

ISSN NO: 079-6302

Irish Youth Work SCENE

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Issue 2-April/92

National Youth Federation

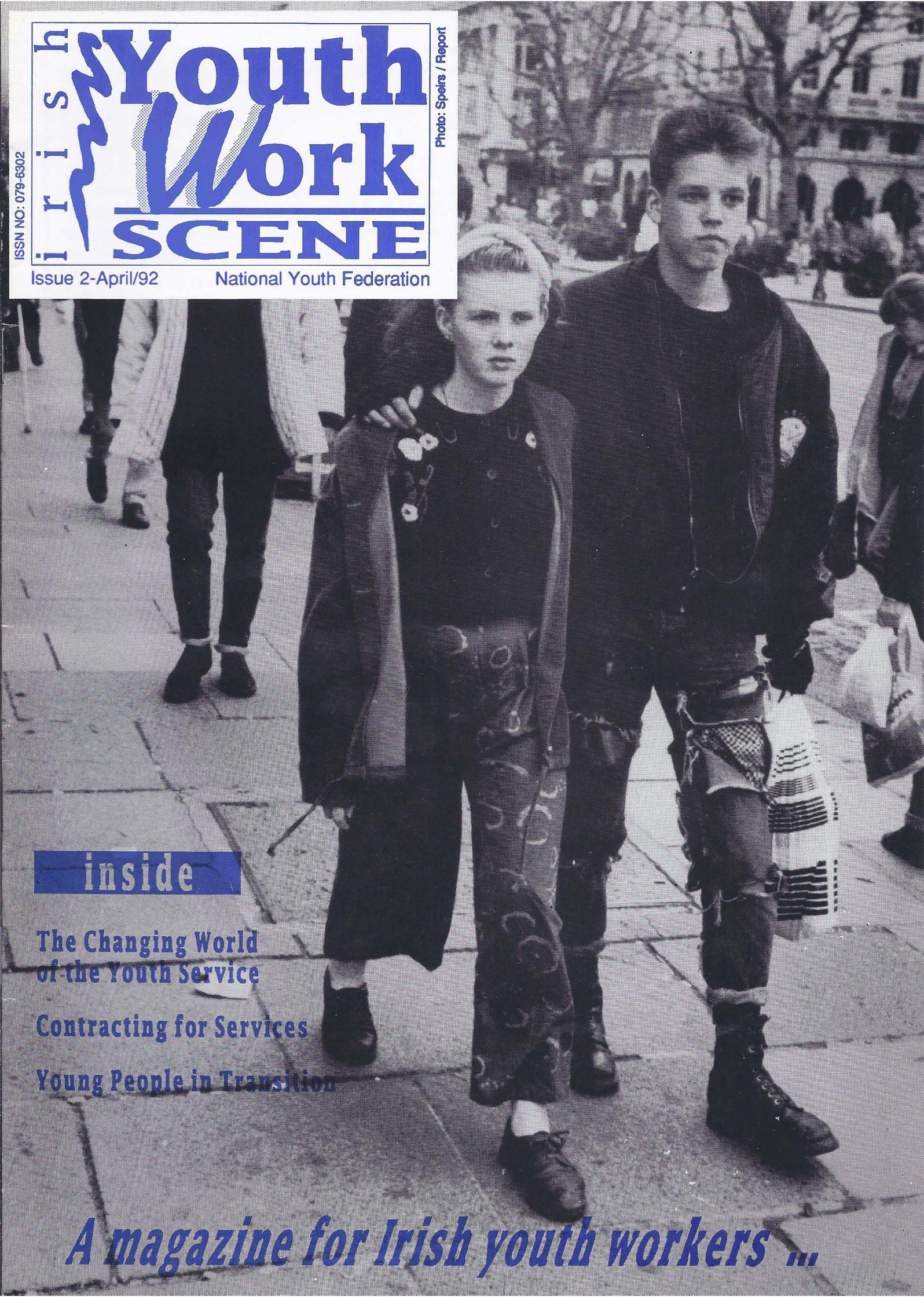
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The Changing World
of the Youth Service

Contracting for Services

Young People in Transition

A magazine for Irish youth workers ...



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Irish Youth Work Scene

is a quarterly magazine published by the
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
Ph: 01 729933 / Fax: 01 724183

It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward your point of views. Send in news, photos (black & white only), comments, letters or articles to the editor. Views expressed in this magazine are the contributor's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Youth Federation.

Editor:

Avril Soper

Editorial Committee Chairperson:

John Dunne

Contributors:

Fran Bissett, John Dunne, Ken Keogh, Phil Mortell,
Fr. Paul Murphy, Liam O'Dwyer,
Gearoid O Maollmhichil, Stephen Sheehan

Cover Photograph: Derek Speirs (Report: 788228)

Design & Layout: Avril Soper

Printing: Surepress



Responding to the Unemployment Crisis

Tackling the effects of poverty and unemployment is becoming a growth industry in its own right. As such it is tending to create new vested interests who seem to approach the problem from partisan rather than pragmatic points of view.

Reaction to the government's initiative to seek employment opportunities for Irish people in the Netherlands is a good example of this. Emigration will never be the solution to the problem of unemployment, but it can be part of the solution. The Federation has, for over a decade, tried to prepare young people for emigration. It received no help from a government which appeared frightened to acknowledge the fact of emigration. We now have a government which is not afraid to say that emigration is acceptable if it is voluntary and if the emigrant is adequately prepared beforehand. That is a positive development.

The Culliton proposals to separate the industry training and social employment aspects of our manpower policy are also controversial but, we believe, essentially correct. Large-scale social employment/work experience schemes detract from efforts to train workers to international standards of excellence if too closely linked to each other. But employment schemes do have a role, particularly given current unemployment rates. Schemes such as Teamwork have proved their worth where properly applied. The Federation has used them to pioneer new curricula and methodologies in areas such as 'apprenticeship' approaches to personal development and bringing production orientation to vocational training. The success of such initiatives has been reflected by a placement rate in excess of 80% nationally, formal accreditation of training and international recognition of the programmes.

Is it really important whether we have an Oireachtas Committee or a National Forum on jobs? Those who champion the idea of a Jobs Forum have not really explained why they believe a process which helped to refine a nationalist consensus on Northern Ireland is likely to succeed in tackling unemployment. They are very different types of problems.

Unemployment is now acknowledged as the main issue on the government's agenda. But the government cannot end unemployment directly by its own actions. Those who care about the problem must do more than talk about it. And their influence in the policy-making process should reflect their practical contribution, not political (or economic) status.

John Dunne

Towards 2000

The changing world of the Youth Service

A few years ago I was privileged to chair a sub-committee of the then National Federation of Youth Clubs which produced a policy submission to the Costello Committee entitled 'Youth Services 2000'. Part of that document contained an overview of the youth service environment, the context within which the youth service operates. As we enter 1992 it is opportune that we engage in an updated environmental analysis. This I will attempt to do in what follows (the intention here is to draw attention to issues/events that may or do affect the work of the Federation and other youth work organisations rather than to engage in any in-depth exploration of the said issues/events) and I hope that these few thoughts will evoke some reflections amongst readers so that together we can begin to address the broader question as to where Irish youth work is going?

Demographic Factors

I well remember receiving a letter, a few years ago, from a senior staff member in one of the national teacher training colleges. The college was anxious to acquire the baptismal statistics from the diocese over a number of recent years. The college authorities wanted to gain a picture of the future school-going generation to enable them to plan for teacher requirements in the years ahead. The picture that emerged was that numbers were falling. There would

be an inevitable drop in pupil numbers over the next few years. A glance at the most recent demographic statistics suggests that the current demographic "bulge" which is located in the early teens will have moved on to the mid-twenties by 1999. Consequently the basic make-up of the youth service's client group will have changed.

Recently I was talking to a teacher who remarked that he was somewhat surprised at the readiness with which some children from single-parent families were willing to openly acknowledge that fact in school. There is little doubt but that the next generation of "youth" will include a significant proportion from this single-parent background. This, plus the fact that the traditional family is coming under increasing pressure (one notes the decrease in the extended family plus the rising number of disfunctional nuclear families), will create particular problems and challenges for young people and for those concerned with their welfare.

