

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

YOUTH WORK BILL FINALLY BECOMES LAW

On 17 October, the Youth Work Bill passed through its committee stage in the Dáil. Primary amendments were at this stage were as follows: Page 8, subsection (3), new text to read, *that particular regard be had to the youth work requirements of: (i) persons who have attained the age of 10 years but not 21 years and (2) other young persons who are socially or economically disadvantaged.*

Membership of the National Youth Work Advisory Committee

In page 17, subsection (5), to delete "2" and substitute "4". This gives two additional seats to the IVEA, increasing their number from 2 to 4. In accordance with the 50/50 rule, the representation from the NYCI will also increase by two places

Appointment of Chairperson of Youth Work Committees

In page 18, to delete subsection (5) and substitute with: *"a youth work committee shall - (a) appoint to act as chairperson a person appointed to the committee under section 20(2)(a), and (b) appoint any other member of the committee to act as vice chairperson to perform the functions of the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.*

This means that the chairperson of the youth work committee of the VEC will be appointed by the VEC.

Composition of Youth Work Committees

In page 19 in relation to the composition of the local youth work committees, two new bodies are to be represented on the committees: *(i) the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs and (ii) the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation. The addition of these two bodies means that the representation from the voluntary side will also increase by two places.*

Prescribed National Representative Youth Work Organisation

Regarding the Prescribed National Representative Youth Work Organisation, in page 22, to delete subsection (2) and substitute the following: *"(2) The body known as The National Youth Council of Ireland is deemed to be prescribed as the first Prescribed National Representative Youth Work Organisation for the period of 3 years after the commencement of this provision.*

(3) In prescribing an organisation for the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister shall specify - (a) a period of not more than 3 years during which the organisation shall be the prescribed National Representative Youth Work Organisation, and (b) the date from which the organisation shall be prescribed, and any organisation so prescribed for a specified period may be prescribed as the prescribed National Representative Youth Work Organisation in respect of any subsequent period or periods in accordance with this section

The Bill also passed through its first reading in the Seanad on Wednesday 14 November. At this meeting the Minister explained that the three-year period mentioned above, subject to renewal, would be consistent with the three year youth work development plans that each VEC will produce. This will afford the Youth Work Assessor an opportunity to assess, at least once in every three-year period, programmes and services. There was also provision included to take account of the position of the Irish language and the needs of young people in Gaeltacht areas. The Bill passed its second reading in the Seanad on 22 November, was sent to the President for signing and was subsequently signed in the first week in December, thus enacting it into law.

At the NYCI Assembly on 24 November, the Minister gave a commitment to appoint a new NYWAC Committee as early as possible and that in 2002 personnel from the Department, IVEA and relevant voluntary agencies would meet to agree procedures for the implementation of the Act.

SECTION 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

The formulation of the National Youth Work Development Plan is nearing completion. There will be a final meeting of NYWAC on 19 December to finalise a document: **Proposals and Recommendations for the Drafting of the National Youth Work Development Plan** to the Minister for consideration. The document will make recommendations on priority areas of the Plan to be put in place in 2002 given that an 11% increase has been identified in the Book of Estimates for 2002: 50%-60% will be required for operational costs and PPF commitments leaving approximately 40% of this increase to implement these priority areas e.g. Development Unit, Youth Work

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Assessor and Validation Requirements. It will also be recommended to the Minister to engage in a four to six week consultation period with youth organisations before finalising the plan.

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL WELFARE BOARD UPDATE

The Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods, TD, recently announced his approval for the recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer for the new National Educational Welfare Board. The new educational welfare service will operate countrywide. It will have teams of Educational Welfare Officers operating throughout the country at regional/local level. The CEO and support staff will be based in the eastern/greater Dublin area.

The service will be implemented on a phased basis. It will include the existing School Attendance Service. The focus will be to assist children at risk and their families to avoid non-attendance at school, and, in cooperation with schools, to provide a range of supports & measures to discourage absenteeism and early school leaving. This new approach aims to shift the focus away from punitive measures, often imposed after a non-attendance pattern has become established. For more information, contact:

Department of Education & Science
Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 8734730 Fax: (01) 8786712
Website: webmaster@educ.irlgov.ie

EUROPEAN WHITE PAPER ON YOUTH POLICY CRITICISED

A new European White Paper on Youth, which aims to formulate a European Youth Policy, was rejected by Ireland's young people as '**fundamentally flawed**', '**tokenistic**' and a '**missed opportunity**', at the NYCI Annual Assembly on 24 November.

