

Special Edition
on Volunteering

Irish YouthWork Scene

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To Mark the International Year of the
Volunteer



a journal for youth workers

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GETTING THERE

Tony Murphy

The Minister of State Mr Willie O'Dea has committed to see the proposed Youth Work Bill written into law this side of Christmas. Such a development would be a timely and appropriate reward for all those who have worked significantly hard to ensure that youth work, in its many forms, is given due regard, due respect and ultimately due resources.

It behoves the Minister to ensure, notwithstanding the passing of the Bill into law, that the present discussion of cutbacks does not affect the emerging potential of youth work both in the light of the legislation becoming law and more importantly, the consensus reflected within the drafting of a National Youth Work Development Plan. The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness gave a written commitment to ensure the National Youth Work Development Plan would be resourced. This opportunity is a further occasion when the Minister can fulfill his commitments to the sector. Costings for the Development Plan, which will ultimately try to establish us on a new footing (not merely catch-up in snail like fashion) will require significant resources. Priorities will have to be set with incremental steps following, thus securing a stronger delivery of youth services throughout the country over the next five years.

A clear priority within the implementation of the National Youth Work Development Plan 2002-2006 should be a Funding Review. Objective benchmark funding standards must be agreed which will see sufficient and competitive financing of youth work delivery across all Government Departments as quickly as possible. Within this review the most crucial issue is the urgent need to establish comparable salaries for staff within the sector that are transparently funded by the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science. Where excellent experience and expertise has been developed among current staff, this cannot continue to be lost to better paid jobs in other sectors. People do move on but it is a pitiful indictment of the sector that in many cases 'moving on' is to better paid jobs when the hearts of those leaving would prefer to be resourced adequately and fairly within work that they themselves are hugely committed to and yet, from an economic point of view, they cannot continue to accept.

Strong negotiation and representation of youth work should have already taken place in anticipation of implementing the Youth Work Bill and the Development Plan 2002-2006. We will know where we stand and what is possible shortly when the allocations within the Book of Estimates are presented in detail. To announce the implementation of the Plan with a Funding Review as the first step (in order to influence preparation for next year's Estimates process) and, to provide an annual increase in line with the infrastructural costs, particularly, competitive salaries, will be a huge step forward. Hopefully we are nearly there!

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It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward your points of view. Send in news, 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 or the Irish YouthWork Centre.

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International Year of the Volunteer

By Susan Kelly

Introduction

December 5th will probably herald the completion of most official volunteering recognition activities worldwide. For many organisations the year has cut deeper than purely celebration activities. Reflection upon, and questioning of the strong tradition of volunteering in Ireland, indeed on the planet has been a significant aspect of the year.

For us here at the Volunteering Ireland (formerly the Volunteer Resource Centre) preparations for the year began in 1997 when the UN Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. Feeding into the White Paper and encouraging and supporting the notion of the setting up of some sort of national forum to do something constructive around volunteering for the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer was a lengthy process. In September 2000, the government published the white paper **"A framework for supporting voluntary activity & developing the relationship between the Community and Voluntary sector"** following widespread consultation. The white paper seeks to ***"formulate a coherent strategy and identify the policy response at National, Regional and local levels which will most effectively address the issues raised during the consultation process"***.

International Year of the Volunteer

On 5 December 2000, United Nations International Volunteers Day, the National Committee on Volunteering was launched, chaired by Chris Flood TD. At the end of 2002 detailed recommendations on the range of supports needed in order to promote, sustain & develop volunteering will be submitted by the National Committee to Government for consideration.

"Volunteering benefits all aspects of social life and helps to create a real sense of citizenship. A strong democracy enhances and protects the capacity of citizens to participate directly in social life, to create their own social movements

to address issues that concern them and to speak directly on issues that affect them. But we can also see the strains that voluntary organisations are under in today's society".

National Committee

At Volunteering Ireland we hope the resulting actions will have a resounding effect on the way we volunteer, recruit and manage volunteers and on how volunteering is perceived in the long term. This year, the National Committee on Volunteering, upon which Volunteering Ireland is represented, has focused mainly on celebrations with:

- A grants scheme to support volunteering projects launched in March,
- The issuing of a celebration pack for nationwide distribution,
- Creation of a National Committee on Volunteering website,
- Commissioning & publication of poems celebrating the role volunteers have played in shaping Irish society,
- A major cross border conference "Tipping the balance" aiming to reach a shared vision on supporting volunteering
- Finally, the presentation of sculptures designed by Alan Ardiffe to all local authorities across the country to mark the contribution of volunteers in their areas, will take place on 10 December.

The Future

Next year the deliberations of the National Committee on Volunteering and the recommendations it makes to the state along with the report from the White Paper Implementation Committee will decide the future of the State's relationship with the community and voluntary sector and the support systems that will be set up. The call for submissions on how this can best be achieved has gone out and to date over 70 submissions from organisations and individuals have been received. Among many recommendations made by Volunteering Ireland to the National Committee are:

- The necessity for continuing to recognise explicitly and universally the value of volunteering
- That the issue of a combined workforce in voluntary organisations consisting of volunteers, paid staff and participants on FÁS schemes should

be revisited to include the review of the issue of volunteers and social welfare payments,

- The urgent implementation of the multi-annual core funding arrangements for voluntary and community groups laid out in the White Paper must be a priority

- And screening supports for organisations, which recruit volunteers to work with vulnerable clients including the facilitation of fast track Garda checks where appropriate.

Volunteering Ireland

At Volunteering Ireland we launched our Social Climbing Initiative, sponsored by NIB, which is focused on nominating young people to volunteer by smashing the stereotypes typically associated with volunteering. Our outreach director, Jackie O'Keefe is holding road show events nationwide at locations where NIB have branches. Jackie facilitates organisations to hold joint recruitment drives and has had many successes to date.

Demand for our training and consultancy service has reached incredible levels, with the result that particularly in the final quarter, we simply do not have the resources to meet all demand for speakers and consultations. Anne-Marie Bourquin is our training and consultation officer and she has been working tirelessly to deliver our training courses, which were all full and had long waiting lists.

To date our volunteer placement service has experienced a 100% rise in use and 31% rise in Internet facilitated placements. This aspect of our service continues to grow and our Placement officer Anne Crowe is delighted with the results this year. We are not certain yet what proportion of this escalating demand can be attributed to the higher profile volunteering is getting as a result of the UN International year of the volunteer/activities & the National Committee on Volunteering and how much would be because of the higher profile our service has been getting in the media and by word of mouth. Our strategic plan was finalised and agreed following a comprehensive consultation process, so we should have resources next year to enable us achieve our goals.

