, markers, glue, scraps of material

- Stick large sheets of paper together to make it as tall as a person.
- Divide the group in two give each paper.
- One member of the each group lies down on this sheet and another group member draws around them.
- This drawing is going to become a character.

The character must represent:

A) a healthy young person who made positive choices in terms of smoking, nutrition, alcohol etc...

B) an unhealthy young person who has made unhealthy choices.



Before each group begins they must answer the following questions:

- Is the character male or female?
- What is your characters name?
- What age are they?
- What do they look like?
- Where are they from?
- What type of clothes do they wear?
- What are their hobbies?
- What kind of personality do they have?
- What do they look like physically, hair, nails, and teeth?
- How do their physical characteristics represent their health?

The groups then use scraps of material to dress the character. They must draw on their physical features and any other images that tell us more about the person. They must try not to write any words on the sheet but to use imagery to communicate their ideas for example if the character has bad breath draw the fumes coming out of their mouth etc.

Source: There's Something To Do

Activity Seven: Life's Road Map

Aim: To look at decision making and to look at different decisions made at stages in the young peoples lives.



Materials: Large sheets of paper, markers, paint, photographs & old magazines

- Each member of your group will make a personal life map based on decision making negative and positive. This exercise can be used as part of a discussion on peer pressure and positive choices.
- Take a large sheet of coloured paper and starting from left to right draw a line to represent your life from the day you were born to the present.
- Mark out the years in blocks 0-5, 5-10, 10-15 etc.

Then using pens, pencils, paint, photographs or cut out pictures make a visual image to represent each of the times in your life when



- You made an important decision (subjects chosen in school)
- Someone else made a decision that affected you positively or negatively (your parents chose your name)
- You felt powerful (you won a football match)
- You had to make a difficult decision (you said no when offered a cigarette)
- You felt like you had no power (the local youth club was shut down)
- You influenced a decision (you voted in the finals of You're a Star)

Source: There's Something To Do

Activity Eight Christmas Baubles

Materials: Balloons, wool, glue, a mug, ruler, scissors, bin liner & glitter.



- Blow up the balloon so it fits roughly in the palm of your hand
- Stand the balloon in the mug so that it holds the balloon steady.
- Cut about 30 pieces of wool roughly about the same length of the ruler (12 inches)
- Put the glue in a bowl & dip the wool pieces in it.
- Lay the wool pieces on the bin liner to let dry

for a short while - make sure not to let it dry too much, ideally they should be sticky not wet.

- Wrap the wool pieces around the top half of the balloon - curling the wool so that you are creating a criss-cross pattern with small gaps between them.
- When you have gotten half way down the balloon, let it dry, then turn the balloon over and do exactly the same on the bottom half.
- Its very important that the new wool pieces you put on now touches the already dry wool.
- When the balloon is completely finished it should look like the image shown.
- Leave the wool to dry completely, then burst the balloon & remove it from the woolen cage.
- Add some dabs of glue to the baubles & dip it in glitter.



Source: ArtAttack.

Useful Resources & Websites

The New Youth Arts & Crafts Book, by Alan Darling and Howie Armstrong
 Simply Art, by Sonia Hawes
 Art After School, by Jane Brite & Marlene Jaglinski
 The Magic Workshop, by Thomas Moloney
 Kalesidoscope - Arts Work that Works by Nick Randell & Simon Myhill
 There's Something To Do, by Caherine McGowan

www.artattack.ie
www.brighting.com
www.teacherideas.co.uk
www.about-arts.com/crafts
www.craftlinks.co.uk
www.repherence.com
www.treehousecrafts.com

The Irish Youth Music Awards

The Story So Far...

by

Michael McLoughlin

INTRODUCTION

All around the country for a long time we have been aware of local youth services and projects running music based events and nights for local bands; this has often been coupled with rehearsal spaces and generally a drop in ethos for music related activity. We have constantly sought to bring this work to the national level. This is an important objective as while there is generous support locally for sports organizations and work often the “alternative” lifestyles of young people are shunned and ignored by many.