Church affiliation, religious belief and practice has, as noted in the "Youth Services 2000" document, played a major role in Irish society over the generations. Studies undertaken over the past fifteen years suggest a gradual drift from practice by young people with a correlative alienation of young people from the Church. This drift, whilst of major consequences for the Church itself, also suggests a certain loosening of the value base on which young people act.

Then there is the emigration factor. Over the generations emigration has served to restructure the youth population of this country. While there is a slight slow-down in emigration currently,

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FOCUS

this is due to international economic factors that are likely to change shortly so that it is likely that there will be a rise in emigration figures from 1994. Given the change in the numerical composition of the youth service's client group any significant rise in emigration must have serious consequences for the work of the National Youth Federation and other national youth organisations.

The delivery of youth work services

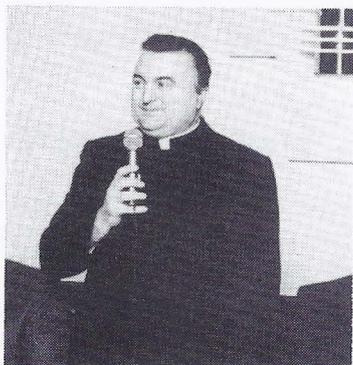
Turning now to the delivery of youth work services, it is likely that, with the shrinking youth population, efforts may, understandably, be made by some of the educational institutions, eg. the Vocational Education Committees, to broaden their working definition of "education" thereby facilitating the extension of their institutional catchment group and this may well involve the taking on board of some of the work currently being undertaken by the various voluntary youth organisations.

Of note recently is the increasing interest in direct youth work initiatives being expressed by agencies such as the Department of Justice. While, on the one hand, welcoming the implicit acknowledgement of the intervention value of youth work, on the other hand, one must hope that this does not herald a proliferation of youth work sponsors. There is a real risk of this taking place unless there is a clear effort made to establish a coherent, co-ordinated approach to the delivery of youth work services.

The current financial climate is such that it can be reasonably envisioned that policy makers are likely to emphasise

value-for-money as the core determining factor where youth work provision is concerned. I use the phrase "core determining factor" quite deliberately, since effective youth work can and, indeed, ought to provide value for money. The concern here is that youth work not be primarily financially driven. A consequence of such a value for money approach could well be the promotion of a 'core curriculum' model for the youth service. This is something that has already begun to happen in the United Kingdom.

Given the current climate it is likely that mainstream youth work



Fr. Paul Murphy, NYF President

will continue to suffer at the expense of 'disadvantaged' youth work. For people like ourselves this is and continues to be a matter of major concern since it is mainstream youth work that has given the impetus to the National Youth Federation and other youth organisations to invest their energies in 'disadvantaged' youth work. It appears that disadvantaged youth work has proved to be rather disadvantageous for the organisation which is rather ironic. The relative sidelining of mainstream youth work calls in question the understanding that "the powers that be" have of the nature and history of voluntary youth service provision in Ireland, and, in addition, poses yet another problem/challenge for mainstream providers such as the NYF.

With the approval being given for the establishment of two new Local Voluntary Youth Councils, it would appear that it may only be a matter of time until such Councils

become established in every VEC administrative area. The framework of operation of these councils is still somewhat unclear with practice varying considerably amongst the existing Local Voluntary Youth Councils. While the NYF is not opposed in principle to the concept of the Local Voluntary Youth Council, there must be concern at the possible extension of such councils throughout the country without an appropriate framework of operation.

Statutory Agencies and the Youth Service

What will the role of the Vocational Educational Committees be in the future development of the youth service? Are they likely, for example, to assume the Local Voluntary Youth Council role by legislation or default should the position of the councils not be made crystal clear? In which case will they function as funders/evaluators or delivers of the service?

It has been suggested that VEC's will switch to county boundaries. Will this happen and with what results. Will there emerge a direct link with the Health Boards? The promised Green Paper on Education will be read with considerable interest by youth service providers.

There are indications emerging that FAS may be in for some major changes? Amongst the suggestions made by the Review of Industrial Policy published on 10 January, 1992, and reported on in the press on the 11th and was one that FAS should have two divisions, one for industrial training and one for employment support, which would obviously focus on social employment, social welfare and special education. It was also suggested that another option was that FAS be completely abolished and that (a) employment schemes be transferred to the Department of Social Welfare, (b) industrial training be transferred to a new agency for the promotion of indigenous industry, (c) remedial training be transferred to the

education system and (d) training centres be transferred to the VEC's.

Macro-economic Factors

Looking at the wider economic climate and its effects it is fairly clear, based on current financial forecasts, that there is likely to be very little improvement in the state of public finances before 1996 and that even then the projected improvement is likely to be relatively slight. In the short term, then, it is likely that we will have to function within an abiding difficult financial situation.

It is also likely that the scourge of unemployment will continue to be with us for the foreseeable future and certainly throughout the 1990's. This poses its own set of challenges. In preparing for this session I looked back on a paper prepared by Colm Tobin for a Forum on Youth Problems in the 80's. Focusing on the issue of youth employment and unemployment Tobin observed that "traditional educational methodologies and counselling strategies are no longer helpful. The dissemination of knowledge; the development of self and the aspiration toward certainty are not valid goals, so we have tended in modern times towards self-set objectives, socialization of the individual, tolerance for ambiguity and a Rogerian non-directive counselling approach. What may now be needed more than ever so that youth may not become disaffected are: interactively set goals; a sharing of socio-academic educational aims; a consensus on human value imbued assertions and creative, proactive and adaptive counselling techniques. We can then, through interactively using mutual resources, confront more effectively the problems of the '80's". [Colm Tobin, Youth Employment in the 1980's: Strategies for Counselling Interventions" in: Strategies for Counselling Interventions" in: Studies, Autumn 1982, Vol. LXXI, p. 212]

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Contracting For Services a view from the voluntary sector

This article is an edited version of a paper entitled "Health Board Re-Organisation and Contracting for Services - View from the Irish Voluntary Sector" presented to a UVOH Conference by Owen Keenan, Director, Barnardos Ireland.

It is often a good idea in presenting a paper like this - which by definition is offering a sectoral view - to begin with a statement with which all of one's audience can agree. In this case I would like to suggest that both the statutory and voluntary sectors have changed a great deal in the latter half of this century.

But I would go on to venture to suggest that a failure to adapt the relationship between the two sectors and to mutually revise the expectations each one has of the other has led to a great deal of misunderstanding, frustration, duplication and, perhaps, missed opportunities.....

The unfortunate combined consequences of this are that:

a) an ever increasing number of voluntary organisations are formed in order to respond to needs not provided for by statutory bodies; and

b) the statutory bodies - most particularly, the health boards and local authorities, typically adopt a defensive, non-committal approach to these voluntary organisations arising from the fact that the demands for a slice of the cake are increasing at a faster rate than the total size of the cake.

...this leads to an, at best, wary relationship between the voluntary and statutory agencies, which is no basis for partnership..."

This inevitably leads to an at best, wary relationship, between the voluntary and statutory agencies, which is no basis for partnership. As long as the statutory agencies

lay emphasis on their power to say 'yea' or 'nay' with regard to the provision of resources, they will be seen to be the bodies limiting the development of services and will allow the voluntary organisations to retain the high moral ground, to be self-centred in their demands, and not to have responsibility for difficult resource decisions. Instead of services being determined mainly by resource allocation - including the extent to which statutory bodies choose to share their resources with voluntary organisations - a better way would be for the establishment of clear national principles to guide the future development of our health and social services which would identify a joint role in the planning process for both the statutory and voluntary sectors. This would include the identification of objectives and targets which would be vision-driven and needs-driven rather than provision being determined by the allocation of minimal resources on a year to year basis. The sceptics will say that this is unrealistic - services will always be determined by the resources available and anyway, you'll never get the voluntary organisations to come together and agree.

My response is that it may be ambitious but it is not unrealistic - given commitment. The level of resources available will always be a critical factor - but a departure for the present incrementalist approach will require the delineation of a vision of a kind of provision we want to have in this country in the future and the interim targets necessary to reach, if it is to be achieved. Resource allocation is always about choices - both within and between individual sectors....