Our main event for this year is the awards ceremony for **Ireland Involved**, our national awards scheme. The awards won't have taken place when this goes to print but the closing date has come and gone and all nominations under three categories have been adjudicated upon. The level of interest was incredible and over three thousand people will

receive certificates as a result of being nominated. The stories of volunteering are highly impressive. While most nominees will not receive an award they all deserve them. On December 4, 500 guests, most of them volunteers, will assemble in the Burlington to celebrate this fact and 50 of them will receive awards, generously sponsored by Eircell Vodafone and a private donor. President McAleese will be the Guest of Honour and Charlie Bird will act as MC for the night, with many surprise guests. The announcement will be made regarding the official launch of the former VRC as an independent organisation, with charitable status and the Directors will be announced. As far as we know, this will be Ireland's biggest Volunteer recognition event for the year and we hope Ireland's volunteers will enjoy themselves!

Another event in which Volunteering Ireland was involved was the Comhlámh volunteer festival. This was a great success. 300 people walked to route in Dublin visiting various organisations who had thrown open their doors for the day, and found out about volunteering opportunities.

Conclusions

There were over 270 acknowledgement/celebration events during the year of which we are aware. These ranged from coffee mornings, to weekends away, galas evenings, pin & cert presentations to training courses and conferences, all on the subject of volunteers and volunteering. It would be unfair to highlight any one celebratory event here as the creativity and energy that went into each and every event was unprecedented and highly impressive. I think it would be fair to say that the year certainly had a positive effect upon the morale of volunteers who really are the unsung heroes of society today.

Overall, I think the year had its successes and feedback from most organisations indicates that increased and improved acknowledgement and support for volunteers can be expected in the future. The serious work is yet to be completed though, and the National Committee on Volunteering, and Implementation Advisory Group have a challenging time ahead, in terms of making and prioritising vital recommendations to address the issues of our *"underdeveloped legal and policy framework for the support of voluntary work"*.

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Meeting Youth Needs in a Changing World

By Tom Coppinger

In this article Tom Coppinger, Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige ... calls on Foróige leaders and all volunteers in the youth work sector to use the occasion of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers to reflect on their work and consider how they can continue to progress towards meeting the needs of young people in Irish society.

Introduction

What makes a volunteer? Perhaps a desire to help a worthy cause, or get involved in the local community, or assist a sporting organisation, or simply as a social outlet, or it may be a matter of following in a family tradition.

Some people are convinced that all of us must be getting something out of our voluntary work. They cannot believe we are doing it for nothing. In a real sense, they are right. While we are getting nothing material from our voluntary work we certainly are getting something personally rewarding. We are getting that feeling of satisfaction that comes from knowing we are making a difference within our local community and within our society as a whole. We are helping to enhance our local communities and to improve the quality of life for many people.

In this, the United Nations International Year of Volunteers, voluntary action is called for more than ever to meet human needs and solve problems in society. However, there is some evidence that volunteering is on the wane.

Significantly, there is important evidence that men are not coming forward to volunteer in Foróige Clubs as they used to in the past. Our figures show a 10%

drop over the last 10 years in the proportion of male volunteers in Foróige. We should take the opportunity of the International Year of Volunteers to recruit more men as voluntary leaders.

Why Volunteer?

Personal development and community development are fundamental to Foróige. Our organisation's purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society. Their own development involves matters such as growing in useful knowledge and skills, growing in sensitivity towards others and their needs, growing in awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses and developing a sense of one's personal dignity.

Development of society involves contributing in some shape or form to the well-being of others. This might be improving the physical environment, fundraising for a good cause or innumerable other activities.

Every young person has a right and an obligation to contribute to both their personal development and the development of their community, to become what they are capable of becoming and to put their mark upon the world. They must experience the value of service to others and the common good. This is why we volunteer our time and our energy and this is why we need to recruit others to join us.

The bonus for us personally is that it is also one of the means by which we put our mark upon the world and fulfil part of our vocation in life. It is one of the reasons why we are privileged to be youth leaders and why we need to reflect on our youth work and to assess to what extent we are achieving our fundamental purpose. Are we contributing to the community? Are we helping our young people become better persons?

The Future

Next year, 2002, our organisation will have a great opportunity for reflection, as it will be the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of Foróige. We will reflect on the past as a foundation for developing a vision for our organisation's future. My own vision is that of a strong, courageous, flexible and innovative organisation built on the bedrock of core human development values; an organisation committed to volunteerism and governed by volunteers, dedicated to excellence in the pursuit of youth development and education; an organisation operating throughout Ireland in partnership with other agencies, as appropriate, and always working in the best interest of young people.

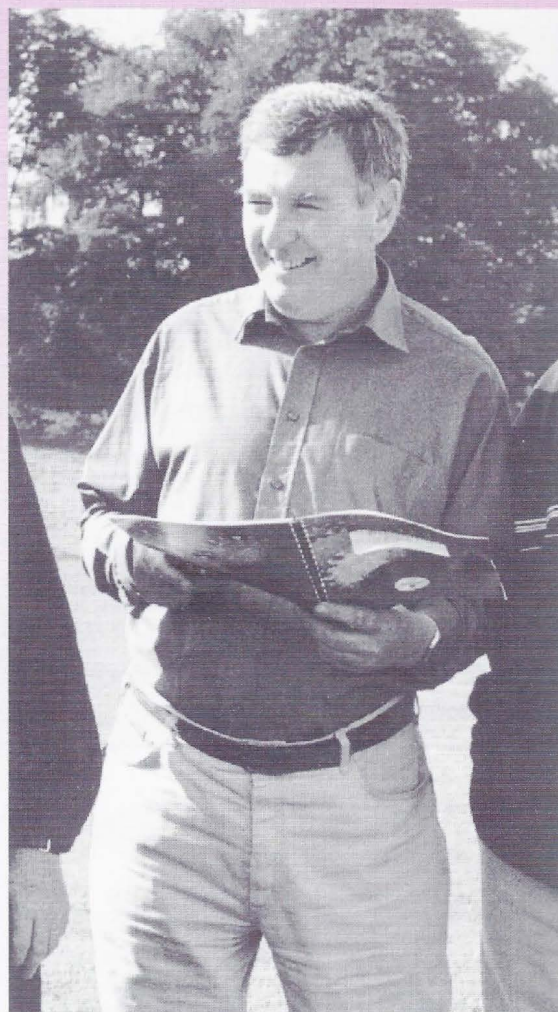
At the present time, the Youth Work Bill 2000 is going through Dáil Éireann. Foróige has welcomed the Bill in general and especially the fact that youth work is to be "provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations". We have also made some suggestions for amendments and hope they will be considered favourably.

Furthermore, a National Youth Work Development Plan is being drawn up for the years 2002 to 2006. All of these matters will be important for the development of youth work in the future and we must do the best we can to safeguard and put forward the interests of the young people whom we serve.

Conclusions

Youth leadership is a privilege. It also carries with it obligations. All of us as leaders must be trusted guides and never renege on that trust. We need to continually renew ourselves in this regard by reflecting on the importance of our role as youth leaders.

We must also face up to the fact that not everyone is suited to being a voluntary youth leader and we must recruit and retain only those who are suited to the job. The protection and well-being of the young people in our care must be our first priority.



Tom Coppinger
Chairperson, National Council of Foróige

Foróige will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2002 and will host a special Jubilee Conference for its leaders in April, 2002.

