

ISSN NO: 0791-6302

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YOUTH WORK SCENE

Issue 6 - March/93 National Youth Federation

inside

ART ATTACK

**Volunteers in
Youth Information**

**Volunteering & Donating
to Charity**

A magazine for Irish youth workers ...

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Irish Youth Work Scene
magazine published five times a year by the
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
Ph: 01 729933 / Fax: 01 724183

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

Views expressed in this magazine are the contributor's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Youth Federation.

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Printing: Focus Print



Small Steps, Great Potential

The recent announcement of grants to the Youth Service marks a further improvement in the quality of support from government for Irish youth work.

Last year's signal improvement was the earlier confirmation of grant level and speedier release of grant allocations. This year we had to wait until the end of March for confirmation of grant but that itself was quite a creditable performance in the context of a January change of government. Even more heartening in 1993 was the average increase in levels of grant aid - roughly in line with the underlying rate of public sector wage cost inflation and certainly a good deal more realistic than the levels of increase which have otherwise obtained since 1989. These are real improvements, achieved against a background of intense competition for public monies, and the Minister and his officials deserve recognition for their achievements.

The ongoing consultation in regard to the Green Paper on Education and the imminent White Paper on Voluntary Organisations are also very positive initiatives. It is to be hoped that from them will come consensus on issues such as multi-annual funding; formal provision for pay indexation of grant; transparent evaluation and planning systems to inform funding allocations; and explicit acknowledgement of a practical role for the youth service in terms of overall education policy. Once again the Minister and his officials are clearly committed to progress. And happily the potential for such a watershed development has never been so great.

It may not be enough however. Notwithstanding significant increases in grant support in 1993 the youth service will still experience redundancies this year because of the legacy of underfunding in real terms from the base-line established in 1988/9. Any level of redundancies must surely be seen as unacceptable in the light of current unemployment rates in Ireland.

And it is also unacceptable to place organisations which employed staff in good faith on the basis of specific sanction from the Department in breach of contract with their employees because of inability to pay PESP and incremental pay awards.

As long as such issues dominate the agenda of youth organisations there can be little hope of achieving consensus on many of the "big" issues. The negative agenda needs to be cleared. If organisations are obliged to worry about survival they are unlikely to be fully objective or open to a less well defined potential common good.

We need a commitment to an immediate, significant additional tranche of funding for the Youth Service. It would save jobs and clear the way for historic development. We need it as a matter of extreme urgency.

JD

VOLUNTEERS in Youth Information

Youth work FOCUS

Staffing a Youth Information Centre is generally seen as the preserve of professional information workers. In this article, **JOHN LAWLESS**, describes and looks at the implications of an experiment in Waterford, where volunteers play the key role in the delivery of the service.

The provision of locally based Youth Information Centres is generally regarded, in youth work circles at least, as an essential part of a comprehensive response to the developmental needs of young people today. As our society becomes increasingly complex, the process of enabling young people make realistic choices and decisions and alerting them to the services, facilities and opportunities open to them, demands a range of communicative skills and specialist knowledge.

The national network of Youth Information Centres is, by and large, staffed by professionals who are at the frontline in the delivery of a quality service. Volunteers, where they are involved, are generally regarded as back-up support for the key workers and are on the periphery of the planning and decision-making process.

In 1991 a decision was made by *Waterford Regional Youth Service* to give volunteers a more central and meaningful role in the delivery of the information service. This decision was prompted by:

- An overall commitment to the principle of volunteerism in general;
- The desire to provide a service which was truly community-based;
- The desire to meet the information needs of the young

people of the region by providing a regional information service as opposed to just one information service.

A number of important issues have emerged from the experience of implementing this change of policy. While the most obvious is the change in the role of the information officer, other important issues such as the needs and motivation of volunteers deserve careful attention.

The Needs of the Volunteer

In the present climate of high unemployment, it goes without saying that there are many people who wish to help and who have time on their hands. Many of these people are skilled in areas such as administration and secretarial work and are highly motivated in "doing something for their community".



Yet, they have their own needs and in giving them a central role in the information service, it is essential that these needs are met. It is precisely at this point that information work has a number of

advantages over other forms of voluntary involvement.

It has been our experience in Waterford that the volunteers themselves have a range of information needs. The obvious questions such as information on social welfare entitlements, surface early on, but other questions such as the possibility of taking up an educational grant as a mature student are not so obvious. As a direct result of their involvement over a period of time, a whole range of new possibilities opens up for many of the volunteers.

We have noticed that some volunteers are involved because they want to gain work experience and develop their skills. It is a prerequisite for all volunteers that they take part in an induction training course and they have opportunities on a regular basis to participate in more specialised in-service training. During their involvement they gain valuable experience in a range of work situations such as dealing with the public or desk top publishing.

Recruitment

By means of a number of recruitment drives, we specifically targeted young unemployed people as potential volunteers for the service. This had value in itself as it provided a strategy for working with young people, giving them valuable training and an opportunity to use their own skills and resources. Their involvement at the frontline of the delivery of

over >

the service meant that they were helping with the information needs of their own peer group. This in turn helped to ensure that the information data bank available through the service was relevant to the needs of young people and presented in a way which was readily understood.

Support Systems

The importance of the provision of suitable support systems for volunteers cannot be over-emphasised. Where the centres are staffed by volunteers on a rota basis, it is essential to have regular meetings of all volunteers. These meetings act as a clearing house for new information and provide a forum for ideas but more importantly they enable the volunteers to gain a sense of ownership and to gradually realise that they are the key people in the provision of the service. Developing from these meetings emerged a "Monitoring Group of Volunteers" which basically is a representative group of the volunteers who are involved in the information service throughout the region. This group is now beginning to play an important role in planning and in policy formation. The work of drawing up the "Code of Practice for Volunteers" has been their most important accomplishment to date.

