



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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Budget 2023 was extremely disappointing for young people and those who work with them according to Youth Work Ireland in letter to Minister O'Gorman

The 1.6% increase in funding for youth services is inadequate particularly given the general increase in public spending, and exponential increases in costs for those working with young people according to a letter sent to Minister Roderic O'Gorman. The organisation believes the welfare of many young people is impacted by continued poor funding of critical youth work interventions which can have a major impact on their life chances. As core inflation will be 5.25% for 2023, youth work has been overlooked and is facing an effective major cut according to the organisation.

"Youth work and youth projects are particularly vulnerable to the cost-of-living crisis as they provide safe spaces for young people in an accessible way. The pressure of prices, housing and energy bills coupled with a real cut will lead to staffing issues in frontline services for vulnerable young people. Furthermore, our Member Youth Services are reporting increased demand for support from young people, especially from those coming from families and communities experiencing poverty and social exclusion at this time" said Deborah Fakeye (21) President of Youth Work Ireland.

"We are also concerned that there has been no further progress on the Youth Work Ireland business plan for the reinvigoration of local clubs submitted before the budget. This costed proposal was the outcome of an extensive consultation with youth services, young people and volunteers, and sought to mitigate in a significant manner on the serious consequences of the pandemic on our youth club network which reaches into some of the remote areas of the country. Unfortunately, a recent RED C survey carried out by the NYCI showed that over seven in ten young people are considering leaving Ireland for a better quality of life, Budget 2023 offered very little to a sector that supports young people so much" added Ms. Fakeye

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