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Taking Ownership of Your Own Community

By Fr. Walter Forde

Introduction

In 1975 I was one of the three representatives of the National Federation of Youth Clubs who, with delegates from our sister organisations in the U.K. and Denmark were planning what became the European Federation of Youth Clubs. In the meetings, discussions and study visits between the three countries in advance of that, I realised in a new way that we had something special and in many ways unique in Ireland that was genuinely envied by social and community workers in other countries, the extent and importance of voluntary involvement and community based organisations. As a social work student in London University six or seven years before that I was conscious of the strong desire of the various London boroughs to try to rediscover voluntary commitment and re-energise local community effort and they were prepared to make vast sums of money available to recreate an attitude and an involvement which had been lost.

Later for over 20 years in the Gorey area I was to experience at first hand the huge commitment of large numbers overlong periods in a myriad of community and caring groups which improved the services, facilities and opportunities in many local areas in North Wexford. I fear that in the 1990's things began to change quite dramatically and if not halted and reversed we may find ourselves in just few years with seriously shrunken community services and opportunities and communities which are more fragmented with less and less people who are prepared to take ownership for their own community and its development, less sense of a common purpose and shared vision. In most areas and organisations it is increasingly more difficult to get people to make the long term commitment to projects and committees. Many long established groups find it virtually impossible to replace members who have moved on or retired.

Fundraising paradoxically is much more problematic. Many of the well established core services and mainstream community organisations began in the 1970's, which in many ways was a golden age of social concern and community involvement. At that time if you had a half decent idea and sought public support for it, large numbers of volunteers came forward and the funds were raised relatively painlessly. All that is in fairly sharp contrast with the experience of many community activists today. I have heard many such activists claim - and I would feel the same - that many of the things that were initiated in those years would be pretty well impossible or might not be attempted today.

There is one other fairly recent trend that is worth referring to: Among the plethora of new statutory special projects and committees it can be more difficult to get adequate recognition and state funding for mainstream and long established voluntary groups and projects. For example there is research from the U.S. showing that a disproportionately large amount of new funding (up to 75% in some cases) goes to new projects or planning and research. The whole statutory support and funding for core mainstream voluntary effort which we all tend to take for granted and I will come back to this point later.

To sum up there are two features of contemporary Ireland which cause me considerable anxiety. The first is the dominance of self-interest over a sense of compassion, a disregard for the interest of others, growing isolation from community life, an unwillingness often to even listen to a different point of view. The second is the negligible degree and negative nature of participation in Ireland today. Too few people bother to have an interest in or concern for the affairs of their local community or society generally until something goes wrong and there is a problem, whereon people too often will follow like sheep the one who bleats the loudest.

Against this sort of background I think it is particularly timely that the United Nations should have designated 2001 as the International Year of the Volunteer and I know how in the past such specially designated years have led to new thinking and action and in the case of years of the young people, the elderly, children and the handicapped to special new provisions in North Wexford.

I welcome especially the decision of The Echo in conjunction with Gorey Community Social Services Council to publish a monthly feature right through the year on the work of volunteers in North Wexford and I feel honoured to have been invited to contribute the first article.

Voluntary Principle

On January 1st R.T.E. Radio had some excellent programmes marking 75 years of Radio Broadcasts. One of the programmes I tuned in to was where a panel was discussing social changes that period. They were all agreed that there was a serious decline in the neighbourliness and community involvement and that the old extended family was a thing of the past. As I have said, one of the richest, positive and most enriching features of Irish social and community life traditionally has been the extensive level of voluntary involvement. We

brain mechanisms that deal with these physical acts, picking up uncertainty and attempts to deceive. On the Internet, the mind is present but the body is gone. Recipients get few clues to the personality and mood of the person-typist, can only guess why messages are sent, what they mean, what response to make. Trust is virtually out the window. It's a risky business"

In the last decade Ireland has become wealthy, cosmopolitan and confident but the Celtic Tiger has a serious down side. Patrick West had an article in the London Times on 27th of August 2000 entitled **"Is Celtic Tiger Top Cat?"** and concluded with this paragraph

"Modem Ireland would be anathema to them (DeValera and Pierse) because in its almost slavish adherence to Thatcherite values, its increasing racial tensions, its distinctively handoffish attitude to the Church and its loyalty to sexual and political liberalism, Ireland has become well, so English".

Fr. Harry Bohan in the major conference he organised and the seminal book that he edited on the theme **"Are we forgetting something?"** argues very forcefully that we need to combine economic success with spirituality, justice and community. He says that how we rediscover our sense of soul/roots/place/people could be our greatest contemporary challenge. What does this community rebuilding involve? How can it become a reality.

A Christian Community

The Second Vatican Council said;

"Today there is a special obligation of making ourselves the neighbour of absolutely every person and of actively helping them whenever they come across our path; whether he is an old person abandoned by all, a foreign labourer unjustly looked down upon, a refugee, a child born of an unlawful union and wrongly suffering for a sin he did not commit, or a poor man who disturbs our conscience by recalling the voice of the Lord As often as you did it to one of These, the least of my brethren, you did it to me'. Christ himself was concerned not with himself, but with others and he expects no less from his followers"

If love and service are the distinguished mark of the genuine Christian, the same applies to the Christian state. The basic test of the Christian society and community is the extent to which both in statutory and voluntary provisions, it helps those who are underprivileged whether educationally, socially, physically, materially, mentally, psychologically and so on.

We are continuously reminded of the great strides we have made; we are a young nation, vibrant, creative, enterprising, successful, sure of ourselves. The Presbyterian Herald a few years ago commented 'The

new dawn has created new possibilities of prosperity and fulfillment for our citizens. This hopeful sunrise has put to flight time dark and dreary old Ireland of servility and poverty. All Christians are glad to see the end of those miserable times". It also highlighted questions for the Christian and warned.

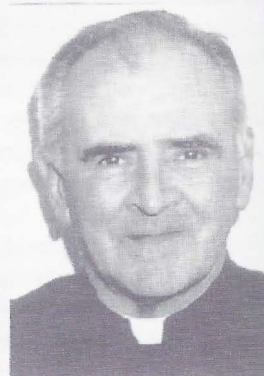
"New prosperity makes possible, new kinds of sin". Mary Kenny in **"Good-bye to Catholic Ireland"** asks **"I wonder what bleak philosophy our generation will leave behind"**.

The question encapsulates a challenge for Irish society and the Churches, Do we have a philosophy, which is other than bleak? Do we have a Gospel, which will serve as a glowing light in the darkness?

This article was written by Fr. Walter Forde at the invitation of the Gorey Community Social Services Council to mark the International Year of the Volunteer

Profile

Rev. Walter Forde, son of Walter and Kathleen Forde (nee Roche), was born in 1943 in Bunclody. He was educated at Bunclody National School (1949-56) where his father was Principal Teacher, St. Peter's College, Wexford, 1956 to 1961, Maynooth College 1961-1969, London University, Non Residential Diploma course 1969-1972.