Centre to this code is the whole question of standards as it clearly details what is expected from everyone involved in the delivery of the service. The implicit contract between each individual volunteer and the Youth Service is also examined as part of the code. This clarity has proven to be particularly valuable and central to the support systems for volunteers.

Implications of a Voluntary Information Service

The most obvious implication is that a lot of resources must be put into the recruitment, training and on-going support of the volunteers. If volunteerism is seen as a way of working with young people it is implied that the youth service is anxious to help these to progress.



In practical terms it has been our experience that we must expect and in a sense promote a high turnover rate of volunteers. In 1992, of the 60 volunteers involved at one stage or another there was a turnover rate of about 55%. However, in preliminary research carried out in December 1992, we were glad to discover that a large percentage of volunteers who leave do so because they have progressed from the point of view of employment or training. It means that ongoing recruitment and training is an essential part of the work of the service. Yet it was also heartening to note that during 1992 a total of 8,700 working hours was contributed by volunteers to the information service.

An implication which is less obvious is that the information in the centres must be arranged in such a way as to make it "user-friendly" not just for the users of the centres but also for the volunteers. Where a large number of people were staffing the centres,

we found it necessary to have clear systems for all procedures. We also found it advantageous to have the same standard systems in operation in our three centres in Waterford, Clonmel and Dungarvan.

Perhaps the most important implication is the change of my role as the full-time Information Officer. No longer can he/she be seen as the "dispenser of information" and "expert" on an ever increasing range of topics, but I now see my role as that of facilitating, supporting and managing a team of volunteers. While much of my time is spent in the centres working side by side with them, I am seen as the resource person who enables the volunteers to provide the service and to maintain a high standard in all their work.

Integration

The change of policy has brought about many exciting changes to the way in which we work with young people and information. I believe that if it is to be successful, this specific type of volunteerism demands a close partnership between the information service and the other work of the local youth service which alone can provide the necessary infrastructure and support. If the youth service in general is based on volunteerism it seems appropriate that the information service be based on a similar type of volunteerism so that the two are not seen as separate entities but rather as an integrated response to the varied needs of young people today.

John Lawless is Youth Information Officer with Waterford Regional Youth Service.

The Intermediate Tier in Education - Emerging Issues

"The structures of education will be made more democratic with an emphasis on devolution. This will involve the development of democratic intermediate structures for the management of first and second level education" (Programme for a Partnership Government 1993 - 1997).

In the absence of clear indications of departmental thinking, debate about the intermediate tier has been diffuse. A major speech on this subject by the Minister for Education on 4 March, 1993 in Kilkenny provides a timely context for considering the implications of the debate so far for the youth service.

Nature of an intermediate tier

"I see the new intermediate structures building on and expanding the many positive features of the work which has been done by the VECs over the past sixty years, in the new and wider context of the challenges now facing us, specifically the need for a much more locally based consensus on the role and functions of such structures" (Minister for Education, 4 March 1993).

It is fair to say that whilst there is still not unanimity about the need for any intermediate tier to replace VECs that question has been overtaken by the policy defined in the Programme for Partnership Government. What remains considerably less clear however is whether it will be a Local Education Committee or a Local Education Authority (the former a policy / advisory / facilitative body, whilst the latter would include significant operational responsibilities). The recent youth service task groups on the Green Paper were clear that they envisaged a non-executive role for the new local bodies in regard to youth work.

Role of the intermediate tier

"My own view is that an intermediate tier would require to do much more than act simply as a co-ordinator in the area of

school rationalisation or inter-school co-operation ... the main criterion I would apply to the allocation of functions to an intermediate tier is that they should enhance the quality of the education service that pupils receive in schools" (Minister for Education, 4 March 1993).

The Conference of Major Religious Superiors in its submission on local education committees (January 1993) suggested that these committees should have responsibility for coordinating certain support services; liaising between schools and other agencies; identifying and responding to needs in the area of adult and community education; coordinating curriculum provision and enrolment policies; facilitating the rationalisation of schools; serving as catalysts and centres for innovation; monitoring / evaluation of the work of educational agencies in their areas and planning and targeting.

In her speech the Minister suggested that the services that might be offered by a local education authority would include remedial teaching services; establishment of school industry links; provision of a comprehensive adult education service; the coordination of education and training and in liaising with the statutory and voluntary agencies dealing with economic and social issues and development in its area; the coordination of the provision of the post leaving certificate courses.

The absence of any specific reference to youth services in either of these lists reflects a continuing, widespread failure to recognise the potential of youth work in the context of overall education policy. If youthwork is viewed as marginal in the new structures then the role of the new tier in regard to youth services should be correspondingly minimal.

Composition

The Conference for Major Religious Superiors in its submission suggested that members of committees be drawn from a number of categories including elected representatives of the local community; community based organisations; the local business community; parents of school going

Youth work POLICY

children; the professionals involved in education (teachers etc); the providers of schooling (trustees / patrons of all existing school types); the providers of adult and community education, and co-opted members, such as representatives of the disadvantaged. It further recommended that the total membership should not exceed twenty.

There is general agreement that it will be difficult to allow all interested parties membership of the boards of the new tier without having bodies which are too large to be effective. On the other hand if the intermediate tier is going to have overall responsibility for local education services - broadly defined - their boards should include adequate representation of youth, sport and adult education interests. A standard system of subcommittees defined in the legislation (with broadly equal representation on the controlling committee) might help in resolving the numbers problem.

Geographical boundaries

"...there are thirtyeight Vocational Education Committees. It is difficult to sustain an argument that there is a need for this many. We have in this country a great attachment to the county unit. The county as a unit would then have much to recommend it. Within that unit, I feel however, that we would have to make special provision for the largest urban areas. I am aware too that some aspects of primary school administration are organised on a diocesan basis which run beyond county boundaries" (Minister for Education, 4 March 1993).

