

Irish Youth Work Scene

Magazine for Youth Work Practitioners in Ireland



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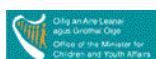
DISCLAIMER

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 Youth Work Centre or Youth Work Ireland.

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PRESS



Editorial

Little Done, A Lot More to Do!

by Michael McLoughlin,

Assistant Director, Central Services, Youth Work Ireland



Regardless of our economic woes any new Government inevitably provides some opportunity for a new and fresh start. This can often be in the major areas such as economic policy, jobs and the environment. However, much of the proposed change planned by the new Government very definitely relates to children and young people. Clearly the establishment of a Cabinet level minister for Children and Youth Affairs is a positive move. For many years youth and children's groups have advocated for this. The idea of a "super junior" minister was simply not cutting it in the previous administration.

There has clearly been a bulking up of this cabinet post since its announcement and it will now cover the Irish Youth Justice Service, The NEWB and family support. Another crucial commitment has been the establishment of a new Child and Family Welfare Agency. This move effectively removes the child welfare and child protection functions from the HSE. Despite being well flagged this is a radical move and one which is being seen through with vigour.

The establishment of a cabinet minister for children is intended to make sure these crucial and important issues are heard at the highest level and do not fall between different departments. The inclusion of youth affairs in the brief and indeed the title of the Minister is a vote of confidence for the sector and the work we do. Often we can convince ourselves that our work is not valued at the highest level so we need to welcome such a fulsome commitment.

For the first time the challenges that youth work faces will be directly represented at the cabinet table. Of course there is always the curse of the answered prayer. With the opportunity of being heard at cabinet level goes the responsibility to explain and communicate in a simple and clear way what we do and what difference we make. Whether it is systems to measure outcomes or better online communications we all have to raise our game.

There is also no guarantee that being included in a cabinet role means our work will always be front and centre. Minister Andrews unfortunately quickly became the Minister for explaining the latest child protection scandal. Again unfortunately there are several more reports in the immediate offing that could elicit the same response. Grappling with reform of parts of the HSE, delivering the children's referendum and generally fielding dissatisfaction with inevitable further cuts to services will be a full time job for the Minister. So it is incumbent on the sector to keep our issues on the agenda. To do this we need to show the relevance of our work.

The integrated nature of the OMCYA and the new Department is quite innovative in terms of the Irish public service. Integrated public services continue to be a major challenge to our state. Countless reports and initiatives have been written on how to achieve this and a lot of money has been put in to local initiatives to advance this idea on the ground. However, many youth services already offer such integration. They draw funds from different sources and inevitably are expected to deliver on different policy priorities by departments and agencies. Across the diverse policy areas such as health, education and justice to mention but a few, it is voluntary youth services who have lead the way. This is an important message for a new minister to hear and to learn from.

Teenage Perspectives 2011

A report on the needs and youth service provision for young people in County Monaghan

by Melissa Mackin

Background

Youth Work Ireland Monaghan's Monaghan Peace Café Project in partnership with the Youth Outreach Information and Training Service undertook a survey called "*Teenage Perspectives 2011*". The survey and report describes the findings completed by young people in the county of their needs and issues affecting them. A survey like this under the same name had been done in 1998 but the Peace Café project felt that although the report was invaluable the information was outdated and that current information about what is available to young people and what their opinion would be helpful.



Purpose of the Research

This piece of research was devised in order to gain an in-depth insight into the needs of young people in County Monaghan, with particular emphasis on young people's view on the peace process and their interaction with people from different cultures and communities. The research also looks at the recreational needs of young people, services and facilities available to young people and the consumption habits of young people around alcohol, nicotine and other drugs.

The findings have been put together and can be used by a variety of organisations, schools, youth or community groups to use as a reference to develop initiatives specifically designed for young people in County Monaghan. It is a particularly useful document for the Peace programmes and organisations delivering elements of the Peace programme as they can see a snapshot of what young people think, and see what some of the competing pressures are on young people.

Research Methodology

The survey was drafted with major input from young people and an asset based approach was adopted within the survey, meaning that the survey would ask young people what they wanted and what positive things they had to contribute to their community rather than telling them what they needed and highlighting the negative aspects of young people.

So within the survey young people were asked if they have any skills/talents they want to put to use in their community, and there was a "Getting Involved Form" attached which was handed out separately for the young people to fill in their contact details, if they wish to get involved in their community. The survey targeted young people between the ages of 12-25 through various means. Primarily they were surveyed through second level schools, but they were also distributed in youth clubs, youth projects, libraries and youth information centres. The surveys were administered in March; the data from the completed 1,133 surveys was collated in May.

Research Findings

The findings found that young people in County Monaghan are involved in multiple activities in their area and have interests that span sports, music and the Internet including social networking and YouTube. Despite being involved in many clubs and

organisations they still feel they are lacking a place to hang out, a swimming pool and that there are no discos in their area appropriate to them. 55% of the young people surveyed admitted to drinking occasionally, with many drinking at home, in pubs and at house parties with those who do drink, consuming different types of alcohol. 9.6% smoke on a regular basis and with only 10% having taken drugs excluding alcohol and cigarettes.

Young people were asked did they have any skills/talents/strengths that they would like to share and put to use with other young people and their community. Of the 51% who responded to the question, they had a multitude of attributes to share. This action of young people giving forward what they believe are their strengths shows the positive regard young people have for themselves and that they believe they can share and contribute within their own community. By believing that they have something of worth to pass on shows a level of self esteem and confidence that young people have.

Issues facing young people in County Monaghan reflected by the respondents were drinking, no facilities or places to hang out, unemployment, peer pressure, bullying and racism and family issues. The majority of young people feel they do mix well with young people from different cultures especially in schools and projects.

The young people surveyed do not believe what religion people are matters and that everyone is and should be treated the same. They do feel that the peace process has had an impact on their lives as it is safer and they have formed friendships both North and South. They believe having mixed schools and more cross border projects is the way forward for lasting peace in Ireland.

Next Steps

From the findings **Youth Work Ireland Monaghan** will be setting recommendations for their own organisations in order to acknowledge what the young people in this survey have said. From the report it is apparent that as youth workers and educators we have to provide young people with what they need depending on their age, gender, community and status but we also have to listen to what they want and work in partnership with them rather than isolation.