He was ordained at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth on June 16th, 1968. Having completed a Post Graduate course at Maynooth, 1968-69 he was on the teaching staff at St. Peter's College from 1969 to 1973 when he left to become General Secretary of the National Youth Federation, 1973-1974. He was appointed C.C. in Gorey on 31 August 1974 and became Chairman of Gorey Social Services for the Diocese of Ferns and Chairman of the Religious Press Association of Ireland. He is author of seven books and editor of nine others and has written numerous articles on social matters.

In 1988 he was selected as County Wexford Person of the Year and in 1998 he received the Lifetime Award of the Religious Press Association. In June 1988 he was appointed Chairman of C.M.T., the Inter Church Committee on local radio, presenting a weekly programme on South East Radio. He was a founder member of the Byrne/Perry Summer School. In 1987 he was made a life member of the National Youth Federation.

He became parish priest of Castlebridge in October 1996

Crazy or Caring?

By Natalie Coles

Introduction

SO, here I am, surrounded by at least 15 (I'd count them if they'd only stand still for long enough) boys aged between six and eight. Boys? Hmm... I think the term RASCALS would be more appropriate! Of course their usual capering has been increased and intensified because of the three unfamiliar faces in the hall, mine being one of them. They are eager to show us who's boss!

I'd be lying if I said I didn't question my sanity at volunteering for the job of Beaver Leader, whilst standing amidst the little rioters. My two fellow trainee leaders' faces reflected my own apprehensive yet bemused expression. The three of us had volunteered the previous week and having undertaken many a baby-sitting job we presumed we could look after a group of young boys with ease. We hadn't known WHAT was in store for us!!

Now, don't get me wrong - not once did I regret volunteering. I rise to the challenges that await me with a grin on my face. I am an enthusiast and a fighter. However, I'm also quite patient and accepting. I find that fellow leaders missing one of these qualities, either treat the Beavers in an angry manner, talk to them in an inappropriate way or give up on disciplining them altogether. Patience is a virtue and probably the single most important attribute someone dealing with people of any age should have, especially in dealing with children. From the beginning I noticed that the Assistant Leader dealt with the children in a patient and experienced manner. I highly respect the Head Beaver Leader for he is ever virtuous - from the moment I arrived in the Scout Den I noticed the patience with which he dealt with each child. The immense respect the boys have for him is clearly not the kind of respect one gains through fear but the kind of respect one gains through admiration. If, one day, the Beavers respect me half as much as they do him, I will have achieved my own personal goal.

As our first night as Beaver Leaders drew to a close, I knew the job I had undertaken was not only a responsibility to the flock of sheep I was shepherding to, but to myself as well. The boys were certainly a handful - in fact all five of us had our hands full. The mind boggles to how they managed without us! I did perceive almost immediately that a couple of them seemed to be at the root of the trouble while some of the others were merely influenced by them. I refused to throw my hands up in the air and give up on the more troublesome of the lot. Our time with all of them is very beneficial as in some cases

the examples of good Christian youth in their lives are few and far between. They see a good nature amongst us and will hopefully follow by example.

Learning Experiences

The atmosphere in the Beaver meetings is one of fun as is in most youth groups. There is a lot of learning involved in what is a non-academic scene, for both the participant Leader- whether it's learning how to listen, how to interact and co-operate, how to behave appropriately, or how to deal with different situations. I cannot see any disadvantages in an environment like this where there is interaction between children from different backgrounds. This is a valuable experience for them not only at the age they are now but also for later life.

Before I volunteered as a Beaver Leader I felt as though I was taking so much out of society without putting anything back. I participated in Scouts for four years and I now participate in Ventures. I now appreciate the amount of work our Leaders put in for us and continue to put in. Finally, I am giving something back to the system and using my attributes and time to add to society. By looking at my work with Beavers as a challenge, I am fired to encourage and help them and encourage others to volunteer. People need encouragement - a little push along the way, so to speak. For me, this came in the form of the Gaisce award. Gaisce and other similarly structured awards are great forms of encouragement as the participant has a goal in mind and the sense of achievement after the presentation of the award urges them to continue on with voluntary work.

I get an immense sense of satisfaction and self-worth when I see the impact of my work and time with Beavers and the enjoyment they get out of meetings. It is a regular occurrence for me to arrive home from Beavers as high as a kite because of a lesson learnt, a problem solved or that wondrous feeling that those young lads were hanging on my every word...or even on ONE word - just the hint that they were taking heed! So, bearing in mind the year that is in it, **'The Year of The Volunteer,'** I think a considerable amount of thought should be given to becoming a volunteer. Volunteering is a big part of my life; let it be a big part of YOURS.

Natalie Coles is a transition year student in Coláiste Íosagáin and is actively involved in the 29th Scouting Unit, Blackrock under the auspices of Scouting Ireland.

Policy & Funding

SEX OFFENDERS ACT 2001 FINALLY COMES INTO EFFECT

A new system of tracking sex offenders came into effect with the introduction of the Sex Offenders Act 2001 on Thursday 27 September, 2001. Under the new laws, the Gardaí will be informed at all times of the current names and addresses of convicted sex offenders, who will also have to notify the Gardaí of details of any trips abroad lasting more than ten days. The notification system will also apply to sex offenders who enter Ireland from abroad. Any offender who has received a custodial sentence of more than two years will be obliged to notify the Gardaí of their whereabouts for the rest of their lives.

The tracking system is one of six elements that come with the Act. The other provisions include:

- The Civil Sex Offenders Order against sex offenders covers behaviour in the community that gives the Gardaí cause for concern. Gardaí can apply to the civil courts for an order restraining the individual. The order can be applied to both people who have offended, and to persons whose actions, while not technically criminal, give cause for concern in the community. The order will prohibit sex offenders from doing things such as loitering near school playgrounds.
- A new system of post-release (from prison) supervision for sex offenders.
- It will be an offence under the Act for sex offender to seek employment where unsupervised access to children is involved.
- Separate legal representation in rape and other serious sexual assault cases in certain circumstances.
- An increase in the maximum penalty for sexual assault from 5 years to 14 years where the victim is a child and 5 to 10 years where the victim is an adult.

In announcing the introduction of the Act The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Mr John O' Donoghue, T.D., also confirmed that measures had been enacted to facilitate the registration of all those convicted of sex offences or

currently serving a sentence for a sex offence.

WORKING GROUP ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHITE PAPER ESTABLISHED

On 20 July the composition of The Implementation & Advisory Group for the White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity" was announced. The group will have the dual task of leading the implementation of the White Paper's recommendations while providing a forum for discussion between the voluntary sector and the State on related issues such as financing, training and development and the introduction of a regulatory framework for the sector.

The 12 member Group is drawn equally from the Community and Voluntary sector and the relevant Government Departments. It will be co-chaired by the Department of Health & Children and the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs.

