



Youth Work Ireland

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Press Release
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“New Post Jobbridge Programme and action on Substance Misuse in Budget will be the real test of recovery for young people” Says Leading Youth Organisation in Budget Submission

Proper support for a real Youth Guarantee for unemployed young people and the delivery of the Government’s own Substance Misuse Policy are some of the key recommendations in the budget submission of Ireland’s largest youth organisation which was published today. Youth Work Ireland which represents 22 local voluntary youth services has said funding for local youth projects needs to be increased to undo the damage of the past. The organisation has aligned its budget submission with the five national outcomes of the Government’s recently published Policy Framework for Children and Young People, ‘Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures’. This approach illustrates the need for action in a number of policy areas impacting on children and young people that youth services work on.

The organisation has also called for delivery of various guidelines on diet and exercise for young people through schools and voluntary youth services for example those recommended by Safe Food Ireland, a fund for community based sports and leisure activity for young people and an increase in support for literacy and numeracy work in schools and voluntary youth services. The submission seeks improved funding for voluntary youth services who work with early school leavers and the hardest to reach young people, certified learning in these informal settings along with a broad range of youth activities to combat anti-social behaviour in our communities. The submission envisages the implementation of the National Substance Misuse Policy recommendation on minimum pricing for alcohol as financing the bulk of these measures.

“The emergence of more positive economic news has to be reflected in the real world experience of young people in Ireland. It is beyond doubt that the current unprecedented economic crisis is impacting differentially on our country. Recent reports by both the ESRI and the National Economic and Social Council have highlighted this. Furthermore, the impact on young people in particular has been nothing short of cataclysmic. The Government is close to a neutral budget in a “do nothing scenario” we believe that the long overdue implementation of minimum pricing for alcohol will provide the revenue to do a lot more for young people particularly in terms of their health and employment prospects” Said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

Submissions Recommendations

1. Implement the National Substance Misuse Strategy (€14m)
2. Delivery on the various guidelines on diet and exercise for young people through schools and voluntary youth services for example those recommended by Safe Food Ireland (€2m)
3. Establish a fund for community based sports and leisure activity for young people (€6m)
4. Increase Excise duty to fund the above and other measures in this submission consistent with various expert reports (+€75m)
5. Deliver on the Junior Cycle Student Award (no cost)
6. Introduce similar reform for the Leaving Certificate (no cost)
7. Reintroduce the Early School Leavers Survey (€0.5m)
8. Increase support for literacy and numeracy work in schools and voluntary youth services (€5m)
9. Increase support for voluntary youth services who work with early school leavers and the hardest to reach young people, support certified learning in these informal settings (€8m)
10. Implement the Report of the Internet Safety Review Group (€1m)
11. Increase Support for Garda vetting in light of the Garda Netting Bureau Act 2012 (€2m)
12. Expand the remit of Garda Diversion projects (€2m)
13. Support a broad range of youth activities to combat anti-social behaviour in our communities (€2m)
14. The network of Youth Information Centers need to be reinforced and become the backbone of a youth focused pre-employment service linked to the Pathways for Work Initiative (€2m)
15. 10,000 new places to be made available for young people on labour market relevant courses utilising voluntary youth services to source the most disadvantaged where relevant (€28m net of Youth Guarantee contribution)
16. Begin the equalization of Social Protection Payments for people (€100m)
17. The amount for good from the National Lottery causes should be set at 33% and this should be a key deliverable for any franchisee. (€3m for youth services)
18. 20% of any windfall arising from the sale of the lottery license should be ring fenced for the good causes the lottery supports. This should be in a dedicated fund which will help these key areas salvage their services from the higher than average cuts they have been subjected to in recent years. (+€2m Annuity)
19. Funding for youth affairs should increase by 5% in Budget 2015 to undo the damage of the past (€3m)

ENDS

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