

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUND DISBURSEMENTS BOARD

The Dormant Accounts Fund Disbursements Board announced the details of its first disbursement plan. The Board is an independent body established under the Dormant Accounts Act 2001 to oversee disbursements from the Dormant Accounts Fund. It is envisaged that the annual spend from the Fund will be of the order of E30 million per year. This money will be spent on programmes and projects, which assist the most disadvantaged in society.

The Board's Disbursement Plan provides for the distribution of funds to assist programmes or projects targeting 3 broad categories of persons:

- Those affected by economic and social disadvantage.
- Those affected by educational disadvantage.
- Persons with a disability.

The Board has engaged Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM), to administer the initial round of funding on its behalf. ADM is a non-profit organisation that has wide experience in managing programmes targeted at countering disadvantage and exclusion.

Invitations to groups, organisations, agencies etc. to make applications under the programme were advertised in the national press during the week beginning 17th November.

Application forms, including guidelines for applicants and the details of the initial appraisal process are available from ADM. Applications will be received on an "open ended" basis whereby there will be no closing date for their receipt.

Guidelines and applications forms are available from and should be returned to:

Area Development Management Ltd
Holbrook House
Holles Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 2400700
Fax: 01 6610411
E-mail <mailto:enquiries@adm.ie>

The Disbursement Plan 2003 - 2005 and the Information Note on Dormant Accounts 2003 - 2005 are both available in PDF format from: <http://www.pobail.ie>

LAUNCH OF SOCIAL FINANCE IN ACTION - A SUPPORT GUIDE TO SOCIAL FINANCE IN IRELAND

As a follow up to the recent publication Social Finance in Ireland, the sponsors - Dublin Employment Pact, Westmeath Employment Pact, Clann Credo and Area Development Management Ltd. - are now launching a support guide to this study. The support guide is titled *Social Finance in Action* and the document outlines what needs to be done for social investment in Ireland.

The sponsor groups have established a high level national Steering Committee on Social Finance. This is composed of experts from across relevant sectors who have begun work on producing concrete proposals to Government on the development of Irish social finance services, already given a commitment in the partnership agreement, Sustaining Progress.

To order copies of Social Finance in Ireland and Social Finance in Action contact:

Email: info@dublinpact.ie

SECTION 2: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MINISTER ANNOUNCES 2003 EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND (ERF) FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

On 29 October the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D. announced that 14 organisations/groups are to receive funding under the European Refugee Fund (ERF) 2003 for projects related to the reception of asylum seekers, integration of refugees and voluntary repatriation.

€ 981,000 has been allocated to Ireland for funding projects under ERF 2003. The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) is the designated responsible authority for administration of the fund in Ireland.

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Following the publication of advertisements in the national press, organisations/groups working in this area submitted proposals earlier this year for funding. A Selection Committee comprising of governmental and non-governmental organisations assisted in the assessment of eligible proposals and the allocation of available funding. Arising from that process, grants ranging between € 30,000.00 and € 123,000.00 have been approved for the following agencies:

- Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (ARASI)
- Comhlámh
- Development Organisation for Refugee and Asylum Seekers (DORAS Luimni)
- Galway Refugee Support Group
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Irish Refugee Council (IRC)
- Longford Women's Centre
- South Kerry Development Partnership
- Spiritan Asylum Services Initiative (SPIRASI)
- The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (CFJ)
- Tallaght Intercultural Action (TIA)
- Tralee Refugee and Asylum Support Network (TRASNET)
- Vincentian Refugee Centre
- Waterford Area Partnership

Examples of the type of initiatives being grant-aided include:

- Continued support of a specialist centre for the care and rehabilitation of those who have survived torture in their pre-migratory environments
- Provision of information, advice and support at local level through the development of 'Drop in Centres'
- Provision of support and links for women who have lodged applications for asylum or applications for leave to remain within the State with local women's networks
- Provision of a voluntary assisted return programme for unaccompanied minors in Ireland.

The Minister also said that ERF funding will be available in due course in respect of the budget year 2004 and the Reception and Integration Agency expects to advertise a further national call for proposals towards the end of the year.

For further information contact:

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
72-76 St. Stephens Green
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6028202
Fax: 01 6615461
Email: info@justice.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

GUIDE FOR MATURE STUDENTS ENTRY TO FULL-TIME THIRD- LEVEL COURSES LAUNCHED

On 29 October the Further Education Section of the Department of Education and Science published the 11th Edition of the **Guide for Mature Students 2004: Entry to Full-Time Third-Level Courses**. The guide is edited by Helen Keogh, National Co-ordinator VTOS and is aimed at VTOS participants in particular but is a useful publication for all people who are at least 23 years of age on January 1st 2004 and are seeking to enter full-time undergraduate courses as mature students in Autumn 2004.

The Introduction provides general information on applying for a third-level place as a mature student and on the range of financial and other supports available to mature students.

Section 1 of the guide provides information in relation to universities, institutes of technology, colleges of education and other third-level colleges by institution.

Section 2 provides updates on supportive developments in the institutions in relation to mature students.

Section 3 provides information by course area.

The guide is available free of charge from:

Siobhán Corcoran
CDU
Sundrive Road
Dublin 12;
Tel. 01 40 20 427; Fax 01 453 7659;
Email: siobhan.corcoran@cdu.cdvec.ie

It is also available on the website of the Department of Education and Science at:

www.education.ie (A Guide for Mature Students)

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EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION ONLINE NETWORK

The ite-network exists to share information and resources about social inclusion, ICT and sustainable employment. The network is non-profit and open to anyone working in this area.

The network has developed arising from the work on the EU project KISEIS. That project highlighted that a comprehensive approach was necessary to ensure the transition of those experiencing disadvantage into sustainable employment in the information society. This approach encompasses a range of interventions and supports.

The website contains links to information and resources related to the following interventions and supports:

- Contacting and motivating disadvantaged groups
- Developing skills (including ICT skills, soft skills and practical skills)
- Ensuring support for social and cultural activities
- Providing employment and career guidance information
- Developing employment progression measures.

Further information please contact:

Susan O'Donnell

Email: susan@itech-research.ie

Website: www.ite-network.org

RIGHT TO A HOME CAMPAIGN

Three years into a Government strategy to tackle the homelessness problem it continues to get worse, particularly for homeless families. The official number of homeless people has increased from 5,234 to 5,581 since 1999. A record total of 48,413 households are stuck on housing waiting lists - approximately 140,000 people in total. Focus Ireland's **Right to a Home** campaign is calling for urgent Government action to tackle this growing crisis.

You can add your voice to support this campaign by logging on to <http://www.focusireland.org>. Choose your

constituency and e-mail a prewritten letter outlining specific demands to your local TDs.

Further details:

Focus Ireland Head Office

9 - 12 High Street, Dublin 8.

Tel: 01 8815900

Fax: 01 8815950

Website: www.focusireland.org

TIME LIMITED COMMITMENT SERVICE

To mark the United Nations International Volunteer Day (Friday 5 December), Volunteering Ireland, the national centre for volunteering, launched its TLC© or Time Limited Commitment© service.

This provides opportunities for individuals who wish to devote some of their precious spare time to voluntary work, which is once off and involves no long-term commitment.

Not-for-profit organisations can make use of this pool of people to undertake much-needed, short-term work. The service is brokered by Volunteering Ireland.

For further information contact:

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Chief Executive Officer

Tel: 087 8367652

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Placement Service Manager

Tel: 01 8722622

Clare McGuinness

Administrative Officer

Tel: 01 8722622

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