Adopting a county basis would correspond to the current county enterprise initiatives and would facilitate harmonisation with the FAS regional structure. But it does imply a wide variation between local structures in different parts of the country in terms of scale and variety of youth population and needs. In such circumstances can the system be made flexible enough to allow "joint ventures" between adjacent local authorities as a means of ensuring maximum efficiency and effectiveness?

Review of NCIR Study

The recently published report on charitable giving and volunteering in the Republic of Ireland should prompt considerable discussion among youth leaders at local, regional and national level and may lead them to closely examine their fundraising strategies and the methods used for recruiting volunteers into the youth service.

Of major significance to the National Youth Federation is how this report 'Reaching Out' (Dr Helen Ruddle and Prof Joyce O'Connor, Policy Research Centre, NCIR) agrees in some instances yet greatly contrasts elsewhere with the 'Study of Voluntary Activity in the NYF' by Louise Hurley (Irish YouthWork Centre, available in June, 1993)

'Reaching Out' is a first in that it closely examines reasons for volunteering, the number of people and time spent in voluntary work and the kind of charitable causes to which people give and the channels through which donations are made. It will remain a major study and reference book for many years to come both for voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland and for comparable studies of volunteering and charitable giving in other countries.

VOLUNTEERING

Of the 1,000 respondents of the study, 389 had carried out voluntary activities. The respondents who participated in voluntary work became involved through a variety of means.

Most people became involved because they themselves wanted to help other groups (22%). Other respondents involved themselves as a result of a request by a friend (9%), asked by a local group/club (7%), asked by a school (7%) or through work (9%).

When asked their reasons for involvement in voluntary work 29% became involved 'to help others', 8% did so because of their belief in the cause while 7% became involved out of a sense of duty.

Of interest here is that while 29% stated that their reason for volunteering is altruistic, 37% of the respondents in the Irish YouthWork Centre survey on Reasons for Involvement in Youth Work also indicated an altruistic nature as their response to a similar question. Given that the IYWC survey was directed at people involved in the youth service and the Reaching Out survey was carried out among a cross section of the public these figures could still be seen as comparing quite favourably with each other.

Time given to volunteering: The total amount of time given to voluntary activity per month varies from less than one hour to 160 hours. 27% gave between two and five hours while 18% gave between five and ten hours per month. The report concludes that the main amount of time given to volunteering among the population at large ranges between 4.17 hours and 5.08 hours per month.

This statistic may ring alarm bells among the many youth work volunteers through the youth service. The IYWC survey indicates that 42% of youth work volunteers (as opposed to the general public) spend three - five hours per week doing voluntary activity while over 60% spend up to eight hours per week in similar activity.

The comparison here, albeit of a non scientific nature, could add considerable credence to the argument that the committed youth work volunteer runs the risk of being burnt out due to over involvement in their voluntary activity.

Volunteers were asked which charitable causes benefited from their voluntary activities in the previous month. A repeated pattern statistics was the high level of commitment to working for neighbours (25%), the next most common beneficiary was sport (12%) while youth was in ninth place with 4%.

Other groups to benefit were hospitals (5%), schools/education (3.7%), children's causes (3.4%), mental handicapped (1.2%), women's groups (.08%) and first aid (0.1%).

The Reaching Out study found that 37% of those involved in voluntary work are male with 41% female. These figures can be compared to the youth work involvement statistic of the IYWC study where 46% are male and 53% female.

Age Group Involvement: Nine different age groupings were chosen for the purpose of identifying their participation in volunteering. Apart from the over 70 years of age group the next lowest percentage of volunteers is found in the under 25 years of age group (31%), with 32% in the 26 - 30 years group, 40% in the 31 - 40 age group and 51% in the 41 - 50 years age group.

These statistics while indicating the overall national profile would not be indicative of the age group of voluntary leaders in youth work, where almost 90% of the volunteers (leaders) are under 40 years of age.

The highest level of volunteers (in all aspects of volunteerism) is found among those working outside the home on a part time basis (47%) with the lowest percentage of volunteers among students (25%). While the participation statistics of the unemployed in youth work can similarly be compared with these returns the highest level of volunteers in youth work would work within the home (IYWC Study).

DONATIONS TO CHARITY

Charitable giving is the second significant issue covered in this study. Two distinct types of donating are defined in the report with 10% giving Planned Donations (standing orders, covenants, etc) and 89% giving Prompted Donations (an appeal, collection, etc).

Prompted Charity Giving: The most frequent method of prompted giving is the church door collection (50%) in the month prior

TABLE ONE : Total Amount Donated Through Different Prompted Methods

Prompted Method	Amount Raised £'s	Percentage of Total
Raffle ticket	1,931.5	21.8
Church door collection	1,020.9	11.5
Sponsoring someone in event	1,008.1	11.4
Door-to-door collection	735.2	8.3
Other	734.6	8.3
Appeal letter	719.9	8.1
Charity lottery ticket	577.9	6.5
Street collection/flag day	497.05	5.6
Various	1,648.54	12.7
TOTAL	8,873.69	

to the survey taking place. In second place is street collections (34%) followed by raffle tickets (30%). However even though church door collections compare more favourably than raffle tickets the returns from raffle tickets are greater (see Table One).

The Amounts Donated however vary with 25% giving £5 - £10 and 29% donating £2 - £5. £1 or less was donated by 12% of those interviewed.

Total Donated: The total amount donated by all respondents through prompted means in the month prior to interview was £8,873.69. If this amount is then taken as a representative indication of all persons over 18 years in the Republic of Ireland then it can be assumed that charitable donations by all adults in the course of the year lies within the range of £217m and £274m.

(Note: Other £598.04 (Table One) includes donations made at race nights, charity cards, jumble sales, etc).

