

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

AUDIT OF SERVICE PROVISION FOR DISADVANTAGED AND SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN FROM BIRTH TO SIX YEARS

On 26 May the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science with responsibility for Youth Affairs, Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D., launched an audit report compiled by the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) on services for young children at risk of, or experiencing disadvantage and children with special needs in Ireland.

The publication entitled *“On Target? An Audit of Provision of Services Targeting Disadvantage and Special Needs Among Children from Birth to Six Years in Ireland”* is the first such report to document service provision nationally within the Early Childhood Care and Education sector in an Irish context.

The stated objective of this report is to provide the necessary information to support the development and co-ordination of early childhood services targeting disadvantage and special needs. For further information and copies of the publication please contact:

Centre for Early Childhood
Development & Education
Gate Lodge, St. Patrick's College
Drumcondra, Dublin 9
Tel: 01 8842110 Fax: 01 8842111
Email: early.childhood@spd.dcu.ie
Website: www.cecde.ie

SECTION 2: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

INFORMATION GRANTS SCHEME FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Comhairle as the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services, funds innovative initiatives to improve access to information through its annual Information Grants Scheme. The Scheme for 2004 will promote *information and service delivery initiatives*

that will proactively target groups that may experience social exclusion.

Comhairle invites applications from voluntary and community organisations for grant aid for innovative partnership projects. Consideration will be given to projects that respond to emerging information needs and that ensure information delivery to hard-to-reach communities and groups. Particular consideration will be given to projects that are connected to national or regional networks. Projects should be innovative and seek to broaden access to information on social and civil services. Project proposals should not duplicate existing services.

A fund of €200,000 is available for this scheme in 2004. The maximum grant payable is €20,000 with minimum grants in the region of €6,000. A small number of once-off grants will be awarded to projects, which meet the criteria. **The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Wednesday 30th June 2004.** For further information and application forms contact:

Information and Advice Manager
Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
Tel: 01 6059000 Fax: 01 6059099
Email: informationgrants@comhairle.ie
Website: www.comhairle.ie

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES FUNDING PROGRAMME

The Social Justice Initiatives Fund is a programme of small-medium sized grants over 2 years to encourage community and voluntary groups to become involved in action, discussion and reflection around issues relating to social justice, equality and human rights.

The Fund is offering up to £50,000 per year in grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for projects that can make an impact at local neighbourhood level, regional level and at policy level.

Four themes have been prioritised as follows:

- Social Justice for Children & Young People.
- Social Justice with regard to Economic & Social Rights.
- Social Justice to Promote Human Rights & Civil Liberties.
- Social Justice for Minority Ethnic Groups.

The closing dates for receipt of applications are:

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

25 June; 24 September; 17 December 2004; 24 March 2005; and funds permitting, 24 June; 23 September 2005. For further information contact:

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
Community House, Citylink Business Park,
Albert St, Belfast Bt12 4HQ
Tel: 028 90245927 (048 ROI)

Email: bmcnally@communityfoundationni.org
Website: www.communityfoundationni.org

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

LAUNCH OF NEW EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL

On 26 May the Minister for Youth Affairs, Síle de Valera, T.D., attended the launch of the European Youth Portal at the Head Office of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

The European Youth Portal is a new website offering an exciting wealth of information, news and discussion about Europe, which is especially relevant to young people in Ireland today. The Portal has been developed as a direct result of the European Commission's White Paper, "*A new impetus for European Youth*".

During the launch in the European House a web-link was facilitated to follow a press conference in Brussels given by the Commissioners for Education, Youth and Culture, Viviane Reding and Dalia Grybauskaite. For further information contact:

Eurodesk Léargas
189/193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 8722394 Fax: 01 8731316
E-mail: eurodesk@leargas.ie
Website: <http://www.leargas.ie/eurodesk>

LATEST EDITION OF DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES LAUNCHED

The Directory of National Voluntary Organisations and Other Agencies is the most comprehensive listing of national voluntary organisations published in Ireland. In this the 11th edition of the directory, there are details of

about 600 organisations, including 70 new additions. It also includes details of state and public agencies of

interest to the voluntary sector as well giving details on the country's regional and area health boards.