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The second point about fragmentation and the inability of the voluntary sector to agree is a hoary old chestnut dragged out frequently in a spirit of defensive self-justification by statutory agencies and politicians. Of course the voluntary sector, as I've already pointed out, is not homogeneous but diverse, and it is competitive - the more so since actions like the establishment of the National Lottery which is of greater benefit to statutory bodies to compete even more vigorously for survival. However the establishment of process which demands and engages the commitment of the voluntary sector offers, I believe, the greatest opportunity to ensure that the contribution of individual agencies is both responsible and effective. Incidentally I can't resist the temptation or remarking on the irony that in my opinion the greatest threat to one of the most significant developments with regard to the voluntary sector for many years, the proposed White Paper on Voluntary Organisations being prepared by the Department of Social Welfare comes from the fragmentation and ambivalence towards it of the statutory sector.....

"...voluntary organisations would welcome contracts to underpin their relationship with statutory bodies..."

Over the past year a number of voluntary organisations have told me that they would welcome the introduction of contracts to underpin their relationship with statutory bodies. Contracts, they have said, would bring clarity to a morass of confusion, they would know how much money they

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Young People in Transition

A novel approach by the CDVEC to transitional problems

One of the many difficulties encountered by projects which set out to address the needs of young people from disadvantaged areas is getting the young people to participate in the project's programme on a regular basis.

A major objective of such projects is to engage young people in a developmental process which meets their personal, social and vocational aspirations. This involves more than simply providing participants with a range of interesting and relevant activities and tasks. It is also about project staff establishing a supportive and personal relationship with young people which enables them to grow and develop. The quality of their relationship often determines the extent to which the goals of the project are achieved.

The downside of this necessary relational component is that the participants sometimes develop a state of dependency with both the project and the project staff. It is almost as if the gains made by the young people are conditional on their continued participation in the project: once they leave the young people quickly regress to their previous condition.

Staff from Youthreach programmes, the pre-vocational training initiative for unqualified early school leavers, will be very familiar with this syndrome - participants can spend twelve months and more doing the foundation stage of Youthreach. When long-stay participants are required to make the transition to further opportunities, this dependency condition becomes particularly problematic.

The City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee has taken a rather unique approach to the transitional difficulties experienced by some of its Youthreach participants. The Committee operates seven Youthreach centres

providing foundation training for up to 325 young people.

In July, 1991 however, it established the Transition Centre to deal exclusively with those participants for whom dependency had become a barrier to their transition and for whom there existed a very limited range of viable progression options. Foundation Centres can now refer some of their participants, by agreement, to the Transition Centre where they finish the foundation stage of their Youthreach training.

The aim of the Transition Centre is to consolidate the gains made by the participants during the foundation stage of Youthreach and to create an environment where an intense exploration of their progression options can be pursued. Its main objective is to place participants in either companies, enterprises, training courses or educational programmes which will enhance their prospects of gaining and/or maintaining meaningful employment. Each participant can spend up to three months in the centre undertaking an individualised training plan to realise his/her progression goals.

A distinguishing feature of the centre's programme is that no vocational skill training is provided. If, however, a young person requires particular skills in order to qualify for a particular progression opportunity the Transition Centre will arrange an appropriate external training programme. This individualised approach to learning enables the young person to assume greater responsibility for his/her destiny.

Dependency is not just a creation of the young person but a dynamic between the project, the staff and the participants. The Transition Centre provides the City of Dublin VEC with the opportunity to explore this dynamic and to feed the findings

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back into its Foundation Centres. For the moment it is answering the concerns of foundation staff who were reluctant to let some of their participants back into an uncertain world.

As to whether the Transition Centre is answering the needs of the young people involved in its programmes, the signs are good but the jury is still out!

From June, 1992 the Transition Centre will be located in the basement of 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. For further information please contact Chris Heffernan, Transition Co-ordinator.

Volunteering in the UK

Volunteering by younger people is on the increase, according to a new survey from the Volunteer Centre UK. Overall, the survey found that 51 per cent of people aged 18 and over had volunteered at least once during the previous year. This represents an increase of seven per cent since 1981, when the last comparable survey was undertaken, and suggests that up to 23 million adults may be involved in volunteering each year.

There are distinct differences among different age groups, with people aged 35 to 44 most likely to volunteer. Although young people aged 18 to 24 are still less likely to volunteer than those aged 25 to 54, it is this age group which has seen the biggest growth in volunteering since 1981. Young people aged 18 to 24 are particularly likely to undertake voluntary work connected with sport, and they often work with children and young people outside school, for instance in youth groups and clubs.

Perhaps surprisingly, in view of other indications of young people's concern for the environment, the survey found that this age group was less likely than others to be involved in environmental projects.

Volunteers were asked what benefits they derived from their involvement. While volunteers of all ages tended to point to aspects such as making friends, and the satisfaction of getting results, volunteers aged 18 to 34 were more likely to stress the importance of having the chance to learn new skills, or get a recognised qualification. Volunteers under 35 were also most likely to have offered to help, rather than be invited to do so.

The survey suggests, however, that more young people would become volunteers if approached; it asked non-volunteers how they would respond to a direct request for help, and found that those aged 18 to 24 were least likely to refuse, either because they positively welcomed the opportunity or - over twice as many as in any other age group - that they felt they could not refuse.

When considering the drawbacks to volunteering, volunteers aged 18 to 24 were more likely to be critical of poor organisation and a lack of direction in projects. They were also more likely to get bored or lose interest in the work and - perhaps linked to this - to feel that they did not get a chance to do the things they wanted to do, and that their efforts were not always appreciated.

The National Youth Federation is currently carrying out a major national survey of its own volunteers. An abstract of the findings of the pilot study is available from the Irish YouthWork Centre and the final report will be completed before the end of the year.



DRUGS

The Youth Work Response

In this issue, the Irish YouthWork Scene begins a new series on Drugs - exploring different aspects such as research, educational programmes, intervention etc.

Cork Research Project

The following is a summary of a research project carried out by the Cork Youth Federation on Smoking, drinking and other drug use among Cork post-primary school pupils.

Background

There are 32 post-primary schools in Cork city which has a total enrolment of 16,852 students in 1989-90. The total number of pupils involved in the self-administered questionnaire was 787, of which 428 (54%) were males and 359 (46% were females).

Objectives

The main objectives of this research were twofold. First, it was intended to provide estimates of the prevalence of substance uses among young people attending second level schools. Secondly, it was also designed to provide systematic data on the socio-psychological factors related to these behaviours and attitudes.

Ultimate Goal

The ultimate goal was to gain a better understanding of the processes underlying these behaviours and thereby to be in a position to suggest more effective preventative programmes.

Findings

Over two thirds (73%) of the sample had smoked a cigarette and 37% were regular smokers; most young people interviewed reported having smoked their first cigarette

at age 14 years or younger. Peer group pressure represented an important contextual variable in pupils' introduction to cigarette smoking.

Over three quarters of the pupils (78%) had consumed a whole drink of an alcoholic beverage on at least one occasion, over half felt "drunk" on at least one occasion and 51% could be classified as regular drinkers. The period between 12 and 16 years seemed to be the time during which the majority of pupils consumed their first whole drink. Interestingly, most took their first drink in the company of friends. The most regular source of alcohol was the pub. Beer was the most popular drink followed by, in order of preference, spirits, wine and cider.

One fifth of the pupils (21%) had tried drugs other than tobacco and alcohol. The most used illicit drugs were marijuana (15%) and inhalants such as glue, solvents or gas (10%). Six percent of pupils claimed to have a regular source of drugs.

Conclusion

Significant numbers of our young people are using/abusing a wide range of drugs. A major need exists for a comprehensive and articulated set of primary, preventative, educational programmes to combat such use/abuse. Such programmes could form part of a broader health education initiative in our communities. If such rates of substance use/abuse were to prevail, and perhaps increase during adult life, then interventions of more drastic and costly type may be needed to deal with the problem.

The next article will compare these findings with a wide range of other research studies to ascertain a picture of drug use/abuse on a national as well as local level.

Youth Work POLICY

Ministerial Responsibilities

"The principal responsibilities of the Minister of State at my Department, Deputy Liam Aylward relate to youth, sport, primary and post-primary buildings, school transport and special education. Additional duties may be allocated to the Minister of State from time to time."

