

Young still head here

YOUNG and vulnerable Irish people are arriving in Britain despite the continued buoyancy of the Celtic Tiger, according to Irish ambassador to Britain Ted Barrington.

The ambassador was speaking at the Irish Youth Foundation's annual awards in the Irish Embassy last Friday when 37 youth projects shared in a bumper fund of more than £160,000.

Mr Barrington said that the Irish Youth Foundation's existence was more important now than ever in its 10-year history.

"Even though Ireland is prospering more than ever before, Britain is still the destination for 30 per cent of Irish emigrants," Mr Barrington said. "Over 4,000 youngsters applied to agencies last year. The need is still considerable"

Grant recipients from London to Glasgow were selected by an independent advisory committee which handed out awards of between £500 and £15,000.

Brian McCarthy, who accepted £3,000 on behalf of Action For Irish Youth, said the award would be spent on maintaining their Standard-

BY JOHN CROWLEY

ised Information System (SIS), which provides collective data to frontline agencies working with the Irish community.

Seán Canning, of housing association An Teach, said the £3,000 his organisation received would be put towards the salary of an administration worker.

He said: "Despite the success of the Celtic Tiger we continue to see Irish emigrants on the streets at a very young stage in their lives."

The £6,000 grant awarded to the London Irish Centre will be channelled towards its Youth Resettlement Project.

Kerry Dinner said the project helps to provide a "culturally sensitive service" to young Irish people on matters of welfare, advocacy and in countering discrimination.

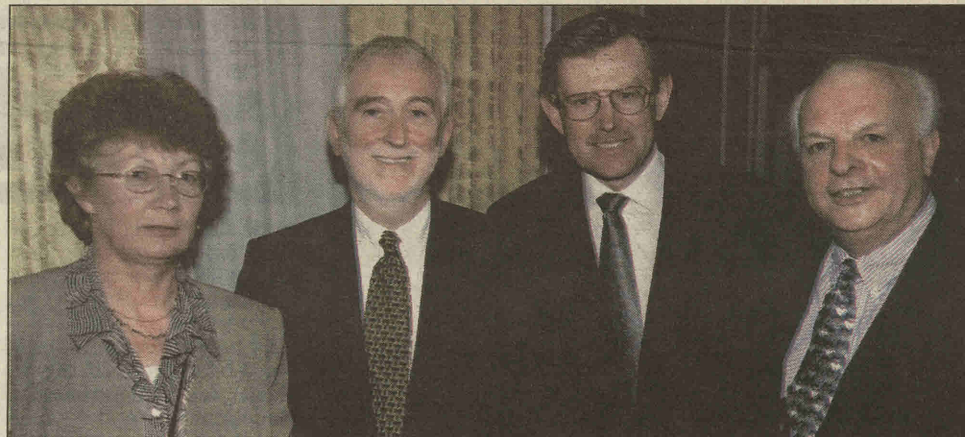
Sister Elizabeth Cahill, of Irish Community Care, Manchester, said their £15,000 award would help the organisation to appoint a youth development co-ordinator.

Anthony Duffy, who accepted £500 on behalf of the Birmingham-based Tír na

nÓg Accordion Band, said the grant would go towards the sizeable running costs of the children's group.

Jim O'Hara, the foundation's newly-appointed chair, said: "Over the last 10 years, a remarkable £1.5million has been raised by our volunteer committee and distributed to our projects. Our work presents a perfect channel for those who wish to put something back into the community."

■ THE London Irish Youth Forum is holding an Irish Youth Work meeting at 2pm



TIME FOR GIVING: At the Irish Youth Foundation's annual awards were, from left, Maire McCluskey of the Irish embassy and chair of the DION committee, Jim O'Hara, IYF chair, Irish ambassador Ted Barrington and Fred Hucker, who chairs the IYF's fundraising committee.

Picture: MALCOLM McNALLY.

on Thursday, March 9, 2000, at the London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7.

The forum hopes to bring together youth workers and service providers working with young Irish people throughout Britain to discuss contemporary needs and

plan new initiatives. For more details phone 0171 700 8137.

■ Meanwhile, the launch of a report on young Irish people in Merseyside takes place at the YHA Liverpool International, Wapping, this Friday, February 18, at 2pm. Irish Community Care Mersey-

side's new report, Welfare, Social And Cultural Needs Of Young Irish People in Liverpool, is based on a series of interviews with young Irish people in the city and their concerns over isolation, racism and discrimination. For further information phone 0151 707 4302.