Who benefits from the donations: The charitable causes which benefited are diseases (14%) includes collections for cancer, heart disease, etc. while in second place were rehabilitation services (10%) followed by physical handicap (10%). White youth services came in at 13th place with 2%. The other category includes Pilgrimages (1.3%), Homeless (1.1%), Disaster Relief (.08%) and Job Creation (.05%).

Throughout the report youth services and youth development do not necessarily register a high level of support but are by no means near the bottom in terms of importance.

Of significance however is that local charities are most frequently preferred (69%), with Third World charities (26%) and national charities (10%).

The effects of the National Lottery on charitable giving is significant. 16% consider that buying a ticket in the National Lottery is the same as giving to charity, while almost a quarter indicate that they now give less to charity since the National Lottery was introduced. 51% are dissatisfied with the distribution of National Lottery funds, 23% suggest that more funds should go to the needy. For the most part regarding the distribution of these funds respondents are concerned with greater allocations for particular groups including the unemployed, the elderly and youth.

This study 'Reaching Out', on Charitable Giving and Volunteering in the Republic of Ireland is essential reading for youth service leaders and is available from The Policy Research Centre, NCIR, Sandford Road, Dublin 6, £9.50 plus .50p p&p.

Irish YouthWork Scene is grateful for permission to use the various statistical analysis contained in this report.

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BRUNEL

THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON



National Youth Federation

MA

in

Youth and Community Studies

(3 year distance learning programme)

From September 1993 the NYF is offering the MA degree programme in Youth and Community Studies from Brunel, the University of West London.

The syllabus for the first two years includes modules in psychology, sociology, current approaches in youth work, policy perspectives, management, training and research methods. A dissertation is undertaken in the third year.

The programme is supported by comprehensive distance learning materials, detailed feedback on all completed assignments and projects, residentials and workshops and regular contact with personal tutors.

The MA is intended for individuals with at least five years experience in the youth service who are seeking training and/or career development opportunities. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a capacity for independent study and a familiarity with distance learning methods. Non-graduates are welcome to apply. Further information can be obtained from the **Course Director, MA Programme, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01-729933.**

Applications, which must include a curriculum vitae, a photograph and a letter indicating the reason for applying should be received by the Course Director no later than 3 May, 1993. Prospective candidates will be interviewed.



DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND HUMAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for admission to the following postgraduate programmes, on to which there will be an intake in October 1993:

M.A. in Communication and Cultural Studies
Two years part time.

Lectures will be held on two evenings a week over two years.

M.A. in Film and Television Studies
One year full time.

Lectures will be held over one academic year. Daytime, and possibly some evening, attendance will be required.

Closing date for receipt of applications for both degrees: 4th May 1993.

Applicants for both degrees are normally expected to possess a good honours primary degree, preferably in the Humanities or Social Sciences, or an equivalent qualification.

Application forms and other information are available from: School of Communications, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel: (01) 7045220/7045227. Fax: (01) 7045447.

Youth work

PRACTICE

In March 1991, eight adults from the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (full-time staff and volunteers) took part in a certificate course in Art Activities in youth work. This was an extra mural programme of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, in association with CAFE and the National Youth Federation.

Following the practical nature of the course and the need it met for participants in their work, it was decided to review the arts training needs of both full-time and voluntary workers and young people involved in the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service.

A working group of eight was set up to undertake this project. The group included one full-time youth worker, three adult volunteers, three young people and the arts officer for Kerry. The group set about investigating the present provision for young people within the arts in Kerry. Following this work the 'ART ATTACK' Art Activities in Youth Work Training Course was devised based on the course run by CAFE and the NYF to meet artistic and developmental needs of young people and the adults who work with them in Kerry.

It was decided that youth leaders and volunteers would:

- be trained in a broad range of arts skills - mask making, puppetry, clay work, poster design, music and rhythm, drama, mime and movement;
- through facilitation and discussion be made aware of the developmental objectives which art work satisfy and would acquire the necessary skills to implement a developmental arts programme with young people;

Art Attack

Impromptu dance, mask making, drama, pottery, the theme from Coronation Street ... puzzled? MARY MC ELLIGOTT from the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service gives us an insight into the very exciting developmental youth work course ART ATTACK.

- have a positive experience with the arts and generally have a ball!!!

This course is run over three residential weekends and is followed up by three further day long training sessions for participants who express the wish to brush up on existing skills and even learn some new ones. After each training weekend participants reflect on and choose from what they have learned and run these activities with the young people in their own youth club, community



group, etc. The essential ideal behind Art Attack is that arts are explored as a developmental tool for working with young people, community groups, etc. creative activities and craft work are undertaken with the particular aim of promoting and stimulating personal development, self confidence and self expression. The emphasis is always on how arts activities can realise the greatest

potential of the individual, personally, psychologically and creatively.

Participants on the course are already actively involved with young people through youth work or other processes. They possess an appreciation for and an awareness of the arts. However, they are not a bunch of "artyites", neither are they excelling or totally au fait with all aspects of the course curriculum. They have fears, inhibitions and a wariness of partaking in arts activities.

However, the course seems to overcome these inhibitions. When asked what they got that they didn't expect to get, replies were of this nature: "I didn't expect to be able to participate, especially in the pottery", "I got a real buzz from the music activities I didn't think I'd like them", "I realised that painting isn't as hard as it's cracked up to be by me".

Theatre Omnibus, the National Touring Theatre Company, are responsible for the first weekend. They lead the group through a stimulating programme of improvisation, mime, impromptu dance, dance, mask and costume making. Each session is facilitated through active workshops, discussion sessions, visual and audio displays, etc. Participants take part in all areas of the training weekend. Many of them find it the most exciting and enlightening session: "the drama weekend was excellent, I found so many new ways of using drama, street theatre, puppets, etc".