For further information or to request a copy of the Teenage Perspectives Report please contact:

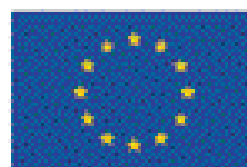
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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

Profiling Local Youth Services: CDYS Youth Work Ireland

by

Richard Dorgan, CDYS Youth Work Ireland

Recognising the Contribution of Volunteers

A recent survey of **CDYS Youth Work Ireland** volunteers found that they are contributing an average of 19 hours a month to work with young people in the diocese. The findings outline how important the volunteers are in the organisation. **CDYS** have over 300 people volunteering in different areas of the organisation including supervising youth activities, facilitating youth groups and administration.

Marketing and PR officer Richard Dorgan said,

“We are lucky to have such fantastic volunteers who are at the heart of everything we do. We take the skills and interests of our volunteers, along with the needs of the young people and try to amalgamate the two. For example, a volunteer in Mallow who is an extremely talented dancer began giving dance lessons a few years ago. His group have grown and developed into an extremely successful dance group who have performed in many live shows in the area. They have even recently begun taking private bookings.”



CDYS Mallow volunteers receiving special achievement awards at the recent CDYS Youth Work Ireland AGM. Left to Right: Cllr Dan Joe Fitzgerald, Patrick Burke (CEO Youth Work Ireland), Margaret Curtis, John Dunlea, Niall Moriarty, James Lowe, Miriam Nyhan (CDYS Youth Worker), Brian Williams (Director CDYS) Noel O'Connor (Chairman CDYS)

The survey is part of **CDYS'** plan to improve how business is done and give volunteers a voice when it comes to shaping the future of the organisation. **CDYS** Director Brian Williams explained

“Volunteers are at the centre of all the good work we do so it made sense to get ideas and views from them when it comes to planning our future.”



CDYS Midleton volunteers being presented with volunteer achievement awards at the recent CDYS Youth Work Ireland AGM. Left to Right – Patrick Burke (CEO Youth Work Ireland), Martin Forrest, Susan O'Shea (CDYS Youth Worker), Lisa Parker, Ross Bonner, James O Donovan, Brian Williams (CDYS Director) and Noel O Connor (CDYS Chairman)

Brian continued

“CDYS is a great place to volunteer and we do our up most to ensure that both our volunteers and young people get the most out of our organisation.”

In recognition of the contribution that volunteers make towards the work of **CDYS Youth Work Ireland**, volunteers were presented with volunteer achievement awards at the recent AGM of the organisation.

CDYS Fermoy Boat Building Project

Nearly four months of hard work came to a head with the launch of two man-made canoes on the Blackwater River in Fermoy last December. The project secured funding from the small grants fund from the southern regional drugs task force to work with a group of young people on a boat building project.

The three local young men Bradley Mills, Michael McSweeney and Barry Coughlan, built and painted two 16 foot wooden canoes from scratch with boat builders Meitheal Mara. Eleven weeks of hard work accumulated in a launch of the boats on the 15th of December.

Speaking at the launch, Community Drugs Worker Martina Munnelly said

“A huge amount of work, time and commitment went into building these boats and it was great to see the support these young people received at the launch.”

Martina went on to thank James O’Sullivan from the rowing club for helping out with safety, artist Paula Roche for helping out with the paint design and Ciaran Barry from the Youth Centre for providing the space to build the boat.



Left to Right - Aaron Lynch, Michael McSweeney, Bradley Mills, Barry Coughlan, Pádraig Ó Duinnín (Meitheal Mara), Martina Munnelly (Community Drugs Worker CDYS), Jessica Lane (Student Youth Worker CDYS) at the Canoe launch.

There was a great turn out for the launch where the young people were presented with Certificates from local counsellor Noel McCarthy who congratulated the young men on a fantastic achievement before hitting the water to show off their newly constructed machines

The moment of truth came and went without a hitch as the canoes hit the water and the young builders spent about an hour out on the water testing them out.



Michael McSweeney testing out his new canoe

They hope to continue to use the canoes and develop their skills on the water over the coming years, so look out London Olympics 2012.

If you would like to learn more about the work of **CDYS Youth Work Ireland** please contact:

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Marketing & PR Officer
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Mallow Community Youth Centre
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MY Music Acoustic Week 2011

by Geri Hogarty,
Regional Director, Meath Youth Federation

Introduction

The aim of **MY (Meath Youth) Acoustic Week** is to promote young local musicians, to give young people an opportunity to showcase their talents and furthermore to introduce new people to our **Meet & Eat Youth Café**. Its Mission statement is:

'To encourage and support the creative abilities of young people in their communities, to promote imagination, self esteem and self expression in a showcase event where the wider community can see it'

MY Music Acoustic Week 2011 came about as a result of the huge interest in the *Irish Youth Music Awards (IYMAs)* and also through chats with young musicians and singers who were looking for a place to perform as there are not many venues available to them.



This was also a chance for us to promote our **'Meet & Eat Youth Café'** as a place that provides opportunities for involvement in a variety of activities for young people.

Our Youth Arts Worker, Keith Lane, joined Meath Youth Federation in July 2010 through the Community Employment Scheme. His background was in business but he felt a change in career was what he needed. He has a keen interest in music and is passionate about encouraging young people to learn through the medium of music.



With the help of volunteers Keith put out the word to schools about the Acoustic week and it didn't take long for the young people to start calling in to 'book a slot'. 15 artists were allocated a 20-30min. slot and the event was full for the February mid-term break.

The project was run during the February mid-term break over 5 evenings from 6.30pm-9.00pm. The event saw over 30 students from Beaufort College, St Patricks Classical School, and St Michaels Loreto take to the stage in the Youth Café over the course of the week. Up to 80 young people and parents came along to show support for friends and family.

"These events are so beneficial for the younger people around here, not only have they discovered the youth café exists, but so many of them now realise that there are so many other musicians or fans of music in one area, and they all come together and had great fun here this week".

Comment from volunteer about Project

On one night during the week, after a band played a rather energetic set, a young girl from Ardcaith, Co. Meath, stood on stage alone to sing. No drums, no heavy guitar sounds, just a voice and a simple backing track, and she silenced the audience.



On the last night one of the more well known Youth acts played us out and we had practically every person (young and old) up on their feet, which was a great joy to see.

The Acoustic week was held during the midterm break, and it highlighted the fact that so many young people are looking for events like this to keep them occupied, and to give them something to do when off from school.

“We are so lucky to have had this week, and are so thankful for the staff at MY Fed for their support, it’s so hard for us to get gigs around town, and this was perfect for everyone. Thanks”.