The Group's terms of reference are to:

- Advise on a programme of research, which will include quantifying the full extent of community and voluntary activity in Ireland
- Agree protocols for financial accountability in respect of State funding of the sector
- Monitor administrative mechanisms to underpin the effective functioning of the working relationship and discuss and agree proposals that promote integrated approaches at national level
- Monitor developments in accreditation of training for the sector
- Formulate practical proposals to further enhance support and training capacity within the sector and within other sectors
- Advise on the development of a regulatory framework for the sector
- Examine areas of overlap or gaps in statutory responsibility with regard to support for the Community and Voluntary sector at policy and programme level and make recommendations to resolve such situations
- Advise on the distribution of the £2 million proposed provision for other Federations and

see this principle at work in youth services, education, personal social services, and community development. As I have said one of the richest, positive and most enriching features of Irish social and community life traditionally has been the extensive level of voluntary involvement. We see this principle at work in youth services, education, personal social services, and community development.

Voluntary organisations pioneer work which the state may later take over; sometimes they do work which statutory organisations cannot effectively do or simply are not doing and they act as pressure groups or critics in connection with statutory services and social needs. Voluntary provided and community based services are not something imposed from outside by an all embracing state but are a concrete expression of a progressive social and democratic philosophy. One of the interesting features underlined by the working and growth of these organisations is the importance of the principle of these organisations in caring. Voluntary and statutory action are not the antithesis of each other. They spring from the same roots; are designed to meet the same needs and have the same motivating force behind them. It was the late and great Lord Beveridge one of the architects of modern social policy in Britain who said

"State Action is voluntary action crystallized and made universal". Voluntary/statutory co-operation is improving continually but still has a considerable distance to go".

I have long felt that there should be clearer guidelines and principles agreed in maybe something like a memorandum of agreement between voluntary and statutory bodies at regional level for a period of say five years indicating the services both should provide and the relationship between them.

There are a plethora of new special projects, new structures and funding sources in recent years, many with strong EU backing. Obviously these are welcome developments but it is an extremely complicated scene and one where it is quite difficult for voluntary groups to find their way around. So, for example there are the County Enterprise Boards, Development Partnership Boards, the Leader Programme and its spin offs, as well of course as the schemes run by the major statutory bodies and special schemes under the aegis of them focused on new initiatives and experiments.

It is still extremely difficult to get any decent funding for the provision and maintenance of basic core community facilities and programmes. While there is provision for voluntary involvement these initiatives are weighed very heavily towards statutory bodies or highly organised interests and the input and role of voluntary groups will in practice be small. There is a real danger of the serious overlap and wastage of efforts and resources between them. They need to be closely integrated between themselves and organisational and operational arrangements need to be worked out urgently. It is also important that these new agencies/structures look at

existing effective programmes and initiatives in the community and help strengthen and attend these.

One of the more important developments then of the last three decades in Ireland has been the development of broadly based Councils with an overall concern for the welfare of the town/community in which they live and efforts to plan, initiate and develop new services and improve and extend existing ones. Constructive and broader thinking of this kind over the last three decades or so has led to the development of Social Service Councils/Community Councils/Community Services Councils.

These Councils (and there are between three to four hundred of them in the country) emphasise that they are not separate organisations and do not interfere with the autonomy of member groups, they consist of the organisations that make up them. The widening and making more sophisticated of the range of personal social services has largely been associated with the development of the Social Services Councils. By coming together they improved the quality and impact of what they were already doing and progressively undertook new projects together that individually would have been beyond their power.

A Black Economy of Caring

When Mary Robinson was President and continuously highlighted the importance and large amount of voluntary social and community work carried out in Ireland she described it as 'a virtual black economy of caring'. Over the past thirty years or so the most important single advance in the area of personal social services has been the development and acceptance of the concept of Community Care. In general this is taken to mean care in ones home either by one's family or the family supported and helped by visiting social work personnel. This method of care is contrasted with that given in an institution like a hospital, children's home or old people's home. For a variety of reasons it is said to be preferable to institutional care, and indeed, if given efficiently and early may prevent the need for institutional care altogether. The beneficial effects of this policy in the care of the elderly, childcare, care of the handicapped, care of the mentally ill and so on are now obvious in this country. Community Care without a caring community is impossible. Most people if pressed will say in an impersonal way that a policy of this nature is both humane and sensible... as long as it does not affect them personally.

It is when plans are announced for a scheme near to their home that things tend to go wrong. Too often the reaction is "not in our street please". When a community reacts in that way it is really putting ratable valuation values above human values and community care cannot become a reality.

Perhaps a more important meaning contained in the phrase "**Community Care**" is this: The whole community

has the obligation of caring for those in need within their locality. At the centre and providing the Inspiration for this sort of development in Ireland over the last thirty years have been voluntary social services or community councils. The most important distinctive features of these were the fact that they were based in, related to, and established by the local community. They were concrete examples of individual communities facing the needs and problems of their own communities and channeling their energies and resources to help themselves. This whole movement is an attempt to return to locally based help for the needy which was the case in the past. Generally speaking, industrialisation and urbanisation in 19th century Europe led to Statutory Social Welfare provision in the way we know it. Prior to this, relief for the poor and destitute was an integral function of local parish and community life.

There have been in the last century various efforts to restore and refashion the Pre-Industrial revolution emphasis on the local community's concern for the well being of all it's members. We have had for example the settlement work of Samuel Barnett in the East End of London or Sir Horace Plunkett's co-operative movement in this country. It is not unfair to say that Governments generally tend to fight shy of such developments and cannot provide realistic funding which was required for it to take root. A vibrant involved local community means reduced alienation, opportunities for self fulfillment, feelings of powerlessness overcome, improved individual and group self image, and generally increased community integration and co-operation. Much has been done in this area loosely called community development and much still needs to be done in rebuilding community locally.

These various types of Councils were concrete examples of individual communities facing the needs and problems of their own community and channeling their energies and resources to help themselves. This has improved the quality of life in many local communities and helped the community to develop its feeling of self worth, and retain power over its own community life, Statutory services, however extensive and effective cannot provide this sort of community development. Perhaps most astonishing of all was the facility with which a number of communities responded and the wide range of developments on various levels which were initiated.

Development & Specialist Services

Open Ended Development and Specialist Services

Any of us who has been involved with Community or Social Services Councils will be very conscious of how the development of a service leads inevitably to analysis, discussion, and identification of a new need and therefore programmes or services to meet those needs. None of us involved with the Centre would have been aware of the specialist services and the personnel and facilities which would have been needed here. Much has been provided

and there will be an opportunity to plan fresh responses to new needs. I don't want to preempt or anticipate that discussion but let me make one suggestion.

Within each community there is a stock of untapped resources. People, in responding to the need of their own community, thereby improve the feeling of self worth of the community, create a feeling of effectiveness and a sense of contributing to their own well being through local involvement in local based voluntary organisations. It is essential to create multiple types of opportunity to help people to become involved in various forms of community service. In particular there are people prepared to play a part on an occasional basis but who are unable or unwilling to make the permanent commitment of joining an existing organisation. In this context publicity and recruitment systems and a comprehensive volunteer bureau structure could be of immense value in every area.

