



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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"New Government has Opportunity to Make Fresh Start on Alcohol Policy on Foot of HSE Report" Says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has today called for a real commitment from Government to tackle Ireland's alcohol crisis. The youth organisation whose members deal with over 80,000 young people annually has said the HSE report is a stark illustration of the failure of previous Governments in the field of alcohol. The youth group has said that anybody dealing with young people on a day to day basis sees the influence of alcohol and its place in Irish society. Youth Work Ireland has said the implementation of Government policies in price, promotion and availability were negligible and that only a renewed political commitment on foot of the HSE report held out any hope of impacting on the situation.

"This report shows the huge impact of alcohol on Irish society across a whole swathe of areas such as health, social policy, the workplace and notably the economy. The indulgence and tolerance of harmful alcohol consumption is too pervasive in society and previous Governments have encouraged lax attitudes in this area. There has been a massive increase in the number of alcohol related offences which illustrates how concerted action on alcohol can impact on issues like crime. Clearly alcohol is a huge factor in anti social behaviour yet ineffectual measures such as ASBOs have been preferred ahead of tackling alcohol head on" said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

"The main pillars of a successful alcohol strategy have long been accepted as price, restricting promotion and acting on availability. There has been no action on price for years. The self regulation approach to alcohol advertising has been completely devalued and limited actions on promotions agreed a few years back have not been fully implemented. This report clearly shows that alcohol related harm extends into many areas of society beyond drinkers themselves. The need for high level political action clearly emerges from this report and that call needs to be headed at the highest level in Government" Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

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