It will be available online shortly, as part of Comhairle's Resource Database for the Voluntary and Community Sectors. The Resource Database includes additional information areas on policy developments, funding, organisational issues and support agencies. Copies are available from Comhairle Head Office and from Comhairle Regional Offices, **price €10 + postage**.

Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 6059000 Fax: 01 6059099
Email: info@comhairle.ie
Website: www.comhairle.ie

NEW HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

AHEAD (Association for Higher Education Access and Disability) is a voluntary organisation that promotes the participation of students with disabilities in third-level education. AHEAD has produced a handbook for students with disabilities and learning difficulties that gives a vast amount of information about educational supports for students with disabilities at third level.

The handbook offers advice to students about how to deal with lectures and tutorials and how to use the library. It gives factual information about admissions procedures, grants, accommodation, student services and disability benefits. It provides names and addresses of associations that could be of assistance to students, as well as addresses and telephone numbers for state bodies and agencies. Copies of the handbook are available from:

AHEAD, Newman House,
86 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 4752386 Fax: 01 4752387
E-mail: ahead@iol.ie Website: www.ahead.ie

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY HEALTH SECTOR DIRECTORY

Published by The Wheel's Health Spoke, this first comprehensive guide to the Community and Voluntary Health Sector in Ireland highlights the activities of more than 200 organisations ranging from support groups run

by a few individuals to national organisations employing hundreds. The directory should prove to be a valuable

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

resource tool for the general public, GPs, the media, and voluntary and statutory agencies.

Copies are available from Gráinne in the Wheel Office:

The Wheel
Irish Social Finance Centre
10 Grattan Crescent
Inchicore, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01 4548727 Fax: 01 4548649
E-mail: info@wheel.ie Website: www.wheel.ie

NEW ADVOCACY & SOCIAL POLICY RESOURCES

Comhairle's Development and Social Policy team has just brought out new issues of its two publications:

1. Speaking up for Advocacy

Some of the items included in this issue are:

- Launch of the research report *Jigsaw of Advocacy*.
- Pilot advocacy project in Clondalkin.
- Outreach services to people with disabilities in Mayo.
- New accredited Higher Certificate in Advocacy Studies planned for the Autumn.
- Advocacy developments in England and Scotland.

2. Voice: Influencing Social Policy

Reports on social policy work in Comhairle based on feedback from information providers. This issue includes:

- Monitoring the effects of changes in Budget 2004.
- Citizens Information Phone Service highlights discrimination against women in the workplace.
- Policy Matters in Tallaght.
- Community Welfare Service in Crisis.
- Foreign National Support Service in Roscommon.

Print copies of both publications are available from:

Comhairle
7th Floor, Hume House
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 6059000 Fax: 01 6059099
Email: info@comhairle.ie
Website: www.comhairle.ie

INOU LAUNCHES LATEST EDITION OF WORKING FOR WORK

The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed launched the 11th edition of *'Working for Work'* on Thursday 27th May 2004. As the only comprehensive publication that brings together a wide range of information and supports available for unemployed people trying to return to work, education or training, it has consistently proved to be an indispensable information source for unemployed people, front-line staff both in the state and community sector, and employers. Copies are available free of charge (plus postage) from:

INOU, Araby House
8 North Richmond Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 856 0088 Fax: 01 8560090
Email: welfareinfo@inou.ie Website: www.inou.ie

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH GROUPS

Four-day course that will cover the fundamental methods for working effectively with groups using the Technology of Participation system of group work. It will be of interest to those working in NGOs, community work and all who wish to obtain skills for working with small groups. There will be a minimum of six and maximum of 15 people per workshop:

- The Basic Workshop method: 26 - 27 June
- The Action Planning method: 24 - 25 July

It is important that participants are available for both the June & July workshops, as work completed in June will be implemented in the July workshop. For further information and booking details contact:

Course Co-ordinator, Preparing for Ministries,
All Hallows College, Grace Park Road
Drumcondra, Dublin 9.
Tel: 01 837 3745 Fax: 01 857 1135
Email: pfm@allhallows.ie
Website: www.allhallows.ie

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