Our desire was always to ensure an inclusive programme engaging in modern and rock music but with youth work principles at its heart. We were fortunate to engage Dermot Lambert of GarageLand who ran our first pilot year entitled “Seven Steps Up” The methodology met our needs and has stayed with the event. Essentially young people are at the heart of the project.



Pat Carey & Boy Number 7 from Donegal

HOW IT WORKS

Local live selection nights are hosted by youth services either in their own premises or in local venues or arts centres. To avoid the normal pitfalls of band competitions and to ensure proper

youth work principles, it is the acts themselves who decide who goes forward to the final event in Dublin. Every act whether solo or a group gets the same say. As the final award goes to the region and not necessarily the act there is a strong incentive to pick the best act and the best team.

However, all the participants on the night can stay involved in the process as there is a lot more to the music industry than being in a band and being on stage. A whole host of other jobs are needed to support the effort. These range through management, PR, fundraising, roadies, photographer, fashion advisers etc. There is plenty of work to be done. The results of the first year demonstrated that it is the best team that gets the award not always the best band. So, only a cohesive group of young people who work as a team will persevere at the awards.

A key instrument in measuring and displaying all this work was the establishment of Myspace sites for all the acts involved. This allows everybody involved an insight into the work and also allows the organisers and judges at the final know how much teamwork has gone on.

After the live selection night a local send off gig is also held. This provides a final chance to hone the skills of the team and publicise the event with the local community. Another important aspect of local gigs is to develop a sense of the commercial side of the music industry. Local gigs allow the bands and teams charge an entrance fee and even promote or sell their work on CD or download. This is also a valuable learning tool.

To further test the resilience of the act that goes forward from the local selection night they must also perform a song from the runner up act. This prioritises the creative process as the winner and runner up could be for example rap and heavy

metal. All music must be original in its composition but beyond this there is no limitation on the style or genre and we've had them all, rap, r&b, four pieces, solo artists and many more.

NATIONAL EVENT AND PROMOTION

The national final which took place in March 2008 at the Sugar Club combined a series of mentoring sessions with industry figures, a demo dip session where a number of bands could get industry reaction to their demo CDs. Then the live shows kicked off. The panel of judges from the industry selected three acts that they felt met various criteria

Crucial to the success and make up of the project have been strong industry links since the start. Dermot Lambert's involvement in Garageland and as a former lead singer with Blink has helped enormously with this. These links let young people know that there is serious potential in becoming involved in the IYMAS. Hot Press magazine and particularly Jackie Hayden have been very supportive from the outset and along with Willie Kavanagh CEO of EMI records has judged both the demo dip and the awards as a whole.



Midway from Galway

We are very pleased both these prominent industry figures have agreed to volunteer again in 2009. From Phantom FM for an insight into the role of the radio we have had help from Sinead Ni Ni Mhordha and Keith Johnson from IMRO covers the critical area of copyright and intellectual property which bands can never consider too early. Promotions and public relations have been looked after by Aileen Galvin and her team from Entertainment Architects a leading PR Agency

in the entertainment world. Access to a team like this marks out the IYMAS as the place to be if you're in a young band.

In 2008 we estimate about 15,000 young people in all took part in the forerunner of the IYMAS "Seven steps up" This covered most regions in Youth Work Ireland. **Boy No. 7** and **Donegal Youth Service** took home the inaugural award. Over the course of the project we generated positive media coverage for young people in media all around the country estimated in advertising and PR terms to be worth hundreds of thousands of Euros.

Following on from the awards ceremony in the Sugar Club bands from Donegal made the trip to Dublin to record their album which is now available from Youth Work Ireland (€10). The album received a really positive review in Hotpress magazine.

IYMAS 2009

We have been pleasantly surprised with the level of interest and participation in the IYMAS. We have run straight in to the second year with our launch at the Hot Press Music Awards in the RDS where Boy No. 7 and the young people from Donegal were joined by Meteor Award winners Ham Sandwich. We have rebranded the whole event using the concept of the Irish Youth Music Awards. This sets out our vision that a premier meaningful event like this can be run by a youth organisation and interact with the music industry. It is also intended to use this brand for fundraising which is all too necessary given the perilous state of our funding base.

