



# Youth Work Ireland

Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
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## **Leading Youth Organisation Mobilises for Ukrainian Refugee Challenge**

Youth Work Ireland has been working to develop a comprehensive response to the local challenges of providing for the large numbers of refugees expected from Ukraine in local communities. In conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) the organisation and its 20 Member Youth Services have been mapping out what is available from youth services for young people who are arriving.

Youth Services are well placed as community-based organisations with existing infrastructure like buildings and staff to respond to the emerging needs, but will also need more support with much of their work already pre-planned and funded. Youth Work Ireland has an integrated youth service model which can provide support to a variety of young people based on their needs.

“Youth Work Ireland is building on our experience to date of working with refugees and new communities around Ireland in local communities and Direct Provision centres. Youth services are adapting and linking in quickly as needed as part of a local response, coordinating local provision of donated goods, providing meals and sourcing accommodation, and organising volunteers for integration and support activities. We will link young people to services and agencies through Youth Information Centres and other services to ensure their integration into education, employment, recreation and social inclusion by advocating and supporting a trauma-informed approach” said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland.

“Responding to the potential of extra funding the organisation said it would allow for a rapid respond to needs by further developing Youth Information to sign post and support young people in a trauma informed manner and provide further direct integration supports including language supports. Other work would involve further supporting volunteers, vetting them, ensuring they are prepared for and able to address trauma and intercultural working and providing more safe spaces and social spaces for integration, trauma informed counselling. In many instances where service dispositions and experience are appropriate, youth services can employ specific resettlement staff in an integrated service setting” He added.

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