

## **SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **CLÁR PROGRAMME EXPANDED**

Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., announced on 11 April that the Government had decided to expand the CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) Programme in most of the existing CLÁR areas, and to introduce the very successful rural development scheme into a further 5 counties. Provision for the programme was increased by approximately €9m in this years Revised Estimates, bringing the total CLÁR fund for 2006 to €22.95m.

Funds of €51.335m were spent by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the various CLÁR measures from 2002 – March 2006 with a further €20.674m still to be drawn down. This spending leveraged funds of approximately €55.399m, with a further €24.247m still to be drawn down, bringing the total funding spent in CLÁR areas to €151,656m.

CLÁR schemes cover a wide variety of developments aimed at helping rural communities to overcome local difficulties and to achieve access to a range of essential services such as village, housing and schools enhancement, electricity conversion, roads, water supply, sewerage disposal, health, coastal, sports and community projects. Government has agreed that areas eligible for inclusion in CLÁR will now be based on an average drop of population of 35% per county between 1926 and 2002. The previous criterion was an average drop of 50% per county. The new counties with areas to be included in the programme for the first time are Wicklow, Carlow, Laois, Kilkenny and Offaly.

For further details contact:

**CLÁR, Rural Development Division 1**  
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs  
43/49 Mespil Road, Dublin 4.  
Tel: 01 6473197 Website: [www.pobail.ie](http://www.pobail.ie)

### **GOVERNMENT APPROVES REPORT OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON TRAVELLERS**

The Government has approved the publication of Report of the High Level Group on Travellers The Group was established in December 2003, to examine ways of improving service delivery and outcomes for Travellers. The Report contains a total of 59 conclusions and recommendations across a number of sectors of Government activity.

The major areas identified as priorities in the report are:

- To establish a coordinated inter-agency strategy for the delivery of services and supports for Travellers in all cities and counties with a Traveller population. Existing structures such as the City and County Development Boards should, as far as possible be used to develop and monitor implementation of county action plans
- To actively promote effective consultation with Travellers at national and local level in helping to deliver the inter-agency approach, and in facilitating better communications, including conflict resolution
- To ensure that law enforcement is included as part of the proposed integrated approach.

It is envisaged that the High Level Group will remain in place to oversee the establishment of the inter-agency approach to achieve better delivery by the State sector and better outcomes for Travellers. The Committee to Monitor and Co-ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community, which published its Second Report on 13th December 2005, is in the process of being reconstituted. Given the need to promote tolerance and understanding between the settled and Traveller community, the replacement Committee will focus on this issue as one of its immediate priorities. Specific actions to promote tolerance and understanding may be developed within the framework of the county action plans recommended in the High Level Group Report.

For further details contact (full report and executive summary available via the Dept. website):

**Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform**  
94 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 6028202 Fax: 01 6615461  
Website: [www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie)

## **SECTION 2: FUNDING**

### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR IRELAND SMALL GRANT SCHEME**

The Community Foundation for Ireland's small Grants Scheme is now accepting applications for it's first round of Grants in 2006. The deadline is **July 31st, 2006** and applications are open to community & voluntary groups within the Republic of Ireland.

The priority areas for the years 2004 - 2006 are to **assist projects working to respond to Isolation and to develop a more Diverse society.**

## Youth Work Ireland Local Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

The Small Grants Scheme will have a particular focus on: Carers; Older People; People Leaving Institutions; Sexual Minorities; Ethnic Minorities and Families at Risk. Application forms and guidelines are available from:

The Community Foundation for Ireland  
32 Lower O'Connell Street  
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8747354 Fax: 01 8747637

Email: [admin@foundation.ie](mailto:admin@foundation.ie)

Website: [www.communityfoundation.ie](http://www.communityfoundation.ie)

### SECTION 3: TRAINING

#### **WHEEL SECTOR SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME INFORMATION SEMINARS**

The Sector Skills Training Programme will result in a suite of new programmes, which will strengthen community and voluntary organisations' ability to access information on, and participate in, training courses in a more effective way. The Sector Skills initiative will involve three linked elements:

**Web-based Information** about training opportunities, enabling people to access up-to-date, relevant data on appropriate and suitable training.

**Training Networks Programme** providing supports, resources and advice to organisations to enable them to participate in relevant, flexible and cost effective training.

**Leadership and Development Training** specifically geared towards people in leadership positions in community and voluntary organisations.

The Wheel is running nationwide information seminars to inform individuals and organisations on: How to apply for funding for the **Training Networks Programme** and the launch of "**Stronger Leaders**".

The Training Networks programme will open for funding applications on the 25th April. Upcoming Information seminars dates are as follows:

Tuesday 2 May 2006: Clarion Hotel, Cork

Wednesday 3 May 2006: Mullingar Park Hotel

Thursday 4 May 2006: Galway Bay Hotel

For further details contact:

The Wheel, Irish Social Finance Centre,  
10 Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

Tel: 01 4548727 Fax: 01 4548649

E-mail: [info@wheel.ie](mailto:info@wheel.ie) Website: [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

### **DJ TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Young D.J. Academy is a new service providing training in the skills associated with learning to become a Disc Jockey. An experienced youth worker using industry-tested equipment provides the training.

