

SECTION 1: POLICY & LEGISLATION

**MINISTER CONFIRMS
FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR
YOUTH WORK SECTOR**

On 3 August, Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Youth Affairs, announced that following a review of the financial provision for the youth sector, an increase of 4% in the funding allocations for three major schemes administered by the Youth Affairs Section.

The Minister also announced new funding of over €100,000 in respect of a number of projects and organisations under two of the schemes, the Special Projects for Disadvantaged Youth and the Youth Service Grants Scheme. This funding will support efforts to address early school leaving and substance abuse among young people in a number of areas and to enhancing international youth exchanges.

The funding secured by the Minister for the youth work sector in 2004 is €28.624 million. This includes an additional €500,000 allocated in the revised estimates for the continued phased implementation of the National Youth Work Development Plan 2003-2007.

**EQUALITY ACT, 2004 COMES INTO
OPERATION**

On 19 July the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D. announced that the President had signed into law the Equality Act 2004. The Act was necessary to implement the employment and non-employment aspects of the *Race Directive (2000/43/EC)*, the *Framework Employment Directive (2000/78/EC)* and the *Gender Equal Treatment Directive (2002/73/EC)*. The provisions within this Act mean that all European Union Equality Directives have now been transposed into Irish Law.

Main amendments to Employment Equality Act, 1998:

- Provision for the extension of the scope of the Act to persons employed in a self-employed capacity.
- Provision for the extension of positive action provisions to all nine grounds covered by the Act.
- Provision for the extension of the age provisions of the Act to persons under 18 but over the minimum school leaving age and over 65. Employers will still be allowed to set minimum recruitment ages of 18 or under and to set retirement ages.
- Provision for the narrowing of the exclusion from the provisions of the Act of 1998 in respect of employment in private households.

- Provision for requirement on employers to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, subject to it not imposing a disproportionate burden rather than nominal cost.
- Provision for the transfer of jurisdiction for discriminatory dismissal cases from the Labour Court to the Equality Tribunal.

Main amendments to Equal Status Act, 2000:

- Provision for shifting the evidential burden of proof from the complainant to the respondent once the complainant has established a prima facie case;
- Allowing claimants and respondents to choose any person, including an organisation, to represent them before ODEI - the equality tribunal.
- Providing means of redress for drivers under 18 who have been discriminated against in motor insurance

**PLACEMENT OF HIGHER
EDUCATION AWARDS WITHIN
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK ANNOUNCED**

On 6 July Minister of State Ms Síle de Valera, T.D. announced the placement of higher education awards within the National Qualifications Framework at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

The Minister announced details of the higher education awards at Level 6, 7 and 8 of the Framework. Programmes leading to new higher education awards will be offered, beginning in Autumn 2004 - Higher Certificate, Ordinary Bachelors Degree and Honours Bachelors Degree. The new awards will come into use throughout higher education, in all universities as well as in the Institutes of Technology and other institutions using the HETAC system of awards. The following table outlines the changes in the system which will be reflected in 2004 CAO arrangements for 2005 entry to higher education.

| Framework Level | Existing Awards (to 2004) | New awards (from 2005) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Level 6 | National Certificate | Higher Certificate |
| Level 7 | National Diploma | Ordinary Bachelor Degree |
| Level 8 | Bachelor Degree (3/4 year honours) | Honours Bachelor Degree |

As the new awards are introduced, awards previously in use, such as National Certificate and National Diploma, will no longer be available. The awards will continue to be recognised as valid awards in their own right, placed on the Framework. However, it is not envisaged that existing

awards will be exchanged for new awards now or in the future. In the field of further education and training, a new

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system of awards is under development by FETAC, but it will take longer for these awards to come on stream. For further details on this development contact:

FETAC, East Point Plaza,
East Point Business Park, Dublin 3.

01 8659500 Fax: 01 8650067

Email: information@fetac.ie Website: www.fetac.ie

FURTHER PROVISIONS OF CHILDREN ACT OPERATIONAL

On 29 July the Minister of State for Children, Brian Lenihan, T.D. signed an Order bringing **Sections 78 to 87** of the Children Act 2001 into full operation. These provisions authorise the Children's Court to adjourn the proceedings against a child who has been charged with an offence and to direct the Probation and Welfare Service to arrange for the convening of a family conference in respect of the child and will complement the Garda family conference that began in May 2002.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT 2001 - 2004

The National Children's Advisory Council has published a progress report on the first three years work of the council outlining in detail each area it has provided advice and the impact of that advice. Copies are available from:

NCAC, 1st Floor, St Martin's House
Waterloo Road, Dublin 4.

Tel: 01 2420000 Website: www.ncac.ie

SECTION 2: TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERING AND THE INTERNET TRAINING COURSE

One-day course that assumes a basic knowledge of the Internet, including familiarity with the use of email and websites. Course content includes:

- The benefits and challenges of virtual volunteering
- Recruiting & managing volunteers using the Internet
- Retaining and supporting online volunteers
- Managing confidentiality, privacy & security issues.

