



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release

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## **Extension of Innovative Experience for Jobs Programme with Youth Groups, Private Sector and Garda Diversion Projects Launched Today by Minister David Stanton TD**

A new innovative experience for jobs programme for some of Ireland's most disadvantaged young people is being extended to number of new sites from today. The programme exposes participants to the world of work and the skills required to operate effectively in it, through a structured and supported process involving preparation, placement and reflection. The programme challenges the young person involved to undertake a paid part-time job with all the responsibilities that that entails. The programme supports employers to become actively involved in the young person's learning, development and progression through the placement itself and by way a series of structured assessments of the participating young person's skills. The "Work to Learn" programme is promoted by Youth Work Ireland with funding support from State Street Bank and the Irish Youth Justice Service. Due to the success of the operation of the programme in Kilkenny, where approximately 20 young persons have participated to date, it is planned to roll out the programme to six other Garda Youth Diversion Projects across the country in 2017.

*"I really enjoy my work like coming in on time and being friendly with people which is a really important aspect of the work. I've learned skills from working here in the Barbers in Cobh. In terms of my future I would really like to be a barber. I've changed my mind about what I'd like to do when I leave school and I have more money than I used to have. The youth workers help me fill out my forms and my family are really proud of me"* said Josh Mc Kevitt (15) a young participant on the programme.

*"The great thing about this programme is that it sensitises the business community generally to youth crime prevention but specifically the host employers by actively engaging them in providing a learning environment for young people who are at risk of involvement in, or have been involved in, offending behaviour. The successful operation of the programme is dependent on a level of cross community co-operation that requires the GYDP, youth services and the business community to work together to create opportunities for the young persons involved. This programme will provide valuable experience and learning for the young persons involved and will help them to establish a good work ethic, gain useful skills and to respect others, including their employer."* Added Minister David Stanton TD speaking at the launch

ENDS

Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499 / Gina Halpin 087 682 8045

Images from: Marc O'Sullivan 087 2624540 [osullivan.marc@gmail.com](mailto:osullivan.marc@gmail.com)

**Note to Editors:** Garda Youth Diversion Projects are co-funded by the Department (IYJS) and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

State Street employ approximately 2,500 people in Ireland with offices in Dublin, Drogheda, Kilkenny and Naas. State Street is one of Ireland's leading fund services companies.

Youth Work Ireland is a federation of 22 local voluntary youth services working with over 100,000 young people in Ireland