Many new and innovative ideas and suggestions are sown in the minds of the group. Theatre



Omnibus' cost effective means of making, creating and achieving is tantamount to the success of their training. Participants are given ideas which are workable, manageable and cheap, three key aspects to be remembered when working with young people.

Music, rhythm and percussion form the basis of the second training weekend. Participants experience music, instruments, rhythm and song from its core. The emphasis here as always is not on perfection or performance but on involvement, enjoyment and programme planning.

Nico Browne, composer and musical director, produces the wackiest looking bunch of instruments which in turn produce even wackier sounds to be used in music stories, rhythmic sessions and impromptu performance. Joyous strains of 'The Blue Danube', 'My Irish Molly', and the theme from Coronation Street, were heard echoing through the corridors of our venue. The tunes at least were identifiable even if the homemade 'instruments' were not. Participants who prior to the weekend had been very wary about the musical content were leaping from their chair on Sunday morning eager to conduct the ever improving 'Art Attack Ankla Band'.

The theory of self expression through music was clearly in practice during the music sessions. Through the expertise of Nico

Browne, participants forgot their own fears and inhibitions and partook enthusiastically in all activities. The results were marvellous. There are now at least five 'junk bands' operating throughout Kerry, one which proudly took part in the St Patrick's Day Parade recently! Even the participants openness to approach music workshops increased ten fold, "I now feel that I don't have to be a Braams or Schubert to create my own music", "The music sessions were so enlightening and the kids loved it".

Pottery, poster-making and collage make up the third weekend. The hands-on nature of these workshops is very popular and allows participants the opportunity to express themselves in a non-verbal and creative manner. 'Art Attackers' have the freedom to create objects of their choice and also contribute to an overall theme such as The Mad Hatters Tea Party, Star Trek, etc. A pottery theme has proved essential when continuing this work with young people. Their imaginations know no bounds and the overall team spirit is cemented when each individual is contributing to a group effort.

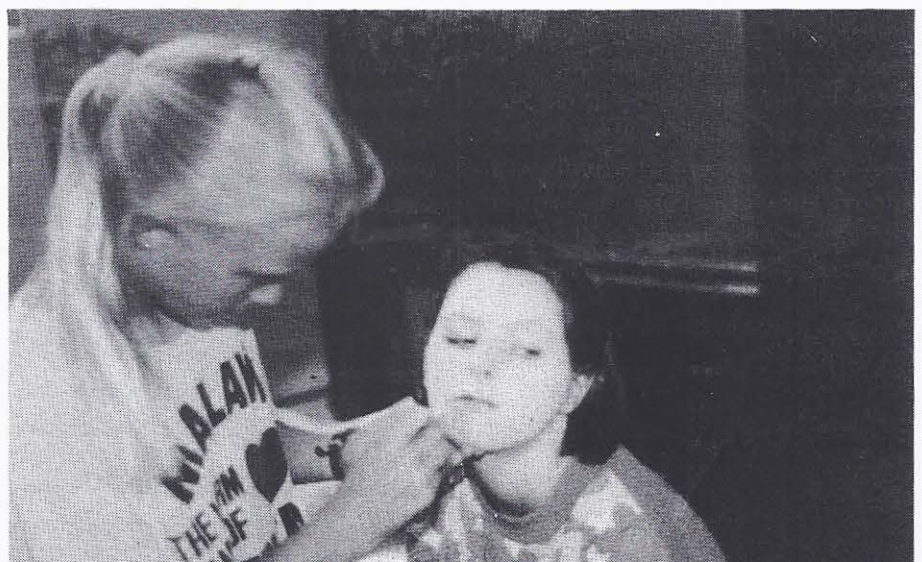
Participants were delighted with the opportunity to produce their own creations; "the clay, poster-making and collage weekend satisfied me most because it's more in my line", "please can I do more pottery?", "pottery is sufficient for a few nights activities with my group".

Art Attack is an action packed fun filled developmental youth work course. It was piloted during 91/92 and continued successfully during 92/93. It is continuously evaluated by the service and tutors who are committed to its constant development. It's a haven to meet new people, relax, be yourself, learn some new skills and most importantly, to experience a new means of working with young people in a positive, enjoyable and experiential way.

"creative activities and craft work are undertaken with the particular aim of promoting and stimulating personal development, self confidence and self expression."

Effective programme planning forms a large part of every weekend. Participants work in pairs or trios with youth and community groups throughout the diocese. As a result, approximately 400 young people experience the arts and are offered a platform to express themselves and their creativity in a relaxed, community atmosphere.

For adults and young people alike it's an opportunity not be missed in Kerry!



Youth work

RESOURCES

YOUTHWORK CURRICULUM

The Big Red Book of the Youth Work Curriculum

by Night Shift Publications

- This publication seeks to examine in detail the whole issue of the youth work curriculum in everyday language and terminology and in a way in which everyone can participate in developing appropriate, responsive and effective provision for young people.

PEACE EDUCATION

Introductory Manual for Peace Education

by Manchester Peace Education Group

- This manual is designed with two purposes in mind - firstly to offer practical, tried and tested ideas on how to develop a number of peace education skills and secondly to offer suggestions on ways of running a community peace education group.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A Handbook of Communication Skills

Edited by Owen Hargie

- This book is intended as a comprehensive volume on communication skills. Many of the contributors are world leaders in their particular subjects. This book should be of interest to researchers and students in the field as well as professional practitioners such as teachers, youth workers, social workers, nurses, therapists etc. whose day-to-day work depends so much on communication skills.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The State and Social Welfare

The Objectives of Policy

Edited by Thomas and Dorothy Wilson

- This book considers some of the principal ideological perspectives associated on the one hand with libertarian and new right-wing philosophies and on the other, social democratic thought. As the British debate on the future of the welfare state is mirrored in other countries, this book looks at approaches in the European Community, the Soviet Union and Sweden and discusses the implications and practicalities of implementing policy changes.

