

# Irish Youth Work Scene

*Magazine for youth work practitioners in Ireland*



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Carlow Regional Youth Service's Anti-Smoking Project  
Exploring Outcomes in Youth Work  
The Children's Referendum  
European Youth Employment Guarantee  
Hotspots Ireland  
Limerick Youth Service Update  
Decision Making Activity Supplement

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**Cover Image:** Youth leaders from CDYS - (back row) Rebecca Keegan Smithers and Sarah Owens. (front row) Barry Walsh, Andrew Kirwan, Noelle Farrelly and Jennifer Grace

## 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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# Scene Editorial

*“Substantiating youth work is a task for us all”.* That is the message with which Dr. John Bamber of the Centre for Effective Services ended his presentation at the Department of Children and Youth Affairs’ Symposium on Outcomes in Youth Work and Related Services at Dublin Castle in July of this year. In the context of budget cuts and increasing demands to demonstrate the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the work that we do, this is a task that many in the youth work sector take seriously.

To undertake the task well, there are some changes that we will all need to make. For almost 20 years the Irish Youth Work Scene magazine has been a forum for Irish Youth Work Practitioners to share and showcase their work, it is also a resource for youth work practitioners who are seeking ideas and guidance on what works well. Scene has played a role in assisting youth work practitioners to substantiate their work. There is much more that we can do and some changes that we will need to make in order to do it well.

In this editorial, we at Scene Magazine would like signpost some of the steps we plan to take to assist Irish Youth Work practitioners in substantiating their work and taking an evidence informed approach. Certainly we will continue to provide and point the way to examples and tools that practitioners can use to evaluate, reflect on and theorise about their practice. Scene will also continue to provide a space for practitioners to share and reflect on their work. In this way, Scene will first of all stay true to its aim of providing a resource that documents and shares the work of Irish youth work practitioners in a format that is accessible and meaningful for Irish youth work practitioners.

Given that Scene magazine has been publishing for almost 20 years, re-dedicating ourselves to this task provides us with an opportunity to update and re-focus Scene and ensure that it is a vibrant and useful resource for all Irish Youth Work practitioners. To make certain that the content of Scene is of the highest standard possible, more support and editorial assistance will be provided to contributors to ensure that they accurately and comprehensively capture their good practice. The re-development of Scene will also involve a fresh look, new features and different ways of presenting content.

What will this new Scene look like? To an extent, this is dependent upon you the reader. Through a readership survey that is included in this month’s mailing we are asking readers and would-be readers about the kind of features, content and look that they would like to see in Scene magazine. In doing so we will consider the views of all practitioners and create a publication that is relevant to everyone who has a role in delivering youth work including young people who are youth leaders, students and volunteers. Whatever our current and prospective readers tell us, we know that web and social media will be part of future for scene and updates and revision of the Irish Youth Work Centre website are now in process to provide a platform for this.

We also know that we can do more to support youth work practitioners to effectively critically reflect on and document their practice. We will be working to establish supports such as friendly readers, contributors’ guidelines and workshops for would-be contributors to assist those who wish to capture and share their work.

There is more to do to help practitioners to reflect on and learn from the practice that is published in Scene magazine. With this in mind we would like to try to accompany the publication of future Scene magazine editions with workshops, or symposia that bring together

contributors to the magazine with young people, students, researchers and policy makers to consider the application of ideas and practice published in Scene.

The key to the above will be a publication calendar, which will publicise a schedule of themes that will be featured in Scene. In developing the publication calendar we will work with colleagues in the sector to strategically identify practice areas that are particularly useful or relevant to practitioners in taking an evidence-informed approach to youth work. The provision of a publication calendar will assist practitioners to look ahead in their work and identify practice that they might share when forthcoming opportunities arise. In this way, we in Scene magazine as well as practitioners themselves will be assisted to be more strategic and purposeful in the documentation, reflection and publication of practice.

If we take it as a truth that substantiating youth work is a task for us all, then there is enough for everyone in the Youth Work sector to be doing. Scene magazine is a resource for all practitioners across the entire youth work sector. To make these ambitions real, Scene must continue to work collaboratively and synergistically with everyone in the sector who likewise has an ambition to develop and provide supports for practitioners. But more can be done and future efforts will involve our partners in the sector in planning, in avoiding duplication of work already undertaken, in identifying themes and practice areas that are critical for youth work practitioners and to ensure that we capture the breadth of good practice that takes place in Irish youth work.

As a reader, your ideas for a new **Scene** magazine are welcome and valued. Please fill out the readership survey, or simply contact us.

**By the staff of the Irish Youth Work Centre - Gina Halpin, Matthew Seebach & Breege Kiernan**

# Don't be the reason someone else starts!

## Carlow Regional Youth Service's X-Hale Youth Awards

By Angela Keogh

CRYS recently took part in the **X-Hale Youth Awards**, this article summarises the process from idea to completion and outlines some of the challenges faced and successes made during the year. It also traces the journey of the project in words and photos from October 2011 to October 30th 2012 when we will attend the Red Carpet Evening in the Lighthouse, Dublin. Our project is not a quick fix 'just say no' response to smoking, it is a sustained effort put into practice principals of health promotion within a youth led project.

Smoking Prevention Project  
October 2011 - October 2012

Trying to find new ways to approach the subject of smoking is part of the challenge faced by services that promote health and well being among young people. In 2011 discussions between young people and workers in Carlow Regional Youth Service about this issue put some responsibility onto smokers to be

aware of the influence that peer pressure has on non-smokers. One form of peer pressure identified as an issue was the practice some smokers have of inviting non-smokers to accompany them when going outside to smoke.

When some of our workers read about the Irish Cancer Society's X-Hale Youth Awards 2011/2012 in this magazine they got very excited as they knew the funding available could go a long way towards creating a meaningful project to address this problem. The application form was completed and a plan for the project was submitted and we were delighted to be awarded €5,000 towards a smoking prevention project.

Our project required serious dedication from young people and workers across the service. Three youth leaders volunteered to take the lead on the project and they thought BIG! Leaders were keen to include as many young people as possible across the whole service as well as doing workshops in primary schools. Two staff and three youth leaders attended the training provided by the Irish Cancer Society which covered facts about smoking, developing ideas and practical suggestions.

Young people and workers met regularly with youth leaders creating a team of helpers across the service. The project became a team of ten youth leaders that reached 1,000 young people. Each leader took responsibility for a different part of the project this made the co-ordination of the project much smoother for staff and young people. The central theme to the project was:





***When it comes to smoking sharing  
is NOT caring.***

***Don't be the reason someone else starts.***

Youth leaders presented workshops to over three hundred primary school children and asked the children to design posters based on the workshops.

The Bagenalstown film group in Carlow Regional Youth Service became the film team and made a documentary about smoking and peer pressure. They filmed interviews with sixty people in their community as part of the documentary process. The art team ran a week long summer art programme and collaborated on the poster design and the set design for the launch of the film. They also designed and ordered wrist bands for the launch. The music team decided on a launch that gave young musicians in the music project an opportunity to perform in the brilliant venue that is Carlow's George Bernard Shaw Theatre.

### **What did we put into the project?**

Youth leaders: There were four workers on this project, Paul Amond, Jimmy Dooley and Karen Mullins and it was led by myself, Angela Keogh. There were many hours spent planning, supporting and delivering various strands of the project including 9am-3pm daily during the week long camps. Meghan Ryan was the contact and leader during the art camp, Rebecca Keegan Smithers led the film camp and Noelle Farrelly took on many roles throughout the project including planning the launch with the help of Barry Walsh.