Comment from Young Person about Project.

The Youth Café was the perfect venue, and we hope that this sort of event can be run as successfully as the last, more often!!!

Following the huge success of ‘**MY Music Acoustic Week 2011**’ the young people have asked to help organise regular events as they are best placed to source other young bands and musicians and also to help promote the events.

For further information please contact:

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Cónascadh Óige na Mí

Youth Work Ireland



Let's Talk About Sex Week

by

Lorraine Thompson, Donegal Youth Service

Introduction

Donegal Youth Service (DYS) in association with the Donegal Sexual Health Forum held a Sexual Health Awareness Week from Monday 11th until Friday 15th April 2011. The rationale behind the event is that young people are not receiving adequate and more often no sex education at school and for many young people they are not receiving this information in the home either.

Young people are getting most of their information from the Internet and there is a missing link in terms of how they make sense of all the information that they are bombarded with on a regular basis through the Internet, mobile phones and other social media.



Aim and Focus of the Week

The **aim** of the week was to promote healthy and supportive conversations with young people about sex, sexual health and sexuality. Participation was encouraged from adults to get involved, especially parents, family members, teachers, youth workers and all the key influencers in young peoples' lives.

The **focus** of the week was to ensure that young people are supported in terms of having someone to talk to and make sense of all the mixed messages they get and to know where to go to find factual, understandable information.

Communication about the event was sent out to groups who work with young people and parents – schools, youth groups, and community groups etc, to encourage them to start planning one or more activities which would contribute to a county wide calendar of events on the week for example a parents information evening, sexual health awareness activities for young people or just simply a conversation with young people about sex. **Donegal Youth Service** co-ordinated a media campaign and compiled a list of all activities occurring during the week so that the message is clear that is okay to talk about sex.

What we Did

Some of the events that took place during the week included the following:

The **DYS Letterkenny Youth Information Centre Youth Media Group** made a short film looking at young people's attitudes and knowledge of sexual health/ education. This film is now going to be used as a resource for groups to use.

The **Breakout Group** ran an extra drop in session for parents of LGBT young people. The invite went out to parents of older LGBT individuals as well as the parents of current group members in to discuss their experiences in order to promote conversations around coping with having an LGBT young person and how to initiate conversations, what language to use etc. For the purpose of this event, the session was renamed '*Let's Talk about Sexuality.*'

The youth outreach worker ran '**Love Hurts**' – **Sexual Health** Train the Trainers for **DYS** staff, **CE** workers and volunteers. The event took place over two days and the participants explored the facts around sexual health issues, alongside gaining confidence and expertise in how to plan, implement and evaluate their own programmes/sessions in their own clubs and projects.

DYS Daybreak and **Breakout** groups organised an Art Exhibition focusing on the Lets Talk about Sex Campaign. The Art pieces were shown in the Regional Cultural Centre during LTAS week. The Daybreak project also ran Sexual Health Awareness sessions with participants during LTAS week.

The **LOFT Youth Project** focused on Sex and Relationships during LTAS week, the Hify group will look at myth-busting and Q&A with expert. Peer Leader group will also do myth busting workshop. Q&A box was set up in the LOFT for young people to ask questions, and answers were posted on the LOFT webpage and DYS Facebook pages.

Let's Talk About Sex Facebook Page

DYS established a Facebook page to increase awareness and publicise events during the Sexual Health Awareness Week at:

www.facebook.com/letstalkaboutsexdonegal

The Lets Talk About Sex Facebook page is up and running and has been used so far to give information on upcoming events and to discuss various TV programmes featuring sexual health awareness. Staff also set up a survey on survey monkey and have linked this survey to the Facebook page

Local Radio

A local radio station hosted 5 speakers over 5 days with a different focus each day.

Monday: An older woman talked about how people didn't talk about sex in 'her day' and a younger woman talked about Irish society now.

Tuesday: **DYS** Youth Information Officer along with two young people talked about the Internet, pornography and the mixed messages young people are being bombarded with.

Wednesday: A HSE Officer talked about parents and talking to your child about sex.

Thursday: A parent of a young lesbian and her daughter told their story.

Friday: The Womens centre staff talked about their new sexual health clinic and sex education project.

Activities by Other Agencies

Letterkenny Women's Centre are launching their Young Womens Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Clinic.

HSE Health Promotion are co-ordinating three '**Under the Goosebury Bush**' courses for parents in relationships and sexuality education.

Schools were slower to come on board but **DYS** had some contact with an update on their current provision and ongoing programme. One school invited in two youth workers to deliver an STI information session to 4th Years. Another school invited in our LGBT youth worker to run sessions on sexuality as part of SPHE with Leaving Certs, 1st and 4th Years and linking into the Healthy Schools Programme.

Overall the week went really well, it was an experiment to try and dispel the notion of sex as a taboo subject. **Donegal Youth Service** are keen to make sure the event takes place again next year and would welcome contact from other groups who would like to get involved and initiate similar week for young people in their area.

For further information please contact

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ROUND UP

Growing Up in Ireland - Series of Key Infant Key Findings Documents Now Available

The three briefing documents aim to summarise the main results from this round of the project and focus on (i) Pregnancy and Birth (ii) Infant Health and (iii) Childcare and Parenting Support. The documents can be downloaded from www.growingup.ie/infantpublications

More detailed findings on a wide range of issues on the Infant Cohort are available in 'Growing Up in Ireland – The Lives of 9-month-olds' (2010), also available to download from the same page.

The Anonymised Microdata File (AMF) from Wave 1 of the Infant Cohort (at 9 months) is now available from the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA). Potential users wishing to access the anonymised data should apply to the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) at <http://www.ucd.ie/issda/data/growingupinireland/>



**For more information please contact Jillian Heffernan
Communications Officer, Growing Up in Ireland,
Tel: 01 8963378; Email: jheffern@tcd.ie**

IYWC Library Database Available Online

The Irish Youth Work Centre's library database is now available to search online from the Irish Youth Work Centre's website. The database contains over 4,700 youth and community specific academic books, training materials, reports, DVDs and other resources. Members of the IYWC can borrow up to four items for a duration of two weeks. Items can be posted out to members outside of Dublin. If you wish to take out membership of the IYWC, the membership form is also on our website.



To search the database simply go to:

<http://www.iywc.ie/library-database/>

Launch of "We Volunteer!" Online Exhibition for Young People

Calling All Third Level Students! Add your volunteering story today at www.wevolunteer.ie and help reach the target of 365 student volunteer stories - one story a day for the European Year of Volunteering 2011!

