

**SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**MINISTER TO APPOINT NEW  
NATIONAL YOUTH WORK  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

NYWAC held its last meeting on 28 March, 2002 at which the Minister for Youth Affairs was present to thank them for their work. It was agreed, however, that the sub committees of NYWAC would continue to operate. Regarding the incoming committee, NYCI have already submitted their nominations for the youth organisation positions on the new committee. The Minister has made a call to the relevant Government Department and agencies to make their nominations for the statutory positions. It is hoped to have the new committee in place in advance of the upcoming election.

**IMMIGRATION BILL 2002  
PUBLISHED**

On 21 February Mr John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, announced the publication of the Immigration Bill 2002. The Bill has two primary purposes. It introduces a scheme of carriers' liability which will require carriers to ensure that passengers brought by them to the State (from places other than the UK) are in possession of valid travel documents; this is in pursuance of the Minister's previous announcement that legislation on this matter was in preparation. The Bill creates legal obligations for carriers regarding their passengers on arrival in the State. Failure to fulfil those obligations will be an offence with a fine of €3,000 in each case; carriers can avoid prosecution by paying an "on-the-spot" penalty of €1,500 per case. Specific defences are provided for to protect carriers who have taken all reasonable measures to ensure compliance.

The Bill also makes some amendments to the Refugee Act 1996. As part of the review of the workings of the Refugee Act, it is proposed in this Bill to ensure that the important role of the Refugee Appeals Tribunal is acknowledged by giving the Chairperson of the Tribunal an ex officio place on the Refugee Advisory Board. The full membership of the Board will be announced as soon as is possible.

The Bill will also amend Section 19 of the Refugee Act removing the requirement of the Minister's consent where an asylum-seeker himself or herself consents to

be identified as such in the media. The advance consent of the asylum-seeker will continue to be required.

For further information:

**Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform**  
72-76, St. Stephens Green,  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 6028202  
Fax: 01 6615461  
Email: [info@justice.ie](mailto:info@justice.ie)

**NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL  
WELFARE BOARD ESTABLISHED**

The Minister for Education & Science, Dr Michael Woods, TD, has now established the National Educational Welfare Board on a statutory footing. The 'enabling' provisions of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 have been commenced. The 'operational' provisions of the Act (essentially Part 3 of the Act) will be commenced at a later time.

The Minister also announced the appointment of Dr. John Kennedy as Chief Executive of the Board. Dr Kennedy was appointed following an open public competition. He is currently Principal Education Welfare Officer with the London Borough of Harrow. He has 11 years experience in the field of education welfare and has also held a number of positions in teaching and lecturing.

The new Chief Executive will take up his post on a full-time basis from 7 May 2002. The Board will have interim, short term, offices in Dublin and will acquire a Headquarters as soon as possible. The new service will have a regional structure, with regional and local offices. These offices will operate in conjunction with other regional and local offices in the education arena, such as the National Educational Psychological Service, the proposed Special Education Service, and the Department's proposed regional offices.

It is the Minister's and the Board's intention that the new service will commence from the start of the next school year, in September. The service will be phased-in over a period of time. A recruitment drive to get in the first cohort of new staff is a top priority for the Board and the Chief Executive. In addition to the new staff, the existing School Attendance Officers will transfer to the Board, in accordance with the Act with transfer arrangements to be settled in negotiation with the union concerned.

**SECTION 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

## **NATIONAL YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Proposals for the National Youth Work Development Plan 2002-2006, which NYWAC presented to the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, were circulated in March by the Minister to relevant Youth Organisations, Government Department and Statutory Agencies for consultation purposes with an initial deadline of 5 April (subsequently extended to 12 April) to respond. Once this process is completed it is hoped that a final plan will be published/launched in advance of the election.

### **MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE DELAYED**

On 3 April, Minister for Children Mary Hanafin confirmed that the mandatory reporting of child abuse would not be introduced before the upcoming election. The announcement will come as a disappointment to many organisations who have been calling for the introduction of mandatory reporting for some considerable time.

The Minister stated that the White Paper setting out the implications of putting a legal obligation on professionals to report suspicion of abuse would not be ready to go to the Cabinet before the election. She further stated that she was still in favour of its introduction but was putting its current focus and funding into assisting bodies with the implementation of the Children First guidelines.

### **CHILD ABUSE GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR LAUNCHED**

On 12 April the Minister of State for Children Ms Mary Hanafin launched new child abuse guidelines for the voluntary & community sector. Titled *Our Duty to Care* and based on *Children First - National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* – they include advice on the promotion of child welfare and safe practices in work with children, fact sheets and a training video for the community and voluntary sector, and guidance on how to recognise signs of child abuse.

