



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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"New Government is Lacking Ambition for Young People - Demonstrates yet Again a Refusal to Prioritise their Needs" Says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has expressed disappointment with the lack of priority given to young people and youth services in the new Programme for Government.

"The draft programme for government has demonstrated yet again how politicians are utterly disconnected from the clear messages sent to them by young people, volunteers in their community and the youth sector in the build up to the recent election. The programme is completely silent on the youth sector's ongoing demands for adequate day to day operational resourcing and staffing. There is no commitment to capital funding to develop quality youth centres, and amenities. There is no commitment at all to address the dire funding needs of all our Youth Information Services despite a review of these services. The organisation says the document clearly demonstrates why these parties continue to refuse to extend the voting age to 16" according to Dr Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland.

"Youth Clubs have been saying for years that they need support in terms of recruitment, training and retention of volunteers, club support staff, compliance and administration costs. The new programme is completely silent on this, opting for the cheaper option of allocation petty cash directly to clubs. The commitment to develop a new Youth Services Action Plan is simply an insult – considering the fact that the DCEDIY published such a plan in the final quarter of 2024. Finally there is no provision to address issues of key concern to young people and the youth sector such as workforce development, social inclusion and anti-poverty initiatives, drug and alcohol support, LGTBI+, the role of youth work in supporting young people with disabilities, just transition in the context of climate change etc." Dr. Burke added.

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