Losing Our Sense of Community

That leads me on quite naturally to another important issue. One of the negative phenomena of the last decade has been the disintegration of quite a number of areas across the county of the particular model of community awareness and involvement. Indeed in some areas there has been a virtual disengagement from the neighbourhood and community life by significant sections of the local population. We have seen, what we associated in the past with very large cities or with foreign countries, becoming a reality in even small towns in Ireland: Contact with only a handful of neighbours; No knowledge of community needs, concerns, development and structures; An unwillingness to become involved in community organisations or in providing community services; Availing of some community provisions only on the basis of self-interest ('community consumers') and not involved at all as 'community producers'.

People have tended to isolate themselves domestically, and television and other forms of home entertainment and the increased pace of modem and work life have accelerated this process. Recent surveys in Britain for example show that nearly a third of the population has never spent one evening with a neighbour. Professor John Locke of the University of Sheffield, writing in The Guardian on March 11th 2000 had this to say in a 1997 study of over 1000 British office workers: nearly half said the Internet had replaced face to face communication; over a third said they used email deliberately to avoid direct interactions. Verbally abusive 'flame mail' was commonplace, often leading to a complete breakdown of relations. This is not the great global society we were promised.

The problem lies in the nature of human communication. We think of it as a product of the mind, but it's done by bodies; faces move, voices intone, bodies sway, hands gesture. Evolution provided each of us with specialised

Networks across the eligible areas

- Advise on issues relating to allocations from the National Lottery surplus
- Oversee the publication of a comprehensive manual of funding and regular updated versions
- Undertake a formal review of the workings of the Group after a three-year period.

The Membership of the Group is as follows:

Co-chairs

Deirdre Carroll (Social, Community & Family Affairs)
Brendan Ingoldsby (Health & Children)

Community/Voluntary Sector Representatives

Triona Nic Giolla Choille (Community Worker's Co-operative)
John Dolan (Disability Federation of Ireland)
Kate O'Sullivan (Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups)
James Doorley (National Youth Council of Ireland)
Sylvia Meehan (Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament)
Maureen Kavanagh (Aontas)

Statutory Sector Representatives

Eileen Kehoe (Dept. of An Taoiseach)
Philomena Poole (Director of Community & Enterprise, South County Dublin)
Mícheál O'Corcoran (Social, Community & Family Affairs)
James O'Grady (Mid-West Health Board).
Kathleen Stack (Tourism, Sport & Recreation)
Niall McCutcheon/Stephanie O'Donnell (Justice, Equality & Law Reform)

For further Information contact:

**The Information Service,
Department of Social, Community and
Family Affairs
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada,
Store Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: (01) 8748444.
Website: www.welfare.ie**

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRES LAUNCHED

The Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D., launched new National Standards for Children's Residential Centres on 10 September at a conference on Best Practice in Residential Care

organised by the Department of Health and Children in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone.

The need for these new National Standards to ensure consistency of care had been identified and highlighted by the Social Services Inspectorate in their inspections of children's residential homes. The standards cover all areas affecting the life of a child in a residential care environment including:

- Their rights
- Care planning for the child
- The care of young people
- Protecting and safeguarding them
- Their health and education

For a copy of the Standards document and/or further information contact:

**Department of Health and Children,
Hawkins House,
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6354000
Fax: (01) 6354001
LoCall: 1890 200311
Website: www.doh.ie**

BACK TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE EXTENDED TO EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern is extending the Back to Education Allowance Scheme in a bid to enhance the job prospects of early school leavers. From September the Back to Education Allowance Scheme will be extended to people aged between 18 and 20 years, getting an unemployment or lone parent payment for at least six months and who have been out of the education system for two years. Periods spent on FAS training courses, FAS Job Initiative, Youthreach, Jobstart or Job Assist can also count towards the six-month qualifying period.

Previously, those who were unemployed or getting a One Parent Family Payment had to be aged 21 or over in order to avail of the scheme. The Back to Education Allowance is payable to people who wish to pursue approved second or third level courses of education. During the 2000/2001 Academic year, 5,605 people took part in the Back to Education Allowance Scheme.

For application forms and more information contact:

Social Welfare Local Offices or: The Information Service,
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs,
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada,
Store Street,
Dublin 1.
Tel: (01) 8748444
Website: www.welfare.ie

TANAISTE ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING TO PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On 14 August the Tánaiste Mary Harney announced funding for a major new initiative to raise awareness and promote the employment of people with disabilities. In 2000, proposals were invited from the social partners for initiatives aimed at further promoting the employment of people with disabilities in the private sector.

Resulting from the process the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment reached an agreement with ICTU and IBEC to fund this new initiative driven by those organisations. The initiative will provide funding of up to £700,000 to the end of 2003.

The initiative will involve IBEC and ICTU jointly establishing a number of regional networks involving employers, trade unions, people with disabilities, service providers and relevant State Agencies, coming together to raise awareness of the employment potential of people with disabilities.

The networks will explore local skills availability and locally available employment opportunities. It will provide information to employers, employee representatives and people with disabilities on supports, available to assist the integration of people with disabilities into the workforce.

For further Information contact:

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6312121
Fax: (01) 6312827
Website: www.entemp.ie

NEW SUICIDE LEAFLET LAUNCHED

On Wednesday 10 October, 2001 the Minister for Health and Children, Michéal Martin, T.D., launched an information leaflet on dealing with the warning signs and risk factors of suicide at Dublin Castle. Documenting ways to respond to such signs, it also provides the key facts about suicide and self-harm and includes a list of contact organisations.

The annual report 2000 of the National Suicide Review Group entitled "**Suicide Prevention, Education & Research**" was also launched on this occasion. Set up in 1998 to review and respond to the ongoing trends in suicide, the Review group has worked to tackle the problem of suicide at a policy level and in terms of supporting and enhancing capacity building in the community in relation to the issue. This report examines progress to date and provides recent research and statistical information on suicide in Ireland.

For further information contact:

Research & Resource Officer
National Suicide Review Group
Western Health Board
Office 10
Oranmore Centre
Oranmore
Galway
E-mail: nsrg@eircom.net

Resources

COUNSELLING SKILLS

Is Counselling Training for You? (1997) *By Val Potter*

Guidebook to help individuals discover whether they want to become a counsellor and if so, how to go about it. It acts as a 'why to' book rather than a 'how to' book, a guide to training and good practice in counselling skills and counselling.

Potter draws on over 20 years of working and teaching in the field, providing a comprehensive store of useful resources for the aspiring counsellor. Important aspects of the field are covered, inviting the individual to engage with the kind of personal exploration that is vital for counsellors, and providing essential information, such as 'menu' of counselling approaches and check lists to help choose the training that will suit best.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration and Residency in Ireland (2001) *By Tanya Ward*

Research document which aims to:

- (a) outline the different forms of legal residency categories there are in Ireland and types of citizenship there are available to non-European Economic Area nationals in Ireland;
- (b) delineate the social and economic rights that pertain to each and
- (c) what documentation individuals should possess if they are in one of these categories.