Other leaders who rowed in and gave exceptional support and energy to the project were Sarah Owens, Jennifer Grace (art) Barry Walsh (music and art) and Marie Egan, Ian Kelly and Selena Brennan Doran (film).



### **What did we get from the project?**

Workers really supported the youth led project. This process was challenging but the rewards for the young people involved were meaningful and real. Young people were listened to and were shown how to plan a big event as well as their workshops and their week long summer programmes. They were guided through facilitation skills, media communication skills and they spoke on radio, wrote articles for the local paper, designed professional posters to advertise their gig and were invited to speak at the National Conference on Smoking and Women's Health this year. The growth in self confidence was evident throughout this year long project and the sometimes frustrating work of coordinating many people to do many tasks provided great opportunities to learn and grow.

### **The challenges**

Part of the challenge for workers was finding the balance between giving the freedom to young people to lead and also ensuring that young people were supported in achieving their goals.

It was important to keep the goals realistic as well as being positive and open in approaching the work that young people set themselves. Workers were careful to listen to suggestions put forward and go with them where possible. Flexibility as well as steadily guiding the original plan was crucial to the success of the no smoking project.

The project involved some intensive work and workers had to be mindful that sometimes young people can take on too much and become overwhelmed. In order to prevent this, at the planning stage timelines and tasks were identified. Workers kept young people informed about progress and new tasks through texting, e-mails and meetings. Young leaders were encouraged to delegate tasks.

## The successes

This project brought many strands of the youth services together culminating in a brilliant night on the 15th September. Young leaders were the driving force behind this project. To stand and talk about smoking to their peers took real courage and commitment and leaders are to be commended for their bravery as well as all the hard work that went into a project which spanned almost a year.

On the night of the launch the H.S.E. smoking cessation officer attended along with Joanne Vance from the Irish Cancer Society. Young smokers took the opportunity to talk about their smoking habits and also to measure the carbon monoxide level in their bodies.

This project was about more than the single night of the launch. It was about a genuine attempt to change attitudes of young people towards smoking. One of the most positive things that a young person can do in their life, for their own health, is not to start smoking and if they do smoke – to stop. It is imperative that we support our non smokers to remain non smokers as well and to encourage smokers who want to quit. The project was used as an example of Peer Health Promotion in CRYS' Health Quality Mark process.

The posters and the documentary made will be used in primary and secondary schools in Carlow.

One of the goals the young leaders had was to bring a bus to Dublin to the Irish Cancer Society's Red Carpet National X-Hale Expo on the 30th October 2012. Workers applied for and received funding from the VEC to pay for a bus for the day. CRYS will be travelling to Dublin with youth leaders and young

people and some of Carlow's finest young musicians will perform at the event in the Lighthouse.

CRYS is really proud of all of the young people involved in this project and remains committed to smoking prevention and to promoting the health of young people in Carlow.

Angela Keogh is a youth worker with County Carlow Drugs Initiative.

For more information on Carlow Regional Youth Service contact:  
Montgomery House,  
Athy Road  
Carlow  
[www.carlowys.ie](http://www.carlowys.ie)

For more information on The Xhale Youth Award Scheme see: [www.cancer.ie/xhale](http://www.cancer.ie/xhale)

**Photo 1:** Training in Dublin with Angela Keogh (CRYS), Joanne Vance, Eimer Cotter, (Irish Cancer Society).

**Photo 2:** The team at the National Women's Council and Irish Cancer Society's Conference on Smoking and Women's Health at the Aisling Hotel, Angela Keogh, Noelle Farrelly, Rebecca Keegan Smithers and Meghan Ryan.

**Photo 3:** Young people meeting Bernie O'Brien, HSE Smoking cessation officer Carlow/Kilkenny.

**Photo 4:** Oisin Moore, James Strain & Evan McDermot from the group **Autholysis** perform at the launch on the 15th September.

**X-HALE**  
YOUTH AWARDS

  
Youth Work Ireland  
Carlow Regional Youth Service



# Briefing Note on The Symposium on Exploring Outcomes in Youth Work and Related Provision

## Introduction

On July 24th, 180 practitioners from the Irish youth work sector gathered together in Dublin Castle for a Symposium, Exploring Outcomes in Youth Work and Related Provision organised by the Centre for Effective Services under the auspices of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Centre for Effective Services has kindly allowed use of the below excerpts from its reporting on the event to provide an overview to readers of Scene magazine of the purpose, presenters, outcomes and important documents from the day. For unabridged reports, presentations and other documents from the day visit:

[www.effectiveservices.org/ces-projects/youth-policy-framework-development](http://www.effectiveservices.org/ces-projects/youth-policy-framework-development)

The purpose of the Symposium was to provide an opportunity for practitioners and managers of young people's services, academics, researchers and others to learn from leading commentators in relation to the three topic areas. The second objective was for participants to reflect on their own practice in light of the inputs from the international commentators. The third and last objective was for the considerations of the participants to inform the development of the Youth Policy Framework.

## Overview of Speakers and Presentations:

In the morning session Catherine Hazlett and Conor Rowley of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs opened the Symposium and set the context for the day. In doing so, Conor Rowley took some time in his presentation to explain the approach to a focus on outcomes in youth work. In a slide entitled "Destination," Conor explained that:

- This does not mean a wholesale move to the realm of 'cause and effect', but it certainly requires an advancement from 'cause and affect'.
- The identification and articulation of the impact and outcomes of youth work needs all of us involved to consider evidence, not as a 'burden of proof' but as way in which we capture and further construct quality youth work.
- This requires a collective effort to work collaboratively, constructively and proportionately in responding to the challenge.

Following the opening, the rest of the morning was made up of presentation from three speakers. Dr. John Bamber of the Centre for Effective Services provided an input on *Issues in focusing on outcomes in youth work and related provision*. Following this, Prof. Dana Fusco, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education, York College, City University of New York provided an input focused on

the practice of youth work that was entitled, *The practice, principles and purpose of youth work: A changing landscape*. Finally, Prof. Dale Blyth, Extension Professor, School of Social Work in the College of Education & Human Development, University of Minnesota shared his experience of research and work in youth work in the United States with a presentation entitled: *Exploring Issues in Youth Work: Lessons from the States & Challenges for the Future*.

It is not possible to give a full summary or even reproduce a substantial portion of the text of all the presentations and workshops here. Some of the messages provided by the speakers require a full and detailed explanation and should best be understood in the context of the entire presentation. With this in mind, this information piece outlines some of the messages and ideas from the Symposium presentations. These aren't necessarily the key ideas, but rather ideas and messages that can easily be communicated in the space available here. For a full text of all presentations, please visit:

[www.effectiveservices.org/ces-projects/youth-policy-framework-development](http://www.effectiveservices.org/ces-projects/youth-policy-framework-development).

**Presentation One:** *Issues in focusing on outcomes in youth work and related provision* Dr. John Bamber, Centre for Effective Services

The following are excerpts of some of the points made in the presentation:

Dr Bamber began by providing an introductory slide that set the context in the Youth Work Sector as below:

1. The most acute challenge today is the need to substantiate youth work.
2. A major part of this challenge is the call to focus on outcomes as well as processes.
3. Research can help in meeting this challenge.
4. The real need is for an evidence-informed approach.
5. Evidencing youth work requires a coordinated local, national and international effort.