YOUNG PEOPLE-AT-RISK

Adolescents In Need: An Approach for Helping Rural at-Risk Youth

by Betty Compton, John Hughes and Jean C. Smith

- Practical guide for those in a community who want to develop a new programme to serve at-risk youth or enhance an existing programme. Based on the experience of the Adolescents-in-Need Project in rural Orange County, North Carolina.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Managing Stress

by Jane Cranwell-Ward

- This book offers a self-help approach evolved over many years of studying and lecturing on the subject by the author. Illustrations, case histories, exercises and questionnaires are used in combination with a lively text to equip the reader with a simple but powerful set of techniques for coping with stress at work and at home.

VOLUNTEERING / CHARITABLE GIVING

Reaching Out: Charitable Giving and Volunteering in the Republic of Ireland

by Dr Helen Ruddle and Professor Joyce O'Connor

- This report is based on a major nationwide study carried out among charities and voluntary groups throughout the 26 counties. It gives a detailed profile of those who donate money or volunteer their services, the amounts of money and time involved, the motivation for involvement and general attitudes to charities and voluntary groups. The study also discusses the role and effectiveness of charities and the factors that influence individual choice when it comes to giving and volunteer involvement.

EMPLOYMENT

Vocational Training

by EC Task Force for Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth

- This practical guide provides those seeking work outside their own country with information on the value of their training qualifications in other EC member states.

Available from: European Commission, Task Force Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth, 200 Rue de la Loi, B-1049, Brussels.

COMMUNITY ARTS

Developing Community Arts

by Jude Bowles

- This book evaluates a pilot National Arts Worker Course run by CAFE (October 1991-June 1992). It also contains chapters on CAFE and community arts in Ireland.

Available from: CAFE Ltd, City Arts Centre, 23-25 Moss Street, Dublin 2
Cost: £5.00 (plus £1.50 P&P)

CONTRACTS

Getting Ready for the Contract Culture: Training Pack

by Sandy Adirondack

- This pack provides trainer's notes, handouts, exercises and text for 4 half-day training sessions, for organisations moving towards service agreements and contractual funding arrangements. The sessions suitable both for experienced trainers and those with little or no training background, cover getting ready for the contract culture, performance indicators, legal aspects of contracts and successful contract negotiation.

Available from: Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL. Cost: £15.00stg

EVALUATION

Quality of Service: A Guide to Performance, Measurement and Management for Voluntary Organisations

by Alan Lawrie

- This book is designed to help voluntary groups work with a range of evaluation techniques originally designed for commercial organisations. It includes guidelines on performance indicators, advice on value for money studies, an introduction to Quality Assurance and a discussion of the managerial and organisational implications on using performance measurement systems.

Available from: Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL. Cost: £8.95stg

WELFARE RIGHTS

Welfare Rights Training Pack

by Welfare Rights Training Project

- This pack includes a step by step guide to setting up a welfare rights training course. It also includes a booklet and video which describe the experience of a pilot welfare rights project.

Available from: INOU, 48 Fleet Street, Dublin 2 or FLAC, 49 South William Street, Dublin 2. Cost: £5.00

RURAL YOUTH WORK

Village Moves

by Commonwealth Youth Programme

- This book outlines creative ways of working with young people in rural areas to enable them to make well-informed decisions about whether to go or stay, and highlights how they can negotiate improvements in their rural area.

Available from: Commonwealth Secretariat Publications, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX.. Cost: £7.50stg

GAMBLING

The Bandit Boardgame

by Cafe Volunteer's Group

- This boardgame is designed to promote a responsible attitude towards gambling. It incorporates some design features of fruit machines and includes opinions, facts and skill cards to encourage players to be aware of the risk-taking element of playing fruit machines.

Available from: The Jukebox, Cafe Volunteer's Group, c/o C.J.'s, Talbot Square, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1 1LB. Cost: £10.00stg

INFORMAL TRAINING

Training Pack in Informal Learning

by NIACE Cymru

- This package is designed to support the delivery of training to staff working with informal groups. Modular based, the format includes sections on identification of learning needs; publicity and recruitment; group negotiation; learning models; researching a topic; micro-teaching and evaluating outcomes.

TEEN PARENTING

Too Much Too Young

by Young Mothers Information Project

- Fifteen minute video with accompanying booklet discussing a Bristol based project designed to educate young people about the realities of life as a young parent so that they can make informed decisions about their behaviour.

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

The Irish YouthWork Centre is the official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Youth Clubs UK and the National Youth Agency. The wide range of topics covered by the materials selected for sale 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.
Ph: 01 729933 Fax: 01 724183

Youth work

POLICY

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NATIONAL LOTTERY ALLOCATIONS TABLE 1

	Youth, Sport, Recreation Amenity		Arts, Culture & Nat. Heritage	
	£m.	%	£m.	%
1992 (Provisional)	25.48	25.4	22.74	22.7
1993 (Estimate)	26.02	29.6	21.39	24.3

Deputy Barry asked the Minister for Finance whether he would put a new emphasis on the principles guiding allocation of lottery funded grants and whether the allocations to education, sport and culture would be of the same percentage breakdown as before. In response, Minister Ahern stated that the allocation of national lottery funds was decided by the government in the context of the Estimates to assist programmes in various categories. He also provided in table for the allocations for the categories mentioned by Deputy Barry from 1992 and 1993. (Table 1)

State Expenditure in Education

Deputy E. Kenny asked the Minister for Education to supply the estimated cost to the state of students attending primary, second level and third level education at 1993 costs and the corresponding figures for 1973 and 1983. In response, the Minister supplied estimated figures for the years concerned. (Table 2)

TABLE 2

	(1973)	(1983)	(1993)
	£	£	£
Primary	625	851	1,200
Second Level	1,300	1,500	1,925
Third Level	4,300	3,500	3,500

Implementation of Child Care Act 1991

Deputies Mc Manus and O'Donnell asked the Minister for Health to detail the number of sections of the Act which had been brought into effect, the timescale for the implementation of the remainder of the Act and the monies made available to each regional health board for provision of services under the Act in 1992. In response, Minister Howlin stated that to date, 17 sections of the Act had been implemented including most of the service delivery and preventative provisions contained in parts I and II of the Act (Table 3).

