

SECTION 1: POLICY & LEGISLATION

**NATIONAL DATA STRATEGY ON
CHILDREN'S LIVES
CONSULTATION PROCESS**

On 23rd March the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs launched a public consultation process on the development of its National Data Strategy on Children's Lives. This strategy will set out the vision, goals, principles and actions needed to achieve good quality, easily accessible, internationally comparable information about the lives of children in Ireland.

The consultation is being conducted through an on-line questionnaire, which has been designed to allow the expression of views, comments or suggestions for the Data Strategy, from professionals or individuals whose work is relevant to children's lives.

This consultation process will add to the evidence base that will underpin the Data Strategy. In addition, the development of the Strategy will be informed by principles of international best practice, a comprehensive review of existing sources of data on children's lives, an examination of policies relating to children and academic literature on research on children.

The questionnaire remains open for submissions until **Wednesday 29th April, 2009.**

The questionnaire can be accessed at:

http://www.dohc.ie/consultations/open/childrens_data_strategy/

For further information please contact:

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and Youth Affairs**
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Web: www.omc.gov.ie

**TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
NATIONAL YOUTH WORK
TRAINING PROGRAMME**

NYWAC has given approval for the development of a national training programme for volunteers and pre-professional staff in youth work. The NYWAC Youth Work Practice Sub-Committee will oversee the development of the programme and will establish a steering group to guide the work.

This proposal aims to address the training needs of all volunteers in the voluntary, statutory and community sectors directly delivering or supporting the delivery of youth work. It also includes young people who act as junior leaders and are being trained by their organisations to take up leadership responsibilities. The programme should contain a limited number of core modules such as building relationships, communication, health and safety, child protection, programme planning etc. with additional optional modules.

The training programme must be:

- Be flexible in nature
- Meet the needs of youth organisations and young people
- Meet our commitment to protect and safeguard young people
- Link to Quality Standards
- Have the potential to be accredited
- Have national recognition
- Have a robust quality assurance process and be consistent with developments cross-border

In view of the scope of the project and existing capacity, it is proposed to appoint an External Consultant with the following terms of reference:

- To identify the skills, knowledge and attitudes that is required by volunteers and pre-professional staff within the wider youth sector
- To review all existing Youth Work Training programmes
- To establish where there is a commonality with other training provision in the youth sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland
- To develop and pilot new generic modules of training that form a consistent national induction programme for volunteers and pre-professional staff in youth work
- To produce a final training programme for consideration by the National Youth Work Advisory Committee.

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NEW NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGY TO BE DEVELOPED

To meet the aim of the project the following objectives will need to be realised:

- A training needs analysis for volunteers and pre-professional staff within the youth work;
- A review of any existing units of training to ascertain changes that are required in order to meet the current context;
- Identifying and/or developing new units of training;
- Drafting a new training programme containing both bespoke youth work training units and imported and/or customised units of training from other sources.

The timeframe envisaged for the review is as follows: -

- Formation of Project Steering Group: March 2009
- Consultation with key stakeholders and Analysis of Training Needs: April/May 2009
- Review of existing programmes: April 2009
- Consultation with NI Youth Service: April 2009
- Consultation with other Jurisdictions: April/May 2009
- Identification/Development of New Units of Training: June/July 2009
- Piloting new training programme: September 2009
- Recommendations to NYWAC: December 2009

The successful applicant will be appointed following consideration of the proposals by the Selection Committee. The Committee will have regard to the written submissions made in support of each proposal and any information received from referees in relation to previous work carried out by the applicant. The Selection Committee may shortlist some of the applicants for interview.

Five copies of the applicant's written submission should be sent by registered post, recorded delivery or by hand, clearly marked '**Submission for the National Training Programme for Volunteers and Pre-Professional Staff in Youth Work**' to arrive not later than 5pm on the **24th April, 2009**.

Submissions and/or enquiries should be addressed to:

Mary Cunningham
National Youth Council of Ireland
3 Montague Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 4784122
Email mary.cunningham@nyci.ie

On 6 February the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe TD, announced the launch of a process to develop a new national strategy for higher education which will set out the blueprint for the development of the sector over the next two decades.