Dr. Bamber's presentation then covered issues in youth work such as the dominant paradigm in research, the character of youth work, central questions for youth work, what outcomes are we looking for, and youth work process. The end of the presentation featured the proposal that youth work take an evidence informed approach. In this slide an evidence informed approach was explained as:

*An approach that helps people and organisations make well-informed decisions by putting the best available evidence at the heart of practice development and service delivery.*

### An evidence informed approach means:

- Sifting information gleaned from research and other sources.
- Weighing reliability and relevance.
- Synthesising and interpreting meaning.
- Identifying actions applicable to realities of practice.
- Systematically applying objective criteria to inform planning and decision-making.
- Remaining open-minded and willing to question accepted orthodoxies.

**Presentation Two:** *Exploring Issues in Youth Work: Lessons from the States & Challenges for the Future* Dale A. Blyth, PhD Professor, College of Education & Human Development

Prof. Blyth began his presentation by explaining the role that evidence had played in youth work in the United States in recent years as:

Evidence helped shift Youth Work in the States:

- Toward strength-based measures & approaches.
- Toward community systems of supports and opportunities.
- Toward preparation of youth workers.
- Toward quality as key to impact.

Over the course of several slides Prof Blyth indicated some of the kinds of research that had influenced youth work and how it had done so. Included in these slides was the work of the Search Institute and Connell and Gambone, 1998.

Prof. Blyth then went on to identify three main challenges:

### Challenge 1. Expanding and connecting our wisdom:

Here Prof. Blyth showed three separate spheres of Youth Work, Public Management and Research & Evaluation. In reference to these separate spheres Dr. Blyth pointed out that the “Evidence needs to grow, connect and become more collaborative.”

### Challenge 2. Exploring new pathways to impact:

Prof Blyth pointed out here that there is evidence that youth programmes work. The existing evidence includes:

1. Evidence from mentoring programs.
2. Evidence from prevention program evaluations.
3. Evidence from afterschool programs.

The challenge, Prof. Blyth indicated, “ will Require Shift in Investments From **PROVING IMPACT** to **IMPROVING IMPACT**”

### Challenge 3: Aligning Accountability:

Here Prof. Blyth showed a slide as below that indicated what level of the youth work sector should be accountable for what

### ALIGNING DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WHAT	WHERE
Selecting Outcomes	Policy Level
Monitoring Outcomes	Geographic Levels
Effective Strategies	System Level
Improving Access	System Level
Quality of Program	Organization Level
Quality of Professional	Association Level

### Afternoon Session Overview of Symposium Workshops:

In the afternoon participants took part in workshops to reflect on the inputs in relation to their own concerns and practices. The workshops were led by facilitators who provided a brief summary of findings in a final plenary session. Rapporteurs in each group captured the main points in the discussions.

### How the themes and issues were identified

Notes documented on flipcharts during each workshop were transcribed and analysed. Themes and issues emerging from the data across all workshops were grouped and synthesised. The findings represent direct quotes from workshop participants, but some have been paraphrased or combined. Findings are presented under the following headings:

- Nature of youth work.
- The identity of youth work.
- Promotion and communication of youth work.
- Principles of youth work in the Irish context.
- The relationship between outcomes and process.
- Defining and measuring outcomes.
- Research and practice – roles and responsibilities.
- Supporting an evidence-informed approach – support, infrastructure and training.
- Setting the youth work agenda – who decides?

***These findings will feed into the development of the Youth Policy Framework being led by the Youth Affairs Unit in the Department for Children and Youth Affairs***



Conor Rowley, Prof. Dale Blyth, Dana Fusco, Dr. John Bamber and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald at the CES/DCYA Symposium in Dublin



# A Youth Worker's Reflection on the Symposium

by **Glen Guilfoyle**  
*Youth Worker*

Going into the recent symposium on 'Exploring Outcomes in Youth Work and Related Provision' I must say I was slightly apprehensive. I held some concerns that the event would be signposting major changes that sought to put finance and an economically defined concept of 'value' at the centre of youth work rather than young people. I also expected the speakers to be heralding additional work to be placed on already over-laden plates.

Dr. John Bamber argued that evidence does not need to be based on a maths and stats type approach but rather that evidence can come from a variety of sources including reflective practice. From my perspective, using reflective practice as a method of gathering evidence would allow youth workers to gather evidence as they work rather than face the daunting task of sitting down in front of a blank screen with a lengthy reporting form.

Youth workers need to take the time to write up what we do. Often we are so busy focusing internally and we do not spend the time on PR or on selling the great work that is being done around the country. Another area that suffers unnecessarily is that of reflection, evaluation and other types of essential administration. These tend to be the first ones to suffer due to increasingly high demands on a youth worker's time and energy.

Perhaps the recognition of this, as mentioned a few times throughout the day by various speakers, will encourage a rethink on the importance of financing more than just programme costs.

What I took from the symposium that was extremely encouraging was that there seemed to be a clear understanding from policy makers that youth work is making an invaluable contribution to the development of young people in Ireland. Young people are all unique and each have their own individual needs. The

beauty of youth work is that it seeks to place the young person at the centre and build the process around them rather than try to fit them conveniently into a one size fits all model.

Dr. Dale Blyth argued for the need to move away from '*proving outcomes*' in favour of research and evidence that '*improves outcomes*'. A key part of this would need to be the focus on relationships. He noted that relationships however can often be extremely hard to measure and quantify. He also believed that there is an opportunity to move away from 'defined' outcomes and focus more appropriately on 'probable' outcomes.

Many of the people in the workshop I attended felt that this would be a much better way to measure youth work outcomes since as I have already mentioned young people do not, and will never, fit into a one size fits all model of measurement. Dr. Blyth also stated that given the financial and time constraints we need to focus our evaluation on 'what matters'

Dr. Dana Fusco proposed the use of a strengths based model for developing youth work that she called CPR (Contextual, Participatory and Responsive). It found it extremely interesting and definitely feel it requires more investigation. I did however note that there was a resistance to adopting the model fully amongst the workshop participants. Many felt that it placed too great an emphasis on the therapeutic aspects of youth work which would be more at home in North America than in Ireland.

All in all, I feel that the focus on outcomes can only be a positive thing, however it needs to be balanced with a guarantee that the importance of process will be maintained. If the balance shifts too far towards outcomes and statistical targets then we may stand to lose the essence of youth work.

***Glen Guilfoyle is a Youth Worker with  
West End Youth Centre  
Ballinacurra-Weston, Limerick.***

# The Children's Referendum

## What you need to know!

by Michael McLoughlin

Barack Obama's theme song in his 2008 Presidential Election Campaign was Sam Cooke's *Change is Gonna Come*. The message seemed fitting for such a portentous political development but we were constantly reminded by the southern soul singer that it's been a *long long* time coming! Such is the way of politics when it comes to momentous change. Four years later the Children's Referendum seems to have been a *long long* time coming but finally it seems change is upon us!

For over 20 years a number of experts and NGOs in the field have highlighted the need for a children's referendum based on the view that the absence of a specific commitment in the basic law of the country led to huge problems for children. This was both a legal and political problem. The Kilkenny Incest Case Report from Justice Catherine McGuinness was one of the first such reports to highlight this deficiency.

Ireland has also been a signatory to the **U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child** and the relevant U.N. Committee has highlighted the problem of the Convention not being transposed into national law due to Ireland's dualist legal system. It should be noted of course that as welcome as the new referendum is, it does not mark the full incorporation of the UNCRC in to Irish law.

The report of the Constitutional Review Group as far back as 1996 pointed to the shortcomings of the Constitution's provisions on fundamental rights. Clearly the concept and definition of the family has changed radically since 1937. Approximately one third of all children are born outside marriage today and while legislation may cover much of this area, it seems appropriate that our basic law should reflect these changes. The courts have declared that the family in the Constitution is the one based on marriage. This has implications for children's rights. Thus a clear statement of children's rights should not be hampered by any other constitutional provisions.