Building on the successful artistic photographic exhibition currently touring Ireland, "We Volunteer!" has launched an accompanying Online Exhibition. Student volunteers are welcome to post up their volunteering story at www.wevolunteer.ie building further acknowledgment of the value which student volunteers bring to their communities and inspire others to take up the challenge during the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The launch of a virtual exhibition at www.wevolunteer.ie enables students to share their stories and read fellow volunteer experiences.

Coca Cola 125 Years Thank You Fund

On May 8th, 2011, The Coca-Cola Company celebrated its Founder's Day. On that day, 125 years ago, the first Coca-Cola was sold in Atlanta, Georgia. Coca-Cola first arrived in Northern Ireland in 1934 and the Republic of Ireland in 1952. To celebrate 125 years, Coca-Cola has established the Coca-Cola 125 Years Thank You Fund, in partnership with The Wheel and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action NICVA.

Coca-Cola are donating €125,000 to the fund which will be granted to non-profit community, voluntary and charitable organisations throughout the island of Ireland to help support initiatives focused on the following areas: **Social and Education Programmes** aimed at **Youth, Healthy and Active Lifestyles**, and **Environmental Leadership**. Ten organisations will receive €10,000 each and five organisations will receive €5,000 each.

For full details please see:

<http://www.coca-cola.ie/125-thank-you-fund/>



Young People & Volunteering Activity Supplement

by Gina Halpin

The EU has designated 2011 as the **European Year of Volunteering**. For young people volunteering can offer a great way to help build their personal and professional development, while at the same time giving them an opportunity to build on skills or interests they have. It is also a fun way to meet new people.

This activity supplement looks at the positive gains young people can get from volunteering, and, what they can contribute by volunteering.



Activity One Why Do People Volunteer?

Aim: This exercise encourages young people to see the personal and social benefits of volunteering.

Materials: Flipchart paper and markers.

Start by suggesting that young people often engage in voluntary activities, even if they do not label them as such. For example, they might help a charity raise money, get involved with a political campaign or fundraise for their school or sports team. Have the young people discuss in small groups the following:

- Any voluntary work that they have done.
- Why they got involved.
- What they get out of it.

After 10 minutes hand out the flipchart paper and markers and ask the young people to list their reasons under the following headings “**Personal**”, “**Family/Friends**”, “**Community**” and “**Social**”.

Start a discussion that considers the most powerful motivators for young people offering their time free of charge. **Remind them of the things that can be gained such as:**

Skill Acquisition - Job & Communication Skills
Personal & Professional Development - Training
Confidence

Experience - Could be added to their C.V

Having Fun - Meeting new people

New Challenges - Great life experiences

Satisfaction - By making a difference

Widens Horizons - Through the ability to explore different sorts of career or job opportunities in a voluntary capacity

And the things young people could bring to an organisation:

- **Energy**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **A Fresh Perspective**
- **Skills and Abilities - particularly in I.T**
- **A Youth Point of View**

Conclude that volunteering comes in many forms and levels of commitment and is often linked to personal values and a wish to help a cause that people are linked to by experience or family and friends.

Source: Youth Work Now, January 2011



Activity Two

Volunteer Action Diamond Nine

Aim: This is a sorting activity to explore the reasons why young people don't volunteer.

Materials: Enough sets of the *Volunteer Action Diamond Nine cards* (see below) for the young people to work in small groups and some information about local volunteering opportunities.

Divide the young people into groups of fours or fives and hand each a set of the "*Volunteer Action Diamond Nine*" cards.

The task is to read the cards and then rank them in the order of what they believe to be the main barriers to volunteering, through to those that they think are not so likely. These should then be placed to make a diamond shape, with the top reason at one end, and the least at the other.

When every group has finished, start a round robin, taking a ranking from each group and comparing it to where other groups have placed the same card.

Start debate about the reasons given and ask the young people why someone might choose not to volunteer. Sum up the session by discussing the wide range of opportunities available from local and national campaigns.

Volunteer Action Diamond Nine

They don't know about the opportunities available
They don't have the time
They hold stereotypes about the type of people who do voluntary work
They don't know anyone else who does voluntary work
They think they don't have any skills to offer
The advertising for the organisation puts them off
They do not believe that anything they do will make a difference
They would prefer to be paid for work
They think it will be boring and a waste of time

Source: Youth Work Now, January 2011

Activity Three

A Check List for Young People

For young people who are considering volunteering here is a Check List the youth worker could use to go through with them

How much time do I have to give? - How much time can they spare for volunteering? It is up to them, remember other commitments like family, study and hobbies.

What period of time can they commit to volunteering? For example, one hour a week, more or less? Summer? Some charities may require their volunteers to stay for a minimum period of time so check before you commit.

How will they get there? - Do they have their own transport? If not, is it easy for them to use public transport?

What kind of Volunteering would they like to do? Do they have a particular interest in animals or art, or working with children. This would ensure they enjoy the volunteering work and it could give them a better insight into a potential career option.

Taking the first steps... advice from Volunteer Centres Ireland

There is currently no standard age at which young people in Ireland can volunteer. The decision is left to the voluntary organisation. There are a number of ways in which you may consider getting involved as a volunteer:

1. Contact a local Volunteer Centre to see if they have volunteer opportunities appropriate to your age group.
2. Some organisations may be willing to take on youth volunteers as long as they have an adult supervisor.
3. You may wish to consider volunteering with a parent, older brother, sister or friend who is 18 years or older.
4. Talk to your teachers about how your class or school can get involved - your school may have a club that has a community service component where students volunteer together as a member of a group.
6. Your local youth group may have a programme for youth to volunteer.

Source: www.volunteer.ie

Irish Wheelchair Association

Best Practice Guidelines: Designing Accessible Environments

Have you ever wondered if the building currently in use for youth services in your area is wheelchair accessible?

Has a young person with a disability ever approached your service, but has been unable to participate due to an inaccessible building?

Do you need advice as to how to make simple changes to your building to make it more accessible?

Do you need information about building an accessible facility?

Have you been looking for a document that could answer some basic questions about accessibility?

The **Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)** has produced a set of access guidelines to provide simple easy to use pointers that will support organisations large and small to improve the level of access to their buildings.

