

SECTION 1: POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

10 NEW GARDA DIVERSION PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell T.D., announced in July his approval for the establishment of 10 new Garda Youth Diversion Projects, bringing the total number of projects to 74. The locations of the ten new projects are as follows:

- Birr
- Blanchardstown
- Carlow
- Castlebar
- Cavan
- Clondalkin
- Limerick
- Tallaght
- Tralee (2 projects)

In addition to this the Minister announced his intention to increase the number of projects to 100 by the end of 2007. To facilitate this expansion funding of €6.6m had been secured for the Garda Youth Diversion Scheme for 2006, an increase of €1.2m on the 2005 figure.

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE CODES OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR FUNDRAISING

The Irish Charities Tax Reform Group (ICTRG) are to undertake a feasibility study on how the proposed regulation of the operational aspects of charitable fundraising by Codes of Good Practice (as proposed in the draft Charities Bill) might operate in practice.

The agreed Codes of Good Practice will be developed to manage and oversee fund-raising practices and procedures, grounded in the realities of the fund-raising environment and based on the experience of practitioners. ICTRG believes that it is crucial to carry out this work in advance of the introduction of the new regulation.

The project is being supported by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The ICTRG has commissioned independent consultant Mr Peter Cassells and chairman of the National Centre for Partnership and Performance and the Centre for Nonprofit Management, TCD to work on this project. The project will involve wide consultation in the coming months with the charities

sector, the general public and with public bodies that provide funding to charities.

For further information or to partake in the consultation please contact:

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SECTION 2: FUNDING

FUNDRAISING CONFERENCE

A one-day fundraising conference will take place on Thursday 28 September at The Guinness Storehouse, Dublin 8. The conference promises the brightest and best fundraising techniques and thinking to help fundraisers do the best job possible for their organisations.

This event will include an overview of Ireland's fundraising sector, followed by six sessions delivered by experts from Britain and Ireland, taking participants through the steps for a successful campaign:

- Setting up a fundraising strategy
- How to get the best from a donor acquisition campaign
- Donor communications
- Successful fundraising online
- Letting your brand speak through direct marketing
- Successful bequest fundraising.

To download the brochure for this event (**Cost: €85.00**) please go to:
www.wheel.ie/fundbrochure

For further information/booking details please contact:

Page Books
57 Listria Park
London N16 5SW
Email bookings: backpagebooks@yahoo.co.uk

NEW FUNDRAISING

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WEBSITE FOR CHARITIES

mycharity.ie is a fundraising and donation website service, which provides individuals and organisations the opportunity to maximise their fundraising potential. Charities can register with mycharity.ie on the website and seek to make any events they engage in potential fundraisers.

Once registered, charities can build a database of fundraisers allowing them to fundraise online and can track their income in real time via the mycharity.ie website. Overhead costs can be reduced without the need for sponsorship cards, no contacting or cold calling of potential sponsors or fundraisers individually, and no chasing monies from fundraisers. Everything can be done automatically online via the website. Minimal effort is also required by fundraisers as they can set up a fundraising page online and then send out an email.

Further information is available from:

Niall Devine
mycharity.ie
Suite 20, Milltown Hill
Milltown, Dublin 6.
Tel: 01 2185737 Email: nialld@mycharity.ie
Website: www.mycharity.ie

SECTION 3: ROUND UP

NEWB SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR 2004-05 PUBLISHED

On 6 July the National Educational Welfare Board's (NEWB) analysis of school attendance for the school year 2004/2005 was published, showing that attendance has improved in many of the areas targeted specifically by NEWB, such as primary and post-primary schools in designated disadvantaged areas. In a number of these targeted areas, the mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more has improved by over 4%

The report also shows a strong link between levels of disadvantage and levels of non-attendance. Primary school students in the most disadvantaged areas missed on average 15 school days in the school year 2004 / 2005 compared to an average of 10 school days missed by primary school students in the least disadvantaged areas. Post-primary school students in the most disadvantaged areas missed on average 21 days in that

year compared to an average of 10 school days missed by students in the least disadvantaged areas.

