

# AN TEACH IRISH HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Please reply to: An Teach Irish Housing Association  
Haringey Irish Centre, Pretoria Road, Tottenham N17 8DX Tel: 081 365 1751

31st May 1995

A Chara,

**RE: NOTICE OF MEETING OF RESEARCH STEERING GROUP- MONDAY 12 JUNE 1995**  
**AT 6:30PM**

Please be advised that the next meeting of the An Teach Irish youth Homelessness research group will take place at the An Teach Irish Housing Association offices at 6:30PM at Haringey Irish Centre, Pretoria Road, Tottenham, London, N17 8DX.

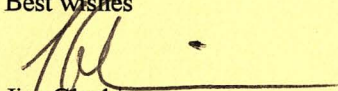
The nearest British Rail station is White Hart Lane. There is ample car parking facilities at the Centre. Please confirm with this office that you can attend the meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

## **AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last meeting 16 May 1995 (accuracy)
4. Matters arising from minutes of 16 May 1995
5. Feedback on Target group questionnaire
6. List of target agencies
7. Agency questionnaire
8. Update report from Ian Haywood Associates
9. Discussion on Hypothesis of research to date including interim report contents
10. Any Other Business.

As there is much on the agenda we would be grateful if you could consider the papers enclosed prior to the meeting. In particular the Agency questionnaire. Any prior comments should be copied to both An Teach and Ian Haywood. Ian Haywood Associates will forward a copy of update report prior to the meeting.

Best wishes

  
Jim Clackin  
Project Manager.

enc. List of members, Minutes of 16 May 1995.

## CRISIS



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**MINUTES OF THE AN TEACH "IRISH YOUTH HOMELESSNESS" RESEARCH  
STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 1995 AT 6:30PM AT AN  
TEACH OFFICES.**

**PRESENT: IAN HAYWOOD, RESEARCHERS; MELANIE CHARALAMOUS, RESEARCHERS;  
KATHLEEN EGAN, AGIY; NOEL CLARKE, CARA; BRIAN McCARTHY (CHAIR), AN  
TEACH; JIM GLACKIN, AN TEACH.**

**APOLOGIES: EILEEN DEVENNEY, AN TEACH; MARY HICKMAN, UNL.**

**1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION.**

**1.1 Brian McCarthy welcomed everyone** to the meeting and explained that it was exciting for An Teach to be able to undertake this research project. The research project would enable An Teach to highlight the housing needs of Irish youth in London and that the project would enable An Teach to develop its services and to develop more housing resources to meet the various needs of young Irish people in the capital.

**1.2 Ian Haywood on behalf of the Researchers introduced themselves** expressed their pleasure in being appointed as the researchers for this project. They stated that this research project would fit in well with other research that they were conducting into youth homelessness and affordability.

**2.0 Project objectives and structure:**

**2.1 Ian Haywood introduced revised outputs** for discussion. These differ from the original ones and Ian wished to clarify a number of points contained within them.

**2.2 The committee considered the issue of the age range of the target group.** It was decided that this would include all those aged under 30. It was noted that there may be some comparability problems with using the range of ages up to 30, but that it was important to include the range 25-29.

**2.3 The committee discussed the issue of what constitutes "Irish" for the purpose of the research methodology.** The Irish Embassy view is that the Irish category should be that of those born in Ireland. The meeting discussed the issues relating to second generation Irish and inequality and disadvantage and issues around Black Irish people. The meeting noted that the questions will pick up on the difference between those emigrating and those born in Britain. The meeting noted the concern expressed that a lot of second generation Irish seem to be resident in hostels.

**2.4 The group decided that the research should include second generation Irish** but should highlight the extra difficulties faced by those who emigrate. The research also to highlight the lack of statistics on second generation Irish.

**2.5 The meeting discussed the issue of what constitutes "Single people".** What about those who are separated. The meeting decided that for the purposes of the research the term "Single" would relate to how the household presented themselves eg. if the person had a dependent family living abroad they would be single. The research would also consider couples without dependent children as single. The meeting concluded that we would need to be careful regarding the issue of **vulnerability** as to exclude those who have a statutory right to housing may ignore the problems they have in accessing it. The

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meeting agreed that we would include those who have aright to rehousing under the homelessness legislation.

2.6 In the case of **travellers**, the meeting noted that this was a live issue and one which was regularly not seen as a housing issue. The meeting concluded that the researchers should seek to target travellers to be included in the research and that they could approach agencies such as **TRADE** and **BIAS** who both work closely with the travelling community.

2.7 Ian Haywood is interested in the data from the **MONSIS** project. Kathleen agreed to forward information on findings to Ian Haywood.

2.8 The meeting discussed difficulties with regards the **figures for emigration**. Ian Haywood indicated that official statistics were that a net migration was approx. 2500. This was represented by an out migration from Ireland of 17,000 and inward migration of 15,000. The meeting discussed the accuracy of these stats and further noted for the researchers attention the problems with underestimation in the **Census data**, as Irish people are more likely to be unrecorded due to transient lifestyles and housing tenure.

2.9 The meeting suggested that Ian Haywood contact **Bronwen Walters** to check the pattern of Irish youth settlement in the capital.