When something works tell others is the old adage and given the level of interest we felt we should. In 2009 the IYMAS will operate in Northern Ireland through Youth Action Northern Ireland and in Dublin in co-operation with CDYSB. This gives the event a truly all Ireland national appeal. Where suitable the events locally are open to all young people and we hope in the future to offer this event to the entire youth sector.

Another important related spin off to the

IYMAs has been the engagement of many youth services with the Music Networks Music Capital Scheme, this will now support rehearsal equipment in many local centres for young people

Naturally funding is always an issue but we are hopeful that somebody in the private sector will see the unique work that is being done here and be willing to associate with it. If we got only a minuscule fraction of what people give to sporting and other causes we would sustain this work for a long time to come.



Boy Number 7 with members of Ham Sandwich at the launch of the IYMAs at the RDS Dublin

CONCLUSIONS

So what is the learning? Clearly we are not a music or promotional organisation; we are a youth work organisation. In the end of the day the IYMAs is a youth project but one which seeks to engage culturally with young people in the field they are most interested in namely rock and pop music. The level of demand and rapid expansion shows this is working.

The entire event centres on participative practice in that young people themselves and only them get to make the key decisions about who goes forward to represent them. There is a built in incentive to group and teamwork. In 2009 we will extend the participative aspect with an AGM for young people and an apprentice scheme.

Not everyone is going to be the next Script or Kings of Leon but there are plenty of other avenues for young people in the music and enter-

tainment industry. Most of all when looking back through the hundreds of pages of media coverage for this event one can only be struck at how the positives images of young people and youth culture jumped of the page amidst the court cases and other negative views. If we do nothing else in launching the IYMAs that will be a job well done.

For further information contact:

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Fax: 01-8724183

Email: mmcloughlin@youthworkireland.ie

IYWC New Resources

COMMUNITY SECTOR RESOURCES

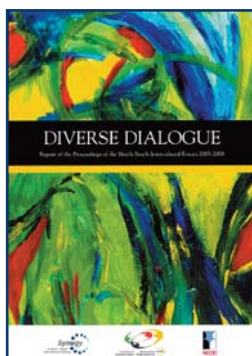
Directory of National Voluntary Organisations and Other Agencies (Ized.) by **Citizens Information Board, 2008**

Directory that provides the most comprehensive listing of national voluntary organisations published in Ireland. It includes details of state and public agencies of interest to the voluntary sector as well as a section on the structure and local offices of the Health Service Executive. The entries in the directory provide an introduction to an extensive array of organisations, serving as a useful point of access to specific groups while on another level providing a valuable overview of the national voluntary organisations that are working in Ireland today.



Diverse Dialogue **Report of the Proceedings of the North South Intercultural Forum 2005-2008** by **NCCRI & Synergy, 2008**

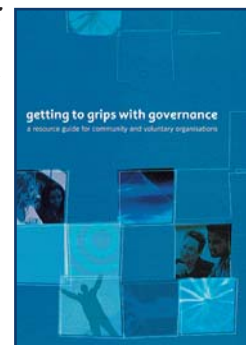
Report which reviews a series of six North South Intercultural Forums and Traveller Roundtables including the North South Immigration Forum held during 2005-2008. Primarily they aimed to bring together policy makers and service deliverers around the same table with minority



ethnic and Traveller groups, voluntary, community and trades union organisations to consider policy and service delivery, with a particular focus on the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Each of the reports listed deals with various key themes of immigration and employment; housing and accommodation; funding policies to support minority ethnic organisations; educational achievement of minority ethnic children in school; access to health and social services and EU, UK and Irish immigration policy areas.

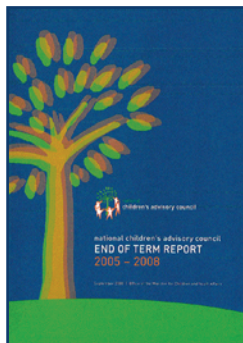
Getting To Grips with Governance **A Resource for Community and Voluntary Organisations** by **The Wheel, 2008**

Guide which forms part of a range of training and guidance services on governance provided by The Wheel. It has been prepared primarily to meet the needs of governing bodies of established organisations that are small to medium in size, as this reflects the vast majority of organisations in the Irish community and voluntary sector. The guide has been designed to help governing bodies by (i) Providing information about the functions that a governing body performs (ii) Assisting individuals to understand more about governing body roles and responsibilities and potential liabilities (iii) Encouraging the development and improvement of practice (iv) Signposting to further information and resources.



