



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
18 November 2024

Lack of reference to youth work or youth services a “major omission” in Fine Gael Manifesto according to leading youth organisation.

Youth Work Ireland has today said that the lack of reference by Fine Gael to youth services or youth work in its manifesto was a major omission when compared to other parties. The organisation, which works with close to 100,000 young people around the country, has said it would expect all parties to set out their commitments in this area and was surprised that the Taoiseach’s party, which is leading in the polls, neglected to do so. The other main parties which have launched their election commitments to date have provided details in this area at least demonstrating their interest in an important part of Irish life according to Youth Work Ireland.

“We see the election as a critical democratic moment where the public have the opportunity to examine the party’s commitments across the board on a range of issues where the Government has programmes and responsibilities. The omission of any reference to youth work or youth services in the Fine Gael manifesto published today must be seen as a major omission for those interested in this field. The Government provides supports to young people in this area and there are many issues relating to the workforce, the priority given to youth work and the huge impact of covid. However, while some sections of the manifesto mentioned issues pertaining to young people in other policy fields, youth work and youth services did not receive any mention in the 124 page document. This was in contrast to the other parties who have published their manifestos so far” said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland.

“After a budget where there was a failure to respond to the calls from those working at the frontline with young people to address their needs this election was seen as a chance by many to finally address the neglect of youth services and youth work. After a failure 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, the silence of a major party on the issue is very disappointing. Those working in the field of youth have set out they key challenges and want to discuss them with the parties on the doorstep but this is hampered when a leading party of Government does not set out any policies or proposals in this field” Mc Loughlin added

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