There may be certain aspects of children's rights in the Constitution already but often they are unenumerated and can end up being secondary considerations. The courts have often pointed to the rights of the family as a unit being a primary consideration. Similarly it was seen in the Roscommon Case that fear or assumptions about the law, Constitution or the position of children can impact on professional practice thus demonstrating the need for clarity and certainty that protecting children is always the right thing to do.

One of the basic necessities of constitutional law is that for balance, at the moment children do not feature adequately, when such a balance is being struck.

More recently there has been a lot of detailed work and examination done on this topic. A special Oireachtas Committee on Child Protection in 2006 recommended a referendum and another joint committee on a referendum on children's rights produced a possible wording in 2008. The current Government committed to following, as far as possible this wording in its Programme for Government.

There are key principles that emerge from the UNCRC that advocates automatically look for in any referendum wording such as;

- A general commitment to the rights of the child.
- The best interest of the child principle.
- The voice of the child principle.

The proposals wording addresses each of these. The general commitment to children's rights is arguably the most important element as this provides the explicit basis for the concept in the Constitution removing any doubt or uncertainty. The ability of the state to intervene in crisis situations is more fully elaborated in the text. There are specific provisions on adoption which has been an important discrete issue of concern and this has been welcomed by the groups working in this area.

The voice of the child is also set out in the wording with some caveats relating mainly to legal or related proceedings. While administrative proceedings involving young people are very important in their lives many of these are already set out in statute law and the overall principles of this new wording may be persuasive here too.

Young People and youth organisations will be important in this campaign. **Youth Work Ireland** has already taken a decision to support the wording and is calling for a Yes Vote. For a number of young people this will be symbolically their first vote and it will be on a Saturday. The groups campaigning for a Yes Vote plan to involve young people and youth organisations and we hope to meet that challenge.

### Thirty-First Amendment of the Constitution

#### PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE 42A

##### Children

1.The State recognises and affirms the natural and imprescriptible rights of all children and shall, as far as practicable, by its laws protect and vindicate those rights.

2.1° In exceptional cases, where the parents, regardless of their marital status, fail in their duty towards their children to such extent that the safety or welfare of any of their children is likely to be prejudicially affected, the State as guardian of the common good shall, by proportionate means as provided by law, endeavour to supply the place of the parents, but always with due regard for the natural and imprescriptible rights of the child.

2° Provision shall be made by law for the adoption of any child where the parents have failed for such a period of time as may be prescribed by law in their duty towards the child and where the best interests of the child so require.

3.Provision shall be made by law for the voluntary placement for adoption and the adoption of any child.

4.1° Provision shall be made by law that in the resolution of all proceedings -

i brought by the State, as guardian of the common good, for the purpose of preventing the safety and welfare of any child from being prejudicially affected, or

ii concerning the adoption, guardianship or custody of, or access to, any child,

the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.

2° Provision shall be made by law for securing, as far as practicable, that in all proceedings referred to in subsection 1° of this section in respect of any child who is capable of forming his or her own views, the views of the child shall be ascertained and given due weight having regard to the age and maturity of the child.



*The Children's Referendum will take place on Saturday 10th November 2012*

*Michael McLoughlin is Head of Advocacy and Communications with Youth Work Ireland and is a Board Member of the Children's Rights Alliance.*

# Decision Making Activity Supplement

by Gina Halpin

This activity supplement will help support young people in decision making and enable them to reflect on the ways in which they make decisions and the factors that influence them. The activities will also highlight to the young people that decisions they make have consequences both positive and negative and so called 'bad' decisions can assist in future learning and decision making.

## Icebreaker What's in the Bag?

**Aim:** To help the young people get comfortable with each other and begin to think about how they make decisions.

**Materials:** Four different types of bags and four treats.

- Place a treat inside each bag.
- Ask for three volunteers from the group and ask each of them to choose a bag based on how it looks.
- Each volunteer can keep their bag, swap it with someone else or swap it for the extra fourth bag.
- Now ask the volunteers to feel the object inside the bag without looking.
- Then they have the option to swap again.
- Finally, each young person opens their bag and sees what is inside.

The youth worker should ask why certain bags were chosen and what changed their minds about the bag. Ask the young people if they felt confident in the decisions they made, what influenced them and if there were moments of doubt.

**Source:** [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com)

## Activity One Good Decision, Bad Decision

**Aim:** This activity will help young people reflect on past decisions and look at how the learning can be applied in future decision making situations.

**Materials:** Flip chart paper and pens.

*It is important for the youth worker to give an introduction to this activity about the learning that can be gained from even the most awful outcomes of*

*decisions we have made, such as some people believe that there are no such things as mistakes, that everything is an opportunity for learning!*

- In pairs ask the group to think of two situations – the first being a time when they made a 'bad' decision, i.e. one that turned out differently to what they expected. Maybe it felt like a mistake at the time.
- Ask them to focus on how they had come to that decision – what were their priorities at the time. Repeat this process focusing on a 'good' decision.

### Review Questions:

What did the 'good' and 'bad' decisions feel like at the time? Were they different?

**Source:** *Body, Mind & Society*, by Melanie Revolta, 2002



## Activity Two Making Decisions

**Aim:** To support young people in looking at the way they make decisions and the factors that influence them.

**Materials:** Flip chart paper and markers

*This activity is ideal for a small group setting but does not work so well with large numbers as you will need the young people to feel comfortable sharing both positive and negative experiences*

- Ask each young person to think of two decisions that they have made recently. They do not need to be big life changing decisions, but rather every day ordinary decisions such as what to wear, where to go at the weekend etc.
- Now ask each person to turn to the person next to them and share the two decisions they have identified.
- Invite the group to share any key influences or themes around how decisions identified have been made.

Facilitate a short discussion on the way decisions are made and suggest that most decisions are made in the following ways:

- After listening to friends.
- Instinctively.
- On the spur of the moment.
- At the last minute.
- After thinking it through.



- Ask the young people to think of an example of decision making for each process, for example moving your hand quickly away from a hot kettle is instinctive, whereas deciding on what you want to do after school is considered and thought through.
- Ask them to write down on the flip chart paper a sample decision for each process.

After 20 minutes bring the group back together and encourage them to challenge or ask further questions about decision making processes they use in everyday life. Close the session by identifying the positive and negative factors for each decision making process.

**Source:** *Young People and Citizenship: A resource handbook for youth workers, Connexions personal advisers and PSHE teachers*, by Vanessa Rogers 2001

## Activity Three Moon landing

**Aim:** This is a fun activity that will help young people to bring strategic thinking and analysis into their decision making.

As the young people work together in teams of 4, sharing their thoughts and ideas. Tell them that they are members of a space crew scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lighted surface of the moon. However, due to mechanical difficulties, the ship was forced to land at a spot 200 miles from the rendezvous point.

During re-entry and landing, much of the equipment aboard was damaged and since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip.

9 items are listed as being intact and undamaged after landing. Their task is to rank them in terms of their importance for the crew, to allow them to reach the rendezvous point. (The 'expert' answers were compiled by a team of scientists and engineers at NASA).

