

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The next committee stage of the Youth Work Bill, 2000, which will involve the taking of written amendments, is due to take place in October. An update on this stage will be given in the next edition of the Update.

SECTION 2: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

WORKING GROUP ON VOLUNTARY SECTOR WHITE PAPER ESTABLISHED

On 20 July the composition of The Implementation & Advisory Group for the White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity" was announced. The group will have the dual task of leading the implementation of the White Paper's recommendations while providing a forum for discussion between the voluntary sector and the State on related issues such as financing, training and development and the introduction of a regulatory framework for the sector.

The 12 member Group is drawn equally from the Community and Voluntary sector and the relevant Government Departments. It will be co-chaired by the Department of Health & Children and the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs.

The Group's terms of reference are to:

- Advise on a programme of research, which will include quantifying the full extent of community and voluntary activity in Ireland
- Agree protocols for financial accountability in respect of State funding of the sector
- Monitor administrative mechanisms to underpin the effective functioning of the working relationship and discuss and agree proposals that promote integrated approaches at national level
- Monitor developments in accreditation of training for the sector
- Formulate practical proposals to further enhance support and training capacity within the sector and within other sectors
- Advise on the development of a regulatory framework for the sector
- Examine areas of overlap or gaps in statutory responsibility with regard to support for the Community and Voluntary sector at policy and

programme level and make recommendations to resolve such situations

- Advise on the distribution of the £2 million proposed provision for other Federations and Networks across the eligible areas/Votes
- Advise on issues relating to allocations from the National Lottery surplus
- Oversee the publication of a comprehensive manual of funding and regular updated versions
- Undertake a formal review of the workings of the Group after a three-year period.

The Membership of the Group is as follows:

Co-chairs

Deirdre Carroll (Social, Community & Family Affairs)

Brendan Ingoldsby (Health & Children)

Community/Voluntary Sector Representatives

Triona Nic Giolla Choille (Community Worker's Co-operative)

John Dolan (Disability Federation of Ireland)

Kate O'Sullivan (Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups)

James Doorley (National Youth Council of Ireland)

Sylvia Meehan (Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament)

Maureen Kavanagh (Aontas)

Statutory Sector Representatives

Eileen Kehoe (Dept. of An Taoiseach)

Philomena Poole (Director of Community & Enterprise, South County Dublin)

Mícheál O'Corcoran (Social, Community & Family Affairs)

James O'Grady (Mid-West Health Board).

Kathleen Stack (Tourism, Sport & Recreation)

Niall McCutcheon/Stephanie O'Donnell (Justice, Equality & Law Reform)

For further information contact:

**The Information Service
Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs**

Aras Mhic Dhiarmada

Store Street

Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8748444

Website: www.welfare.ie

MINISTER CONVENES FIRST MEETING OF DÁIL NA NÓG

On 5 September 2001 the Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin T.D., invited 250 children and young

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

people between the ages of 7 and 17 to be delegates at the first meeting of Dáil na nÓg. It was held in The Mansion House, Dublin, the venue of the first ever Dáil sitting in 1919.

Two young people chaired the session - Laura Murphy (aged 16) from Galway, and Jeffrey Rockett (aged 14) from Limerick, with the assistance of Mr. Gerry Killian, a teacher from Dublin. Delegates debated three motions and each debate was followed by a vote passing the following motions.

1. That children have a right to express their views in all matters affecting them taking into account their age and maturity
2. That every child and young person should have the opportunity for play and recreation
3. That every child and young person should have a good education.

The session was also attended by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D., to observe this historical inaugural session, and to listen to participants speaking about the issues relevant to their lives. The Taoiseach was presented with a short report on the day's proceedings by the Cathaoirleach to the Dáil na nÓg. He will take the report to the Cabinet Committee on Children, which he chairs.

For further information on Dáil na nÓg or the National Children's Strategy contact:

The National Children's Office
94 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 4180582
Fax: (01) 4180819
E-mail: child_strategy@health.irlgov.ie

NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTRES LAUNCHED

The Minister for Children, Mary Hanafin, T.D., launched new National Standards for Children's Residential Centres on 10 September at a conference on Best Practice in Residential Care organised by the Department of Health and Children in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone.

The need for these new National Standards to ensure consistency of care had been identified and highlighted by the [Social Services Inspectorate](#) in their inspections of children's residential homes.

The standards cover all areas affecting the life of a child in a residential care environment including:

- Their rights
- Care planning for the child
- The care of young people
- Protecting and safeguarding them
- Their health and education

For a copy of the Standards document and/or further information contact:

Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6354000 Fax: (01) 6354001
LoCall: 1890 200311
Website: www.doh.ie

SECTION 3: FUNDING

BACK TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE EXTENDED TO EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern is extending the Back to Education Allowance Scheme in a bid to enhance the job prospects of early school leavers.

From September the Back to Education Allowance Scheme will be extended to people aged between 18 and 20 years, getting an unemployment or lone parent payment for at least six months and who have been out of the education system for two years. Periods spent on FAS training courses, FAS Job Initiative, Youthreach, Jobstart or Job Assist can also count towards the six-month qualifying period. Previously, those who were unemployed or getting a One Parent Family Payment had to be aged 21 or over in order to avail of the scheme.

