

## Young and Irish - Who Benefits?

Enclosed with this edition of AGIY-INFO is the information leaflet **Young and Irish - To Benefit or not to Benefit? An Experience of the Social Security System.**

Following the changes in the Social Security Benefits System in April 1988 AGIY with the assistance of ten welfare/advice agencies in the London Irish Youth Forum carried out a survey to discover how the new legislation was affecting young Irish people's access to benefits.

The main findings of the survey showed that the greatest problems experienced were attempting to prove one's identity to the DSS and trying to obtain emergency payments.

In order to address these issues AGIY and the agencies in the Youth Forum who participated in the original survey are meeting shortly to develop a response to be made to the DSS Minister of State, civil servants and trade unions.

AGIY would like to thank the **Board and Lodging Information Project** whose members are CHAR, CLSSAF, HASSL, LHU, SHAC and SHELTER for funding the leaflet. If your agency would like further copies of the leaflet please contact AGIY. A donation of £1.50 for packs of 20 will be accepted towards the cost of postage and packing. Please make cheques, postal orders etc. payable to the AGIY.

## Benefits for Travellers

The Travellers and Benefits Working Party have recently published a very useful and comprehensive A5 40 page handbook "Benefits for Travellers" which shows how the new benefits system introduced in April 1988 affects Travellers. It also highlights benefits which travellers can claim and discusses problems and issues affecting traveller claimants.

Copies of the booklet which cost £2 are available from the Travellers and Benefits

Working Party, c/o Ilderton School,  
Varcoe Road, London SE16

The Travellers and Benefits Working Party, most of whose members work with travellers, was formed because of its concern over the problems faced by traveller claimants.

If you would like to join the Working Party contact the Travellers and Benefits Working Party, c/o Welfare Rights Support Team, 15 Old St., London EC1V 9HL.

## Funding News

### DION Funding

Dion, the Irish Government Advisory Committee on Emigrant Welfare Services Abroad provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations employing professional staff dealing with the welfare problems of Irish people.

This year, the Irish Government has provided IR£500,000 which can be made available to voluntary organisations which accord with the Committee's current priorities as follows:

- front line advice services for emigrants;
- outreach services for unemployed youths, travellers, women and children in temporary accommodation;
- day care centres for elderly emigrants;
- special projects for the unemployed.

Applicants are advised to contact the Committee's Secretariat to discuss the details of the project(s) before submitting a formal application.

For further information and a copy of the application form please contact **The Secretary, DION Committee, Irish Embassy, 17 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HR.**

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 12th June 1989.**



## Nat West Funding Available

The 1989 NCVO National Westminster Bank Fund has £100,000 to distribute in one off grants of up to £1,500 to self help groups, community and voluntary organisations.

The grants are to enable the groups to work together more effectively to combat disadvantage and discrimination and tackle local social, economic or environmental needs, either locally or regionally.

In order to be eligible groups must be in England and have an income in 1989/90 of less than £30,000. The fund's administrators want to make sure successful applicants are spread across the following categories; rural organisations, organisations for people with disabilities, black and minority ethnic organisations, generalist organisations working with the local voluntary sector as a whole, self-help groups and women's organisation.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 1st August 1989.**

For further information send a stamped self-addressed A4 envelope to the Local Development Unit, NCVO, 26 Bedford Sq., London WC1B 3HU.

## Percy Bilton Charitable Funding

The Percy Bilton Charity has announced it has money available for registered charities or youth organisations registered with the local authority. It offers two types of funding: donations of up to £500 to youth organisations for equipment and a minimum grant of £2,000 for main charity funding. Grants are mainly provided on a once off basis but recurrent funding for schemes where a new project or initiative is being established will also be considered.

Applications are considered quarterly in June, September, December and March.

There are no application forms. If in doubt regarding the appropriateness of your appeal, contact the charity either in writing, giving the briefest outline, or by telephone. Applications should be sent to: **Mrs. J.A. Beasley, Charity Administrator, The Percy Bilton Charity, Bilton House, London W5 2TL. Tel. 579 2829**

AGIY would like to acknowledge the assistance of 'Voluntary Voice' in the production of the above items.

## National Lottery Funding

Over the past nine months AGIY have been attempting to find out whether proceeds from the Irish Government's National Lottery would be made available to welfare agencies abroad.

Mr. Frank Fahey, Minister of State for Youth and Sport Affairs has now told AGIY that in 1988 it was not possible 'in the context of the great need which exists (in Ireland) and the budget available to provide additional funding to welfare agencies abroad from the funds available to me for youth information'

Mr. Fahey concludes his response to AGIY by saying that the Inter-Departmental Committee on Disadvantaged Youth which advises on the allocation of National Lottery funding will "subject to funds permitting in 1989, be amenable to considering applications for financial assistance from welfare agencies abroad. Such applications however, such should be submitted through DION. Needless to say, there can be no guarantee at this stage that any such considerations will result in grants being made available". In the next edition of AGIY INFO we hope to publish what procedures are established to enable agencies in Britain apply for National Lottery funds.

## The London Grants Guide

The Directory of Social Change have recently published "The London Grants Guide" an invaluable book which lists the sources of funding that exist specifically to help organisations and individuals in London.