The course will run on **Wednesday 6 October 2004** in **Coleraine House, Dublin 7** and will cost €75.00 to Volunteering Ireland members and €100 to non-members. Download the application form at: www.activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=1521 and return to:

Administrative Officer,
Volunteering Ireland, Coleraine House,
Coleraine Street, Dublin 7.

NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAMME

The *Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)* programme provides practical training for those seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide and has become regarded by most people with expertise in the field and the best training model available on suicide prevention. The emphasis of the two-day workshop is on suicide first aid, helping a person at risk to stay safe and seek further help by learning how to:

- Recognise invitations for help
- Reach out and offer support
- Review the risk of suicide
- Apply a suicide intervention model
- Link people with community resources.

Workshops are limited to 15 participants and involve group work and a variety of teaching processes to create a practice-oriented and interactive learning experience and will run on the following dates:

- 5 - 6 October: Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire
- 12 - 13 October: Grand Hotel, Wicklow
- 28 - 29 October: Blackrock Education Centre
- 9 - 10 November: Royal Hotel, Bray.

For further details contact:

Martin Kane, Health Promotion Department,
East Coast Area Health Board,
Block B, The Civic Centre, Main St.,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Tel: 01 2744366

NEW CERTIFICATE IN GROUP WORK & FACILITATION SKILLS

Suitable for those who wish to develop a working knowledge of the theory and practice of Group Life, Facilitation and Conflict Management, and to increase their awareness and effectiveness in group leadership. This course will benefit workers in both the statutory and community/voluntary sector and will cost €900.00

This course will run from **29 September on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 5pm for 30 sessions** in the **AXIS Arts & Community Resource Centre, Ballymun Main Street, Dublin 9**. For further information contact:

Martina, Community & Family Training Agency,
AXIS Centre, Ballymun Main Street, Dublin 9.
Tel: 01 8832134 / 8832132.
Email: cafta@axis-ballymun.ie

CARMICHAEL CENTRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

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The *Carmichael Centre Management Training Programme for Voluntary and Community Groups* with courses running from **October 2004 to February 2005** is now available.

The following courses are on offer:

2004

Introduction to Media Skills: 12 October
Introduction to Lobbying: 14 October
Committee Members Day: 16 October
Corporate Fundraising: 19 October
Time Management: 3 November
Getting the Most out of the Strategic Planning Process: 9 November
Creating Successful Newsletters: 10 November
Introducing Performance Management Systems: 11 & 25 November [full day] and 3 February, 2005
Committee Roles and Responsibilities: 13 November
Leadership and Authority in Organisations: 16 November
Recruitment and interviewing: 17 November
Writing Funding Proposals: 18 November
Radio Interviews, a Practical Approach: 23 & 30 November, and 1 & 2 December
Developing a Fundraising Strategy: 24 November
Setting up a Library: 6 December
Stress Management: 7 December
Producing an Annual Report: 9 December
Training Design and Delivery: 14 - 16 December
Budgeting for Beginners: 14 December

2005

Committee Members Managing Staff: 8 January
Setting up Office: 12 January
Financial Oversight for Committee Members: 15 January
Developing an Equality Policy: 18 January
Running an Effective Meeting: 20 January.

For copies of Management Training Programme booklet and further details please contact:

Audrey McEvoy,
Coleraine House, Coleraine Street,
Dublin 7
Email: tssinfo@carmichaelcentre.ie
Website: www.carmichaelcentre.ie

On 24 June Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today launched "**What Now? " an information guide for ex-offenders**. The guide brings together information on a range of topics such as social welfare, housing, health, education and training, legal issues and managing money. Copies of the booklet will be made available free in social welfare offices, Citizen Information Centres, through the Probation and Welfare Service, through various organisations dealing with ex offenders and the prisons' library service.

NEW DATABASE OF SOCIAL INCLUSION RESOURCES

Three agencies working in the area of social inclusion in Ireland namely **Combat Poverty, Comhairle and Area Development Management** have combined to establish an Inter-agency online database containing information on their publications and resources. For access use the link below and go to database home page:

<http://www.cidb.ie/interagencyvcsresources.nsf>

BEST PRACTICE IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONFERENCE

Two-day conference focussing on *Best Practice in Children's Services*, that will take place on **11-12 October, 2004 in the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny**. It will comprise keynote lectures, best practice, short papers and interactive seminars. There will be a series of short seminars dealing with specific areas of best practice by speakers from a range of disciplines including:

- Mr Con Hogan, Senior Consultant, The Centre for the Study of Social Policy, Washington D.C.
- Mr Ray Dooley, CEO, Children's Rights Alliance
- Dr Patrick Wall, Professor of Food Safety, UCD
- Dr Maggie Barker, Head of Public Health & Effectiveness, Great Ormonde Street Hospital.

For further details and registration forms contact:

Ms Deirdre Rooney, HeBE,
Programme of Action for Children
Tel: 01 8682942 Email: besthealthdublin@eircom.net

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

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

NEW INFORMATION GUIDE FOR EX-OFFENDERS

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