



Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
Nov 12, 2025

“Staffing and funding issues threaten the ability of youth groups to deal with mental health, poverty and disinformation locally” says leading youth organisation at Oireachtas Committee

Youth Work Ireland today alerted the Oireachtas Committee on Education and Youth that the main youth schemes supported by the Department of Education and Youth are falling significantly behind others offered in the community sector. This is leading to an inability to meet inflationary and pay demands after significant WRC rulings. The group, whose members work with over 70,000 young people believes there is a need to avoid a two-tier system for community groups doing vital work locally and Government should not create such inequalities.

“We are also concerned that the Strategy is silent on the critical role of providing high-quality, reliable information to young people. In an era marked by misinformation and disinformation, the provision of trusted, youth-friendly information is more important than ever. This work must be recognised and resourced accordingly.” Said Dr Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland

“Looking beyond the current Youth Strategy, we must be more ambitious for our young people. Youth Work Ireland is proud to lead a national campaign advocating for the right of every young person to access a youth service or support in their own community. We call for a national strategy for the provision of quality youth spaces, ensuring that youth work is delivered in environments that are safe, welcoming, and purpose-built.” Dr Burke added

ENDS

Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499
Patrick Burke 086 2225774