**National Children's Advisory Council
End of Term Report 2005 - 2008**
by
**Office of the Minister for Children &
Youth Affairs, 2008**

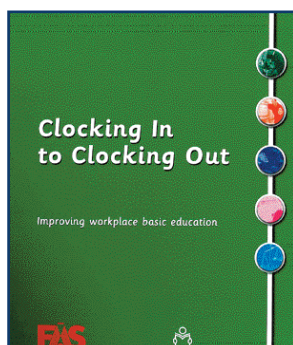
Summary report that sets out the role of the National Children's Advisory Council (NCAC) in advising the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs on matters relating to children and in monitoring the implementation of the National Children's Strategy. The NCAC was established in 2001 as one of the new structures to support the implementation of the National Children's Strategy, which is a 10 year plan covering all aspects of the lives of children living in Ireland today. The NCAC provides independent advice to the Minister. Through its diverse membership it is uniquely placed to provide advice that reflects a combination of expertise and practical 'on the ground' experience.



LITERACY

**Clocking In to Clocking Out:
Improving Workplace Basic Education**
by
FÁS & NAL, 2008

Resource pack for tutors who are delivering workplace basic education programmes. This pack has been designed to help tutors meet the reading, writing, communications, numeracy and ICT needs of learners in the context of workplace basic education. The pack con-

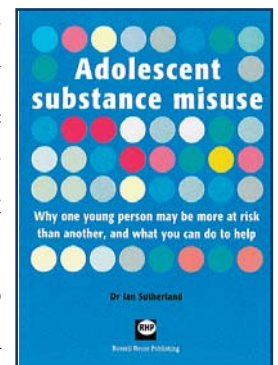


sists of 5 workbooks each focusing on a workplace theme (i) Looking after health, safety and welfare at work (ii) Supporting diversity at work (iii) Managing your time at work (iv) Using technology at work (v) Using maths at work. Each workbook contains 8 sections and each section relates to a single topic. The activities contained in the pack are designed for flexible delivery by tutors.

YOUTH WORK ISSUES

**Adolescent Substance Misuse
Why one young person may be
more at risk than another,
and what you can do to help.**
by
Dr. Ian Sutherland, 2004

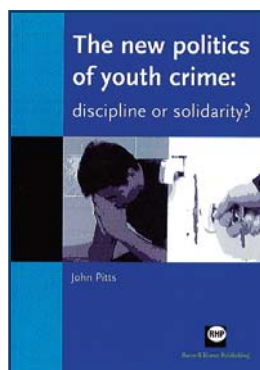
There are endless statistics about how many drugs young people are using and how much alcohol they are drinking. But what makes one of them, say, five times as likely to develop a drink problem as their friend down the road who drinks the same amount? This book is aimed at a broad spread of staff who work with young people, including those with little or no formal knowledge of the subject. It provides guidance and straight forward advice on how to assess a young person's particular risk; how to engage effectively with young people who are at risk or who are already abusing drugs or alcohol; helping young people to understand themselves better. This book provides a basis to avoid being overwhelmed by the task and find routes into assistance.



New Politics of Youth Crime: Discipline or Solidarity?

by
John Pitts, 2001

Well-argued and accessible read for anyone involved with children and young people who offend. It is not just for criminologists, it explains elegantly how and why the youth justice system is as it is today, and argues that the political and organisational structure of youth crime is deepening social exclusion, creating more divisions in society and sucking more and more petty offenders into the criminal justice system. Book also offers a memorable explication of 'the emergent history of political strategies to address youth crime. This is by far the most sophisticated analysis of youth crime and its politics available today.