A working group of young people met at the Assembly to formulate the Irish response to the Paper and duly adopted by the NYCI. It was seen as 'very disappointing' for a number of reasons:

- It does not recognise the role of young people's organisations in society
- Its vision of the is 'vague and severely limited'
- It discourages protest as a means of expression for young people and indicates an intention to 'head off' involvement of young people in movements that challenge globalisation
- It seeks to remodel the structures of the European Youth Forum, despite the EU not having the power to do so

- It is 'dangerous to young people's interests' and ignores youth participation in the areas of devising, implementing and advising on policy
- It has no integrated approach to combating racism/xenophobia and offers only projects outside the field of day-to-day life and "**a new Internet platform on the theme of racism and xenophobia**" (despite its lack of coherent information policy to afford access to this)

The analysis on which the paper was based, did not account for the fact that Ireland has the highest proportion of young people in Europe (41.2% under 25) and yet their interests are not represented in this paper. "**The White Paper is unsatisfactory and will have little impact in a constructive or meaningful way on the economic, social, cultural and political situation of young people**" ... "**We believe that there needs to be a fundamental revision of the current draft in order to make a real and positive difference to youth policy in the EU**", said the NYCI's Dónall Geoghegan.

The full paper and further background information are on the following website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/ywp/whitepaper_en.pdf

NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY (NAPS) REVIEW

The review of NAPS is being undertaken in consultation with the social partners and meets a commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to review the underlying methodology and existing strategy and to revise and consider new targets where appropriate. Working Group reports have been presented to a Steering Group established to advise on issues and directions for a revised Strategy. This process is nearing completion and proposals should be submitted to Government in the coming weeks.

CAIT INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

The CAIT (Community Application of Information Technology) Initiative was launched recently by the Minister for Public Enterprise, Mary O'Rourke TD. CAIT aims to open up the world of new technologies to those in society who are unfamiliar with/do not use them in their everyday lives.

CAIT will harness the experience, local knowledge and relationships of the community and voluntary sector to implement demonstration projects, which achieve this aim. £4 million has been provided for this purpose from July 2001 to December 2002. To date 71 projects have been funded under the initiative. For further information contact:

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Bill Morrissey, Dept. of Public Enterprise

Tel: (01) 6041 096 Website: www.cait.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

NEW YOUTH WORK TRAINING RESOURCES

The Council of Europe has published a series of training kits that have been written by experienced youth trainers. The kits are extremely well designed, accessible and easy to use for training and study work. Themes covered in the kits are:

- **Intercultural Learning:** for trainers and youth workers dealing with intercultural issues.
- **Methodology in Language Learning:** for trainers and language teachers.
- **Organisational Management:** for trainers and staff of International Youth Organisations
- **Project Management:** for trainers and youth workers involved in running projects.

The kits can be downloaded from the following website address: <http://www.coe.fr/youth/english/partnership/new/tkits.htm>. There are three further training kits in the series planned for production: How to Organise a Training Course, Voluntary Service and Citizenship Education.

NEW NDP FUNDING GUIDE

The Taoiseach, the Tanaiste and the Minister for Finance recently launched "A Guide to Funding under the National Development Plan and Community Support Framework, 2000-2006". It will inform people of the range of schemes under the NDP/CSF open for funding and how to apply.