Finance for the production of the guidelines has been provided from the €9.47 million given to health boards in 1999 to implement Children First - National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children. Some of the funding is being used to create the post of information

and advice officer in the health boards whose job is to support voluntary and community organisations in creating safe environments for children.

## **SECTION 3: FUNDING**

### **NEW FUNDING SCHEME FOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

This scheme arises from a recommendation in the Government's White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector published in September 2000. Grants will be provided for:

- (a) Core staff and administration costs in respect of training and support needs over a one, two or three year period.
- (b) For training and related support services on a once-off basis. *Applications that combine elements of (a) and (b) will be also considered.*

The Scheme is open to:

- Community and Voluntary groups and organisations already involved in the provision of training and support in the community and voluntary sector.
- Community and Voluntary groups and organisations who have identified a need for training and support services in their organisation or in the sector and who have the potential/ability to provide this support.
- Groups or networks of groups/organisations within the Community and Voluntary sector who identify and can demonstrate a need for training and support services.

Guidelines & application forms are available from:

**The White Paper Implementation Unit**  
Department of Social,  
Community and Family Affairs  
Floor 2, Gandon House  
Amiens Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 - 704 3140 / 7043145  
[www.welfare.ie/welfare/81-432229.xml](http://www.welfare.ie/welfare/81-432229.xml)

Completed applications must be returned to the above address not later than 5 pm on 7 May 2002.

### **CAIT INITIATIVE INVITES NEW PROPOSALS**

The Community Application of Information Technology programme (CAIT) was launched in December, 2000

## **NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update**

by The Minister for Public Enterprise, Mary O'Rourke, TD, with an overall budget of £4 million over the period from July 2001 to December, 2002. CAIT is aimed at opening up the world new technology/information systems to those in society who are unfamiliar with or do not use these new technologies in their everyday lives.

Calls are now being invited for a second round of CAIT funding. Up to €3 million is available over the period March 2002 to December 2002 to fund this phase of the initiative. Funding from €1,500 to a maximum of €127,000 is available to any one project. Applications for this second round of CAIT funding will be accepted anytime, until all the funding has been allocated.

Full details on the programme including a list of successful applicants from the first round (plus their proposals), application forms, reporting and financial control procedures are available on the CAIT website. For further details contact:

**Orlaith Gallagher**  
**Communications (Development) Division**  
**Department of Public Enterprise**  
**44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**  
**Tel: 01 6041018/6041648**  
**Email: [orlaithgallagher@dpe.ie](mailto:orlaithgallagher@dpe.ie)**  
**Website: [www.cait.ie](http://www.cait.ie)**

### **SECTION 4: ROUND-UP**

## **GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST MAJOR STUDY OF GROWING UP IN IRELAND**

On 5 April, The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern, T.D. and the Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D., jointly announced the decision to establish Ireland's first long-term study of children growing up in this country.

The study will monitor the development of 18,000 children from different backgrounds (10,000 from birth and 8,000 nine year olds) through to adulthood. It will follow these children from birth and nine years to adulthood, yielding important information about each significant transition throughout their young lives. It will

seek to identify the circumstances that allow children to thrive and those that hinder children's development.

The study was proposed in the National Children's Strategy and the Report of the Commission on the Family. The next stage will be the issue of an invitation in the next few weeks to interested parties to tender to carry out the study. €1.27 million will be provided immediately by the Government to cover start up costs for the study.

## **HOMELESSNESS & DRUG USE CONFERENCE SEEKS ABSTRACT PAPERS**

Merchants Quay Ireland will be hosting their first annual conference in July 2002 on *Homelessness and drug use problem conference - two faces of exclusion*. The two-day conference will feature a number of keynote speakers in areas related to drug use and homelessness in addition to papers given by various national and international experts.

There will also be an opportunity to present individual papers including original pieces of research at this conference. Merchants Quay Ireland is now inviting a call for abstracts for the 2002 conference, which will be held in Dublin Castle, 18th - 19th July. They are particularly interested in receiving abstracts under the following themes (although not exclusively):

- Emerging Trends and New Approaches
- Social Exclusion in Service Provision
- Harm Reduction - Health Promotion
- Peer Involvement
- Evaluating Existing Approaches
- Policy and Legal Issues

The closing date for the receipt of abstracts is May 3rd 2002. Confirmation will be sent on receipt of abstracts. Abstract forms can be downloaded from the website [www.mqi.ie](http://www.mqi.ie) or requests for an abstract form can be made by post to:

**Research and Information Office**  
**Merchants Quay Ireland,**  
**4 Merchants Quay , Dublin 8.**  
**E-Mail: [info@mqi.ie](mailto:info@mqi.ie)**

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

## **NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update**

### **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](http://www.iol.ie/~nyf)**