

For further information contact:

SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

**TRAINING SOLUTIONS FOR THE
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY
SECTOR REPORT**

The Wheel has launched a report '*Training Solutions for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland*', which is the first ever national review of the current training needs within the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. The Wheel is a support and representative body for Community and Voluntary organisations in Ireland.

The researchers make specific recommendations which take into account the wide and diverse needs of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland, such as the formation of local partnerships of organisations to deliver support and training; the need to develop standards for trainers; and the provision of resources to organisations to invest in the skills of their workforce and the wider community.

Part-funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, this study was conducted for The Wheel by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. A randomly chosen sample group from over 12,000 organisations within the sector was selected to be involved in the research process. Research, by way of questionnaires and interviews, was overseen by an independent reference group.

Several support mechanisms are already in place within the sector and which are central to the successful operation of many hundreds of community and voluntary organisations nationally. This report highlights identified gaps for further development by the sector in the area of support and training. It sets a framework for an agenda of change, taking into account the wide and diverse needs of the sector, existing bodies, and a consideration of international norms. This report should make a significant contribution to the future of training and support policy, and work towards the establishment of a solid basis of sustained, ongoing skills development, for the sector.

The full report *Training Solutions for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland* in addition to *Training Solutions – An International Perspective* can be downloaded from The Wheel's website: <http://www.wheel.ie/ntf>

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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
AGAINST POVERTY AND SOCIAL
EXCLUSION CONSULTATION**

The Office for Social Inclusion is hosting a Consultation Seminar Series on the development of Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2006-2008. A series of regional seminars will be held at the following venues from 9.15 a.m.- 1.00 p.m. each day followed by a light lunch:

- Gresham Hotel, Dublin on 9 November
- Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on 22 November
- Maryborough House Hotel, Cork on 23 November
- Lynch South Court Hotel, Limerick on 24 November
- Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar on 29 November
- The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on 30 November
- The Mill Park Hotel, Donegal on 1 December.

For further details contact:

Office for Social Inclusion,
Department of Social and Family Affairs
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 7043851 Fax: 01 7043032
Email: osi@welfare.ie

**NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL
STUDY OF CHILDREN IN IRELAND**

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin are to undertake a national longitudinal study of children in Ireland, commencing in November 2005. The aim of the study is to examine the factors, which contribute to, or undermine, the well-being of children in contemporary Irish families, and, through this, contribute to the setting of effective and

responsive policies relating to children and to the design of services for children and their families.

NYF Local Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

The study will be jointly funded by the National Children's Office and the Department of Social and Family Affairs, and will be one of the most significant pieces of research on children to be undertaken in the Republic of Ireland. 10,000 infants and 8,000 children aged nine will be recruited to participate in this Study. The initial contract is for seven years and two major data collection sweeps will be undertaken in that time period.

SECTION 2: FUNDING

FUNDING ALLOCATED FOR DRUG TREATMENT SERVICES FOR TEENAGERS

On 16 September 2005 the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, T.D., launched the publication of the Report of the Working Group on Treatment of Under 18 year olds Presenting to Treatment Services with Serious Drug Problems.

This report was produced by a Group established by the former Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) and chaired by the Department of Health and Children and is one of the Actions in Ireland's National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008. The Group comprised a broad range of statutory and non-statutory service providers and community representatives.

The Group undertook a number of initiatives including a review of services within the former ERHA and of service gaps nationally. The conclusions can be grouped into four broad categories: pattern of serious drug misuse amongst children and their implications, legal and ethical issues, model for services delivery, and access to services.

Between 1991 and 2000 there were 2,034 first treatment contacts by under 18s within the Eastern Region reported to the National Drug Treatment Reporting System. Since 1996 there were 629 first treatment contacts by under 18 year olds outside the Eastern Region.

The Group acknowledged that there were complex issues involved in the legal and ethical approach to treating young people. In its report, the Group offer guidance to professionals working with young drug misusers in relation to these matters. In the Irish context,

treatment services for child and adolescent problem drug misusers should be based on a four tiered approach as follows:

Tier 1

Services which have contact with young people but which do not have specialist expertise in either adolescents or addiction, such as teachers, social services, members of an Garda Síochána, GPs, community and family groups.