(Minister for Education,
Mr. Seamas Brennan)



Liam Aylward TD

EC Assistance for Educational Activities

In response to questions by Deputies Yates, Creed, Bruton, Timmins, Taylor-Quinn and Noonan relating to the way in which the changes in the EC Treaty which concern education and were agreed at Maastricht will alter the present pattern of EC assistance for educational activities in Ireland, the Minister for Education responded:

"The present position is that the vast bulk of EC funds received by my Department for training activities at second and third level of the education system is obtained through the Structural Funds. The Department expect to draw on £130 million in 1992 and £133 million in 1993 from these funds. The main effect of the changes in the EC Treaty agreed in Maastricht which concern education will be a

DAIL WATCH

broadering of the range of education/training activities eligible for support from the European Social Fund EC support will be sought for a wider range of educational/training activities than at present, including support for expanded vocational training programmes and for undergraduate degree programmes negotiations on the next agreement for support from the Structural Funds will begin during 1992."

(Minister for Education,
Mr. Seamas Brennan)

Homelessness

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dick Spring relating to

services for homeless children and the timetable for the provision of services the Minister for Health, Dr. John O'Connell stated that:

"The Child Care Act 1991 provides a statutory framework for the development of child care services, including tackling the problem of youth homelessness. It is my intention to bring into operation this year most of Part II of the Act which contains many of the preventative and service-delivery provisions. In particular, it is intended to implement Section 5 of the Act which imposes statutory duty on health boards to provide accommodation for young homeless people up to the age of 18 years."

(Minister for Health,
Dr. John O'Connell)

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The following are the latest figures on the Live Register in each County on 31 January, 1992

Note:

There were 7,514 persons, under 65 years, other than smallholders, on the Pre-Retirement Allowance Scheme (PRETA) on 31 January, 1992.

<u>Leinster</u>		<u>Munster</u>	
Carlow	3607	Clare	5488
Dublin	86838	Cork	29751
Kildare	8250	Kerry	9969
Kilkenny	4169	Limerick	13511
Laois	3389	Tipperary	10563
Longford	2422	Waterford	8579
Louth	10582		
Meath	4355		
Offaly	4804		
Westmeath	4474		
Wexford	9132		
Wicklow	7926		
<u>Ulster</u>		<u>Connacht</u>	
Cavan	2886	Galway	13678
Donegal	12749	Leitrim	1804
Monaghan	3325	Mayo	8983
		Roscommon	2062
		Sligo	3433

What's inside

- ▶ **Club News**
National Youth Club Games Update
Youth Cares Day Info Club Development
Mini-Tops Photostory
- ▶ Win 2 **FREE** Concert tickets of your choice
- ▶ **Anti-Sexist Youth Work**

Meelick Youth Club is Tops

Meelick Youth Club has done it - and on their very first attempt!

The Limerick Region club scooped first prize, overall winners, at the national finals of Tops of The Clubs in the Dun Mhuire, Wexford recently.

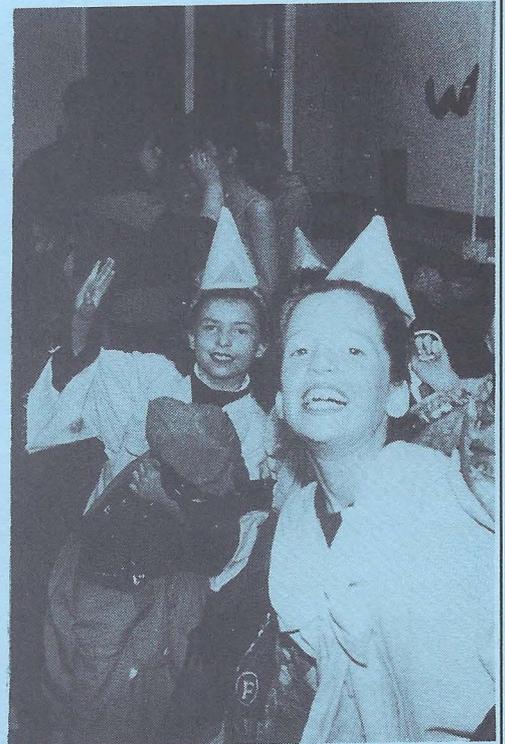
The show called "Dress Rehearsal" was full to the brim with a fantastic mixture of dance, colour, comedy and music. Winning 'Tops' this year was indeed a remarkable achievement for the club as this was the first time for them entering the competition.

St. Anthony's Youth Club from Galway Region, and Boharlahan Youth Club from Cashel & Emly Region also won major prizes. Boharlahan won the Creativity award, and St. Anthony's won the Best Original Item, and the Adjudicators award.

Musical entertainment provided by Castleblayney Youth Club Band "Operation Ceili" got the crowd dancing in their seats, even 2FM personality Barry Lang (the MC for the night) was seen tapping his feet. Additional acts for the evening John Paul Youth Club from Donegal Region danced to a most haunting tune, while clubs from the Ferns Diocesan Youth Service sang brilliantly.

Following their success in Tops, the Meelick Youth Club are now touring Limerick as the support act with the All Priest Show.

Well done to all involved in the 1992 Tops of the Clubs.



GAMES

National Youth Club Games

All roads will lead to Galway on Saturday 2 May 1992, the first day of the **National Youth Club Games Finals**. More than 700 people are expected to attend the games this year and with standards rising each year we can anticipate a week-end of high drama, and good fun.

Following the Area Finals in early April it is interesting to note the re-appearance of Kerry in the Debates and the Mullingar Youth Club in 5-A-Side Female soccer once again. Many clubs have qualified for both U16 and U19 events at the finals. These include St. Brigids (Louth) in the Quiz, Camross (Ossory), Mullaghbuoy (Louth) and Lisdoonvarna (Clare) in Volleyball, Ballintubber (Roscommon) and St. Josephs (Ferns) in Draughts, and Tomhaggard (Ferns) in Basketball.

This year three venues will be in use for the various events. The traditional venues of Leisureland and Westside Centres will continue to host most of the games with the fine facilities of the Galway Lawn Tennis Club Hall will be used this year for the first time.

Another feature of this year's games will be the introduction of The Fair Play Award. This award will be presented to the team or individual that contributes most to the enjoyment of the games both for themselves, their opponents and the officials. This award will be presented in conjunction with all other awards on Sunday afternoon 3rd May in the Leisureland Complex.

The Irish Junior Olympic Handball Association will again facilitate a workshop on Olympic Handball during the National Finals. Following some very successful workshops throughout the country a number of teams will be invited to Galway. As a new and fast growing sport Olympic Handball is well worth seeing and may possibly be a full participating events in the 1993 National Youth Club Games.

CLUB NEWS



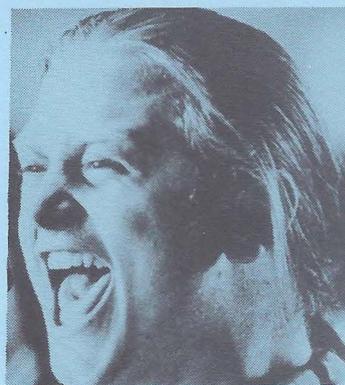
NATIONAL YOUTH FEDERATION

Youth Cares Day

The Children's Medical & Research Centre
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin

Youth Cares Day is the national fundraising event organised by the NYF in association with The Children's Medical and Research Centre, Crumlin Hospital, Dublin.

17/18 October 1992 should be penciled into all club diaries as their Youth Cares Day. This year we have chosen a theme, "**The Great Escape**", to help clubs with their fundraising ideas. The theme is supported by such well known personalities as Chris de Burgh, the No. 1 Team (Dave Fanning, Joe Elliot and Ian Dempsey) and by Commitments star Andrew Strong.



Commitments star Andrew Strong

Between now and 17/18 October many other famous music, sports and broadcasting stars are expected to back Youth Cares Day and our efforts to raise money towards the purchase of a C.A.T. Scanner for Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin.

How to become involved; General information on Youth Cares Day will be distributed to your Regional Office. Clubs may decide to organise their own fundraising ventures (Disco, sponsored event, concert, etc) or may choose the Youth Cares Day theme "**The Great Escape**". Sponsorship card and messages of

support will be available from your Regional Office throughout the Summer.