A major obstacle to social inclusion and community participation facing young people today is access to the built environment. If a young person who uses a wheelchair or any other mobility aid noticed that their local youth service building was wheelchair accessible or had a ramp outside, this may give them the confidence necessary to approach that service and explore what the service could offer them. From past experience, IWA knows that this could result in life changing experiences for young people with disabilities, opening the door to a wide range of new opportunities.

The **IWA Youth Service** works with various agencies to develop participation opportunities for young people with physical disabilities and the access guidelines can assist youth workers to make their facility or building accessible and inclusive to all young people.

About the Best Practice Access Guidelines:

The IWA Access Guidelines recognises and responds to societal changes. People with disabilities lead fully independent lives, and rightfully expect to be able to participate in all aspects of society. Young people with physical disabilities may wish to join their local youth service, but may have been unable to do so in the past because of an inaccessible building or facility.



The IWA Access Guidelines are used to inform and influence plans for the development of new facilities or for the upgrading of existing buildings. By following these guidelines, youth services can build facilities which meet the highest possible standards and ensure that basic access requirements are incorporated.

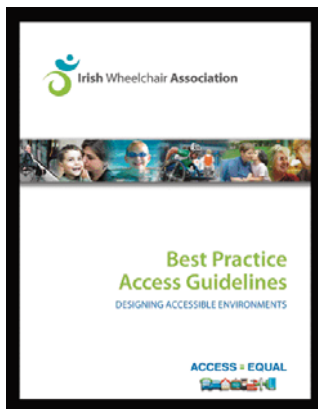
Daragh Kennedy, IWA's National Youth Development Officer, encourages all youth workers who are considering renovating or making changes to the building from which their service is provided, to download a copy of the **IWA Access Guidelines** from www.iwa.ie. Speaking about the importance of improving access to youth service buildings he said:

"The Access Guidelines can be used to inform and support youth workers on a number of access issues which may be restricting a young person with a disability from participating in their local youth

service. The guidelines are an important tool in helping create a society that accommodates all people regardless of age or ability. An accessible facility could lead to fuller inclusion in youth programmes and activities. This can have a major impact on a young person with a disability, enabling them to not only become an active member of their local youth service, but facilitating community participation, access to education, employment and improved quality of life.”

The development of the guidelines involved taking into account national and international regulations, best practice guidelines and standards, as well as life experiences of many of IWA’s 20,000 members. Young people with disabilities also contributed to the development of the guidelines, sharing their experiences of inaccessible amenities which their able bodied peers enjoy.

IWA’s Access Guidelines are often used by the Association to influence legislation and improve access standards in Ireland. By following these Guidelines, youth services will be ensuring that the access needs and requirements of people with a physical disability are fully met.



To download a copy of the Access Guidelines go to www.iwa.ie or request a hard copy form the IWA Information Department on 01-818 6485.

About Irish Wheelchair Association Youth Services:

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) is a national organisation dedicated to the achievement of full social economic and educational integration of people with disabilities as equal, independent and participative members of the community.

The Association plays a central role in highlighting the issues which affect its members in their day-to-day lives and their capacity to participate fully and equally in society.

IWA as an organisation for people with physical and sensory disabilities advocate and lobby for the:

- Rights and equality of people with disabilities being respected and upheld.
- Social and economic inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Government to invest in measures that enact on legislation and enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities

The Association has a vibrant and active youth service, supporting young people with disabilities aged from 13 to 30 years of age. The ethos of the IWA Youth Service is one of partnership and openness with young members, and all activities are driven by their needs, wishes and requirements.

Other resource materials available from IWA:

View from Here Resource - This resource which contains a DVD and support booklet has been produced to provide a disability awareness educational resource for young people. It is interactive and is ideal for group work sessions as it stimulates discussion and challenges young people, youth workers and volunteers to think about the simple steps they can take, the attitudes they can choose and the decisions they can make to improve how young people with disabilities are treated.

Integr8 Resource - Integr8 is a resource guide that contains a DVD and support booklet which has been developed to increase awareness of needs, desire and wants of young people with physical disability. It is designed to help all young people, youth leaders and all those involved in managing youth work to include young people with physical disability. There is a tool for carrying out an access audit of a youth service to see how accessible the building and programme is.

To download these resource materials please visit [www.iwa.ie /youth](http://www.iwa.ie/youth)

For further information about IWA’s Youth Services please contact Daragh Kennedy, National Youth Development Officer on 087 997 5444 or email daragh.kennedy@iwa.ie

CRYS Youth Work Week

by
Aoife Walsh, CRYS



ABOUT THE SERVICE:

Carlow Regional Youth Service (CRYS) was established in 1988. Since then we have become the primary Youth Work provider in County Carlow. We have almost 50 staff employed in the service across ten projects which provide a range of services to young people aged 8-23 years. Our services include Afterschools Programmes, Junior Youth Work Programmes, Teenage Youth Work, Drop-in Facilities, Youth Participation Programmes, Youth Leadership Training, Specialist Youth Work Support Services, Youth Sports Development, Volunteer Training and FETAC Accredited Youth Work Training.

QUALITY STANDARDS WORK:

As part of our Strategic Plan and in line with **Youth Work Ireland Quality Standards Framework**, we aim to develop our organisational capacity to deliver an effective and quality service. We underwent the QSF Peer Assessment in September, 2010, and had an extremely positive experience.

A key recommendation of the QSF Peer Assessment Team was in relation to our Public Relations Policy. In response, the Board of Management and staff of the organisation organised a Youth Work Week to raise the profile of the services around the County. **Carlow Regional Youth Service Youth Work Week** took place from the 3rd to 7th May 2011.



Cleaning up after the community Workshop

GETTING STARTED:

A Committee of six staff members was formed and we set to work. The first task was to consult the young people who were currently engaged with the service, about what they think would help to raise the profile of the service. After consultation the committee focused on 4 main events which would target young people and also the parents of young people around the County. It was agreed that the message we deliver should be of the service as a whole, not focus on specific projects.

THE MAIN EVENTS:

A newspaper supplement in the local paper was sponsored by local companies. Their sponsorship allowed the feature to run free of charge to **CRYS**. The article delivered a general message about the organisation and we also advertised our Summer Projects for young people in the County.



Young people giving our sports equipment a go!

A number of interviews were organised on the local radio stations at various times during the day. This was an opportunity for young people and staff to talk about the services and explain that it was a service for all young people. A highlight for our Irish Youth Music Awards band 'The Mongs', was playing live on air to people in County Carlow and Kilkenny on KCLR FM.