The Back to Education Allowance is payable to people who wish to pursue approved second or third level courses of education. During the 2000/2001 Academic year, 5,605 people took part in the Back to Education Allowance Scheme.

For application forms and more information contact Social Welfare Local Offices or:

NYF Member Youth Services Current Awareness Update

The Information Service
Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 8748444
Website: www.welfare.ie

Tel: (01) 6312121
Fax: (01) 6312827
Website: www.entemp.ie

SECTION 4: ROUND-UP

TANAISTE ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING TO PROMOTE THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On 14 August the Tánaiste Mary Harney announced funding for a major new initiative to raise awareness and promote the employment of people with disabilities.

In 2000, proposals were invited from the social partners for initiatives aimed at further promoting the employment of people with disabilities in the private sector. Resulting from the process the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment reached an agreement with ICTU and IBEC to fund this new initiative driven by those organisations. The initiative will provide funding of up to £700,000 to the end of 2003.

The initiative will involve IBEC and ICTU jointly establishing a number of regional networks involving employers, trade unions, people with disabilities, service providers and relevant State Agencies, coming together to raise awareness of the employment potential of people with disabilities. The networks will explore local skills availability and locally available employment opportunities. It will provide information to employers, employee representatives and people with disabilities on supports, available to assist the integration of people with disabilities into the workforce. For further information contact:

Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

The 39th National Children's Day will take place on Sunday 7 October, 2001. There is a range of initiatives and activities proposed to take place leading up to and on the day in question. These include the **National Children's Day Smarties Parties** which will allow children to have a party whilst at the same time being considerate to other children by raising funds for three children's hospital: Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin; Temple Street Children's Hospital and the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, and the **National Children's Day Ribena Best Teacher in Ireland Award**, which invites children to nominate their teacher and why they should be crowned the best teacher in Ireland.

Leaflets on both of these initiatives as well as information on the other activities on the day are available from:

Sally Keaveney
Managing Director
National Children's Day
19A Main Street
Blackrock
Co. Dublin
Tel: 01 2789011 Fax: 01 2781235
Email: ncd@indigo.ie Website: www.ncd.ie

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

About the Irish YouthWork Centre

The Irish YouthWork Centre is an initiative of the National Youth Federation (NYF). It acts as a one-stop research and documentation centre which has been developed to respond to the varied information, research and training support needs of youth & community workers, researchers and students, and anyone who works with young people. Its' services include:

Enquiry Services on:

- ◆ Trainers, consultants and specialists on youth & community work and related topics
- ◆ Venues suitable for hosting youth events and conferences
- ◆ Courses in Youth & Community Work and related fields
- ◆ Where to find youth & community work resources and training materials from other agencies
- ◆ Connecting people to projects doing exciting and innovative work within their field of interest

Sharing Good Practice

The Irish YouthWork Centre is constantly engaged in researching and documenting innovative approaches to work with young people in areas of special interest. This information is available to youth workers through hard copy resources, database information and ongoing independent research being both undertaken and commissioned by the Centre and published by the ***Irish Youth Work Press***. Publications include quantitative & qualitative research, training manuals, policy documents and issue-based guidelines for youth workers.

Good Practice and Policy Development Seminars

The Centre regularly organises theme based, seminars and workshops. All the seminars are supported with; up to date analysis of the issue and what's happening on the ground in the form of information and/or research packs; the issues that youth workers are likely to meet; success stories, innovative projects, good practice; and sources of further information.

Library

- ◆ Lending service for youth & community work related books, videos and training materials.
- ◆ Photocopy and reference services for reports, statistics and hard-to-find articles on youth work.
- ◆ Newspaper cuttings, Dáil Debates, Government Bills/ Acts and youth related Statistical Updates.
- ◆ Profiles on over 200 organisations in the youth, community, social & voluntary sectors.
- ◆ Retention of over 80 youth work and youth work related periodicals/journals.
- ◆ On-line database facilities of all information stocked in the library.
- ◆ On-site study facility.

Publications and Resources

Low cost resources and training materials for sale (***the IWYC acts as an official sales agent for a number of agencies including the National Youth Council of Ireland, Combat Poverty Agency, Russell House Publishing, Nightshift Publications and the Directory of Social Change***). The Centre also offers an extensive range of research, guidelines, policy documents and programme packs for sale published by Irish Youth Work Press, the publishing arm of the NYF.

A complete **Publications For Sale Brochure** is available (see address below)

Free quarterly magazine (**Irish YouthWork Scene**) to members of the Centre.

For further information on the services of the IRISH YOUTHWORk CENTRE, why not write, call in, telephone, or email us: *Fran Bissett/Michelle Drumm, Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: +353 1 8729933 Fax: +353 1 8724183*
E-Mail addresses: fbissett@nyf.ie mdrumm@nyf.ie Web site: www.iol.ie/~nyf