

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

IRISH YOUTH WORK ACT/NATIONAL YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Youth Work Act Implementation Sub-Committee of NYWAC has prepared criteria (i) for the designation of Local Voluntary Youth Work Organisations and (ii) the establishment of Local Voluntary Youth Councils, which have been accepted by NYWAC, and have gone to the IVEA and NYCI for formal endorsement.

The Minister is expected to approve the launch of the National Youth Work Development Plan before Christmas although it has been advised to send it to the Department of Finance for approval given its financial implications. Some monies (unspecified) are available to begin implementation of the Plan. However, there is the possibility of a public service employment embargo from the beginning of next year, which could prevent the employment of a Youth Work Assessor or setting up of a Development Unit.

SECTION 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

NEW YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

On 23 September 2002, the Minister for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan TD, launched the National Pilot of the **Youth Advocacy Programme** at the Northern Area Health Board (NAHB) Headquarters in Swords, Co. Dublin. The innovative programme, developed in the United States, has been designed to provide support to at-risk young people and their families. The annual cost of the Pilot Programme is €600,000 and it is planned that places will be available for 50 individual clients and their families in any one calendar year. There will be access for 25 clients and their families at any one time.

The Pilot will run for three years and will be managed by the NAHB in partnership with the ERHA, the Youth Advocacy Programme organisation and Extern, a charitable organisation from Northern Ireland with the support of the Department of Health and Children.

Youth Advocacy is a non-residential programme, which will provide direct in-home and neighbourhood-based services to families with young people at risk of residential placement. The service is tailored to meet the need of each individual child and family and incorporates a crisis intervention service. The model is based upon the development of a trust relationship between a

supportive trained and skilled adult advocate whose role is to support and assist the young person and their family. Advocates will usually be residents in the neighbourhoods in which they work. They will have a strong knowledge of local support services and networks and the cultural diversity within communities.

The service will aim to reduce the number of young people entering out-of-home placement, reduce the length of stay of young people in care and return children to the most appropriate family placement as quickly as possible by providing a range of intensive community based services. The pilot will concentrate on children with challenging behaviour, but the Minister drew attention to the fact that he was also looking at the application of this model in relation to offending children in the context of the community based-focus of the Children Act 2001. For further information contact:

Northern Area Health Board,
Swords Business Campus,
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Tel: 01 8131800 Fax: 8131870
Email: nahbcommunications@erha.ie

NCV VOLUNTEERING REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLISHED

The National Committee on Volunteering (NCV) has just published its report, **Tipping the Balance**, outlining its report and recommendations to Government on supporting and developing volunteering in Ireland. The report presents findings and reflections informed by five pieces of commissioned research and a public consultation process. It is one of the first such reports to contain a chapter purely on young people and volunteering. Areas covered include:

- Perspectives on Volunteering
- Trends and Patterns of Volunteering in Ireland
- The Volunteer and the Organisation
- **Young People and Volunteering**
- Accreditation
- Recognition
- International Approaches to Volunteering
- Reflections
- Recommendations on Policy and Infrastructure

For further information/copies please contact:

National Committee on Volunteering,
44 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8146104 Email: ncv@comhairle.ie

2002 DÁIL NA NÓG TAKES PLACE

Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D., Minister of State for Children hosted the 2002 Dáil Na Nóg (National Children's

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Parliament), which was attended by 214 children from every county in Ireland and took place on 11 October.

The purpose of the Dáil Na Nóg is to provide a forum where children, who are representative of their peers, can raise and debate issues of concern to them and that these issues can be fed into the development of public policy. Most of the children and young people attending this second Dáil Na Nóg were selected from Comhairle Na Nóg (Children's Councils), which were held by the City and County Development Boards. The Comhairle Na Nóg were held for the first time this year and their purpose is to give children a voice at a local level and to select the delegates for attendance at the national Dáil Na Nóg. The remaining delegates were selected from a number of minority groups to ensure that every sector of society is represented at the Dáil.

The motions for discussion at the Dáil Na Nóg were **Drug and Alcohol Abuse** and **the Environment**, selected by the delegates in advance. The delegates used workshop sessions to discuss the motions and reported their conclusions back to the plenary session.

At the first Dáil Na Nóg, on 5 September, 2001, a number of issues were discussed including play and recreation. The Government examined the report of the first Dáil Na Nóg and requested the National Children's Office to develop a national play and recreation policy as a matter of priority. The national play policy, for under 12's, is nearing completion and work will commence shortly on the national recreation policy for over 12's.

A detailed report of the 2002 Dáil Na Nóg will be prepared submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Children. The Cabinet Committee, which is chaired by the Taoiseach, will examine the report to see how these issues can be incorporated into public policy.