An information stand in the shopping centre during peak times attracted many parents and young people who were interested in the various pieces of work on display. Another attraction was a raffle where we gave away a free place on a summer camp of the winner's choice.

A tour of the secondary schools was organised for lunch times during the week. We travelled to the various schools in our **CRYS** bus and handed out fliers to students with information on our summer programmes, and current programme of activities.



Displaying of Kit Cars at Leighlinbridge

QUALITY STANDARDS FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION:

CRYS were presented with the **Youth Work Ireland Quality Standards Framework Award** during our Youth Work Week. We organised the presentation around the busy schedule of **Youth Work Ireland** President John Gilmore who very kindly flew over especially for the event. We are extremely grateful John!



Joh Gilmore, Youth Work Ireland President, at the QSF Presentation

OTHER EVENTS:

Along with the main profile raising events each project organised a mini event to raise the profile of youth work in specific areas. Some of the events included a Family Fun Evening, a 'Try It' evening where young people could try out new sports such as wacky races, Community Arts Projects and Coffee Mornings for parents. **CRYS** also took the opportunity to hold registration for the upcoming summer project and to launch the plans of a new Youth Cafe in Tullow which was funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund and is scheduled to open in September 2011.



Orlaith McHugh demonstrating how to use the sports equipment

WAS IT A SUCCESS?

Over all, **CRYS Youth Work Week** was hard work but it was definitely worth it! The staff were unsure about the week to start with but we all chipped in and we can see that it has raised the profile of **CRYS**, particularly among parents around the County. Of course there are some improvements to be made, but you learn something new everyday! We have no doubt that **CRYS Youth Work Week 2012** will be bigger and better and we look forward to the challenge of keeping the name of '**Carlow Regional Youth Service**' out there.

For more information contact:

CARLOW REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICE
Montgomery House, Athy Road, Carlow.
Tel: 059-9130476
Email: carlowys@iol.ie
Website: www.carlowys.ie

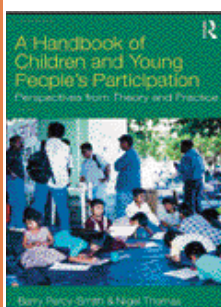
I Y W C LIBRARY

NEW Resources

A Handbook of Children and Young People's Participation

Perspectives from Theory and Practice

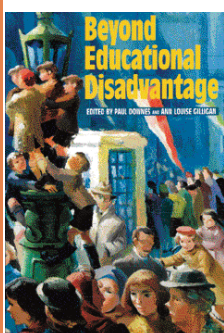
by Barry Percy-Smith & Nigel Thomas, 2010



A Handbook of Children and Young People's Participation brings together key thinkers and practitioners from diverse contexts across the globe to provide an authoritative overview of contemporary theory and practice around children's participation. Promoting the participation of children and young people – in decision-making and policy development, and as active contributors to everyday family and community life – has become a central part of policy and programme initiatives in both majority and minority worlds. This book presents the most useful recent work in children's participation as a resource for academics, students and practitioners in childhood studies, children's rights and welfare, child and family social work, youth and community work, governance, aid and development programmes. The book introduces key concepts and debates, and presents a rich collection of accounts of the diverse ways in which children's participation is understood and enacted around the world.

Beyond Educational Disadvantage

by Paul Downes and Ann Louise Gilligan, 2007



This book presents contributions from over forty leading education-alists in Ireland, giving voice to the reality that the education system needs to change and develop in order to meet the needs of a high proportion of students at risk of early school leaving. It explores the myth that there is sufficient investment in education to secure the

foundation of the 'Celtic Tiger' economy and highlights the need for a focus on education that does not simply reduce education to schooling. A wider focus is held throughout on a life-cycle approach to education, including pre-school education and adult and community education, as central to moving beyond disadvantage. The book explores a range of themes, which, while interlinked, call for separate in-depth analysis across a number of disciplines, including education, psychology, philosophy, sociology and social policy. These themes focus on adult and community education, intercultural education, literacy and numeracy, child-centred research, the arts and emotional expression.

Creative Studies for the Caring Profession

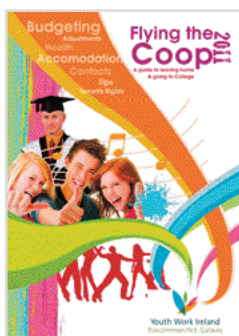
by Denise Lyons, 2011



A unique new Irish text providing an introduction to the theory underpinning the practice of using the creative arts as a tool or intervention in various social care and community scenarios. The structure of the book provides students with a comprehensive overview of best practice in the field: – Part 1 introduces the theory behind using the creative arts – Part 2 describes the practical use of the creative arts – Part 3 details creative activities for use in practice. It highlights the use of various creative activities as a tool or intervention within a variety of social care, early childhood or community settings. It explores the benefits of engaging in creative activities, such as: – Relationship development – Meeting new people – Learning through play – Becoming more self-aware – Means of personal expression – Means of communication – Having fun. It also facilitates skills-based learning, while also preparing the student for working as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Flying the Coop A Guide to Leaving Home and Going to College

by Youth Work Ireland Roscommon /
N.E. Galway, 2011



Youth Work Ireland (Roscommon/N.E. Galway) is a voluntary, professional youth organisation working with and for young people. Through work with young people and parents we are acutely aware of the anxiety and difficulties that can be experienced when making the transition to third level education. In the current financial recession, going to college now also poses an even bigger challenge in financial terms to both students and parents alike. This has been reflected in the increase in applications for hardship assistance, those presenting for counselling support for stress due to financial difficulties and also the drop-out rate. An increase in has also been noted in the number of students opting to commute from home to help reduce costs. This resource will be of great use to those leaving home to go to college.

Reducing the Risk A Resource Guide for Community and Voluntary Organisations

by The Wheel 2009



Reducing the Risk is part of a range of training and guidance resources provided by The Wheel. It follows on from the popular 2007 publication Solid Foundations: a resource guide for building strong and effective organisations in the community and voluntary sector.

It is accompanied by a sister publication on governance entitled: Getting to Grips with Governance. Life is risky and community / voluntary/charitable organisations are not immune from risk. Risk cannot be avoided, but most types of risk can be anticipated and therefore planned for. By properly managing risk, the organisation can fulfil its potential and the negative effects of hazards can be reduced. If they have not already

done so, the time is right now for organisations to put in place risk management strategies that suit their needs. Reducing the Risk has been designed to help organisations; recognise the importance of managing risk in a structured manner; identify the kind of risks to which they are exposed; take a logical step-by-step approach to risk management and have access to a range of signposts to further information.