Clubs that choose to enter our fundraising venture will all participate in a draw for a major prize (soon to be announced). Other prizes will be presented for the most money raised, the most imaginative idea and the most local news coverage.

If your club chooses the theme "**The Great Escape**" you may wish to consider some of the following suggestions;

- ▶ Agree a 'kidnapping' with a local personality, eg TD, media star;
- ▶ Escape with an animal from the Zoo;
- ▶ Arrange to escape with the ball during a GAA, Soccer or Rugby match;
- ▶ "Borrow" your local fire brigade or army tank.

Remember all these activities are potentially of major publicity value but cannot take place without the permission of the people or organisations involved, and under strict adult supervision.

After you have arranged the escape, borrowing etc., a collection should take place after which the person, the football, animal etc will be returned.

Throughout the year many charities, and fundraisers contact youth clubs requesting their help to raise what are usually very worthy causes. This venture to raise funds for a C.A.T. scanner in aid of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin is different because it is a national effort by NYF youth clubs and is worthy of your support. Start planning and thinking now and be ready on 17/18 October 1992 for Youth Cares Day.

Club Development

Club Development has been the subject of many articles and publications in recent years but it still proves to be a burning issue that needs to be addressed by Youth Leaders and indeed anyone involved in youth work today. The issue is high on the National Youth Federation's "agenda" and as such the NYF Regions and Clubs have long discussed the best ways and methods that allow for youth clubs to develop.

It has often been said that no two youth clubs have the same needs. Some need new members or leaders, others need new ideas, more and adequate training, suitable premises, a male/female balance, democracy in the club, a short or long term plan, advise on substance abuse, a balance between recreational and educational events..... the list is endless.

These needs when addressed by a youth club, form part of their Club Development Strategy. The National Youth Clubs Council (NYCC) have therefore asked a group of interested people from

various regions to meet as a working group and make specific proposals to the October NYCC. These proposals would then be forwarded to the NYF Assembly for adoption as National Policy on Club Development. Their task is a difficult one and a major piece of work and the assistance of Regions and Regional Club Councils would be greatly appreciated.

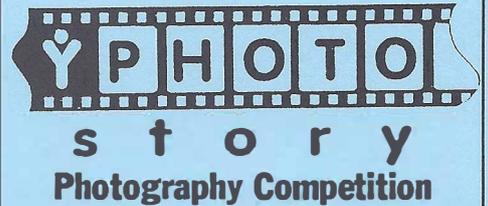
The working group, under their Chairperson Padraig Boland (Ferns), would be grateful if information on Club Development strategies, plans or reports were forwarded to them at National Office. We wish them well in their work.

Tops Video

Videos of the 1992 Tops of the Clubs Final in Dun Mhuire, Wexford are available priced £15 each (including P&P) from Gearoid O Maoilmhícl at NYF, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

MINI-TOPS

The organising of the 1992/'93 club programmes is now underway, and the NYF are considering holding a Mini Tops type of programme. This programme would be an individual or group talent programme, if your club has any comments, suggestions and ideas please send them to us. Have you any ideas for us, what would you like the new competition called?



As part of the National Youth Federation's Arts and Creativity Programmes the photographic competition **Photostory** will run over the summer this year - so have your cameras at the ready. Your subject matter can cover humour, topical issues, social issues and/or what youth work means to young people. Further details will be sent to your regional office within the next few weeks.

Crossword Winner

The first correct entry drawn in our Crossword Competition was **Grainne Ni Chleirigh**, Moys, Co. Monaghan. She will receive two free tickets to a concert of her choice courtesy of Michael Hogan Consultancy.

Solution to Competition No 1.

Across; 1. Barcelona, 8. Obtain, 9. Yonder, 10. Mars, 12. Ull, 13. YALE, 16. Reduce, 17. Mozart, 18. Enya, 21. Pat, 22. C.D., 24. Gemini, 25. Equate, 26. Quickset.

Down; 2. Adams, 3. Censure, 4. Loyal, 5. Nanny, 6. Abba, 7. Tell, 10. Marie, 11. Roddy, 14. Award, 15. Extra, 17. Mothers, 19. Need, 20. AEIOU, 21. Pairc, 22. Count, 23. Atom.

Book Winners

A complementary copy of "The Guide to Higher Education Courses in Ireland and Britain" by Rhonda O'Connor has been sent to each of the following: **Martin Keogh** (Waterford), **Anne Marie Lynch** (Killarney), **Caroline Gillard** (Castleblayney), **Roisin Tranor** (Castleshane Monaghan), **Joe Flynn** (Sligo).

Competition No. 2

How many names from the music world can you find here. The answers may be in any direction. Send your answers to Irish Youth Club Scene, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1, and enter our draw for **two tickets to a concert of your choice** this Summer in Dublin courtesy of In Dublin Magazine. Entries must be received by 29 May 1992.

D E R Y L P M I S
E D G E N O B E Y
C L O C D O O R S
I H N N W Z N U M
D U E I E L O S I
E M E R T X E A T
E E U P K L F R H
R R Q L A E S E S

Name:	Age:
Address:	
Tel:	
Club:	



Anti-Sexist Youth Work



Youth Club Leaders continuously express the views that they provide a service that allows for equal access and opportunity for both their female and male members. The question is do youth clubs actually provide and implement an equal opportunities system for all?

Anti sexist youth work means promoting equality between men and women in every aspect of their lives. Research has shown us that the role of women (girls) in youth clubs has not changed and that many or indeed in some instances most events are male orientated. While we accept that equality is an aspiration what are we doing to achieve this aim?

We need to take a serious look at the programme of events in our youth clubs and also look at ourselves and our own attitudes to equality and a non sexist system of youth work. Male youth leaders tend to be role models for boys and it is therefore most important that the male leader can be seen to take the initiative in promoting equality in the youth club.

While we try to avoid the sex stereotyping of events it should be recognised that girls can benefit from female only events and that this needs to happen so as to allow them to try out new skills without



the fear of ridicule or criticism particularly from their male peers.

The following suggestions should be addressed by all club leaders:

- ensure equal access to resources of the youth club;
- encourage the male and female members of the club to see the benefits of equality for themselves;
- design and develop programmes for single sex and mixed groups to promote equality;

- include single sex activities where appropriate in order to develop and strengthen various skills among young women and young men;

- encourage a 50/50 male to female membership ratio of youth club committee.

We need to examine the structures of youth work and the youth club, check out the club atmosphere and evaluate how you yourselves reinforce sexism through your own practices and behaviour. Do the posters you put on the club notice board show positive images of young women or do they reinforce sex role stereotypes, with young men being active and in charge and girls in subservient roles.

Remember that anti sexist youth work is the promoting of equality. We need to encourage the greater involvement of the female member of youth clubs in mixed groups without any inhibitions and we need to challenge the stereotype views held by many young boys relating to the involvement of girls in "their" events and activities.

If you need to change the structures to allow this happen, then change them. Whatever the outcome equality in the youth club won't just happen. **You must make it happen.**

Leaders Conference Update

The Final arrangements for the Leaders Conference in Castleknock College, Dublin (19/21 June, 1992) have now been finalised with a broad range of interesting discussions planned, more than ten different workshops and a host of external groups and organisations participating in our exhibition fair.

Workshops topics include Arts in the Youth Club, 100 Fund-raising Ideas, Working with young Women and Substance Abuse.

The exhibitions include USIT, GAISCE, ECO (the environmental youth organisation), the Youth

Exchange Bureau, Combat Poverty Agency and NYF national programmes and many more.

Each Region may send a maximum of five people to the Leaders Conference at a cost of £35 each.

Full details will be sent to your regional office.

If you have any suggestions, comments, photos (b & w) or news on your club activities which you would like featured in the next issue, please forward to Gearoid O Maoilmhichil at NYF, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Diary Dates

MAY

- 2/3 - National Youth Clubs Games: Galway
- 16 - NYCC Meeting: NYF National Office, Dublin

JUNE

- 3 - Club Community Awards Presentation: Dublin
- 19/21 - Leaders Conference: Castleknock College, Dublin

The World of the Youth Service (continued from page 4)

What will be the future direction of Lottery funding? Is it likely to be increasingly directed to pick up shortfalls in exchequer and budgetary needs, eg. be channelled into the Health Service etc.? In such a climate the case for the adequate funding of the youth service will be increasingly difficult to make.