TABLE 4

Health Board	£000
Eastern	750
Midland	120
Mid-Western	180
North-Eastern	180
North-Western	120
South-Eastern	250
Southern	250
Western	195

He stated that PESP contained a commitment to implement the Child Care Act on a phased basis over a seven year period. He also provided figures for monies made available to the regional health boards for Child Care developments in 1992. (Table 4)

Alcohol Abuse

Deputy O'Connor asked the Minister for Health to give details of the level of funding he intended to direct towards education and publicity on the dangers of alcohol abuse in 1993. In response, Minister Howlin outlined a range of programmes being funded by his department's Health Promotion Unit which would cost over £200,000 in 1993. The programmes highlighted were the National Alcohol Policy, Drink Awareness for Youth, School Based Programmes, Parent Education Programme, Drug Questions-Local Answers.

TABLE 3

Section	TITLE
1	Short Title
2	Interpretation
3	Functions of health boards
5	Accommodation for homeless children
6	Provision of Adoption Service
7	Child Card Advisory Committees
8	Review of Services
9	Provision of Services by Voluntary Bodies
10	Assistance for Voluntary Bodies
11	Research
66	Superannuation of certain staff
69	Powers of Minister
71	Prosecution of Offenders
72	Function of Chief Executive
73	Expenses
74	Sale of Solvents

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS

The Combat Poverty Agency has a special fund from which a limited number of small grants are made available to community groups undertaking education and training programmes. Grants up to £2,000 will be given to groups working on developing strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty.

The scheme is aimed at community groups or groups who experience particular disadvantage, for example Travellers, those who are unemployed, those with disabilities or the homeless and will only be made available for community education and training activity intended to develop individuals and the local community groups they belong to.

There is no formal application form. If your group wishes to apply for funding under this scheme you should submit the following details, typed and not exceeding three pages:

- 1 Name, address and phone number of your group and name of contact person;
- 2 Information on the aims and objectives of your group; who is involved and who manages your organisation;
- 3 Description of proposed project (outline content, methods of working, when the programme will take place and number expected to attend);
- 4 Cost of proposed project;
- 5 A clear statement of how your project fits into the Combat Poverty Agency's priorities;
- 6 What other sources of finance the group will have for the proposed activity.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **30 April, 1993** and successful applicants will be informed by July.

For further information contact:
**Community Development
Education & Training Grants,
Combat Poverty Agency,
8 Charlemont Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 4783355**

IRELAND FUNDS PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

At present the Ireland Funds comprise seven independent trust funds set up for the promotion of **Peace, Culture and Charity** in Ireland. The Funds are non-denominational and non-political serving all of Ireland, North and South.

The Ireland Funds have responded to needs in Ireland on a broad front and have assisted numerous projects across a wide range of activity. In order to maximise impact Ireland Funds have now decided to target their resources on supporting programmes which are specifically designed to help people to combat unemployment, conflict in Northern Ireland, inner city disadvantage and rural depopulation.

Programme Areas:

Reconciliation (closing date for receipt of applications 15 April, 1993). This programme will assist projects which are endeavouring to promote greater mutual understanding and tolerance between the issues of reconciliation and prejudice reduction. A key aspect will be that of examining projects with strong local leadership who are concerned with dissolving enmity and bitterness in Northern Ireland.

Other areas are **Arts Development** and **Community Enterprise / Leadership** (closing date to be determined). For further information on all above and for application forms contact:

**Ireland Funds
20/22 College Green
Dublin 2
Telephone 01 6792743**

Youth work

NEWS

Securicor Courage AWARD

We are once again invited to participate in the **Securicor Courage Award** scheme. From the outset it was agreed that the Award should seek to recognise courage in its widest sense. The dictionary defines courage as "the power or quality of dealing with or facing danger, fear and pain". In that definition contains the courage that we all understand - the instinctive acts where people risk their very lives in the interest of others. Also there are people who in their day-to-day lives triumph over pain.

If you would like to nominate someone from your club or group, nomination forms are available from local regional offices.



Tops of the Clubs

Sixmilebridge Youth Club from the Clare Region are the **Tops of the Clubs** winners for 1993 following the final which recently took place at the Town Hall Theatre in Ballinsloe, Co. Galway. Congratulations to everybody in the club and also to the members of **Ballymacward/Gurteen Youth Club** and **Tipperary Youth Club** who participated in the final.

God's Word Thru' Drama & Music

Youth leaders are invited to participate in an exciting one day workshop run by the National Bible Society of Ireland. **God's Word Thru' Drama & Dance** is designed particularly for youth leaders who work with the 16-25 age group but those who work with younger teens would also benefit. The workshop will provide youth leaders with the opportunity to learn how to open up the Scriptures in a fresh lively way for young people. The event will be held in Dublin on 24 April, 1993 and the cost is £5. To register or for further information contact **National Bible Society of Ireland**, 41 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Tel. 01 6773272.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The NYF recently hosted a seminar on rural development recently on behalf of MIJARC. Over forty young people from the EC attended the event which took place in Co. Meath.

The theme of the seminar was explored under different headings including; rural society - the affects of unemployment and emigration, the local and national affects of government policies on agricultural practices, the role of the EC - it's living conditions and work prospects for young people in rural communities.

Inputs were made by speakers from the EC and from agencies in Ireland. Participants produced a set of proposals at the end of the seminar which will be incorporated into MIJARC policy on rural development issues.