2.10 The meeting discussed the **geographical areas** that the research should concentrate on. It was agreed that this should cover a range of geographical areas. The meeting accepted the researchers recommendation to look specifically at about 3 boroughs. These it was agreed are to be based on one in each of North, West and South London. It was suggested and generally agreed that this should be either Brent or Ealing in the west; Greenwich in the south and possibly Islington in North London. The decision top be taken at next meeting.

2.11 The meeting heard from the researchers that they proposed to use an **Excel spreadsheet** for the analysis instead of the originally proposed **SPPS** package. The reason being ease of interpretation. The meeting accepted the professional advice of Ian Haywood with regard to this matter.

### 3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

3.1 The meeting heard that one of the outputs for the research project was to enable An Teach and others to **campaign** on the issues raised by the research. This requires an ability to glean from the research what is the experience of Irish Youth and what is happening to them.

3.2 The meeting agreed that we need to look at the **health perspective** as this was an important factor in the administration of resources with Community Care having such a central role in resource allocation. The meeting noted that the research should look at the mental health experiences of young Irish people.

3.3 As **special needs** are the key to opening up resources the research should examine the need of Irish youth and in particular consider ex-offenders, mental health and drug users.

3.4 The research should also highlight the role of the **criminal justice system** and the action of, gatekeeping of services which affect the take up of benefits and/or self assertion of Irish Youth's rights.

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3.5 The report should throughout indicate the **differing needs** within the young population including Black Irish, those from north and southern Ireland and travellers.

#### 4.0 STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH

4.1 Ian Haywood tabled the researchers proposed structure. This was considered by the group and appended to these minutes.

4.2.1 Under (ii) of the document, to include **Health**.

4.2.2 Under (iv) this means looking at **Housing providers** and the Department of the Environment (DOE), The Housing Corporation. The research will look at the implications of the reduction in the **HAG rates** and the implications for the reliance on private finance. this will consider how Irish housing associations are faring and how they are placed for the future. The report will highlight the implications of the Corporation policy of registering few new HA's and the related attitude to small HA's. The report will also look at the operation of the **Corporation's Black and Ethnic Minorities Programme** and how this affects the Irish Community and HA's. the report will look at the provision of housing by Local Authorities and there role fir the future including support for Irish HA's. The report will look to alternative models to support Irish HA's including the use of Management agreements.

4.2.3 Under (iv) the **agencies** are to be widened to include Local Authorities, Health Authorities and recommendations to each.

4.2.4 Under (vii) to include "**Transnational support**" for new migrants and for those wishing or needing to return home eg. illness, disability or other special needs.

#### 5.0 RESEARCH UPDATE

5.1 The **Desk survey** is largely complete and the researchers are writing up a draft at present.

5.2 The researchers have designed two **questionnaires** for consideration by the group. These are for the agency interviews and the target group interview.

5.3 The researchers have completed their initial **discussions with agencies** and are ready to go back and interview 15 agencies through structured questionnaire. Any suggestions on who should be 15 agencies to be communicated to An Teach and Ian Haywood as soon as possible.

5.4 Ian Haywood explained that a decision on the **questionnaire for the target group** ie, Irish youth needs to be done ASAP. The rest of the meeting was geared towards achieving as much of this as possible.

5.5 **TARGET GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE**, copy of original appended.

5.5.1;

**Q.4 place of birth** okay

**Q.4(b)** to be included to ascertain the **nationality of parents**. This to ask "How would you best describe the nationality of your parents, as follows?"

(i) One Irish

(ii) Both Irish

(iii)None Irish

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**ALL**

**Q.5** This question on **ethnicity** to be open ended and then coded later by researchers.

**Q.2 Age.** 16-17 to be included as compares with rights under Children's Act and benefits legislation.  
Also 18-19 category. The rest of the bands agreed.

**Q.3 Personal Status:** Two categories only;  
(i) Single  
(ii) Couple

**5.5.2** Need to include a question on **sexuality**. This to be added at the end of the questionnaire together with other personal information as likely that the interviewee would be more relaxed and willing to give accurate information.

**Q.6 Fathers Employment.** No agreement to be discussed later.

**Q.7.** "Junior" to become "Junior/intercert". Noel to check the accuracy of this change and inform Ian Haywood.

**Q.8** include "other" category and allow response.

**Q.9** Add "Social/family reasons"  
Add "Other" and allow expansion

**Q. 11 To Read:** Up to 3 Months  
(i) Upto 1 Year  
(ii) Upto 3 Years  
(iii) Upto 5 Years  
(iv) Upto 10 Years  
(v) More than 10 Years

**Q.12** Refer to later discussion.

**Q.13** Refer

**5.5.3** The meeting recognising that it is unable to complete the exercise on the night in question decided to **delegate the decision** making process in the following way:

Kathleen and Noel to meet and make Suggested **changes**. Jim, Brian and Eileen to meet similarly. Jim/Brian to meet Ian Haywood next week to go through recommended changes.

**6.0 AGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE**

**6.1** This is to be discussed at the next meeting. Comments on this to be sent in advance to Jim who will pass these to Ian Haywood.

**7.0 Date of Next Meeting.** To be confirmed but this will be either Mon 12th or Tue 13th June, if every one can make it. Preferably **Monday 12th June 1995**.

Meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

Minutes: Jim Glackin

**ACTION**

**RESEARCHERS**

**KATHLEEN/  
NOEL  
JIM/BRIAN**

**ALL**

**JIM**

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