There are many skills and techniques associated with DJ'ing and this is the central focus of the training. The training attracts a lot of interest especially from the older teenage group who like music, but also the technical aspect can attract others. The training can be a valuable tool in developing confidence in young people and can also be used as a team development exercise. The training can also help develop new talent in using the equipment and also creativity is a key factor in the workshops as the young people will be encouraged to create sets and also do voiceovers with the microphone.

Training can be tailored to suit a project's needs in the setting of its choice. The groups can vary in age and size depending on what the requirements are and the training can take place over a time period that suits the group's needs. Contact **Mark** for further information at:

Tel: 087 9898930

Email: [mark@youngdjacademy.com](mailto:mark@youngdjacademy.com)

### **SUBSIDISED MEDIA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN DCU**

DCU School of Communications is offering a series of subsidised short courses to ethnic-minority groups, community groups, NGOs and ethnic-minority journalists. This training initiative funded by the National Action Plan against Racism (Ireland Embracing Cultural Diversity) aims to encourage a more diverse and inclusive media in Ireland. Intensive one and two-day training courses are offered to small groups (approx. 10 participants) from ethnic-minority organisations, community groups and NGOs. Courses will be tailored to meet the needs of individual groups and will be offered at subsidised rates. The courses include:

- Dealing with the Media (interviews & media releases)
- Media Skills (radio, video, media writing, web publishing, desktop publishing)
- The Role of the Media in a Multicultural Society
- Add-on Skills for Ethnic-Minority Media Professionals
- Online training for media practitioners in developing countries.

Individuals or groups interested in enrolling for training should contact:

Debbie Ging, DCU School of Communications

Tel: 01-7007729 Email: [debbie.ging@dcu.ie](mailto:debbie.ging@dcu.ie)

**SECTION 4: ROUND UP**

**INEQUALITY AND THE  
STEREOTYPING OF YOUNG  
PEOPLE REPORT**

On 22 February Minister for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan TD, launched the research report, *'Inequality and the Stereotyping of Young People'* conducted by Dr. Maurice Devlin of NUI Maynooth and published by the Equality Authority and the National Youth Council of Ireland. The report includes accounts given by young people who consistently spoke of being treated in a way adults would not be treated in the education system; in shops and public places; by the Gardaí; by politicians; by the media; and by adults in their own communities.

The research involved ten focus groups with approximately ninety young people from different parts of the country and including young people with different identities and circumstances. The research found that:

- In all the focus groups there was strong agreement that young people in general are stereotyped and treated unequally by adults in general
- The media were regarded as particularly prone to stereotyping young people in very negative ways by constantly associating 'youth' with crime, deviance, delinquency, drug and alcohol problems, sexual promiscuity and general disorderliness
- Predominant view in focus groups was that politicians dismissed young people as unimportant. There was a view that politicians were both responding to media stereotyping and helping to fuel it
- The views of the young people of how their teachers perceived and treated them were mixed. The young people in general felt most strongly about not being listened to and not having a say in how schools were run
- Poor relationships with the Gardaí and the view that the Gardaí had a poor opinion of young people dominated several of the focus group discussions.

The report contains ten recommendations to address the issue of stereotyping of young people and also recommended:

- Investment in new and improved resources for young people at local level
- Improved working of school councils
- The inclusion of a focus on stereotyping of young people on training programmes for the Gardaí, journalists, teachers and security staff in shopping centres

- The establishment and monitoring by the proposed press council and the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland of standards in relation to media coverage of young people.

A full copy of the report is available in PDF format at:  
[www.youth.ie/download/Stereotyping\\_Final.pdf](http://www.youth.ie/download/Stereotyping_Final.pdf)

**MINISTER FOR CHILDREN  
LAUNCHES REPORT ON REFORM  
OF RIGHTS-BASED CHILD LAW**

On 21 March Minister for Children, Mr Brian Lenihan TD, launched a report titled *"Rights-based child law: the case for reform"* by the Law Reform Committee of the Law Society. The report provides a comprehensive overview of child legislation in this jurisdiction and makes recommendations under the following headings:

- Children's International and Constitutional Rights
- Children's Legal Capacity and their Representation
- Children and Crime
- Children not in the Care of their Parents: Child Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Unaccompanied Minors and Trafficked Children
- Children not in the Care of their Parents: Children's Right to Identity
- Minors' Consent to Medical Treatment
- Children's Succession Rights

The full report can be downloaded from the Law Reform section of the Law Society's website at:  
[www.lawsociety.ie](http://www.lawsociety.ie)

**UPDATED INFORMATION PACK  
FOR UNMARRIED PARENTS**

TREOIR, the National Information Centre for parents who are not married to each other has just published its Information Pack for 2006. This pack contains legal information and information on entitlements. It can be ordered directly or downloaded from the website:

**TREOIR**

**14 Gandon House, Custom House Square,  
IFSC, Dublin 1.**

**Tel: 01 6700120 LoCall: 1890 252084**

**Website: [www.treoir.ie](http://www.treoir.ie)**

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