A copy of the seminar report will be available soon from NYF national office.



BRITISH/IRISH EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

In our last edition we reported on a meeting of the British and Irish Confederation of Youth Clubs (BICYC) which took place in Dublin in December last year.

Since then, an agreement in principal has been reached to organise an event for young people later this year, possibly October.

Funding for this event and other proposed BICYC activities was considered at a meeting in Scotland. Several options are now being explored and it is anticipated that the potential of these will be known shortly.

Readers may be interested to note that while the Ireland/Britain programme, which is administered by the Youth Exchange Bureau, is currently being re-structured, applications are being accepted for exchange projects from youth clubs and groups.

Information from Ken Keogh, NYF.

POETRY OF PEACE

Children and adults from all parts of Ireland are invited to contribute to the creation of a giant sculpted **Bird of Peace**. This bird will be constructed by a group of young artists and will be made from thousands of poetry manuscripts received from all around the country. It is hoped that the project will express people's desire for peace on a national scale when the sculpture will go on a tour of Ireland during the summer.

If your club or group would like to become involved, send your poems, short essays, or just a few words in the form of a letter not forgetting to put your name and address on your peace poem to:

POETRY OF PEACE

PO Box 3735

Dublin 4

Your entries may be in any language and must be received by the end of April. Prizes shall be drawn from all the entries.

Young People Take ACTION

This year about 18 million people will die of hunger, many millions more will watch as their family dies around them. Despite the horror of this situation, millions of tonnes of food are kept in intervention in Europe and are occasionally destroyed.

A small number of young people in Ennis, Co. Clare (the S.O.S. Group) have come together to highlight the obscenity of this situation and to collect signatures in order to motivate our Government to work for change.

The group have collected almost 4,000 signatures so far and have obtained support from some politicians.

S.O.S. Group feel that the food in intervention should be diverted to people in need. They believe that aid agencies could devote their energy and resources to development projects which would ultimately help solve the imbalance that exists in our world.

If your group or club would like to support this endeavour contact:

S.O.S. Group

c/o The Youth Information Bureau

Carmody Street

Ennis

Co Clare

before the end of April.

PEER EDUCATION TRAINING EVENT

AIDS Training Opportunity for Volunteers

All the signs are that the number of people contracting the HIV virus is increasing at an alarming rate in Ireland. It is important that young people are educated about the reality of HIV and AIDS.

The National Youth Federation is offering young volunteer leaders the opportunity to take part in a number of developmental training weekends on this subject.

The aim of the programme is to develop participant's skills as peer educators on all aspects of HIV and AIDS.

Participants must be nominated by their Regions by 12 April, 1993. They must have a proven record of commitment to youth work and an interest in AIDS education.

**For further information contact
Brian Murtagh, NYF, Tel: 01 729933.**

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The Minister for Youth & Sport, Mr Liam Aylward recently paid a fact finding visit to Ossory Youth Services: Our picture shows [back row L-R] Geraldine Mooney, Tracy Poole, Stephan Sheehan, Orla Moloney, Ann Walsh [front row L-R] Fr. Pat O'Farrell, Liam Aylward, Tony Walsh, Pat Mc Philips.



Certified Skills

Youth work is an area that is growing week by week, not only in the number of people involved in the various clubs and groups throughout the country, but also in its complexity.

In the Ferns Diocesan Youth Service region, a number of people involved in clubs are taking that extra step necessary to give a top class service to the youth of their area. The FDYS in association with the Adult and Continuing Education Department of University College Cork have brought a course that would usually require a weekly travel schedule of at least 80 miles, into the heart of their region.

The Certificate Course in Youth Work Practice began its sessions in the Project Room of FDYS in November last year and has drawn participants from youth clubs within the county and from other groups involved in dealing with young people.

With the course now past its halfway stage, all involved are expressing their delight at having started and while admitting that they were wary of returning to a learning process, they would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to take on such a course.

Built around a combination of weekly lectures, workshops, essays,

weekend sessions, group projects and placements within groups other than their own clubs, the course is proving to be of immense practical benefit.

Among the group projects undertaken are investigations into underage drinking, family relationships and early school leaving, all of which should not only give the participants some excellent experience in research etc. but will also provide a fund of information for others interested in these topics.

Already completed are modules dealing with Youth Work Practice, development and issues as well as one on working with individuals and groups. A weekend session dealing with personal development skills and others on communication and media skills with take place soon. Meanwhile, sessions on management and organisation are on-going.

Having completed their course including the essays, projects and placements, and made presentations concerning their various projects, the participants will receive certificates in youth work practice, but more important, they will carry the skills learned from this course out to their clubs and groups where other leaders and club members will benefit from their experience.

FILMBASE

Stories and ideas to tell? In this the final decade of the century video technology has become the primary source of information. FILMBASE centre for film and video is a resource centre for today's film and video makers. Located in the new Irish Film Centre, FILMBASE offers a wide variety of facilities including camcorder hire, editing studio, tripods, lights, microphone, sound recorders and projectors. A large number of community and youth groups are now using this facility to produce their own documentaries. FILMBASE also provide information and training courses. Film membership is open to everyone.

FILMBASE,
6 Eustace Street
Dublin 6 - tel: 01 679616

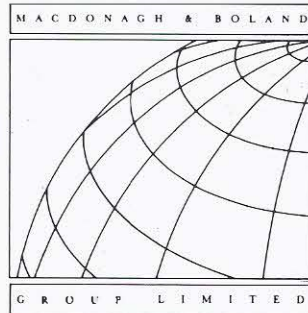
READERS

If you have news, issues of concern, photographs or general information on activities that you would like featured in *Irish YouthWork Scene*

write to:

Avril Soper,
National Youth Federation,
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1
or telephone (01) 729933





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