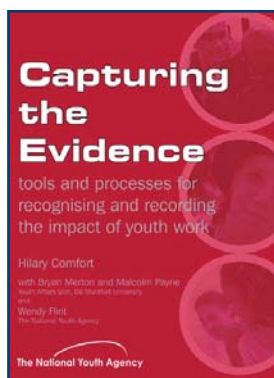


YOUTH WORK PRACTICE

Capturing the Evidence: Tools and Processes for Recognising and Recording the Impact of Youth Work

by
Hilary Comfort, 2006

The tools in this publication are designed to obtain information from young people of the outcomes and impact of youth work in young people-friendly and worker-friendly ways. They are designed to be attractive and enjoyable activities with a specific focus. The activities are intended to

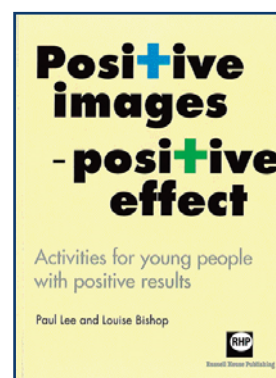


capture and give expression to the change and the personal and social development that young people derive from the youth work they undertake. The tools take a variety of forms, some are paper based, but not all rely on writing. Many use numerical scales to facilitate thinking and reviewing. All offer opportunities for talking. Several use visual triggers or require responses using symbols only. None are blueprints; each can be modified to suit the purposes and needs of young people, workers and settings.

Positive Images - Positive Effects Activities for Young People with Positive Results

by
Paul Lee & Louise Bishop, 2008

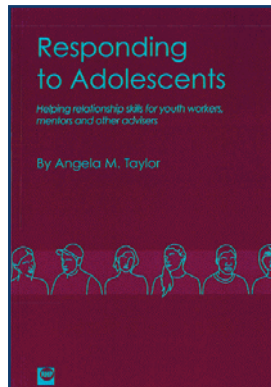
Invaluable resource containing over 100 activities designed to increase young people's positive views of themselves. The activities are fun, easy to use and will make a positive difference in youth work as well as in their lives. The book also contains information on how to facilitate the activities, and how to add skills to youth practice. It encourages the youth worker to focus on the positive, seek to appreciate the good and the worth in young people - all to make a positive difference. Young adults, young people and children from age 8 upwards will all enjoy the challenges of taking part in the activities, and increase their learning through positive images of success. In a society where young people are so often surrounded by negative images of themselves, which in turn undermine society's confidence in their capabilities, it is all the more important for young people to be able to improve their views about themselves and to develop ways to re-



spond positively to other people's concerns.

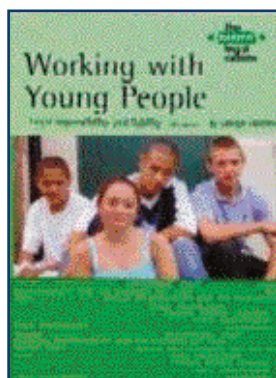
**Responding to Adolescents
Helping Relationship Skills for Youth
Workers, Mentors and Other Advisers.**
by
Angela M. Taylor, 2003

Book which is aimed at staff and mentors who work with young people in cafes and clubs, showing how to arrest problems through early intervention. It emphasises values, responsible practice, beginnings and endings, and the active discouragement of dependency. It's a reference book, a training guide, a theory book and practice guide, all rolled into one and provides practical suggestions for youth workers and other professionals in developing one-to-one helping relationships with young people aged between 12 and 19. It focuses on the relationships, issues and problem areas of personal development.



**Working with Young People:
Legal Responsibility and Liability**
by
**The Children's Legal
Centre (UK), 2008**

Books containing essential guidance for all professional and practitioners who work with children and young people. The aim of the book is to deal with some of the legal problems that may arise in providing services for young people or working with young people. The book reflects the questions we are asked and also issues that arise from training sessions with youth workers, social



workers, teachers and counsellors. The new edition contains fully updated accurate legal information on a wide range of issues including general responsibilities; appointing staff; parental responsibility; confidentiality; taking trips; running away; sexual relationships and education; drugs and alcohol; young people and the police.