One of the major concerns that was voiced at the inception of the National Lottery was that it would affect the fundraising efforts of individual charities. Given the success of the Lottery is it likely that its continued growth will lead to the virtual collapse of charitable fundraising?

Casting our gaze further afield one can reasonably wonder if the post Maastricht European Community will deploy greater financial resources for youth work and education. Still on the European front, one wonders if the 1994 review of EC youth programmes will make a difference to the position of youth service provision on this island.

Conclusion

I should like to conclude these reflections with a quotation from Dr. Fergus O'Ferrall. Writing almost ten year ago (in the Spring of 1983) he observed that "given our unique population structure and given our massive social, political and economic problems surely we should see youth as our greatest potential force for making the changes necessary to solve our major problems - youth work must set out a development role for young people, confronting them with the challenge of what is possible, deliberately involving them in the processes of change whether it be in education, housing, employment or North/South co-operation". [Fergus O'Ferrall, "Irish Youth Work: Challenges and Issues", in: Social Studies, Spring 1983, Vol. 7 No. 2, p.109]. *What will our approach be in the 1990's?*

Contracting for Services

continued from page 5

..... would be getting, for what, for how long, and on which terms. This would help them with both day to day management and planning, while it might give them greater leverage in demanding payment on time. These managers have had confidence in the service they are offering, have no particular hang-ups about accountability, and would expect to gain from the introduction of contracts.

I would share much of this thinking - certainly to the extent that almost anything would be better than present arrangements. However whether the development of a contract culture would be 'good' or 'bad' rests largely, in my opinion, on the climate and circumstances of its introduction and on the terms of its operation. I also believe that the suitability of contracts in the Irish context needs exploring, rather than to import directly the manner of their operation in the US, UK or elsewhere. This is particularly so given the absence of established principles and plans, the shifting priorities and the very limited resources.

It is important that the voluntary sector would recognise the advantages of contracts, for example, greater security, greater clarity and more explicit standards for provision. Better specification should lead to improved services for users and carers and an enhanced status for voluntary sector employees and volunteers - but this would demand that clear principles be established to guide practice.

What might these principles cover?

1. A role for the consumer
2. Recognising and promoting carer involvement
3. Quality assurance
4. Protecting the independence of voluntary organisations

As I approach the conclusion of my presentation, what I want to suggest above all, is that it is not contracts in themselves, but rather the purpose and manner of their introduction and implementation that will determine whether they are a

positive force for the achievement of greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services. More fundamentally, it is the development of a stronger sense of common purpose and partnership between the statutory and voluntary sectors that will ultimately achieve this. An aggressive approach by statutory authorities which exposes voluntary organisations to commercial market forces may achieve greater short term economies but will result in the decimation of voluntary services as we know them. Likewise a defensive self-interested approach by the voluntary sector will result in unfulfilled potential, lost opportunities and wasted resources.

I firmly believe that a strong, united voluntary sector is very much in the interests of the statutory bodies and that resources should be invested to enable voluntary organisations to combine, strengthen their development infrastructure and participate in the planning, as well as the delivery of services. However, I also believe that the voluntary sector must shoulder its responsibility in uniting more broadly and effectively than it has to date. The development of a more effective partnership between the voluntary and statutory sectors should not be seen as a gain by one sector over another. While giving the voluntary sector more influence at a policy and planning level it would impose a new discipline on voluntary organisations which could, at times, be extremely uncomfortable.

I have suggested that questions like the reorganisation of services and the development of a contract culture need to be put in the context of the relationship between the statutory and voluntary sectors. There is a pressing need to clarify and improve that relationship. I have no doubt but that, if accomplished, a more efficient and effective delivery of services will result.

Many of us get caught up in the needs, interests and even importance of our own organisations, particularly if we are managers or senior officials. Perhaps this is no more than a projection of what we perceive to be our own needs, interests and importance of the consumer, whom we like to suggest is the reason for our existence. I am convinced that the consumer's needs would be better serviced by an effective partnership between the voluntary and statutory sectors and I believe that this is the goal we should be aiming for.

Youth Work

RESOURCES

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Spiritual Development

John Lee

- This booklet has been designed as a first step for young people in giving guidance on spiritual development in a youth work context. It avoids linking spiritual development to religion and is directed at those who would not deem themselves to be 'religious'.

Available from: John Lee, Diocesan Youth Officer, Adult Learning & Youth Office 25 Priory Avenue, Touton TA1 1XX. Cost: £3.00 stg. (plus £1 p+p)

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa

BART South Africa Youth Information Pack by Bishop Ambrose Reeves Trust

- This pack gives information to help understand current development in South Africa. It was developed by a London youth club working group.

Available from: BART, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW Cost: £10 stg.

EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment for Management

Jane Clarke

- Analysis of a development programme for nine Irish projects funded in the second European Programme to Combat Poverty. The projects focussed on target groups such as long-term unemployment, youth unemployed, single-parent families and homeless people.

Available from: Combat Poverty Agency, 8 Charlemont Street, Dublin 2.

EDUCATION DISADVANTAGE

Unemployment, Education and Training

Keith Forrester & Kevin Ward

- This book is a series of case studies from North America and Europe aimed at trainers in the general field of work with educationally disadvantaged adults. It concentrates on the task of developing the employment through educational initiatives.

Available from: Dept. of Adult Continuing Education, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT. Cost: £11.95 stg.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Peer Education Handbook: HIV/AIDS

Kate Newitt

- This handbook is the result of a peer education project working with young people around HIV/AIDS issues. It is aimed as professionals in this field to be used as a training course for peer educators.

Available from: Eastern Health & Social Services Board, 12-22 Linenhall St., Belfast, Northern Ireland BT2 8BS. Cost: £14.95 stg.

Pub Crawl: An Alcohol Awareness Game for Young People

Alcohol Advisory and Counselling Service.

- Designed as a board game whereby questions relating to alcohol user abuse are answered on the way, units are totalled up and a questionnaire on their sobriety or drunkenness is then answered.

Available from: AACS, 443 Union Street, Aberdeen AB1 2DA. Cost: £8.99 stg.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

BYC Political Education Pack British Youth Council

- This pack includes information on registering to vote, systems of voting and a check-list of recent legislation affecting young people. It also includes the BYC Youth Rights charter which identifies ten areas where changes are needed to improve young people's rights.

Available From: British Youth Council, 57 Chalton Street, London, NW1 1HU Cost: £3.00 stg.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Change and Intervention: Vocational Education and Training

Peter Raggett and

Lorna Unwin

- This book contains a series of contributions from professionals which attempt to detail changes taking place in vocational education and training practice. It focuses on issues such as competence based training and qualifications aimed at the unemployed and how these changes will benefit both employers and the unemployed.

Available from: Falmer Press Cost: £8.95 stg.

WOMEN GROUPS

Women Learning: Ideas Approaches & Practical Support

NIACE Replan

- This handbook for women's education offers practical suggestions and advice for planning and implementing women's programmes.

Available from: NIACE, 19B De Montfort St, Leicester, LE1 76E. Cost: £7.95 stg.

If you require further information on any of the listed titles or would like information on borrowing facilities - contact the Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Ph: 01 729933

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The State of the European Community

*Leon Hurtwitz and
Christian Lesquesne*

- This book is based on a major stock taking survey detailing developments of all kind that have taken place in the EC since the 1980's.

Available from: Longman, Longman House,
Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE.
Cost: £35.00 stg.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

Dimensions of Childhood

Lesley Smith

- This handbook aims to provide a training resource for people working with the 16 plus age group. It focuses on the complexity of childhood inviting participants to undertake a detailed study of a topic of interest to them from a variety of perspectives.

AIDS

AIDS Working with Young People

Peter Aggleton

- This pack is a collection of health education materials for use with the 14 plus age group in youth clubs, youth centres and training schemes. It has been developed by a working group and tested by over 200 groups. The aim is to begin with what young people want for HIV/AIDS education and provide the information and support to those working with them.

AT RISK YOUNG PEOPLE

Developing Services for Young People in Crisis

John Dennington

- This handbook is an effort by social workers and researchers to specify what good work

practice with young people in crisis looks like. It focuses on young people who are abused and "difficult" young people who are banished to institutions or rented accommodation.