The book which costs **£9.95** is available post free from **The Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, Lodnon NW3 1HL. Tel. 01 435 8171 or 01 431 1817.**

## London Irish Youth Forum - Fee Reminder

In the last edition of AGIY INFO we reported that due to financial and funding constraints we were forced to ask agencies



to pay a £10 subscription fee to the London Irish Youth Forum (LIYF). If you have not yet paid this fee please make payments payable to AGIY and forward to us as soon as possible.

The dates of remaining LIYF meeting in 1989 are :

- 15th June,
- 3rd August,
- 21st September,
- 2nd November,
- 14th December.

## Irish Youth Festival Kilburn

For the past two summers a Festival for young Irish people has been held in Kilburn, North London. On both occasions the Festival has been attended by 5,000 + people with music, sideshows, refreshments and a large number of information stalls run by community groups and advice agencies.

This year the Festival which is organised by the Kilburn Irish Youth Action Group (KIYAG) is on **July 23rd in Grange Park, Kilburn from 12 noon - 6.00 p.m.** The Festival hopes to make contact with these young people and provide them with an occasion "to celebrate being young and Irish in London". At the same time KIYAG are conscious many emigres may need help and advice concerning housing, employment and training, welfare, health etc. and by the active participation of community and advice stalls the organisers hope that young people can avail of this practical information which they might not otherwise know about.

**If your group would like to have a stall at the Festival please contact Mary Beaman, London Union of Youth Clubs, 64 Camberwell Road, London SE5. Tel 01 701 6366. The charge for community groups is just £5 chq or PO payable to Kilburn Irish Youth Festival.**

The Festival organisers aim to make the event - the music and entertainment as well as the information stalls - as accessible to as many people as possible therefore there will be no admission charge on day. **The Festival organisers would also be glad to hear from anybody who might like to volunteer their services as a steward for the Festival or help in advance by distributing posters, leaflets or selling**

**raffle tickets.**

**If you can help please contact either Joan O'Flynn (Tel. 01 278 1665) or Hilary Garner (01 624 1001).**

## Agency Profile

This issue AGIY INFO features **Intake Hostel** which is a residential/resettlement project in the King's Cross neighbourhood of London.

Intake provides accommodation for 17 single men and women aged between 18 and 25 regardless of ethnic origin or sexuality. Accommodation is in single bedrooms and self catering. **Intake are acutely aware of the level of Irish youth homelessness in London and are especially keen to target bedspace for some young Irish people.** The hostel takes referrals from agencies throughout Inner London and would like to establish links with other agencies who could help them **respond to the needs of young Irish people experiencing homelessness.**

Intake aims to help young people to identify and prepare for secure independent housing. Ideally, this would be achieved during a stay of approx 6 months but unfortunately the availability of move-on accommodation is often slow and many residents stay until suitable re-housing is found. Intake has nominations to permanent housing provided by both the statutory and voluntary sector and they also provide advice on housing, benefits, employment, education, sport and leisure activities. There is one-to-one advice and counselling work with residents and appropriate support continues to be made available to residents who move out whether into independent accommodation or otherwise.

Intake works particularly with people who have special needs but anyone with serious, drink or psychiatric problems is not considered and there is an expectation that the individual shows some motivation to establish greater independence. The hostel is of mixed sexes maintaining a balance of male and female with a minimum of 4 residents from ethnic minorities and at least 6 referrals from the Probation Service. There are few rules in the hostel; the emphasis is on encouraging the residents to develop their own



interests, to make use of resources in the local community and to acquire the skills necessary to enable successfully living independently in the community.

Intake is the residents' home and they therefore have responsibility for keeping it clean; they are also able to affect the decision-making process through weekly meetings. There is also ex-resident involvement in the Management Committee.

### **Referral Guidelines**

The project is staffed by a collective of six workers providing 24 hour cover on a rota basis. Referrals are taken from agencies only; there is a special referral form to be completed by the young person with the help of the referring agency. Intake operates a waiting list for vacancies in which the level of need is often the deciding factor in favour of admittance. There are separate waiting lists for males and females. If the waiting list is open Intake can target agencies for referrals. If the waiting list is closed the referral form is sent back to the referring agency.

When Intake accept a referral the young person will then be interviewed and a decision made on whether Intake is in a position to provide accommodation and help by placing the person on the waiting list. Once people get on the waiting list Intake give a commitment to house them. Intake regularly monitor their referral system in line with their Equal Opportunities Policy and would welcome referrals from groups working with young Irish people.

For further information about Intake's work, activities and referrals contact: Liz McElroy or Paul McKeown, Intake Hostel, 5-7 Frederick St., London WC1X 0NG or Tel. 01 837 1398.

**The AGIY's new address is:**

**AGIY  
5-15 Cromer St.,  
London WC1H 8LS  
Tel. 01 278 1665.**

AGIY INFO is produced by the Action Group for Irish Youth, 5-15 Cromer St., London WC1H 8LS.

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## **London Irish Youth Forum (LIYF)**

**The date of the next LIYF  
meeting is**

**Thursday 15th June 1989**

**at 2.30 p.m.**

**Irish Centre**

**50 Camden Square**

**London NW1**

**The main agenda item will  
be**

**The Migrant Training  
Scheme (MTS)**

**Mr. Tom Connor will  
outline MTS provision and  
referral procedures.**