Teenage Perspectives 2011 A Report on the Needs and Youth Service Provision for Young People in County Monaghan

by Youth Work Ireland Monaghan's
Peace Café Project, 2011



This piece of research was devised in order to gain an in depth insight into the needs of young people in County Monaghan, with particular emphasis on young people's view on the peace process and their interaction with people from different cultures and communities. The research also looks at the recreational needs of young people, services and facilities available to young people and the consumption habits of young people around alcohol, nicotine and other drugs. The findings have been put together and can be used by a variety of organisations, schools, youth or community groups to use as a reference to develop initiatives specifically designed for young people in County Monaghan.

These publications are available to
take out on loan to members of the
Irish Youth Work Centre.

For further information please contact
Gina Halpin at 01-8584500 or
email: ghalpin@youthworkireland.ie

The **IYWC Library database** is now
available to search online from
our website, go to

www.iywc.ie/library-database/

Staff Supervision in Youth Work Settings

Date: Wednesday 14th September 2011
Venue: Youth Work Ireland National Office, Dublin
Facilitator: Hilary Jenkinson

One-day workshop aimed at equipping workers who are responsible for providing supervision to youth workers. The training will be participative and interactive using a creative group work approach and will provide plenty of opportunity for discussion and shared learning.

The topics covered include:

- An introduction to supervision
- The importance and benefits of supervision
- How our experiences of supervision influence how we supervise?
- An exploration of the 4 functions of supervision: *Managerial, Educational, Supportive, and Mediation*
- Barriers to supervision
- Organising supervision
- Qualities of a good supervisor

Effective Partnership Working for Youth Organisations

Date: Wednesday 12th October, 2011
Venue: Youth Work Ireland National Office, Dublin
Facilitator: Siobhán McGrory

This workshop aims to examine the importance of effective partnership working for Youth Organisations and will consider the key aspects of effective partnership. It will be of interest to all those who are dependent on effective networks, partnerships and collaboration in order to achieve their work objectives and those who have an interest in working more effectively and improving the efficiency of their partnerships.

Effective Evaluation in Youth Work

Date: Wednesday 9th November 2011
Venue: Youth Work Ireland National Office, Dublin
Facilitator: Siobhán McGrory

This workshop aims to examine the rationale and purpose for evaluation in Youth Work and to provide participants with a range of practical models and approaches for ensuring effective evaluation in Youth Work Practice.

Good Practice in Policy Development

Date: Thursday 8th December 2011
Venue: Youth Work Ireland National Office
Facilitator: Siobhán McGrory

This workshop aims to provide participants with an overview of policy development and will consider the process and content areas for policies relevant to Youth Work settings. The workshop will also offer participants an opportunity to critique current policies and to plan for the development of a policy currently required by their organisation.

Topics covered include:

- What is a policy?
- Why have policies in Youth Work?
- Nature and type of policies in Youth Work
- Policy content areas – practical template
- Planning for effective policy development

Cost of these training days is €75.00 - this includes lunch, tea & coffee and course materials.

Full details of all these training days, along with brochures and booking forms can be found on the IYWC website :

www.iywc.ie/training

or contact Gina Halpin on 01-8584500



Irish Youth Work Centre

SECTOR Training

Quality Services, Better Outcomes: Integrating Quality in Children's Services

Date: Wednesday 7th September 2011

Venue: The Irish Law Society, Dublin 7

One-day conference aimed at frontline practitioners working with children, young people and families and those managing them. It will:

Consider research and best practice in relation to quality services

Explore organisational processes and staff support requirements which facilitate quality

Highlight current policy frameworks which inform and shape quality services

Speakers will include:

Mary Doyle, Director, Office for the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs; **Senator Fergal Quinn**; **Professor Danny Perkins**, Penn State University, USA; **Jim Mulkerrins**, Principal Officer, Dept of Education & Science; **Gordon Jeyes**, National Director, HSE; **Arlene Foster**, Director, NCCA; **Helen Johnson**, Senior Social Policy Analyst, NES; **Noelle Spring**, Chair, CDI Board

For any assistance please contact Paula at paula@twcdi.ie or Telephone (01) 4940030
www.twcdi.ie/cdievents



ECO-Explorers Kids Camps at The Greenhouse!

ECO-UNESCO launched Dublin city centre's first environmental summer camp 'ECO-Explorers' in 2010. The camp was such a resounding hit with all the children who took part, that we are now offering camps during Summer and Halloween breaks. Using ECO-UNESCO's environmental hub The Greenhouse as a base from which to explore nature in the heart

of the city, children explore nature and the world around them through outdoor adventures, interactive games, hands-on activities and much more!

Taking a city centre safari and treasure trail, building a bug hotel, starting a sunflower race and even launching an ECO-Rocket are some of the activities your children will enjoy while learning about their environment and nature and having lots of fun!

Who? Open to all children aged 4 to 12

What? Children explore key environmental topics in fun, interactive and creative ways.

When? July and August 2011

Sign up now at
Eco-Unesco
www.ecounesco.ie
or Tel: 01-6625491



Proving and Improving your work

Date: 4th October 2011

There is growing recognition that youth organisations need to demonstrate the value of the services they deliver through hard and consistent evidence. To do this we need user-friendly tools that allow us to monitor the extent to which we achieve the outcomes we set out to; capture the value of the work and in some cases tell the story of the journey of change for the young person.

A number of tools and methodologies are being developed, tested and used. This seminar will introduce you to a variety of evaluation methodologies specific to the youth work sector. It will also share the practical experiences of engaging youth workers in evaluating their own work.

To Book a place please contact
NYCI at:
training@nyci.ie
or
Tel: 01-4784122



Youth Work Ireland Outlines its Commitment to Protecting the Interests of Young People



The Annual General Meeting of **Youth Work Ireland** was held on 21 May 2011 attended by its 22 Member Youth Services who drafted and unanimously agreed the following Final Declaration. The declaration demonstrates the commitment of the Member Youth Services of **Youth Work Ireland** to protecting the interests of young people; their rights, entitlements and opportunities; their position in society and the services provided for them.

Youth Work Ireland Final Declaration

Putting Young People First

Youth Work Ireland will continue to speak out about the key issues impacting on young people. Young people have told us that jobs and emigration continue to be their biggest concerns. Ireland's recession is becoming a lengthy one and it disproportionately affects our young people. There can be no recovery on the backs of people who have the least. Jobs strategies and initiatives need to have specific and dedicated measures that help young people.