A steering group, to be chaired by economist Dr Colin Hunt, will oversee the development of the strategy and membership of the steering group, which is expected to complete its work before the end of the year, will draw on national and international expertise including academic, business, community and student interests, as well as senior government officials. Two international experts in the higher education field will also serve on the steering group.

Opportunity for consultation and input will be provided to relevant interest groups in the course of developing the strategy. The strategy will be framed in the context of the Government's drive towards sustainable economic renewal. The Terms of Reference for and composition of the Steering group are available at: <http://www.education.ie/home/home.jsp?maincat=10861&pcategory=10861&ecategory=10876§ionpage=12251&language=EN&link=link001&page=1&doc=43053>

SECTION 2: FUNDING

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN TRUST GRANTS SCHEME 2009

The Trust was set up in Ireland in 1992 by a Dutch philanthropic family, which operates worldwide. Since 2003, it has had 3 further sources of funding, all from Irish religious orders. The Trust operates on a 32-county basis and the general grant scheme is outlined below. A separate scheme operates for organisations working in Darndale/Belcamp area in Dublin.

Grants will be made to organisations working in 3 specific areas which are:

- **Homelessness:** invites applications from projects which: Focus at a local level, particularly outside of the Dublin region (area under the remit of the Homeless Agency); Concentrate on the key target areas of ex-prisoners; people with psychiatric

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difficulties and victims of domestic violence; and Supports dissemination of good practice among voluntary and statutory agencies.

- **Prisoners/Ex-prisoners:** will consider progressive initiatives that promote: Alternatives to custody; the availability of options to integrate the ex-prisoner back into society; and Initiatives working with prisoners' families.
- **Travellers:** The Trust has a particular interest in locally-based projects seeking to increase the participation of male Travellers in the development of their own community. Initiatives breaking new ground in the area of family support, culturally-appropriate employment initiatives and personal development are especially welcome. We will also support projects seeking to disseminate best practice in these areas.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Trust before completing the application form to ensure the project meets the Trust's criteria which will look at : The project objectives; How the objectives will be measured; Breakdown of the project costs; What is your long term funding strategy; Measurable outputs; Up to date accounts explaining any large reserves or deficits.

During the assessment process, organisations may also be contacted for further information to assist in preparing an assessment report which is presented to the Trustees at the grants meeting. Notification of the Trustees' decision is received within 2 weeks.

The Trust will consider project or core costs. If core costs are being requested, the applicant will need to make a case for sustaining these costs in future years. The Trust generally makes one-off annual grants, although 2 year applications may be successful in particular circumstances. Grants levels are generally from €1,000 to €12,000. In 2008 the average was €5,200.

The Trust accepts applications from voluntary or community organisations, with a CHY or XR (NI) number. In 2009, the Trust is only inviting applications from organisations with annual income below €500,000. The Trust cannot consider applications for building costs; general appeals; retrospective funding and individuals.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 11th September, 2009**. Successful grantees will receive their grants in October. Please note the Trust office will be closed from mid June to mid August 2009.

Application forms are not freely available, to ensure organisations meet the criteria before applying. If you feel your organisation is eligible, please contact:

St. Stephen's Green Trust,
PO Box 950, Naas, Co Kildare
Tel/Fax: 045 480666

Email: info@sstg.ie Website: www.sstg.ie

PROGRAMMES OF GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUSPENDED

The Programmes of Grants for Community and Voluntary Organisations operated by The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has been suspended until further notice. Given the strong level of demand, new applications for Refurbishment, Equipment and Training grants are no longer being accepted for this Programme. The matter will be kept under review in the light of emerging economic circumstances. Applications received before **27th February, 2009** will be processed.

SECTION 3: ROUND-UP

SOCIAL PORTRAIT OF COMMUNITIES IN IRELAND

On 11th February the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin T.D. launched the **Social Portrait of Communities in Ireland**, the fourth in a series commissioned by the Office for Social Inclusion from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).

The first three Social Portraits in the series looked at **children**, people of working age and older people. The series of Social Portraits is designed to be read by a wide audience, including members of the public, policy makers and others involved in the policy process. Copies of these and the Social Portrait of Communities in Ireland are available from the Office for Social Inclusion at <http://www.socialinclusion.ie/>.

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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