Primary Findings

- The mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more is lower in many of the areas targeted by NEWB, compared to 2003/04.
- Mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more in the most disadvantaged urban primary schools is 24.2% in 2004/05, compared to 28.7% in 2003/04.
- Mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more in RAPID primary schools is 19.0% in 2004/05, compared to 23.7% in 2003/04.
- Mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more in the most disadvantaged post-primary schools is 34.8% in 2004/05, compared to 38.0% in 2003/04.
- Mean percentage of students absent 20 days or more in RAPID post-primary schools is 22.0% in 2004/05, compared to 26.0% in 2003/04.
- The average primary school student missed 11 school days. The average Post Primary student missed 14 days
- 1 in every 10 Primary school (approximately 47,000 students) missed 20 or more school days. Almost 1 in every 5 Post Primary school students missed 20 days or more (approximately 37,000 students under 16).
- Primary school students in the most disadvantaged areas missed on average 15 school days compared to an average of 10 school days missed by primary school students in the least disadvantaged areas.
- Post-primary school students in the most disadvantaged areas missed on average 21 days compared to an average of 10 school days a year missed by students in the least disadvantaged areas.
- 1 in every 5 primary school students in the most disadvantaged Primary schools missed 20 or more school days. More than 1 in every 3 school students in the most disadvantaged Post Primary schools missed 20 or more school days
- Almost 1 in every 7 urban primary school students missed 20 or more school days every year compared to almost 1 in every 13 rural primary school students.
- Students in vocational schools missed on average 17 school days.
- Almost 1 in every 4 vocational school students missed 20 or more school days compared to almost 1 in every 7 secondary school students, and one in every five community / comprehensive students.
- There were 5 recorded expulsions at primary level in 2004/05.

- There were 93 recorded expulsions at post-primary level in 2004/05.
- Of the 2,641 primary schools that returned valid data relating to suspensions in 2004/05, 2,402 recorded no suspensions. Therefore, a total of 239 primary schools suspended 908 students in 2004/05. Of

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these, 98 schools reported only 1 student and two schools reported 87 students.

- Of the 557 post-primary schools that returned valid data relating to suspensions in 2004/05, 78 recorded no suspensions. Therefore, a total of 479 schools suspended 11,746 students at post primary level in 2004/05. Of these, 10 schools reported over 100 students each.
- There were a total of 15,336 primary school students with 100% attendance, representing an average of just fewer than 6 students per school. Of the 2,648 schools that returned valid data, 2,227 schools had at least 1 student with 100% attendance.
- There were 7,984 students at post-primary level with 100% attendance, based on data returned by 557 schools. 504 schools had at least one student with 100% attendance. Of these 504, 51 had only 1 or 2 students with 100% attendance. Secondary schools had an average of over 17 students with 100% attendance, compared to an average of 7 in Vocational schools.

and will be made available to volunteer involving organisations. The group have also produced fact sheets on Volunteering in Ireland, which are available in 12 languages.

The publication can be downloaded from the Downloads section of Volunteering Ireland's website as can the fact sheets on Volunteering in Ireland from:

www.volunteeringireland.ie

For further details please contact

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Coleraine Street
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For further information/copies of the analysis please contact:

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Fax: 01 873 8799 Email: info@newb.ie

It is also available as a download
from the website: www.newb.ie

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN VOLUNTEERING RESOURCE

On 27 June Volunteering Ireland's VOLT Network; new resource, '*Diversify! Encouraging Cultural Diversity in Volunteering in Ireland*' was launched in the Equality Authority, Clonmel Street, Dublin 2.

This publication is aimed at organisations who wish to respond to the increasing numbers of people from different cultural backgrounds and countries who are seeking to volunteer in Ireland. It outlines the benefits and barriers to cultural diversity in volunteering and gives practical advice for increasing the diversity of volunteers.

The publication also profiles the countries from which most of our potential volunteers hail and issues that organisations should be aware of. The publication is free

NON-PROFIT SECTOR MAPPING REPORT PUBLISHED

The Centre for Nonprofit Management, Trinity College Dublin conducted the first large-scale survey of the nonprofit sector in Ireland. A report of the initial survey results, "*The Hidden Landscape, The First Forays into Mapping Nonprofit Organisations in Ireland*", was published on 20 June 2006.

For further details or to order or download a copy please contact:

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

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