GREEN PAPER ON BASIC INCOME

The Government has published a Green Paper on Basic Income. The full text is available on the CORI website as is a statement from the CORI Justice Commission on the Green Paper. For further information contact:

CORI Justice Office.
Tel: 01 2697799 Fax: 01 2698887
Email: justice@cori.ie Website: www.cori.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

MINISTER LAUNCHES PRO-TEEN MATTERS WEB MAGAZINE

On 9 October 2002, Mr. Tim O'Malley T.D., Minister for State at the Department of Health and Children today launched **Pro-Teen Matters**. The magazine for young people from Mental Health Ireland (MHI), will deal with mental health issues in an age appropriate matter. The magazine is a follow up to **'Mental Health Matters Schools Project'**, a Resource Pack used in schools. MHI is supporting the implementation of the programme through teacher training. Further information contact:

Mental Health Ireland,
Mensana House, 6 Adelaide Street,
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
Tel: 01 2841166 Fax: 01 2841736
Email: information@mentalhealthireland.ie
Website: www.mentalhealthireland.ie

CHILDCARE AND LIFE LONG LEARNING FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D., recently launched a document on education and training in the childcare sector entitled **"Quality Childcare and Life Long Learning: A Model Framework for Education, Training and Professional Development in the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector"** at a conference in Galway.

The document is a collaboration between the childcare sector, childcare education and training providers, National Voluntary Childcare Organisations, State Agencies and Government Departments. It sets out a clear pathway of progression for professional development in the childcare sector through education and training. The document will be submitted to the NQAI and the National Awards Councils of FETAC and HETAC to inform these bodies on education and training for the sector. An electronic version will shortly be available on the Department's website. Copies are available from:

Childcare Directorate,
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,
72-76, St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 6028202 Fax: 01 6615461
Internet: mailto:info@justice.ie Lo-Call 1890 209030

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED

On 13 September, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Harney announced that as and from 1 October, 2002 the National Minimum Wage is to increase from its present rate of €5.97 per hour to €6.35 per hour. The sub-minimum rates which may be paid to certain categories

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of employee, e.g. to persons under the age of 18, to first time job entrants or to those engaged in structured training or study will also increase from this date.

All employees aged 18 and over are entitled to be paid the national minimum hourly rate of pay in respect of the employee's working hours in any pay reference period, unless a sub-minimum rate of the national minimum hourly rate of pay applies in respect of that employee. An employer may pay sub-minimum rates in respect of the following categories of employees:

- Employees under the age of 18
- Employees over 18 in their first year of employment
- Employees over 18 in their 2nd year of employment
- Employees over the age of 18 in structured training or study undertaken in normal working hours

Further increases will be considered in the context of talks on a successor to the current social partnership agreement, the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. Full details of the sub minimum rates are contained in the "*Detailed Guide to the National Minimum Wage Act, 2000*" which is available on the Department's website www.entemp.ie. For further information on the increase in the national minimum wage contact:

Employment Rights Information Unit
Tel: 01 6313131 Lo-call: 1890 201615

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL PARASUICIDE REGISTRY LAUNCHED

On 8 October, Mr. Tim O'Malley T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children, launched the first Annual Report of the National Parasuicide Registry in Cork. The National Parasuicide Registry is a national system of population monitoring for the occurrence of parasuicide.

The Registry provides information on the general characteristics of people who attempt suicide. It provides knowledge of suicidal behaviour and specifies trends in

parasuicide over time and in the different regions of the country.

The Minister noted that almost €5m in total was provided over the years 1999 - 2001 for suicide prevention

activities following the publication of the Report of the Task Force on Suicide. This year an additional €1.11m is being provided for suicide prevention programmes in the health boards and towards research aimed at improving our understanding of suicide and parasuicide. Figures published recently by the CSO indicate that there were 448 deaths from suicide in 2001, an increase of 35 on the 2000 figure. This clearly illustrates that it is a human tragedy still on the rise despite increasing media coverage and public awareness and the Registry will be of assistance in both the allocation of resources and the identification and subsequent targeting of particularly vulnerable groups.

**National Parasuicide Registry,
Department of Epidemiology & Public Health,
Faculty of Medicine, U.C.C., Co. Cork.**

STRENGTHENING SUPPORTS FOR ANTI-POVERTY ACTION NETWORK MEETINGS

A series of consultation meetings are being hosted by the Combat Poverty Agency, to consider the Agency's contribution to supporting effective anti-poverty action; to reflect on current supports available for anti-poverty work, and to consider priorities for new work in this area programme. The remaining consultations are:

- Friday 1 November, 2002
The Southern Hotel, Sligo
- Wednesday 13 November, 2002
Silver Springs Hotel, Cork
- Wednesday 20 November, 2002
The Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan

For further details contact:

**Combat Poverty Agency,
Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road,
Islandbridge, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01 670 6746 Fax: 01 670 6760**

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

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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