Matches	Food Concentrate
50 Ft of Nylon Rope	Parachute silk
2 .45 calibre pistols	One case of dehydrated milk
Stellar Map	2 100 pound tanks of oxygen
Portable heating unit	

### NASA Ranking NASA's Reasoning

**Box of matches Ranked 9th**  
*Virtually worthless as there's no oxygen on the moon to sustain combustion.*

**Food concentrate Ranked 3th**  
*Efficient means of supplying energy requirements.*

**50 feet of nylon rope Ranked 4th**  
*Useful in scaling cliffs and tying injured together.*

**Parachute silk Ranked 5th**  
*Protection from the sun's rays.*

**Portable Heating Unit Ranked 8th**  
*Not needed unless on the dark side.*

**Two .45 caliber pistols Ranked 6th**  
*Possible means of self-propulsion.*

**One case of dehydrated milk Ranked 7th**  
*Bulkier duplication of food concentrate.*

**Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen Ranked 1st**  
*Most pressing survival need*

**Stellar map Ranked 2rd**  
*Primary means of navigation*

[http://insight.typepad.co.uk/moon\\_landing.pdf](http://insight.typepad.co.uk/moon_landing.pdf)

## Activity Four Help the Character

**Aim:** to encourage problem solving in decision making.

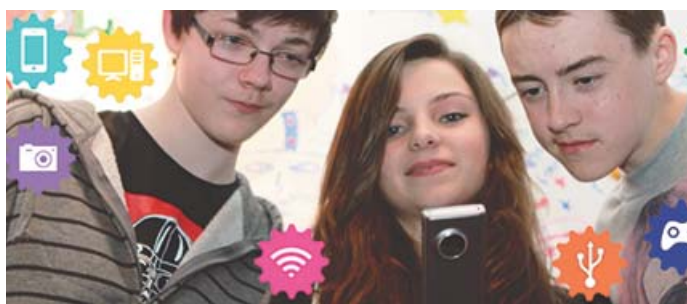
**Materials:** TV or laptop

- Select a clip from a t.v. programme or film that involves a character presented with a decision.
- Try to choose a clip that is unfamiliar to the young people so they don't already know the ending.
- Show the clip, drawing the young people's attention to the decision at hand.
- Pause the clip just after the decision is presented.
- Ask the young people to brainstorm the possible decisions that could be made by the character.
- Initiate a discussion about the best decision for the situation along with the reasoning behind it.
- Continue with the clip to see how the character resolved the issue.
- Discuss the consequences faced by the character, whether positive or negative.

**Source:** [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com)

# 'Digital Consumers' to 'Digital Creators'

## Hotspots Ireland



Successful cooperation in the world of charities, NGO's, not-for-profits and community groups is rarer than we might like to admit. And understandably so, as organisations across the country struggle to fund and run their own programs - never mind working on 'someone else's'.

If this is even a half-truth, then Hotspots Ireland is blowing it out of the water. Hotspots is an initiative based upon the globally deployed Computer Clubhouse model of learning developed by MIT Media Lab. It has been established by a consortium of organisations and volunteers including Foroige, Camara Ireland and the Institute of Art and Design Dun Laoghaire.

Hotspots Ireland trains and supports youth organisations and existing youth projects in Ireland to establish a 'Hotspot' by providing a programme package that includes:

1. Laptop computers and creative learning software.
2. Training and certification in the creative use of digital media technologies for youth workers and young people.
3. Training to establish and coordinate a Hotspot within a youth organisation or project including: learning model, programme design, volunteer management, resource materials, showcasing, etc.
4. Online support, forum and a creative learning community.

The goal is to deploy a national network of digital media 'Hotspots' within youth organisations, converting young people from being passive users into active creators of digital content. Supported by adult mentoring, the young people build confidence, skills and social mobility to help succeed in their lives and future careers.

### Why Hotspots?

Within Ireland, there are two Computer Clubhouses providing safe and creative environments in multi media technology for young people from under-served communities. Their mission is to provide the young people with new skills, confidence and choices that are not otherwise available to them, helping them to succeed in their lives and careers. Full time co-ordinators are complemented by volunteer mentors who offer one-to-one guidance to the youth members, allowing them the freedom to experiment and explore their own creativity.

The Hotspots Consortium were motivated by a belief that this model needed to be rolled out to youth centres nationally. Most young people are intensive users of technology especially when it comes to socialising and consuming content online. A recent McAfee survey in the US revealed that on average, teens spend about five hours a day online with 60% of social network users checking their accounts daily and 41% checking their accounts constantly.

Crucially, this activity is primarily focused around consuming content rather than creating it, with half of teens claim their social network time is spent mostly observing others' activities, rather than actively posting anything, themselves. However they need to be prepared for 21st century jobs and life, where the emphasis is less about individual task completion and more about collaborative projects and creativity.

They will be expected to develop a new literacy, one which combines the current literacies such as reading, writing and arithmetic with the added ability to confidently use digital media and work collaboratively. Learning these skills requires a much more active, involved, and constructivist approach to education.

Hotspots provides an opportunity for young people to move from digital consumerism to digital

creativity. Delivering this shift in an effective way is an extremely powerful contribution to both youth development and informal youth education. It can also play a big part in filling a learning gap that exists in our school system which is struggling to integrate 21st century learning skills into the existing formal models of education.

## To Date

Eleven youth centres and twelve staff have been directly involved in establishing and delivering the Hotspots pilot programme, which began in February 2011 in 7 different counties. Staff from youth organisations and projects participated in digital media training, followed by supported delivery of their Hotspot programme within their youth centre.

Nine youth workers successfully established and delivered the programme across eight centres, with one other youth worker establishing a film-making project. Two youth workers will deliver a Hotspots programme later in 2012. 128 young people participated, 69 boys and 59 girls, aged between 10-18 years. Both collaborative and individual digital projects were created with experienced volunteer mentors providing one-to-one guidance to the young learners, allowing them the freedom to experiment and explore their own creativity. For 2013 Hotspots plan to roll out into 50 youth centres with a further 70 being added in 2014. This ambition will involve training over 250 youth workers and impacting over 1,200 youth.

## The Impact

The Hotspots programme endeavors to reach all young people with a particular focus on young people from disadvantaged communities with little or no access to creative, smart and innovative technology learning opportunities. However, the Hotspots programme offers technology learning opportunities for all young people and is equally available to any youth organisation.

Experience has demonstrated that the existing Irish Computer Clubhouses, upon which Hotspots are modelled, facilitate a particularly effective and productive form of youth service through informal learning and adult mentoring. With activities in a Hotspot coming from a range of creative disciplines (e.g. film, music production, photography, animation, game design etc.) the innovative approach of the Hotspots programme offers a double impact for youth organisations and projects:

1. Young people are empowered to become digital creators in a safe, creative and fun space.
2. Youth work staff participate in professional development training and become tech savvy by learning how to engage their groups using digital technology as a tool.



## Get Involved

If you are a youth programme manager looking for a professional development opportunity for your staff, a volunteer with a passion for digital technology and like sharing your skills and knowledge with people, or a youth worker who feels there is an ever-growing technology divide between you and the young people you work with, then you need to contact Hotspots Ireland!

*If you are interested in learning more about establishing a Hotspot in a youth centre, becoming a volunteer or sponsoring the programme check out [www.hotspotsireland.ie](http://www.hotspotsireland.ie) and please get in touch with:*

*Steven Daly,  
Hotspots Ireland Manager.  
[steven.daly@hotspotsireland.ie](mailto:steven.daly@hotspotsireland.ie)  
[www.hotspotsireland.ie](http://www.hotspotsireland.ie)*



# European Youth Employment Guarantee?

by Michael McLoughlin

The announcement by the Minister of Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D., that Ireland will prioritise the concept of a Youth Employment Guarantee during Ireland's EU Presidency next year is a welcome first step in finally developing a dedicated approach to youth unemployment and not a moment too soon!

The Live Register has shown youth unemployment at over **80,000** consistently and the National Household Survey estimates **one third** of young people are jobless.

**Youth Work Ireland** has, since the start of the current crisis, consistently advocated for a dedicated and focused approach on youth unemployment. The interest now in a Youth Guarantee must therefore be welcomed but how will it work and what would it look like?