YOUTH WORK PRACTICE

Their Lives Taking Shape

Marilyn Harvey

- This manual is aimed at trainers who want to co-ordinate introductory courses for youth workers involved with 9-14 year olds. The teaching materials take a participatory approach to learning used methods such as brainstorming, visual aids, tutor inputs, handouts and practical applications.

TEAM BUILDING

Working Together

*Northern Ireland
Association of Youth Clubs*

- This pack is for part-time youth club groups who want to work together more effectively. It is written as a manual offering ways of dealing with particular problems based upon the experience of a particular team and the solutions they found to these problems.

DRUG EDUCATION

Locating Drug Education

Health Education Council

- This resource pack is aimed at youth and community groups in both club and detached work environments. It is not intended as a ready made drug pack but rather as a guide encouraging groups to assess the starting point of young people on this issue and to plan their own programme from this starting position

President to launch YouthWork Centre

The National Youth Federation is proud to announce that its new initiative the **Irish YouthWork Centre** will be launched on 14 May by President Mary Robinson who will become the first official member of the Centre.

The Centre has been established to respond to the needs of youth and community workers and is now open to youth workers, community workers, child care workers, youth policy makers, educationalists, students and agencies concerned with the welfare of young people and youth affairs.

The services of the Centre include:

- Research and Information
- Training Supports
- Library
- On-line enquiry services



For further details of the services of the Centre together with membership details contact:

**Louise Hurley,
Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street,
Dublin 1.
Ph: 01 729933**

Youth Work NEWS

NYF YOUTH FORUM Conference

The National Youth Forum Conference will take place on the weekend of 24-26 April, 1992 at Isaacs Youth Hostel, Cork.

The theme this year is the pressing problem of **Unemployment** and we are appreciative of the funding from Petra to support us.

Delegates will register on Friday evening and there will be entertainment provided before the real work begins the following day.

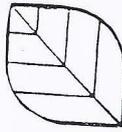
Much of Saturday will be taken up with work-shops and discussion groups that will look at both the realities of unemployment (the effect on both the people and their communities) and the Government response in terms of how the agencies meet the needs of the unemployed and their dependants. This will be followed by a plenary session in the late afternoon where delegates will have the opportunity to air views and ask questions of the invited guests who are representatives from INOU.

As an alternative to the usual disco, bowling at the nearby leisure centre has been arranged where all delegates will have an opportunity to relax and unwind on the Saturday evening. On the Sunday the emphasis will be more on regional fora and developing a shared vision for the national forum.

The Organising Committee are looking forward to meeting delegates at what promises to be a very successful Youth Forum Conference

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

ECO

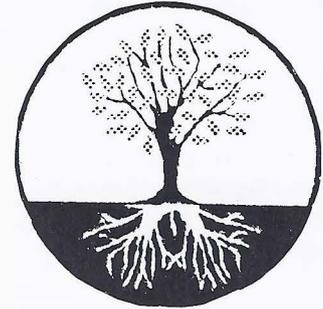


ECO, the national youth-environmental organisation, has organised a series of courses on environmental education in conjunction with the Adult Education Office of the City of Dublin VEC.

'ECO Skills' consists of a series of one-day and weekend courses which will cover topics such as The Urban Environment, Canals, Caring for Wildlife, Methods of Pollution Monitoring, Trees and Learning through Landscapes, Earth Education and Environmental Education and will be given by professionals in each field.

All one-day courses will be held in Dublin and the weekend courses will be held outside Dublin and all run from April through to November. The cost is £8 for one-day sessions and £35 for weekend events.

For further information contact **Martin Brady** at ECO, 11 Cope Street, Dublin 2.



From Awareness to Action, an all-Ireland youth meeting on the environment, organised by **AWARE**, will take place in Derry from 25 June to 3 July.

The programme for the week will be action based, aimed at putting recognised solutions to environmental issues into practice and will also look at lifestyles, modes of living and consumer power.

The event is open to young people in the 16-25 age range and the cost for the week is £35.

For more information on the conference contact **Caitriona Nic Mhuiris**, Centre for Creative Communications, 21 Bishop Street, Derry BT48 6PR.

Kilkenny Young Musicians Co-Op

After a lot of initial background work, **Kilkenny Young Musicians Co-op** is about to strike its first chord. Although Kilkenny has a strong tradition in the music industry, it lacks the facilities and resources to meet the needs of the large amount of young people currently involved in the music scene. Identifying this, Ossory Youth Services and the young musicians saw an opportunity to develop this initiative by setting up a young musicians co-op. Funding for the co-op was sought from the EC Petra Programme and after a number of initial meetings and an assessment of the project by Petra, funding was sanctioned in January 1992 and the first instalment of the grant arrived in March.

With the funding in place the co-op is now set to start and will provide a number of services to its members including rehearsal space and equipment, access to training and workshops and outlets for their music via recording facilities and concerts.

Stephan Sheehan co-ordinator for the project says "This is a new and exciting departure for the Youth Service and will also give an opportunity for young people to take on responsibility for meeting their own needs. With all this talent and enthusiasm we are looking forward to working on this project over the coming year."

The young musicians would like to hear from any similar projects in the country. **Stephan Sheehan** can be contacted on 056 61200.

New Youth Award for 1992

The annual Ford Irish Conservation Awards remind Europeans that conservation of the environment is just as much a matter for individuals and community groups as it is for local and national governments.

The Awards play an important role in developing environmental awareness in Ireland and in the other participating countries in Europe.

Last year's winner of the Ford Irish Conservation Awards was the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, a voluntary organisation that campaigns for the preservation of a representative sample of Irish bogs.

The Awards are open to both individuals and groups and projects may be submitted in one of three categories: Heritage, Natural Environment and Conservation Engineering.

This year's Award sees the launch of the special Youth Award which will be presented to the best project in any of the above categories submitted by an individual under 18 years of age or by a group whose members are all under 18.

Each of the three category winners and the winner of the Youth Award will receive a cash prize of £1,000 and a specially designed commemorative trophy.

One of the category winners will also be chosen as the overall winner of the Ford Award 1992 and will receive an additional cash prize of £3,000 and the Ford Irish Conservation Trophy. The overall winner will also go forward to represent Ireland at the finals of the Ford European Conservation Awards in Lisbon in December, and compete with projects from across Europe for the coveted title of European Conservation Project of the Year 1992.

For application forms and further information on the awards contact Ford Irish Conservation Awards, Frank Cullen PR & Marketing, Clyde Lodge, 15 Clyde Road, Dublin 4 - Ph: 01 689099 Fax: 01 689872.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The New Europe - what about its people?

We are constantly reminded that European integration will have major implications for the political and economic aspects of our lives. Rarely do we hear of the effect European union will have on the culture and traditions of its people.

The NYF will host a seminar in May (16-23) at Emmaus Centre in Swords, Co. Dublin which will address this neglected issue. The seminar, which is sponsored by the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC), is entitled "European Identity - When Culture becomes a handicap".

The seminar will address a number of issues during the week, ranging from the prospect of a 'single European culture' to the implications of European union for national identities and minority groups.

Those participating in the event will be representatives from youth organisations throughout the European Community and from Eastern Europe.

Working methods will involve specialist inputs, discussion groups and creative activities involving drama, art and video. A lively social programme has also been arranged so it should be a busy week for all!

British-Irish Exchange Opportunities

Has your youth club considered organising an exchange project? Like any other activity it will take careful planning, a commitment from all involved and some fundraising. The rewards for all this? An opportunity to travel abroad, to make new friends and to have fun.

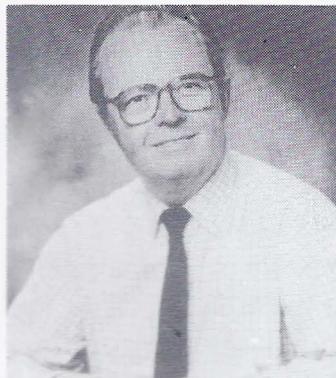
In order to promote greater exchange activity between youth clubs in Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland the NYF is hosting a meeting of the British and Irish Confederation of Youth Clubs in May.

The main purpose of the meeting, which will be attended by club members and youth leaders, is to establish a register of partner groups and contact personnel to facilitate the development of links between youth clubs.

