

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

CHARITIES LEGISLATION AND REGULATION PROCESS

Over 600 representatives from Community and Voluntary organisations around Ireland attended a series of nation-wide information seminars to discuss proposed changes and improvements to the statutory regulations of and legislative base relating to charities. The proposed changes are set out in the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Consultation Paper - *"Establishing a Modern Statutory Framework for Charities"*.

The seminars, which took place under the auspices of the Implementation Advisory Group of the White Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity, were co-ordinated by The Wheel and Irish Charities Tax Research Ltd. Their purpose was to raise awareness of the document, explain what was being proposed, clarify the implications of proposed changes and also encourage people to make informed submissions to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Department is currently seeking submissions on the proposed changes to the legislation and regulation - the **28th May 2004** is the deadline for submissions. A suggested outline of what could be included in a submission to the Department reflecting the structure of the Consultation Paper is available and can be obtained by e-mailing: info@wheel.ie and marking the request **"Charities Submission Outline"**. The Wheel will also be making its own submission in due course and will be making this a publicly available document on its website: www.wheel.ie. **Consultation Paper can be downloaded from the Department's website: www.pobail.ie**

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL PLAY POLICY

"Ready, Steady, Play! - A National Play Policy was launched on 8 March by the Minister for Children Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D. Overseen by the National Children's Office, Ready Steady Play aims to act as a response to concerns raised by children to the shortage of safe public play spaces.

The process for the policy started three years ago when over 2,000 children wrote to the then Minister for Children asking for more places to play. A survey also found only 168 public playgrounds in Ireland with fixed equipment owned and managed by local authorities in comparison to 405 golf courses. The Minister announced the allocation of €1M to a grant scheme for local authorities to build or refurbish playgrounds. The policy also notes the need for improved play facilities for children in hospital. Further details:

The National Children's Office (NCO)
St. Martin's House
Waterloo Road, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 2420000 Fax: 01 6641929
Email: child_strategy@health.irlgov.ie
NCO Website: www.nco.ie

NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE IRISH EDUCATION SYSTEM (YES)

Nationwide process aimed at involving the public to the greatest degree possible in the framing of future education policy. It recognises the fact that an education system should have public ownership and should be developed with the highest level of regard to national consensus. The process is initiated by the publication of the discussion document, Your Education System. This document is not prescriptive or definitive. It sets out some of the big issues facing Irish society and Irish education. Its purpose is to stimulate debate rather than to set out the answers.

Following publication of the document a series of public meetings (up to 16) is taking place. These are regionally based and the objective is to maximise public participation via this process. Public meetings will be supplemented by an attitudinal survey and by meetings focused on particular topics. For further information contact:

Your Education System (YES)
Educational Research Centre
St. Patrick's College
Drumcondra, Dublin 9
Tel: 01 8065206 Fax: 01 8065248
Email: info@youreducation.ie
Website: www.youreducation.ie

SECTION 2: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CLOSURE OF PEACE II MEASURE ANNOUNCED WITH FINAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Area Development Management Ltd and the Combat Poverty Agency (ADM/CPA) announce the closure of the following measure of the Peace II Programme: **Measure 2.6 - Promoting Active Citizenship.** - Promotes and supports the greatest possible involvement of citizens in the governance of their communities as well as links between policy makers, politicians and communities within the border region. Applications are sought up to a maximum of €15k that address the legacy of the conflict or take opportunities arising from peace for the following actions:

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- Support for organisations to develop the skills within committees and membership structures and reduce dependency on paid staff.
- Support for new technological approaches to building active communities (e.g. communities on line).
- Support for community-led volunteering.

ADM/CPA wish to inform potential applicants that this measure will be closing for applications at **5pm on Wednesday 31st March 2004**. Assessment of current applications under this measure will be ongoing. For copies of the application form and further information on this measure please contact:

ADM/CPA (Monaghan Office)
European Union House, Monaghan
Tel: 047 71340 E-mail: info@adm-cpa.com

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY AWARD SCHEME

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Coughlan T.D. has announced the launch of a special award scheme to mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family.