MENTAL HEALTH

Stigma (2000) *By the Royal College of Psychiatrists*

People with mental illness often live a life of double jeopardy. Not only do they endure the illness itself, they also suffer the disinterest, disrespect and far too often the hatred of the public. This fourteen minute **video** explores the origins and nature of the stigma of mental illness and how it affects us all.

PROJECT PLANNING

Smartmoves: A Good Practice Guide to Planning and Organising Arts Projects (2000) *Edited by Jan Branch*

Guide aimed at people undertaking arts projects for the first time, but is helpful to those who are 'old hands'. It aims to provide quick and easy access to essential facts - condensing information relating to a wide range of useful topics from Constitutions, Fundraising, Health and Safety, to the equally important subjects of Press and Publicity, and Customer Care.

Themes covered include the following:

- Constitutions and Charitable Status
- Strategic Planning
- Preparing a Business Plan
- Drawing up a Budget for an Event or Project
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- An Approach to Fundraising
- Preparing Grant Applications
- Sponsorship
- Committee Skills: Getting the best from your Board of Management or Committee.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

Understanding Children: Volume 1: State, Education & Economy (2001)

Edited by Anne Cleary, Maire Nic Ghiolla & Suzanne Quin

Book that deals with the macro-structures framing the context of childhood and analyses some of the ways in which children react to and engage with such structures.

It aims to present a more comprehensive and positive profile of childhood and children in Ireland bringing together recent research and analysis of the lives of Irish children. It focuses on the contemporary aspects of children's lives and on the challenges facing children in adjusting to the changing context of childhood.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Ireland National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPincl) 2001/2003 (2001)

By NAPS

Ireland's NAPincl provides an overview of a wide variety of initiatives, being worked on by the Irish Government, to drive forward the social inclusion agenda, touching every aspect of Government. The Plan is grounded in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and the National Development Plan and the actions ensuing from these programmes. The NAPincl is the result of a consultative process involving the Social Partners, Government and relevant Agencies.

Ireland's NAPincl reflects the state of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) at present, as a work-in-progress. The Strategy is currently being reviewed and revised by way of an extensive process of involvement of stakeholders. This process will culminate in the publication of a revised Strategy in November 2001. Future plans submitted to the EU will be consistent with, and contingent upon, the findings of the NAPS review and will also reflect EU developments in this area.

YOUTH DANCE

Moving On ... Youth Dance in Ireland - North & South (2000)

Researched and Compiled By Carina McGrail

Report that attempts to detail the range and scale of Youth Dance activity which currently exists. It aims to provide basic information about Youth Dance to inform discussion and decision-making regarding the development of Youth Dance.

As well as providing an overview of Youth dance practice in Ireland - North and South, and presenting the infrastructures and areas of practice which currently exist, the document records the discussion and decisions taken during Youth Dance Colloquium 2000.

The document is divided into two parts. The first part traces the journey of Youth Dance to date in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. It recognises what has already been achieved in Youth Dance and acknowledges the work of organisations and individuals who have been developing Youth Dance. It is intended that this section will document important archival information on Youth Dance.

Part one also gives an overview of current provision and describes what is happening in Youth Dance, and where. It includes six case studies which illustrate different models of Youth Dance activity. It looks in depth at the Dance Incentive Scheme which is administered by the Arts Council of N. Ireland and An Chomhairle Ealaíon's Dancer-in-Residence scheme, as ways of supporting Youth Dance.

The second part of the document is an analysis of information returned through questionnaires which Youth Dance practitioners (tutors and co-ordinators) completed. Basic information about the profile of Youth Dance groups, how groups are funded, the kind of activity happening in Youth Dance etc. is provided in this section of the report. It is intended that this information will be important in developing Youth Dance further.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Exchange - Give it a Go! (2000) **By the Diocese of Newcastle International** **Youth Work Group**

Video and accompanying manual which provides a series of snapshots of one of Newcastle's International Youth Work Group exchange experiences. It aims to assist in providing a sound beginning in proceeding towards an exchange and shows that the experience of an exchange is fun and educational and more importantly not something that is too intimidating.

Exchanges - The Rough Guide (2000) **By Groundswell**

Groundswell is an organisation that encourages and supports people who have first hand experience of being disempowered and excluded from decision making. These groups include the homeless, community groups, people with health problems, squatters, travellers and those living in poverty. In the light of these sort of circumstances, this rough guide to exchanges provides information on what an exchange is, how to host one and how Groundswell can help, focusing on areas such as preparing to travel, sightseeing, trips out of town and coming home.

Speakout! - Recipe Book (2000) **By Groundswell**

Speakouts were pioneered by Scottish Speakout, a group of homeless and ex-homeless people who sought to provide a platform for homeless people's voices to be heard. This handbook or 'cookbook' is for individuals and groups who need recipes on how to 'speakout' in relation to social issues such as homelessness, poverty and exclusion. It provides information on planning and organising speakouts in an innovative and interesting way.

YOUTH JUSTICE

A Positive Future (2000) **By the Youth Justice Board**

Short video produced by the Youth Justice Board to show how the new justice system in Britain aims to prevent offending by young people by confronting young offenders with the consequences of their actions to help change their offending behaviour. The film explains the workings of the new Final Warning and shows how an individual will be supervised by the youth offending team; what programmes of support and supervision may be available to help prevent further offending and how a restorative conference can facilitate reparation to the victim by the offender.

Streets Apart: World Action's Campaign for the Rights of Street Children (2000) **By MAYC World Action**

Streets Apart is a year-long action campaign for the rights of street children. Millions of children live alone, surviving on virtually nothing, on the streets of the world's cities. Faced with hunger, loneliness, danger and suspicion, they are denied the chance of a childhood. Suitable for all ages, this fifteen minute video describes the basics about street children and how you can take action to change the situation:

Sections covered include:

- What is the reality for street children?
- Don't street children have any rights?
- Why are there so many children living alone on the streets?
- Who is helping street children already? (Highlights 3 projects in Bangladesh, Brazil & Macedonia)
- What about Streets Apart?

All of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan (NOT SALE) to IYWC members. The IYWC is an official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Russell House Publishing, Nightshift Publications, Directory of Social Change, National Youth Council of Ireland, DEFY and the Combat Poverty Agency.

Further Information from:
Fran Bissett & Michelle Drumm
Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8729933 Fax: (01) 8724183
E-mail: fbissett@nyf.ie or mdrumm@nyf.ie

Round-Up

MINISTER CONVENES FIRST MEETING OF DÁIL NA NÓG

On 5 September 2001 the Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin T.D., invited 250 children and young people between the ages of 7 and 17 to be delegates at the first meeting of Dáil na nÓg. It was held in The Mansion House, Dublin, the venue of the first ever Dáil sitting in 1919.

Two young people chaired the session - Laura Murphy (aged 16) from Galway, and Jeffrey Rockett (aged 14) from Limerick, with the assistance of Mr. Gerry Killian, a teacher from Dublin. Delegates debated three motions and each debate was followed by a vote passing the following motions.

