



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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Youth Centres a Natural Home for Budget Cash Says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has today, in its per budget submission, called for a major capital investment of €10m per annum in youth facilities to cope with increased demand, improve aging premises and provide safe spaces for young people in local communities. The organisation believes that capital investment is particularly necessary for young people given their long term needs and the current surpluses in exchequer funding. The organisation has also called for a dedicated revitalisation of youth clubs to help them return to pre Covid levels, support for the youth homelessness strategy and the equalisation of job seekers payments for young people.

“Youth services have worked long and hard to have quality accessible premises and venues for youth work around the country, often in smaller towns and rural areas. We need a significant step in capital support for quality facilities for young people. Similarly, our network of Clubs is still struggling to recover from the pandemic. Youth Clubs are a critical piece of infrastructure supporting our growing population. Our business case supports the measures needed to bring clubs back to pre-pandemic levels with ambitious targets in regards to increases in the numbers of clubs, participating young people, and volunteers. We also see the need for increased resources for Youth Information Centres which provide a free, confidential information service to young people and those who work with them on a wide range of subjects including careers, education, employment matters, rights and entitlements, leisure, sport, travel, and European opportunities” Said Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland

“The expansion of our youth population with an expected one million young people aged under 24 by the year 2025, indicates the need for a longer-term plan to support this positive development, and a realistic funding model supporting the needs of young people. There is a need to pay attention to the range of issues confronting young people in the areas of employment, housing, health, education and many more. We support the new youth homelessness strategy and want to see it properly resourced, and all young homeless people counted. With substantial extra resources at its disposal the Government can correct the long-term inequality of young people receiving lower rates of Job Seekers Assistance. These measures would symbolize a real commitment to young people’s future.” Dr Burke added.

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