Funding will be made available through a scheme of small once-off awards (under €2,000) to locally-based family and community groups to assist with events or projects celebrating the family in their area. Larger regional/national groups are eligible for more substantial funding for projects such as seminars focussing on families and family life in today's Ireland such as:

- Parenting and childhood
- Balancing work and family life
- Relationships
- Family as carer
- Community support for families

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th April 2004. Application forms and further information are available on the website: iyf2004@welfare.ie or from:

The Family Affairs Unit
Department of Social and Family Affairs
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 7043060 Email: iyf@welfare.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

STUDENT COUNCILS LAUNCH

On 23 March Minister for Children Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D. launched a new initiative to promote student councils. . **"It's Your Choice – Use Your Voice"** is the catchphrase being used on leaflets and posters that will be distributed to all post-primary schools. There is also a website:

www.studentcouncil.ie providing advice on how to set up a student council.

In addition the Minister highlighted that a Government Working Group had been established to promote the idea of student councils. The group has students as equal participants in its composition and is chaired by the NCO. The group will: carry out research; identify barriers to setting up student councils; identify the measures to encourage the establishment of student councils; make recommendations about the training needs and resource materials required by students and education partners and devise a 3-year strategy to support the establishment and development of student councils. Further details:

The National Children's Office (NCO)
St. Martin's House
Waterloo Road, Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 2420000 Fax: 01 6641929
Email: child_strategy@health.irlgov.ie
NCO Website: www.nco.ie

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN HR PRACTICES IN COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Community and Voluntary Sector Site of Equal at Work is launching its research findings and recommendations on **'Equality and Diversity in HR practices in the Community and Voluntary Sector'**: It is a study into HR practices in the sector and how funding mechanisms impact on them and the launch will take place on Monday, 29 March in the NCI, IFSC, Dublin 1. Further details:

Marianne Gibney, Exchange House
Tel: 01 4546488 Email: equal@exchangehouse.ie

USING THE EU YOUTH PROGRAMME STRATEGICALLY

Do you want to learn how to be strategic in using the YOUTH Programme to develop International projects with your organisation? Léargas are running a one-day Workshop on this topic entitled **Action 5-Support Measures-Focus on Strategy** on 6th April in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin (register by 31st March 2004). For further information/booking details contact:

Lorraine Gilligan
Léargas - Youth Work Service
189/193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8731411 Email: youth@leargas.ie
Website: www.leargas.ie/youth

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GROUP FACILITATION
SKILLS TRAINING

Tel: 048 90803296 (from the South)
Email: louise.o-meara@ntlworld.com

MERCHANTS QUAY IRELAND'S
TRAINING PROGRAMME

Learn, through both theory and practice, the basic skills of working with groups and teaching classes. The aim of this workshop is to identify needs, enable participants to learn and develop facilitation skills, and to gain an understanding of groups in a safe and comfortable environment. This two-day workshop will take place in St. Andrew's Resource Centre, Pearse Street in Dublin on 2nd & 9th June 2004. Further information/registration contact:

Norrie Gibney
Tel: 01 2822040 Email: norriegibney@hotmail.com

DESIGNING COLLABORATIVE
ACTION FOR ORGANISATIONS AND
COMMUNITIES

Interactive 3-day workshop, run by skilled trainers, which focuses on the following: leading intersectoral and/or community-wide planning initiatives; setting direction and building strategies to achieve your vision; designing processes for full participation of key stakeholders and partner organisations; and facilitating critical meetings, discussions and collaborative problem solving sessions. This Facilitating Change Workshop will be held in Dublin on 20 - 22 April. The cost is €595.00 which includes all materials and food. Further information/booking details:

IISC Ireland
66 Knock Eden Park, Belfast BT6 0JG

This training programme builds on the success of last years programme and is a mark of our continuing commitment to training and is ultimately aimed at ensuring that persons working with homeless persons or with drug users are optimally equipped to meet the needs they may come across. Courses include:

- Drugs Awareness Course: 24 & 31 March & 7 April
- Supervisor Skills Training: April 1st & 8th & 15th
- Groupwork & Facilitation Skills:
 - 2 evenings (6-9) 23 April & 21 May
 - 2 Saturdays (10-6) 24 April & 22 May
 - 2 Sundays (10-6) 25 April & 23 May
- Query Management: 30 & 31 March
- Effective Written Communication: 6 April
- Assessment Skills: 20 April

For training brochures & application forms please contact:

Merchant's Quay Project, Training Administrator
Tel: 01 6040086 Email: <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