



Youth Work Ireland

'be part of it'

Policy Brief May 2013

The Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention continues apace. On April 20th Youth Work Ireland held its own Children's and Young Peoples Convention with 60 young people attending from all around Ireland to consider the agenda of the Convention proper. We were pleased that Tom Arnold Chair of the Constitutional Convention attended and chaired the final voting session. We are now sending two young people to the remaining sessions of the Convention.

Findings of The Children's and Young Peoples Convention

[Images of the Day](#)

[Video from the Day](#)

[The Constitutional Convention](#)

Structural Funds

Time was when Ireland was a major recipient of EU Structural Funds for road, rail, water and training. While things have changed there is a new focus on the potential role of the Structural Funds in contributing to a focus on training and education for young people. The EU Commission has already stated that the European Social Fund needs to be focussed on countries with high Youth Unemployment and also to facilitate the introduction of a Youth Guarantee. Youth Work Ireland has made a submission to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform supporting the focussing of the European Social Fund on the area of youth unemployment and the Youth Guarantee in the next budget period 2014-2020

[Youth Work Irelands Submission to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform](#)

[European Commission on the ESF and the Youth Guarantee](#)

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children met with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on April 19. Several members raised issues relating to youth services and particularly cuts to funding for youth work. Robert Troy TD had received a briefing form Youth Work Ireland on

the topic and made use of several of the figures and points we have highlighted. The youth work sector intends to keep up the pressure on this issue.

[The Transcript from the Committee Meeting](#)

Young People Taking the Brunt of Recession

In a recent report the ESRI has highlighted the impact of the recession on young people and has concluded that the impact of recent economic change has been greatest on this group. The National and Economic Social Council has made similar findings particularly focussed on the issues of employment. It pointed out “Youth unemployment varies by county, with the highest rates in Limerick city (50 per cent), [Donegal](#) (49 per cent) and Wexford (47 per cent). It was lowest in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, at 27 per cent, followed by Fingal, [Cork](#) county, [Galway](#) city and Dublin city,”

[The ESRI report](#)

[The NESC Report](#)

Youth Emigration a Huge Issue

The National Youth Council recently launched a report on Youth Emigration. “Time to Go?” is a qualitative study of the experience of emigration amongst young Irish people. It particularly focusses on those in the UK and Canada. The report points out “Over the past 2 years over a quarter of our population has been affected by the emigration of a close family member, and half of our 18 – 24 years olds have said they would consider emigrating themselves”

[Time to Go?](#)

Youth Related Questions

A number of youth related issues such as Youth Cafes, Garda Vetting and funding for Youth Diversion Projects have been raised in the Dail by a variety of deputies recently. Similarly cuts to youth work funding continue to be raised in Dail.

[Garda Vetting \(Eric Byrne\)](#)

[Youth Diversion Funding – \(Brian Stanley\)](#)

[Youth Work Cuts \(Bernard Durkan\)](#)

[Youth Work Cuts \(Roisin Shorthall\)](#)

Child and Family Support Agency and Children’s Services Committees

The Children’s Rights Alliance held a conference on the new Child and Family Support Agency which was addressed by Gordon Jeyes and others. The event effectively laid out the need for a robust and integrated Agency in this area but specifics are still hard to determine and legislation is awaited in the area. Children’s Services Committees continue to be an important instrument in the work of the DCYA

[Questions on CFSA \(Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin\)](#)

[Questions on the CFSA \(Finian Mc Grath\)](#)

[Children's Services Committees \(Roisin Shorthall\)](#)

Children's and Young Peoples Policy Framework

Work on the Children's Policy Framework and the constituent Youth Policy Framework are nearing completion. There has been only limited scope for input through public consultation and the work of the National Children's Advisory Council. However at the same time it appears decisions are being made that may impact on the future of youth work. An NYCI delegation recently met with the Minister and it has been agreed that there will be more regular meeting and interaction with the voluntary sector to ensure their unique and valued role is

Dail Briefing

Youth Work Ireland held its Dail briefing in Leinster House on April 23rd as part of Youth Work Ireland Week. As part of our on-going advocacy work we continued to highlight the excessive cuts to youth work services and the need to introduce robust policies relating to youth employment and related areas. There was a good reception from across the parties and independents and many national and local contacts were made or strengthened. Young people at the even also highlighted the issue of youth work cuts outside the Dail.

[Images of the Day](#)

[Outside the Dail](#)

Youth Work Ireland and the Irish League of Credit Unions Survey

Youth Work Ireland and the Irish League of Credit Unions carried out a survey relating to young people and financial matters in February. The findings again illustrated that the recession is impacting greatly on young people and they are equally impacted on by family finance issues like employment and debt. The survey generated much media interest and the findings assist both organisations in planning their work

[Survey Findings](#)

Young People and The Law on Sexual Offences

The Youth Work Ireland AGM adopted a position paper in this area

[Youth Work Ireland Position Paper](#)

Employment Schemes

The Department of Social Protection continues to reflect on the future of employment schemes and has established an advisory committee in this area. The Wheel are holding a consultation session in this area on May 17. The Department held its own stakeholder advisory session and has published a summary of the results. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs also has an interest in this area and many groups are examining their position with a view to possibly interacting with the new Youth Guarantee when introduced.

[The Wheel Seminar](#)

[DSP Stakeholder Consultation](#)