Work experience and internships can play a part but young people need real skills and real work. There are numerous restrictions and blockages in the education and training system, real public reform can address these and free up capacity to accommodate the huge demand for education and training amongst our young people. However we welcome overdue reforms in the formal education system.

Young people need to be heard in our political and economic system. The Government plans a Children's Rights Referendum which may at last give some voice and presence to young people in relation to decisions that affect them. However young people tell us they know nothing about this referendum and the issues involved and crucially nobody has asked them. This is several years after Taoiseach Ahern announced the Government's intention to have such a vote. Clearly the people who should benefit from such constitutional change should be involved and aware in relation to it. We intend to carry out such awareness raising work in the run up to the referendum.

Sustainability of Youth Service Provision

Similarly a new Children's Strategy and Youth Policy Framework are being developed by Government. These must be active and living documents and involve real integration across policy areas and Government Departments. Youth Services already work in this way in local communities and Government should examine and learn from the efficiencies and economy of such an approach.

In this year the European Year of the Volunteer we will continue to support, train and develop our network of over 7,000 Volunteers. Youth Services are particularly dependent on volunteers to run a quality service. In the current climate Government needs to recognize and value the contributions of this important group in society through tax and welfare policies.

One of the pillars of the EU Youth Policy Strategy 2009 is to improve young people's access and full participation in society. We will make our learning and documented good practice available to policy makers, service providers and practitioners to achieve this.

We call on the new Government to:

- Preserve and maintain the funding base of youth work services which have suffered from massive cutbacks
- See young people as a resource and as strengths, as key assets in our economic recovery
- Support integrated, community based youth services which work with all young people across the range of policy areas.

For further information please contact
Youth Work Ireland
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-8584500

Email: info@youthworkireland.ie

Website: www.youthworkireland.ie

IYWC - Recommended Reads

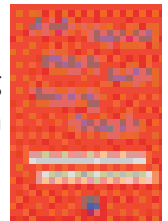


Anti Racist Work with Young People - *European experiences and approaches*

by Anna Aluffi-Pentini & Walter Lorenz

Available to purchase from the IYWC for €20.00 (€22.00 R.R.P.)

Book covers the theoretical overview to practical possibilities of anti-racist work with young people. It includes 23 activities, ranging in duration from 10 minutes to a whole day, which can be used independently or as part of a planned programme. They focus to different degrees on questions of identity, 'difference' and exclusion and racism.

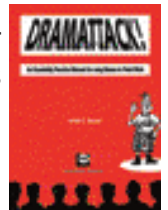


Dramattack! *An essentially practical manual for using drama in youth work*

by Donald. C. Stewart

Available to purchase from the IYWC for €16.00 (€18.00 R.R.P.)

Guide for anyone working with young people who wants to introduce some drama into their work! As a tool to engender discussion amongst groups, particularly young people, drama is great. It is the most dynamic and passionate means of teaching any subject to young people. Drama gives people help, training, self-confidence and self-belief and when combined with youth work it can lead to the empowerment of groups through self-expression & self-belief.



Governance Stories - *A practical guide to setting up your management committee and sustaining its work*

by Shirley Otto & Jo Clifton

Available to purchase from the IYWC for €25.00 (€30.00 R.R.P.)

Book uses stories to illustrate the roles of management committee members and covers issues such as conflict of interest, liability, being an employer, running meetings and complaints procedures. It also includes material such as a model agenda, data protection and equal opportunities policies. It is a really useful guide both for those setting up a management committee or those running or working with them.



Magic Workshop - *A resource for anyone who works with young people in a creative and fun way*

by Thomas Moloney

Available to purchase from the IYWC for €20.00 (€22.00 R.R.P.)

Young people love magic, tricks and puzzles and this book contains a volume of information on how to use magic, tricks and puzzles as a means of working with young people in a developmental way. It is full of expert guidance on how youth leaders can successfully deliver exciting magic workshops. It is flexible, engaging material that can be used with any youth group to introduce a new and stimulating experience.



New Youth Games Book

by Alan Dearling & Howard Armstrong

Available to purchase from the IYWC for €14.00 (€16.00 R.R.P.)

A classic resource for training with young and old with over 200 practical activities and guidance on how to use them. The book encourages interaction between people to: have fun; develop positive relationships; learn literacy and numeracy skills; increase creativity and imagination; cope with tension and stressful situations; break down barriers and ease the getting-to-know new people process; identify problems and build trust.



**To purchase any of these books please contact Gina Halpin at
ghalpin@youthworkireland.ie or phone 01-8584500**



Specialised Library and Information Centre for Youth and Community Workers and Students in the Heart of Dublin

The **Irish Youth Work Centre** is a specialised library, resource and information centre that caters to the needs of youth and community workers and students in Ireland, with study and Internet facilities on site. We act as a one stop research and documentation centre for those working in the youth work field and our library consists of training materials, books, research reports, periodicals/journals, organisational profiles, newspaper cuttings and government legislation.

The **Irish Youth Work Centre** was established in 1992 as an initiative of **Youth Work Ireland** and membership is open to the whole youth and community sector in Ireland and to anyone who works with or plans to work with young people.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

Library Service: We have over 6000 books, research reports, training materials and academic journals suitable for youth workers and students wanting to develop their practice. Our full library database is available to search online at www.iywc.ie/library-database

Information Service: Our information service is a free resource open to all and we welcome queries on all aspects of youth work.

Training Events: We have run over 80 seminars, workshop and training events over the years, focusing on youth related issues and skills development. For full details on the 2011 Training Calendar see www.iywc.ie/training-events

Youth Arts Library: The collection of publications from the **National Youth Arts Programme** library is now housed in the **IYWC**. This collection contains a wide range of arts based publications from both Ireland and abroad.

Publications for Sale: We now have an online shop which contains specialised youth specific resources from a number of UK based publishing houses as well as our own publishing label the Irish Youth Work Press. See our website for full details www.iywc.ie/products-page/

Research Room: The **IYWC** research room, equipped with free Internet access, provides an ideal location to access reports, government bill, student theses and academic journals. It can also be booked for group study sessions.



IYWC

**20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1**

Tel: 01-8584500

Email: info@iywc.ie

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

**Monday–Friday
9.00am–5.00pm**

www.iywc.ie