Tier 2

Services which have specialist expertise in either adolescents or addiction, but not both, such as Juvenile Liaison Officers, Local Drugs Task Forces, home school liaison, Youthreach and drug treatment centres.

Tier 3

Services which have specialist expertise in both adolescent and addiction, i.e. multi-disciplinary teams comprising people with a speciality in adolescent addiction.

Tier 4

Services have specialist expertise in both adolescents and addiction, and the capacity to deliver brief but very intensive treatment, e.g. in-patient or day hospital.

The Group felt strongly that the services which existed on the ground tended to fall into Tiers 1, 2 or 4, and that the greatest need in terms of developing this model of service delivery was in Tier 3.

Because there is a strong perception among under 18 year old drug misusers of a lack of services catering for and suitable to their needs, the Group recommends that services should:

- strive to be adolescent specific, but not necessarily be addiction specific;
- be local and accessible;
- have multiple disciplines available on-site;
- be able to offer assessment, treatment and aftercare.

In anticipation of the report, the Department of Health and Children has allocated funding of €500,000 to the HSE Eastern Region to fund the development of services for this age cohort. For further information/copies of the report, please contact:

**Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House, Hawkins Street
Dublin 2**

**Tel: 01 6354000 LoCall 1890 200311
Fax: 01 6354001 Website: www.dohc.ie**

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

NEW ANTI BULLYING INITIATIVE

NYF Local Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

The National Youth Health Programme and the Child Protection Unit have come together to develop an anti-bullying initiative. This work will be developed alongside a group of workers from the youth sector (Fran Bissett is representing NYF on the working group). It is hoped to develop an anti-bullying resource with complimentary training for the youth sector.

For further information please contact:

Nadine Crotty
National Youth Health Programme
NYCI
3 Montague Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 4784122 Fax: 01 4783974
Email: nadine.crotty@nyci.ie
Website: www.youthhealth.ie

BARNARDOS LAUNCHES CHILD POVERTY CAMPAIGN

Barnardos have recently launched "*Seven Steps to Ending Child Poverty*", a campaign which includes national advertising, "seven steps" of policy (see below) and an online campaign which offers the public a way to support the campaign to lift the 1 in 7 children out of poverty.

1: Raise incomes for families with children living in poverty

- Honour and increase outstanding child benefit commitments
- Introduce a revised targeted child income support

2: Improve educational outcomes for all children

- Ensure all children make the transition to second level education
- Adequately assist parents with the costs of sending their children to school
- Adequately resource the National Education Welfare Board

3: Introduce comprehensive quality Early Childhood Education and Care

- Introduce a one year free quality Early Childhood Education and Care place for all children in the year prior to attending primary school

4: Eradicate health inequalities so that every child has access to health care

- Extend the full Medical Card to include all families whose total income is taxed at the standard 20% tax rate
- Ensure health services for children are available, accessible and appropriate

5: Improve housing standards for children at risk

- Remove all children from B&B emergency accommodation
- Enforce the Residential Tenancy Act 2004 to protect the interests of vulnerable tenants in the private rental sector

6: Make work pay enough so families escape poverty traps

- Extend maternity leave and introduce paid parental leave
- Eliminate unemployment traps

7: Ensure all policies relating to children impact positively and 'join up'

- Place the National Children's Office on a statutory independent basis
- Increase funding to the Office of the Ombudsman for Children

For further information on the campaign contact:

Barnardos National Office,
Christchurch Square, Dublin 8
Tel: 01 4530355 Callsave: 1850 222300
Fax: 01 453 0300 Email: info@barnardos.ie

CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY AND VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteering Ireland VOLT network (Volunteer Organisers Linking Together) is organising a one-day conference on *Diversity and Volunteering: How to enrich your volunteer programme by embracing diversity*. This is their third annual national conference and it will take place on Monday 14th November 2005 (9.30am - 4.00pm) at The Clarion Hotel, Cork City. For further details/booking forms contact:

VOLT, Volunteering Ireland
Coleraine House, Coleraine Street
Dublin 7
Tel: 01 8722622 Email: info@volunteeringireland.ie

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