



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
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**“Rhetoric does not match reality on young people in budget says” leading youth organisation**

Youth Work Ireland has expressed disappointment with the lack of priority given to young people and youth services in Budget 2025 despite the claims of the two ministers. The organisation, which works with over 80,000 young people, has pointed to the complete lack of action on a well-established staffing crisis for youth services on the ground and the lack of progress on the minimum wage for young people and the absence of any significant capital programme for key youth services in local communities. There were other significant gaps according to the group in terms of addressing the significant cost of living issues for those providing frontline services to young people.

“This budget was widely recognised as having the potential to be the most generous in some time yet when it came to young people there was a failure to respond to the calls from those working at the frontline with young people to address their needs. While there were increases in funding for youth work these completely failed to address the staffing crisis in voluntary youth services where the states own actions have left youth workers in a disadvantaged position viz a vis other workers in similar areas. Despite record once off receipts ,and even allowing for the need for rainy day funds, the ongoing failure to provide for capital funding for youth facilities was telling. These were two central areas of concerns to the youth work sector and the Government came up short on both fronts” Said Michael McLoughlin from Youth Work Ireland

“While the Government went big on increasing the minimum wage it studiously failed to deal with the consistent discrimination against young people on low pay represented by sub-minimum wage rates for young people working in Ireland, despite the findings by its own Low Pay Commission. Huge numbers of young people are still working on sub-minimum wages getting paid significantly less than people working alongside them as the law provides for automatic discrimination against young people in this area. With a tightening labour market it is critical to incentivise all those who want work to participate in the labour market. It is wholly unacceptable that young people are paid less for precisely the same work as older people who they could even be working alongside in the same workplace.” McLoughlin added

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