All these titles are available ON
LOAN - not for sale to Irish
YouthWork Centre members. For
further information or to request
any of these titles please contact:

Gina Halpin / Breege Kiernan
Irish YouthWork Centre
20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1

Tel: 01-8584501

Email: ghalpin@youthworkireland.ie

bkiernan@youthworkireland.ie

Website: www.iywc.com

Notice Board

NCI CERTIFICATE IN MANAGING ORGANISATIONS IN THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Date: January 2009

Venue: NCI, Dublin

Course Content:

This programme will give participants the latest knowledge and skills associated with managing organisations in the community and voluntary sector. Increasingly community and voluntary organisations are playing a greater role in the provision of mainstream services. In order to maintain an 'economy of care', the need for effective management and leadership has taken on a greater significance. By taking this programme participants will be introduced to a framework for understanding the community and voluntary sector and will gain the necessary skills and understanding required for the effective management of community and voluntary organisations.

The programme is for people who are currently working or would like to work in the community and voluntary sector.

Programme Modules

§ Human Resource Management

§ Management Theory

§ Planning

Participants can either Apply Online at www.ncirl.ie or download our application form (pdf file) at www.ncirl.ie/dynamic/File/NCIappform.pdf

For further Information please contact:

National College of Ireland
Mayor Street
Dublin 1
Tel: 01 850 221 721

ECO UNESCO - INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Date: Thursday 29th January 2009

Venue: Eco Unesco Office, Dublin

Course Contents:

10 week FETAC accredited course exploring sustainable development through case studies and project work.

ECO UNESCO - PRACTICAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009

Venue: Eco Unesco Office, Dublin

Course Content:

Interactive one-day introductory training course provides participants with practical ideas about integrating the principles of sustainable development into their own youth organisation. More and more youth workers and teachers are bringing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into their work with young people.

The course is practical, interactive and informative, employing innovative facilitation methodologies and suitable for anyone interested in the environment, in global development and justice issues.

ECO-EDUCATION - AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Date: Friday 20th February 2009

Venue: Eco Unesco Office, Dublin

Course Content:

One-day introduction training course explores how to introduce environmental education in educational ac-

tivities with young people. This is an exciting way to empower young people and encourage them to take ownership of their environment.

For further information on these courses, please contact:

Eco Unesco
26 Clare Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01-6625491
Email: training@ecounesco.ie

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

Date: Thursday 5th February 2009

Venue: Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Presenter: Jacqueline Hall, FPRII

As new regulations, financial instruments and legislation continue to be formulated at national - and increasingly EU - level, the challenge for those in business and for the not-for-profit and voluntary sectors is to stay one step ahead of the workings of government.

An organisation that engages in effective public affairs will be aware of all regulatory activities impacting their business or sector, will anticipate such changes and will seek a constructive engagement with political and public parties to make their views known and represented in the development and implementation of policy and legislation. This course guides you through the principal stages involved in the legislative process and shows you how to successfully, and convincingly, influence the final outcome.

Topics covered on the day include:

- § A brief overview of the Irish political orbit and the key agencies / activities shaping public policy
- § The role of the opposition, specialist TDs and special interest groups
- § Overcoming apathy - are all political debates local?
- § How to frame your objectives and message, and how to deliver that message to relevant parties
- § Which allies to woo and why, to act as a conduit for your message and to help deliver objectives.

For further information please contact:

PRII
78 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6618004

HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACHES IN IRELAND TRAINING COURSE

Dates: Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th February 2009

Venue: National College of Ireland, Dublin.

Amnesty International will hold a four-day training course on Human Rights Based Approaches in Ireland. The course is directed at individuals working in the public, private and voluntary sector and aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to apply human rights to their work.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they will gain from an understanding of human rights based approaches and will have an opportunity to apply human rights based approaches in their work.

The application deadline is Thursday, 12 February. The fee for the course is €200.00 with discretionary concession rates. All applicants must be committed to attend the full duration of the course.

To apply, please fill in an application form, which can be found at

www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/news-events/article.asp?id=26763&page=2158

Or contact:

HRBA
Amnesty International Irish Section
First Floor, Ballast House
18-21, Westmoreland Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01-8638300
Email: hrba@amnesty.ie



Irish YouthWork Centre
20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1

Tel: 01-8729933

Fax: 01-8724183

Email: info@iywc.com

Website: www.iywc.com