There are several excellent exchange programmes available to youth clubs at present. The Ireland Britain programme which is sponsored by the Department of Education, for example offers funding for planning trips, weekend exchanges or seven-day exchange projects.

Interested? Then contact Ken Keogh at NYF - 01 729933.

George departs for Scotland



May 10 marks the end of an era at Youth Action Northern Ireland. After 22 years service, George Johnston is leaving to take up a new challenge in his native Edinburgh as Director of the Scottish Standing Committee of Voluntary Youth Organisations.

George joined the organisation in 1970 and for the past 16 years he has been Director. Under his stewardship YANI has developed into one of the largest youth work agencies in Northern Ireland, with a comprehensive range of services. He is also Vice-Chairperson of Youthnet, a co-ordinating body for voluntary youth organisations and a member of the Northern Ireland Youth Work Committee.

A committed European, he has for many years promoted the international dimension to youth work at a number of levels and for the past three years has served as President of ECYC.

He has consistently promoted co-operation between YANI and the NYF throughout his career and indeed the close relationship which exists between both agencies at present is a testament to his work.

We take this opportunity to wish George every success in his new appointment and to thank him for his contribution to the development of youth work services in Ireland.

ROCKATHON 1992

As its contribution to the "People in Need" Telethon, the National Youth Federation (in association with Professional Event Management) is organising a ROCKATHON at four major venues on Telethon night - 8 May - in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. These will have live links to 2FM and Network 2 television during the night. All proceeds will go to "People in Need".

Popular 2FM DJ's will spin the discs on spectacular audio visual systems. A special feature will be giant video screens carrying the Telethon live.

Clubs and groups are encouraged to support the ROCKATHON - and for those who cannot get to one of the venues they can hold their own Disco on the night and forward the proceeds to 'People in Need'.

Clubs participating should let their local Telethon organiser know so they can be mentioned on the air.

ROCKATHON VENUES:

- The Point Theatre - Dublin
- City Hall - Cork
- Leisureland - Galway
- Theatre Royal - Limerick

The night kicks-off at 9.00 pm and dancing continues until 1.00 am. The entrance fee is £8.

For further information contact Ger Doyle at NYF national office.

WET PAINT ARTS TANGLES

*"Lorcan loves Orla
Orla loves Kevin
Kevin is Lorcan's best mate
and Kevin is gay ..."*

Wet Paint Arts are taking their highly successful production of Tangles (the new improved version!) on the road. The play with songs draws on the timeless comedy of farce - mistaken identity, a hilarious sequence of misunderstandings, larger than life characters, fast-moving action and knockabout fun - to tell a hugely entertaining story of six young Dubliners. It is directed by David Grant.

Opening at the City Arts Centre in Dublin in early May, the company then go on the road to:

- Monaghan, Dundalk & Drogheda
From 25-27 May
- Cork (Everyman Palace)
28-29 May
- Belfast (Old Museum Arts Centre) 3-6 June.

In its 33 performances from April to June this year, Tangles will be seen by over 5,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 25

Wet Paint has a policy of bringing theatre to young people living in disadvantaged areas. The company has links with over 800 youth and community groups for whom tickets are provided at reduced rates through the operation of the Theatre Access Scheme.

For more information on dates and venues contact:

Wet Paint Arts,
"The Basement",
17 Herbert Street,
Dublin 2
PH: 01-611757(8).

rock



ATHON



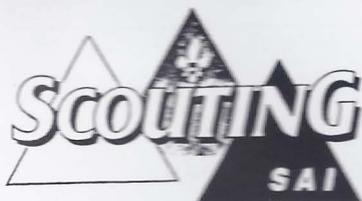
 National Youth Federation
Conascadh Naisiunta na nOg

List of projects nominated for evaluation by the Department of Education's Youth Work Assessor

Nominated by:	Project	Agency
City of Dublin VEC	1. Adventure Sport Project 2. Rialto Youth Project	Comhairle le Leas Oige
City of Cork VEC	1. The Glen Youth Development Project 2. Knocknaheeny / Hollyhill Youth Development	Foroige Ogra Chorcaí
City of Waterford VEC	Manor St. John	
City of Galway VEC	Ballybane Youth Development Project	Foroige
Town of Bray VEC	Little Bray / Fasseroe and Ballywalterim Community Projects	CYC / BYS
County Dublin VEC	1. Ronanstown Youth Service 2. Blanchartsown Youth Service	CYC Foroige
National Youth Federation	1. Coxes Demense Youth Project (Louth) 2. Young Women's Education and Development Project (Wexford)	LYF FDYS

It is envisaged that it will take some months for the evaluations to be completed and confidential reports presented and discussed with each administering agency and youth organisation involved in the projects nominated. An overview report, identifying the variety of successful responses in operation and the factors which influence good practice, will be circulated for discussion throughout the youth service.

SCOUTING COOKIE CAMPAIGN



The Scout Association of Ireland is running a Scout Cookie Campaign the first of its kind for a youth organisation in Ireland.

These delicious Irish made cookies come in a specially designed box with full colour information about scouting. They are available only for a two week period (until 2 May).

The money goes to help local scouting so why not support this worthy venture by ordering boxes for home or work.

For a delivery contact:
Scout Association of Ireland,
7 Anglesea Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 711244 / Fax: 711002.

Art Attack Accreditation

Congratulations to the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service which has become the first local youth service in the country to obtain NYF/NUI (Maynooth) accreditation for its youth artwork training programme.

'Art Attack' is run over four modules (40 hours) and requires participants to assemble a port folio of practical project work to complement the theoretical training.

Funding Cut Ends Combined Action

It is with regret that we note that **Combined Action**, a Galway based voluntary group which has spearheaded a drive against alcohol abuse among young people ceased operations because of funding difficulties at the end of March.

Set up over three years ago, it initially embarked on some of the most detailed surveys ever carried out in this country on drinking and drug abuse among young people. In 1990, a survey of 1,400 first and second year secondary students in Galway found that many teenagers were taking their first drink as early as 12 or 13, with a quarter of them drinking to excess.

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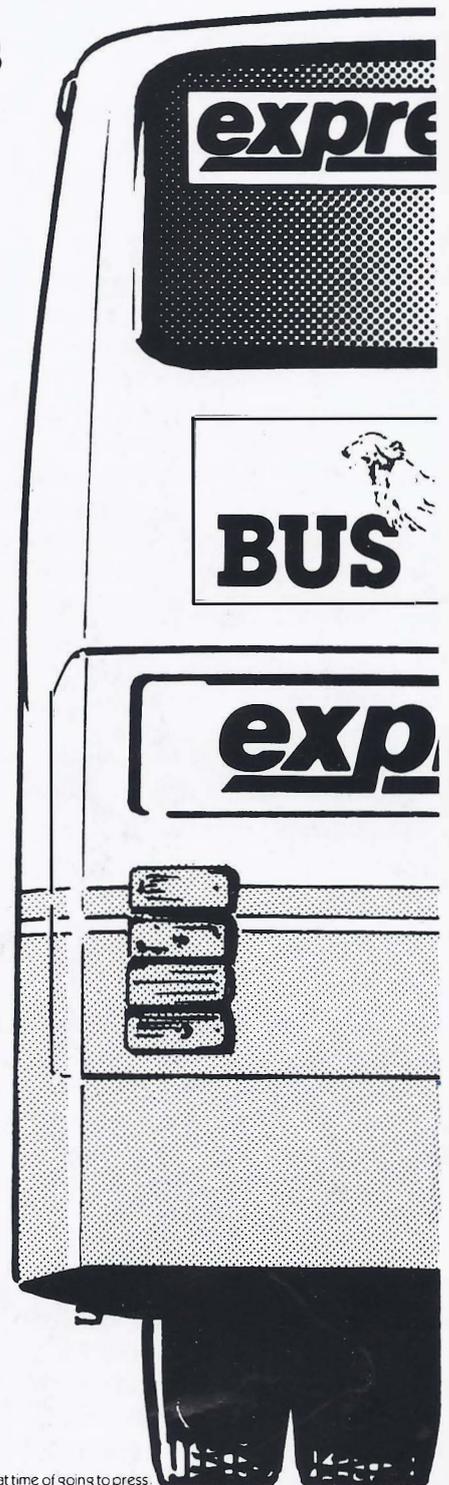
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