- 1) That children have a right to express their views in all matters affecting them taking into account their age and maturity
- 2) That every child and young person should have the opportunity for play and recreation
- 3) That every child and young person should have a good education.



*Mary Hanafin T.D. Minister for Children
with (L - R) Siobhan Symons, Sínead Ní Riain & Dearbhla NicAmhlghaidh*

The session was also attended by An Taoiseach, Mr.

Bertie Ahern T.D., to observe this historical inaugural session, and to listen to participants speaking about the issues relevant to their lives. The Taoiseach was presented with a short report of proceedings by the Cathaoirleach to the Dáil na nÓg. He will take the report to the Cabinet Committee on Children, which he chairs.

Further Information:

For further information on Dáil na nÓg or the National Children's Strategy contact:

**The National Children's Office
94 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2.**

Tel: (01) 4180582

Fax: (01) 4180819

E-mail: child_strategy@health.irlgov.ie

OPENING OF NEW SCOUT ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCE CENTRE

On Monday 17th September 2001, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, T.D., officially opened the new scout administration and resource centre in Larch Hill, situated on the foothills of the Dublin mountains. Avant garde in structure, the new building provides a modern, functional and multipurpose facility for the scouting community and hopes to herald a new beginning for Scouting in the new Millennium.

Further Information:

**Larch Hill Scout & Training Centre
Tibradden
Dublin 16**

Tel: (01) 6761598

E-mail:

reception@scoutingirelandcsi.com

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDES LAUNCHED

On Wednesday 3 October 2001, the Minister for Education & Science, Dr. Michael Woods officially launched the **Good Practice Guides** to support Planning and Implementing Education Initiatives to address educational disadvantage, at Jury's Hotel, Ballsbridge.

Produced and published by Area Development Management Ltd., these guides are a series of four documents which aim to assist with the planning and implementation of initiatives that respond to educational disadvantage.

- General Planning
- Further and Third Level Education Supports
- Achievement and Access Supports
- After-School Education and Youth Supports

The information provided is based on valuable learning gained from practical experience at local level by Partnership Companies and ADM Community Groups. The documents should be a useful resource to people setting up initiatives to address disadvantage.

Further Information:

Area Development Management Ltd
Holbrook House
Holles Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 240 0700
Fax: (01) 661 0411
E-mail: enquiries@adm.ie
Website: www.adm.ie

UNDERAGE DRINKING ON THE INCREASE

On 16 November a new report on the problem of underage drinking in the Bray area was launched. The report which is sponsored by the Cider Industry Council is titled "Underage Drinking in Ireland: A Study of Bray, A Representative Area" and was written by Dr. Mark Morgan, a social psychologist from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. The results of a year-long study makes depressing if

unsurprising reading as to the extent of underage drinking and echoes other recent reports, which illustrate that the position has worsened significantly in the last year or two. The report makes a series of recommendations in relation to tackling the problem including:

- The introduction of a mandatory national age card
- The abolition of the £5 charge for Garda ID Cards
- The adoption of local bylaws making alcohol consumption in public places an offence
- The need for local Co-ordinating Group under the aegis of the council to ensure a cohesive approach to the problem

There is an Appendix in the report that should be of particular interest to those working with young people and looking to tackle the problem. The Appendix briefly outlines four major prevention projects from the USA that have been rigorously evaluated and proved to be extremely successful in tackling underage drinking and associated problems.

Copies of the report are available from:

Cider Industry Council,
27 Sydney Parade Avenue,
Dublin 4.
Tel: 01/2830088
Fax: 01/2830119.

NEW REPORT URGING GREATER CIVIC PARTICIPATION BY YOUNG PEOPLE

On 1 November 2001 the Minister for Finance Mr Charlie McCreevy, T.D., launched a new report from the National Youth Council of Ireland titled "**Taking the Initiative**". The report calls for all agencies in both the statutory and voluntary sector, to encourage young people to take a more active part in various organisations, at both local and national level. The Minister also launched the NYCI's new website www.youth.ie.

Copies of the report are available from:

National Youth Council of Ireland,
3 Montague Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01/4784122

IRELAND

Child Neglect: Is My View Your View?

Date: 11 December, 2001

One day conference by the North Eastern Health Board involving a series of interactive workshops. Speakers include Jan Horwarth, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield; Tony Morrison, Independent Social Care Trainer & Consultant, Lancashire; Jane Tresidder, Consultant Community paediatrician, Derbyshire; Alice Malone, Project Manager, Louth Springboard Initiative. Also being launched on the day is a piece of research entitled "*Working with cases of Child Neglect in the NEHB: Developing Current Systems for Effective Practice under Children First*".

Cost: £65

Further Details:

Mary McAlesse
Regional Child Care Office
North Eastern Health Board
1st Floor, Foley's Forge
Dunshaughlin
Co. Meath
Tel: (01) 8250907

Managing Your Information

Date: Wednesday 16 January

Venue: Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7

Facilitator: Brid McGrath

One day training course on how to manage information effectively. It aims to allow the individual:

- Identify the information needs and resources of their group
- Organise information so that it can be easily found, using databases and filing systems
- Deal with your own internal information
- Get the best out of the information collected

Further Details:

Grainne Foy
Training Development Officer
Carmichael Centre
North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7
Tel: (01) 873 5282
Fax: (01) 873 5283

E-mail: tdocarmichaelcentre@eircom.net

Teaching Behaviour Management Skills to Parents using the Parents Plus Programmes

Date: Level 1 - Thursday 7th March 2002

Level 2 - Thursday 21st March 2002

Venue: Mater Hospital, Eccles Street, Dublin 7

Facilitators: Dr. John Sharry & Prof. Carol Fitzpatrick, Mater Child Guidance Clinic.

A two-day training course for potential facilitators, the Parents Plus Programmes are practical and positive video-based parenting courses for managing and solving discipline problems in children. The **Level 1** workshop is focused on professionals wishing to understand the principles behind both the programmes and to learn skills on how to apply them effectively in groups. The Level 2 workshop is suitable for professionals who have started to use either of the Parents Plus Programmes or who have completed the Level 1 one day workshop.

Further Details:

Parents Plus
C/o Dept. of Child & Family Psychiatry
Mater Hospital
North Circular Road
Dublin 7
Tel: (01) 853 2426
E-mail: parentsplus@eircom.net

BRITAIN

Adolescents at Risk

Date: 20 February 2002

Venue: Storthes Hall Park, Huddersfield

A one day conference which aims to provide up-to-date information on a range of issues related to young people and risk. It will cover developments in theory, research and practice and consider specific risk behaviours, risk groups and protective factors.

Further Details:

Jan Hill
Conference and Course Administrator
Trust for the Study of Adolescence
23 New Road, Brighton
East Sussex, BN1 1WZ
Tel: +44 0123 771249
Fax: +44 0123 729098
E-mail: jhill@tsa.uk.com