NDP Funding is channelled through Government Departments and State agencies. Many schemes are open to agencies and individuals. Information on criteria and application procedures is available from the organisation responsible for each measure. Copies of the Guide will be distributed through libraries, information centres and Government Departments. Copies available from:

NDP/CSF Information Office
15 Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6396 280 Lo call: 1890 230 030
E-mail: csfinfo@csfunits.irlgov.ie
NDP website: www.ndp.ie

NEW NESF REPORT ON LONE PARENTS

New NESF report with some significant findings:

- The number of young lone parents (under 25) declining in recent years, and almost 60% of lone parents are now in the 25-39 age-group
- Rise of almost 50% in the number of lone parents with children less than 15 years of age who are potentially at risk of poverty.
- Participation by lone parents in the labour force is at 35%, well below that in other countries
- Over the two decades the number of lone parents on the One-Parent Family Payment increased six-fold from 12,500 to 73,000.
- Almost half have only primary education, and make up less than 2% of those on training

Key recommendations include improving access to social services, education, training and work opportunities. Copies available from:

NESF, 1st Floor, Frederick House, South
Frederick Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6369280 Fax: 01 6713526

Lo call: 1890 203006 Email: secretariat@nesf.ie

MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS TRUST 2002

Established to mark the year 2000, the **Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust** is the largest single millennium initiative. 12.5 million (euro) has been allocated to the Trust, which will provide some 60 scholarships each year of the first decade of the new millennium. The Trust seeks applications from nominated individuals who, because of economic circumstances or other barriers such as disability, are prevented from reaching their full potential. Scholarships of up to 6,500 (euro) per annum will be made. In exceptional cases the awards may exceed that amount. For application forms/details contact:

National College of Ireland
Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
Tel: (01) 406 0500/ 1850 221721
Fax: (01) 4972200 E-mail: boischolars@ncirl.ie

**Copies of all publications and
documentation highlighted in this edition
are available for reference or loan
purposes from the
Irish YouthWork Centre**

About the Irish YouthWork Centre

The Irish YouthWork Centre is an initiative of the National Youth Federation (NYF). It acts as a one-stop research and documentation centre which has been developed to respond to the varied information, research and training support needs of youth & community workers, researchers and students, and anyone who works with young people. Its' services include:

Enquiry Services on:

- ◆ Trainers, consultants and specialists on youth & community work and related topics
- ◆ Venues suitable for hosting youth events and conferences
- ◆ Courses in Youth & Community Work and related fields
- ◆ Where to find youth & community work resources and training materials from other agencies
- ◆ Connecting people to projects doing exciting and innovative work within their field of interest

Sharing Good Practice

The Irish YouthWork Centre is constantly engaged in researching and documenting innovative approaches to work with young people in areas of special interest. This information is available to youth workers through hard copy resources, database information and ongoing independent research being both undertaken and commissioned by the Centre and published by the ***Irish Youth Work Press***. Publications include quantitative & qualitative research, training manuals, policy documents and issue-based guidelines for youth workers.

Good Practice and Policy Development Seminars

The Centre regularly organises theme based, seminars and workshops. All the seminars are supported with; up to date analysis of the issue and what's happening on the ground in the form of information and/or research packs; the issues that youth workers are likely to meet; success stories, innovative projects, good practice; and sources of further information.

Library

- ◆ Lending service for youth & community work related books, videos and training materials.
- ◆ Photocopy and reference services for reports, statistics and hard-to-find articles on youth work.
- ◆ Newspaper cuttings, Dáil Debates, Government Bills/ Acts and youth related Statistical Updates.
- ◆ Profiles on over 200 organisations in the youth, community, social & voluntary sectors.
- ◆ Retention of over 80 youth work and youth work related periodicals/journals.
- ◆ On-line database facilities of all information stocked in the library.
- ◆ On-site study facility.

Publications and Resources

Low cost resources and training materials for sale (*the IWYC acts as an official sales agent for a number of agencies including the National Youth Council of Ireland, Combat Poverty Agency, Russell House Publishing, Nightshift Publications and the Directory of Social Change*). The Centre also offers an extensive range of research, guidelines, policy documents and programme packs for sale published by Irish Youth Work Press, the publishing arm of the NYF.

A complete Publications For Sale Brochure is available (see address below)

Free quarterly magazine (Irish YouthWork Scene) to members of the Centre.

For further information on the services of the IRISH YOUTHWORk CENTRE, why not write, call in, telephone, or email us: *Fran Bissett/Michelle Drumm, Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: +353 1 8729933 Fax: +353 1 8724183*
E-Mail addresses: fbissett@nyf.ie mdrumm@nyf.ie Web site: www.iol.ie/~nyf