At its most basic level the Youth Guarantee does what it says in the tin, it guarantees all young people a job, education or training. It is reasonable to assume that work experience will also feature in any Irish approach. There are two dimensions to the recent announcement; one is the Europe-wide approach that the Irish Government will lead on and the second is what this will mean at home. Naturally it is the latter which concerns us most.

There are however a number of questions that will have to be answered about the proposal in advance of the EU presidency to ensure real progress can be made on this in Ireland and in Europe. The fact that Ireland is taking a lead is a good thing. It is now important to flesh out how this approach will work in Ireland.

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection has raised legitimate issues about the proposal in its pre EU Council meeting with Ministers.

There will be key challenges in delivering this concept in Ireland. It is clear any new resources will have to come from somewhere to ensure this is meaningful for young people in Ireland.

There are key capacity constraints in our education and training system which will offer real challenges to the concept of a Youth Employment Guarantee. We already have a very large number of young people being turned away from further education and training options, this is particularly critical in the PLC and CAO sector. There are about 50,000 young people coming out of school each year along with over 80,000 young people on the Live Register.

These will be the key issues for delivering a Youth Guarantee in Ireland. There are no spare European Structural Funds for Ireland so some major funding will be needed and all these issues will need to be clarified in the near future.

The Irish Presidency is still a number of months away. Emigration and labour market figures illustrate the situation for young people is becoming critical not just for themselves but for the rest of us. If our youth population dips any further our chances of economic recovery will be over as we simply will not have enough young people to pay for our services and to support economic growth. The Irish Government should liaise with interested parties in the challenges involved in delivering on this critical commitment for young people in Ireland.

***Michael McLoughlin is Head of Advocacy at Youth Work Ireland and has formerly worked with the ESF Evaluation Unit.***

***Contact Michael at 01-8584509 /  
mmcloughlin@youthworkireland.ie***





# Limerick Youth Service Update

By Dermot Troy

## Aspiring Limerick Baker wins President's Cup



Trainees from Limerick Youth Service's Bakery Society enjoyed great success at the Alliance for Bakery Students & Trainees Conference 2012 at Alton Towers, England. In the heat of intense competition **Alex Boylan** won the Alliance's President's Cup for his Ciabatta bread. As part of his prize Alex spent four days at the prestigious Belcolade Chocolate Centre, in Belgium. Alex was also offered a place on an exclusive training course at the Richemonte School of Excellence in Switzerland. Alex was not the only trainee to leave with a prize, as **Dawn Clery** won the Wrights Trophy for her live dead dough modelling.

## Horse Outside 2



**Mayor of Limerick, Councillor Gerry McLoughlin**, launched Limerick Youth Service's 'Horse Outside Two' at the city's Hunt Museum, Rutland St. The 8ft horse, which is made of fibre glass, was designed by young people from the city's southside.

Commenting on the 'Horse Outside', Hunt Museum curator of education, Dominique Bouchard said 'it was a big hit with visitors (last year) but I think most of all it was a great experience for the young people involved. We're thrilled to be collaborating with such talented young people.' The 'Horse Outside' is on display in the courtyard of the Hunt Museum, so pop along to see the talent and skill of our young people.

## Lava Java's Youth Café



Young people from Lava Java's Youth Café gave an excellent insight into the workings of a Youth Café at Youth Work Ireland's Consensus Conference in Farmleigh. Stuart Clancy, Gavin Farrell and Vanessa Murray wowed the crowd with a thorough and youthful presentation that encompassed the work that is ongoing in Lava Java's.

Lava Java's, along with Limerick Youth Service's other Youth Cafés, provide a comfortable, accessible environment for young people. 'Our Youth Cafés have elected committees who are trained by us to run the Youth Café,' said John Real, manager of Lava Java's. 'Young people decide on theme nights, order the stock etc., thus giving them a sense of empowerment and business experience that will stand to them in their future careers,' continued Mr. Real.

## Sr. Joan Bowles (1942-2002)

On July 18th Limerick Youth Service marked the tenth anniversary of the untimely passing of Sr. Joan Bowles. The Oola native was a stringent campaigner for youth affairs, both nationally and locally, founding Limerick Youth Service in 1973. Sr. Joan's legacy can be seen throughout Limerick Youth Service today with

current Director Catherine Kelly saying Sr. Joan would have been very proud of her legacy. Speaking fondly of Sr. Joan, Ms. Kelly says 'although the organisation and society has changed a lot, we at Limerick Youth Service still hold true to our core values and strive to keep young people at the centre of everything we do.'



Ms. Kelly continued 'we hope to continue to be readily available to meet young people at their particular point of need or interest.'

As a result of Sr. Joan's contribution to youth work and the fact that Youth Work Ireland (formely known as the National Federation of Youth Clubs) was founded in Limerick fifty years ago, Limerick Youth Service will host this year's Youth Work Ireland AGM and the Volunteer Achievement Awards.

'Given the role that Sr. Joan played in youth work, this is a fitting tribute to her memory,' continued Ms. Kelly, adding 'we look forward to meeting our colleagues and friends in October.'

## Four Peaks Challenge

Young people and volunteers from LYS's Northside Youth Cafe spent the summer months conquering some of Ireland's best known and most challenging peaks to raise awareness of youth mental health. Led

by youth worker, Kate O'Driscoll, the group climbed Keeper Hill, Galteemore in the Galtees, the famed Croagh Patrick and Ireland's highest mountain, Carrantuohill.

Asked why they chose that particular project, volunteer Adam O'Neill replied that 'we completed a project called 'Clear Your Head' last year in which we climbed a few local mountains. This year we decided to do it properly and tackle the big ones.' Adam continued saying 'there was also a great sense of camaraderie among the group and we certainly built some new friendships.'

The group received funding and training from ThinkBig, a Headstrong/o2 programme that enables young people to do projects in their community that make a difference to young people's mental health.

For more information please contact:

Dermot Troy

Communications Officer

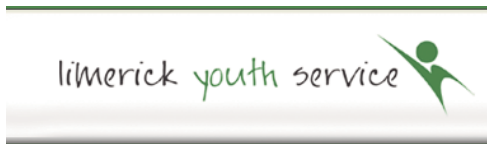
Limerick Youth Service

Lower Glenworth St, Limerick

(t): 061 412444

(e) [dermott@limerickyouthservice.com](mailto:dermott@limerickyouthservice.com)

[www.limerickyouthservice.com](http://www.limerickyouthservice.com)



# News and Events

## Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives Now Available online

The Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives is an online resource aimed at a range of users including those involved in research, service planning, service evaluation and policy development and monitoring. Its aim is to promote awareness and increased use of existing data sources on children's lives.

The inventory was initially compiled during the development of the National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives, 2011-2016 and encompassed:

- Data sources that related to children and their families, or services and supports for children and families.
- Data sources that were expected to be updated on an ongoing or regular basis.
- Data sources currently being developed and once off data sources were excluded.

For more information contact:  
[www.dcyu.ie](http://www.dcyu.ie)

## Better Together 2012 is Now Open!

Better Together is a nationwide campaign which aims to build support for hundreds of community groups, charities, clubs and associations across the country by encouraging the public to support

these good causes and make a difference in their communities. The campaign is attracting support in high places with President Michael D. Higgins officially launching the campaign with an inspirational speech in which he described the campaign as

"a great model for driving active citizenship and a fair and just society."

