

**SECTION 1: POLICY & LEGISLATION**

**YOUTH JUSTICE AND CHILDRENS MEASURES ANNOUNCED UNDER THE NDP 2007-2013 ALLOCATION**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D., announced Justice and Equality Programmes under the National Development Plan 2007-2013 amounting to over €2.8 billion.

Within this the **Youth Justice Programme** will amount to over €224 million over the period of the NDP, €104 million of which is allocated for implementation of **Restorative Justice Community Sanctions** under the Children Act 2001. The objective of this sub-programme is to reduce the number of children sentenced to detention by the courts and to improve outcomes for children in a range of areas including such matters as the rate of re-offending, educational attainment, family supports and substance abuse. The remaining €120 million will be allocated to **Garda Youth Diversion Projects** which will be increased to almost 130 nationwide.

In addition to this, the second element of the **Prison Capital Programme** section aims to plan and deliver on the redevelopment of existing **youth justice detention facilities** and the development of new facilities to meet the statutory requirement of the Children Act 2001 in respect of offending children under 18 years of age sentenced to detention by the Courts.

On 29<sup>th</sup> January the Minister for Children, Brian Lenihan announced the investment of €12.3 billion, which will be invested in the **Children Programme** over the period of the National Development Plan. €1.3 billion of this is to be allocated to the **National Childcare Investment Sub-Programme** to guarantee the continued development of a quality and affordable childcare system setting the target of generating a further 50,000 new places including 5,000 school-age places and 10,000 pre-school places by 2010.

€3.4 billion will be invested in **Child Welfare and Protection**. This money will be invested in the care and protection of children at risk and will be administered by the HSE. The Child Welfare and Protection Sub-Programme also contains an allocation of €49 million capital expenditure for the re-designation of existing residential institutions for more specialised care and high support.

The Minister announced that he would be launching the

**Recreation Policy for Young People** next month and that funding would be directed **towards the development of facilities for teenagers including the development of a network of youth cafes**.

Finally, €60m will be invested to further advance and improve the implementation of services for children. Specifically this will include play & recreation services along with promoting and ensuring participation by children and young people and research into children's lives, which were basic principles of the National Children's Strategy.

**NEW GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECTS ESTABLISHED**

On 4<sup>th</sup> January the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, T.D. announced that a further ten Garda Youth Diversion Projects were to be established in the following locations bringing the total number of projects to 84:

- Ballyogan, Dublin 18
- Carrick-on-Suir
- Castleisland
- Celbridge
- Kilrush
- Listowel
- Mallow
- New Ross
- Tipperary Town
- Tuam

For further information please contact:

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

**LATEST NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STRATEGY RESEARCH**

The second national goal of the National Children's Strategy was to promote research into children's lives to achieve a better understanding of how children grow up in Ireland in order to ensure that their needs are met.

One of the measures undertaken to implement this goal, included the development of a Children's Research Programme, to fund research directly related to the Strategy. The latest raft of research conducted under this strand has been published over the last few months and includes:

- **Understanding Youth Homelessness in Dublin City: Key findings from the first phase of a**

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

- *longitudinal study* by Children's Research Centre
- **The Development and Implementation of Child Impact Statements in Ireland** by Carmel Corrigan
- **The Child's Right to be heard in the Health Care Setting: Perspectives of children, parents and health professionals** by Faculty of Law, UCC
- **Giving Children A Voice: Investigation of children's experiences of participation in consultation and decision-making in Irish hospitals** by School of Nursing, Dublin City University.

All are available for loan (as is the previously published Strategy research) from the Irish YouthWork Centre.

For further information on the research programme within the National Children's Strategy please contact:

Office of the Minister for Children  
St. Martin's House  
Waterloo Road, Dublin 4  
Tel: 01 2420000 Fax: 01 6641929  
Email: [omc@health.gov.ie](mailto:omc@health.gov.ie) Web: [www.omc.gov.ie](http://www.omc.gov.ie)

on the basis of four assignments on the first four modules and a presentation on the fifth plus the submission of a learning journal. 40% pass grade is required with minimum attendance level of 80%.

The one-year course commences on 1<sup>st</sup> March taking place in Clonliffe College, Drumcondra in Dublin on Thursday evenings, with some Saturdays included and will incorporate study visits to relevant agencies working in the field of Youth Justice. The cost of the course is €995.00 (grant and bursary information available on request).