You can take part in the **Better Together** campaign by completing one or more of these steps:

1. Get involved locally
2. Nominate and vote for a charity here
3. Browse videos and vote for your favorites

For more information see:  
[www.bettertogether.ie](http://www.bettertogether.ie)

## Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme is Currently Inviting Applications

The National Youth Council of Ireland's 'Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme' is now open for applications. This scheme is offered to youth organisations involving professional artists and young people as a means of extending and enhancing opportunities for young people to experience and participate in the arts. The aim of the scheme is to encourage artistic collaboration between professional artists and young people.

Young people will have the opportunity to work with and learn from practitioners of excellence in their field. Equally, artists will have the opportunity to enrich their own professional practice through the contextual experience of working with young people.

There are two awards under this scheme - **The Artist in Residency Award** and the **Youth Arts Development Award**.

The application form and guidelines can be downloaded from the NYCI website below:

[www.youtharts.ie/content/artist-youth-work-scheme](http://www.youtharts.ie/content/artist-youth-work-scheme)

## Screenagers: Using ICT, Digital and Social Media in Youth Work

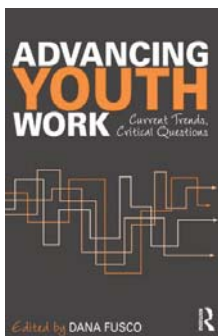
NYCI's Annual Conference for youth work practitioners will take place in the Science Gallery, Dublin, on **Friday 23rd November 2012**. The Conference will look at:

- How can we make best use of digital tools in youth work?
- How can young people be empowered to use social media in a safe way?
- How can youthworkers help young people to become authors rather than just consumers in the digital world?

For more information see:  
[www.nyciconference.ie](http://www.nyciconference.ie)

## Advancing Youth Work: Current Trends, Critical Questions

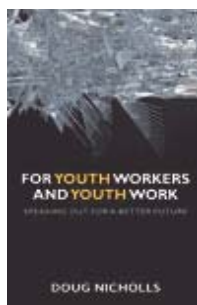
by Dana Fusco, 2011



This path-breaking book brings together an international list of contributors to collectively articulate a vision for the field of youth work, sharing what they have learned from decades of experience in the training and education of youth workers. Carefully designed evaluation and research studies have legitimised the learning potential of youth programmes and non-school organisations over the last twenty years, and recent attention has shifted towards the education, training, and on-going professional development of youth workers. Contributors define youth work across domains of practice and address the disciplines of knowledge upon which sound practice is based, reviewing examples of youth practitioner development both in and outside of academia. Raising critical questions and concerns about current trends, *Advancing Youth Work* aims to bring clarity to the field and future of youth work. *Advancing Youth Work* will help youth work practitioners develop a common language, articulate their field in one voice, and create a shared understanding of similarities and differences. This book is also an invaluable resource for higher educators, researchers, and students involved with youth work.

## For Youth Workers and Youth Work

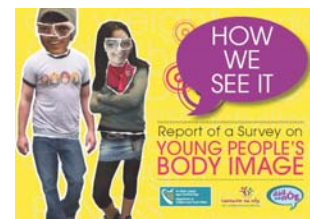
by Doug Nicholls, 2012



Following campaigning fifty years ago, the Albemarle Report established the first modern Youth Service. This is now being dismantled and this passionate and polemical book calls for a new culture for youth work, drawing on the best of youth work's past. Doug Nicholls, a professional and trade union leader of youth workers for over thirty years, identifies what youth workers have achieved and which major changes must take place if their practice is to keep up with the radically altered world. The book distils the author's unique and extensive experience to look at the political and economic contexts, and the new disorder of inequality. Against these he sets the ideas of youth work and public services and the struggles for them. He argues for a new self awareness amongst youth workers on class,

professionalism, trade unionism, socialism and the state. He re-defines reflective practice, leadership and completely debunks the idea of positive activities as a diversion from political education. He draws on the best of youth work's past to redesign the youth work map for today. He speaks with wit, wisdom and warmth to youth workers about their craft. Yet he takes no intellectual prisoners in proposing a new role for youth work in the struggle for social justice. Accessible and challenging book is essential reading for students and practitioners and policy makers

## How We See It: Report on a Survey on Young People's Body Image



by Dáil na nÓg, DCYA & Comhairle na nÓg, 2012

This survey was carried out directly on foot of a key recommendation from Dáil na nÓg 2010, At that Assembly, the young delegates considered the importance of body image to teenagers' mental health; and noting the lack of national data on teenagers' body image; decided that this was an issue worth researching. The Survey found that body image is a burning issue for young people in Ireland, with 77% of participants ranking body image as important to them. 57% of the young people surveyed expressed some level of satisfaction with their body image, which means 43% were dissatisfied;

The report also contains a number of international comparisons. For example, in Australia only 32% of young people surveyed identified body image as a major concern for them. The Survey also found that almost 2 in 3 participants say they feel pressurised to look good for other people. More than half say that comparing themselves with others impacts negatively on their body image and that their body image interferes with their participation in activities such as swimming, dating and putting photographs on Facebook.

Members of the Dáil na nÓg Council developed the Body Image Survey with the help of a team of researchers from the School of Applied Social Studies, UCC. The team from UCC trained the young people of the Council in research methods.

**The full report can be downloaded from [www.dcy.ie](http://www.dcy.ie)**

## I've had enough, I'm Outta here! *Thinking of Leaving School Early?*

by Dun Laoghaire Youth Information Centre and Youth Choices, 2012

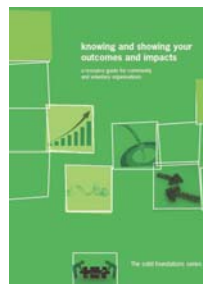


This guide is aimed at young people in the Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown area of Dublin, who may be having difficulties at school and are thinking of leaving early or may have already left. The decision to leave school early is a difficult one and depends on individual circumstances. Some people do not cope well in school, but can flourish in alternative education or employment. There may be issues in school such as bullying or struggling with schoolwork that make it difficult for some people to attend. With some support, these issues can be dealt with so it is possible to stay at school, or alternative options may need to be looked at. This essential guide brings together a list of support services within the Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown area that are there to help, providing information on alternative education, training and employment options. It is always worth spending a bit of time checking what is right for you! Whatever your situation, you will find someone who can provide the support or information you need.

**To obtain a free copy of this essential guide contact: 01 2809363**

## Knowing & Showing Your Outcomes and Impacts: A Resource Guide for Community and Voluntary Organisations

by The Solid Foundations Series, 2012

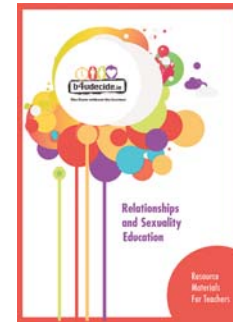


Knowing and Showing Your Outcomes and Impacts is an essential guide for any community, voluntary or charity organisation regardless of age, size, geographic remit or area of focus. Its principles are also readily transferable to social enterprises. It may also be of interest to those who work with any such organisations, including statutory and

philanthropic funders, investors, private companies practising corporate social responsibility and consultants/advisors. Although the guide focuses on the Irish experience, its content may also be applicable in an international context. If you are new to outcomes-focused thinking, we suggest you read each of the chapters in turn. If you have some knowledge of outcomes focused working and wish to learn more about a particular aspect, such as collecting outcomes data or choosing measurement tools, you can simply read the relevant sections. Whatever your level of experience, you will probably be interested to read the case studies of Irish organisations that have adopted an outcomes approach to their work.

## Relationships and Sexuality Education: Resource Materials for Youth Workers

by b4udecide.ie 2012



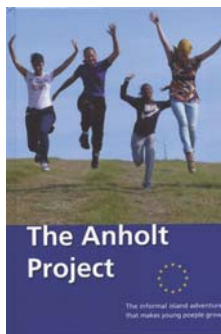
Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) plays a critical role in supporting and preparing young people for the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Young people receive a myriad of conflicting messages, from their friends, peer groups and the media, about sexuality and sexual behaviour. They are aware that such information may be inadequate or inappropriate, and say they would like an accurate, trustworthy source of information.

They also welcome opportunities to learn relationship skills and to have open discussions with their peers, teachers and youth workers in a safe, secure environment, such as at school or youth clubs. Research has found that young people are becoming sexually active at earlier ages than in the past and that early age of first sex is linked to higher incidence of crisis pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases later in life. The b4udecide.ie education initiative was developed to encourage and equip young people to make healthy, responsible decisions about relationships and sex, with the ultimate aim of encouraging them to delay early sex. The initiative provides accurate, age-appropriate information to teenagers through the b4udecide.ie website.

***This resource can be downloaded free of charge from [www.crisispregnancy.ie](http://www.crisispregnancy.ie)***

## The Anholt Project: The Informal Island Adventure that makes Young People Grow

by Youth In Action Programme, 2011



This booklet is a description of the development, outcomes and conclusions of the Anholt Project - an experiment in formal learning processes for young people in Denmark in 2012. The seven participating partner organisations believed that by providing an open environment, where the leaders took a “no intervention” approach and the participants were encouraged to self-organise as much as possible, they could create a space which simulated the young people’s informal learning processes. The partners also experimented with different ways of documenting this informal learning and making it more visible. By producing this booklet, the Anholt partners aim to share the outcomes of the project with a wide international audience in the hope that other youth work professionals will pick up on the questions raised here and help take this experimental methodology forward.

## The Diveristy Project Resource Pack

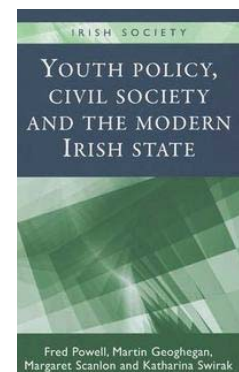
by Eimear Morrissey, 2012



This resource pack is a collaboration project between Canal Communities Regional Youth Service, The Canal Communities Intercultural Centre, Drama Facilitator Eimear Morrissey and Common Ground. The Project came about as one of the actions from the ‘Canal Communities Intercultural Strategy for Youth Work’ and was piloted with two different groups in a local setting over a six month period. The aims and objectives behind the project include (i) Developing an awareness raising space for young people to think critically about diversity (ii) Developing skills and confidence to enable the young people to play an active part in inclusion and promote interaction between local people and young people from minority ethnic communities (iii) To promote the implementation of the Canal Communities Intercultural Strategy for Youth Work. (iv) To create a model of best practice to share with local clubs and group.

## Youth Policy, Civil Society and the Modern Irish State

by Fred Powell, Martin Geoghegan, Margaret Scanlon and Katharina Swirak, 2012



Youth Policy, Civil Society and The Modern Irish State is a refreshing book that brings young people and their issues to the fore in a post-Celtic Tiger Ireland, and questions the dominant image of youth as a problem. Exploring the role of youth organisations in a civil society that has undergone enormous change over the past 150 years, the book discusses the evolution of children’s rights and what youth

policy reveals about Irish society. The authors, Fred Powell et al. at University College, Cork, have based the book on findings from a European project involving ten member states funded by a Council of Europe partnership in 2007. Though the title may initially sound like a heavy and over-ambitious read, it is a strong and honest account of Irish history, grounded in the reality and concerns of young people in a society that has experienced broad social and cultural shifts. The authors detail how the concept of ‘outcast youth’ which is regularly visible in the media today is not a recent concept and has its roots in the eighteenth century construction of children as grotesque ‘others’. As Ireland began to be shaped by the forces of modernity, urbanisation brought with it severe urban poverty leading to an increase in illegitimate or ‘foundling children’. This darker side of Irish history is powerfully presented and reveals how the Catholic Church emerged as a moral agency, attempting to focus the socialisation of youth through the control of education and social care. This stark reflection on Irish society and the evolution of children’s rights and public policy uncovers an honest but pungent account of history that some people may prefer to keep buried.

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

**Gina Halpin on 01-8584512  
ghalpin@youthworkireland.ie**

**The full IYWC Library Database is now available to search online at  
[www.iywc.ie/library-database](http://www.iywc.ie/library-database)**

# COULD YOU BE A DOOR TO DOOR CHAMPION FOR YOUTH WORK IRELAND?

Youth Work Ireland is seeking a team of Door to Door fundraisers to help us to support the lives of young people in Ireland. We are looking for self-starters with great communication skills and an interest in the welfare of young people. Experience in fundraising or door to door sales is an advantage.

Potential earnings from commission are considerable for the right person. Training in fundraising and the Youth Work Ireland ethos will be provided. Branded clothing and all necessary fundraising materials will also be provided.

The hours for this role are flexible and will suit a person who is familiar with their local area. You will report to the Head of Development.

Please apply with a cover letter and CV to :

Jennie Blake  
Youth Work Ireland  
Lower Dominick Street  
Dublin 1

or by email to [jblake@youthworkireland.ie](mailto:jblake@youthworkireland.ie)

Closing date for receipt of applications is November 8th 2012



## Donate to Youth Work Ireland

### *Maximise their Potential*

**€10** per month will train a young person in media skills.

**€15** per month will allow a young community to rock out at the **Irish Youth Music Awards**.

**€21** per month will help to fit out a Youth Café.

Fill out the enclosed Direct Debit Mandate and return to:

Jennie Blake  
Youth Work Ireland  
20 Dominick Street Lower  
Dublin 1

Youth Work Ireland has partnered with **Red Corner Money** to fund our supports and services to your local young people.

Red corner money are an independent insurance broker and they are confident they will save you money on your existing insurance products, in doing this they will donate up to 33% of any commissions earned to Youth Work Ireland.

You save money and help raise needed funds for YWI. Be part of it!

Please find more information on the flyer enclosed.



# YOUTH WORK IRELAND WEEK 2013

Saturday 20th April - Sunday 28th April 2013

## Announcing Youth Work Ireland Week 2013

This event will build on the great success and energy that saw over 200 events run throughout Youth Work Ireland's 22 Member Youth Services in April 2012. Over 3,000 young people participated in events such as Youth Days, Sports Events, Sexual Health Awareness Days, Youth Conferences, Art Exhibitions, Quiz Nights, Music and Rap Showcases, Youth Café Events, Family Days, Fun Runs and the list goes on and on...

Youth Work Ireland Week is a chance for us to shine a spotlight on the great youth work practice and positive outcomes youth groups, clubs and projects have on the lives of young Irish people and Irish communities.

**Contact your Local Youth Service for more information or see [www.youthworkireland.ie](http://www.youthworkireland.ie)**



## Calling All IYMA's Bands

*You can be part of the launch of the Irish Youth Music Awards 2013!*

Busk your guts out to raise awareness and funds for the Irish Youth Music Awards 2013. We are looking for musicians, set-up support, bucket-shakers and cheerleaders to give at least 2 hours on the day.

We'll be busking from **10am-7pm** on **Saturday 8th December 2012** in a Central Dublin location.

To get involved email [jblake@youthworkireland.ie](mailto:jblake@youthworkireland.ie) with the subject **"I want to be part of the IYMA's Buskathon"**

Let us know if you are a busker or a support person. When you sign up we will keep you informed of the plan for the day.

*Expect a special guest star appearance by a very famous musician*