For further information/application forms please contact:

Louise Cadwell,  
Youth Justice Certificate  
CYC, Arran Quay, Dublin 7  
Email: [lcadwell@cyc.ie](mailto:lcadwell@cyc.ie)

Alternatively online applications forms can be completed on either of the following websites:

[www.cyc.ie](http://www.cyc.ie) or [www.coppingon.ie](http://www.coppingon.ie)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:  
MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 2007

## SECTION 2: TRAINING

### NEW YOUTH JUSTICE CERTIFICATE LAUNCHED

Catholic Youth Care and the Copping On National Crime Awareness Initiative in association with NUI Maynooth have just established the first youth justice certificate course. It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the key aspects of youth justice. The five Course Modules are:

- **Children & Young People in Society**
- **Youth Crime and Justice**
- **Youth Justice Service & Other Youth Services**
- **Working with young people & Justice Issues/Introduction to Principles & Practice**
- **Design & Delivery of a Youth Justice Activity/Programme.**

The **NUI Certificate in Youth Justice** course is aimed at those working in the field of Youth Justice and/or those working with/intending to work with young people at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system. Relevant experience includes but is not limited to; Youth Workers/Voluntary Youth Leaders; Members of An Garda Síochána; Youth Advocates; Residential Care Workers; and Training Centre/Workshops Staff.

Applicants may be asked to attend an informal interview to look in more depth at the course and its suitability to their work and experience. The course will be assessed

## SECTION 3: ROUND UP

### NEW AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON SAFE ONLINE USE BY YOUNG PEOPLE LAUNCHED

On 1<sup>st</sup> February the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, T.D., launched **WATCH YOUR SPACE** - a new campaign to raise awareness and promote safe, responsible practice by young people when online. The key messages of the campaign are: **be creative; be yourself; but be in control.**

The campaign has a strong peer-to-peer perspective and centres on an interactive online service, [www.watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie) developed by the National Centre Technology in Education (NCTE). This site offers practical tips and advice and supports teenagers who use the web. A key feature is advice from teenagers to teenagers on how to cope with the fall-out from misusing social networking or picture-sharing sites.

The new initiative aims to compliment the other NCTE safety activities that are already up and running such as Webwise, SAFT and the Once project.

Advice on the site is very clear in explaining that once you upload a picture to the Internet you have lost control of it. It can be copied, altered and displayed in different contexts without your consent so only uploading pictures

that you are happy for everyone to see. Tips for dealing with cyber-bullying the site include:

- DO NOT respond to the message as this will only make things worse
- DO keep a record of the message so that the problem can be dealt with properly
- DO block the sender
- DO talk to someone in authority about what has happened

The site has presentations of the key findings from studies of teenagers' use of the Internet by other teenagers. It is also integrated with an online helpline service from Childline. The site will be promoted through a poster campaign and supported by an educational and information pack being sent to schools.

### **NEW DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION RESOURCE AND SUPPORT TRAINING AVAILABLE**

*'All Different All Equal Ireland: an anti-racist and intercultural education resource for youth workers'* was originally produced in 1995 and this new edition attempts to reflect the considerable changes that have occurred in Ireland over the last 10 years in terms of population diversity. **All Different All Equal Ireland** is aimed at anyone working with young people to explore the issues of diversity, promote equality and challenge prejudice and discrimination. The activities in the resource draw on methodologies and skills familiar to youth workers and are aimed at ten to eighteen year olds. The resource is divided into three sections - **Identity and Citizenship, Prejudice and Discrimination and Understanding Diversity**. Ideas for further actions and projects that groups might undertake are also provided, along with contact details for further information.

The resource is designed to be flexible. Some youth leaders may pick and mix from the activities, while others may want to use the six-week programme suggested. Training on use of the resource will also be provided.

For further information please contact:

**Alan Hayes,**  
National Youth Development Education Programme  
National Youth Council of Ireland  
3 Montague Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: 01 4255932 Email: [alan.hayes@nyci.ie](mailto:alan.hayes@nyci.ie)

### **INTERCULTURAL AND ANTI RACISM WEEK 2007**

Intercultural and Anti Racism Week takes place this year from the 19 - 25 March 2007. The week is designed to coincide with 21 March, which is the United Nations designated International Day Against Racism. This year the theme of the week is **'Improving Government Services to Minority Ethnic Groups'** focussing on:

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Policing

The key stakeholders include minority ethnic community groups, senior government official and departments, social partners and NGO's/community sector.

During the week there will be a series of signature events that will focus on these areas and other policy concerns. We also strongly encourage all members of society to take part and mark this important week by coordinating an intercultural and anti-racism public awareness event in your community, work place or organisation.

The week is coordinated by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in partnership with the National Action Plan Against Racism and the Northern Ireland Race Equality Strategy.

For further information please contact:

**National Consultative Committee  
on Racism and Interculturalism**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Jervis House  
Jervis Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8588000  
Email: [benedicta@nccri.ie](mailto:benedicta@nccri.ie) / [kate@nccri.ie](mailto:kate@nccri.ie)  
Website: [www.nccri.ie](http://www.nccri.ie)

**Copies of all publications and documentation  
highlighted in this edition are available for  
reference or loan purposes from the  
Irish YouthWork Centre**  
Tel: 01 8729933 Fax: 01 8724183  
Email: [fbissett@youthworkireland.ie](mailto:fbissett@youthworkireland.ie)  
Website: [www.iywc.com](http://www.iywc.com)