

LONDON IRISH YOUTH FORUM

The next Forum meeting is on:

**Thursday 25th June at
2.30 p.m. at the Irish
Centre, 50 Camden
Square, London. NW1.**

**Main Agenda Item :
Access to DSS benefits
for ethnic minorities**

**Speaker: Georgina
English, Health and Social
Services Division,
Commission for Racial
Equality.**

AGIY LAUNCHES NEW TRAINING SERVICE

Following the appointment of Martin Tucker as Training and Consultancy Worker, AGIY are able to offer training on Irish issues to agencies/groups working with Irish people. The Training available covers topics such as:

- Perceptions of the Irish
- The Irish as an Ethnic Minority
- Anti-Irish Racism
- Discrimination and Disadvantage
- Irish Emigration
- Experience of Young Irish Emigrants
- An Irish Dimension to Equal Opportunities policies and programmes.

To date there have been two successful training sessions; a half-day workshop with the **Inner London Probation Service** and a one-day programme with the **Careers Service**.

Comments from Careers and Probation Officers who have attended these courses include

"I now have greater awareness of Irish issues"

"shows how existing services could improve service delivery to Irish community"

"opened new areas of debate" "gave historical perspective"

Training methods used include presentations with overhead projectors and flipcharts, video, groupwork and each participant receives an Information Pack.

To use this service contact Martin at AGIY, 071 278 1665, who will happily visit your agency to discuss your training needs and possible programmes/workshops.

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FUNDED BY



FAX 278 6685

Seminar to Look at the Health Needs of the Irish

A major seminar entitled "**The Forgotten Minority? - The Health Needs of the UK's Largest Immigrant Group**" will be held at the King's Fund Centre for Health Services Development, 126 Albert Street, Camden Town, London, NW1 7NF on **Friday 26th June 1992 from 12 noon - 2.00 p.m.**

The Seminar will be addressed by **James Raftery** from the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Social Medicine, St George's Hospital Medical School and Economic Adviser on Needs Assessment to the Department of Health.

The organisers of the event say that "*most studies of ethnicity and health are notable for their omission of the Irish and yet the Irish are the largest immigrant group in Britain and have the highest standardised mortality ratio of all first generation immigrants. The work of James Raftery and his colleagues requires consideration not only by those who commission studies on ethnicity and health, but also by those responsible for assessing the healthcare needs of local populations and those who provide health and social care to the community*".

The cost of attending the seminar is 15.00 which includes a buffet lunch at 12 noon.

For more information and to book a place on the seminar contact:

Maria Duggan, Project Officer, Carers Unit, or Andrew Booth, Information Services Manager, Information Resources Department. Tel. (071) 267 6111 Ext. 6111.

YMCA Emigration Study Completed

New information on emigration trends from the South-West of Ireland has been gathered in a questionnaire survey of a traditional emigrant route by the YMCA's **Youth Mobility**.

The preliminary findings of the research reveal that emigration was continuing from late January to early March of this year, despite this being a period in which the level of emigration is traditionally low.

The survey contacted more young people who were leaving Ireland than were returning to it. It focussed on the level of their orientation and preparation, being designed to feed back information to Youth Information Centres and other agencies, who assisted in its design. The level of orientation and preparation varied while any contact with formal advice centres was found to be very slight.

"Youth Mobility" is an integrated support programme for young Irish migrants to the London area. It is based on providing young people with accommodation in London YMCAs. Support begins in Ireland, is co-ordinated with and continues for four months after the young person has arrived in Britain.

For more information about the YMCAs "Youth Mobility" and to receive copies of the report which are available free contact:

Youth Mobility, National Council of YMCAs of Ireland, Development Office, Station Road, Ballincollig, Cork.

Tel. 010 353 21 873580.

Irish Youth Repatriation Fund

The Irish Youth Foundation which provides funding to groups in Britain working with young Irish people have provided funds for the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain to administer a repatriation fund.

The Chaplaincy do not see it as a replacement to existing arrangements being used by the various agencies who already provide a repatriation service for Irish people.

The criteria for assistance are as follows:

- An applicant must be Irish
- The person to be repatriated must be aged between 16 and 25
- An applicant has to apply in person to an Irish Chaplaincy member
- The person must have a genuine need ie. real hardship
- Payment to the applicant will be made on a once-off basis

Administration of the Fund

An Irish Chaplaincy Board member will act as the central co-ordinator. No applicant will be given cash in hand, instead they will be given coach/ferry travel vouchers to Dublin £25.00 (single) All other areas £33.00 (single).

Requirements for other Agencies

Should your agency be contacted by young Irish people wishing to return to Ireland, the Irish Chaplaincy request that you refer

that person to the nearest Irish Centre or parish where Chaplains are resident.

For further information contact:

**The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain,
St. Mellitus' Church,
Tollington Park,
London. N4 3AG.
Tel. (071) 263 1477**

ANTI-RACIST ALLIANCE

The Anti-Racist Alliance is a broad based coalition bringing together organisations of the Black and ethnic minority communities with trade unions, MPs, people from the arts, sport and media, and others to combat Racism.

On Saturday, 13 June 1992, ARA held a National Anti-Racist Convention which was a day of discussion, debate and campaign planning involving speakers from Britain, Europe and USA. **ARA are organising ARAfest, a festival against Racism, in Brockwell Park, Brixton on Saturday, 1 August** and are holding a Racial Harassment conference in November.

Further info. on ARA and their events can be obtained from:

**ARA, PO Box 2578, London N5 1UF.
Tel. 071 607 3988.**

Camden Irish Forum

The next meeting of the Camden Irish Forum will be held at **Camden Irish Centre, on Tuesday 23rd June at 6.30 p.m.** The meeting is open to all Irish people who live or work in Camden.

The guest speakers at the meeting will be **Dee Carlin, Head of Camden Equalities Unit** and a representative from the **Anti-Racist Alliance (ARA)**.

For further information contact:

A. Birtill or C. O'Sullivan, c/o the Camden Irish Centre, 50 Camden Square, London. NW1.

Irish Festival Dates

During the next few weeks there will be a variety of Irish community festivals held across London. Here are some dates for your diary:

5th July - London Irish Festival,
Roundwood Park, Willesden. NW10.

12th July - Southwark Irish Festival,
Southwark Park, SE16.

19th July - Kilburn Irish Youth Festival,
Grange Park, Kilburn, NW6.

Agency Profile

Cricklewood Homeless Concern

Cricklewood Homeless Concern (CHC) founded in 1983 is a day centre working in the North West London area, aims to provide assistance for people with housing needs, e.g. those living in "insecure" housing, hostels or on the streets. As increasing numbers attending the Centre grew CHC's services to the homeless expanded.

In 1990 the London Borough of Brent, provided funding which enabled CHC to renovate its premises. As a result, CHC now offers an improved and wider range of services to benefit its clients, including:

- housing advice and referral services to housing association and hostels.

- welfare benefits advice
- primary healthcare facilities
- alcohol and drugs counselling
- washing and laundry facilities
- food and clothes
- special provision for women (including a women only day)

During the past year a number of new services were launched, including the drug and alcohol counselling service, aromatherapy and a weekly GP surgery operating from the Centre's medical room. CHC are now finding that they are seeing more and more people with mental health problems and now plan to extend its medical services this year with a community psychiatric nurse attachment.

From April 1991/92, the Day Centre saw an average of 71 individual visits on each opening day. This figure was up 31% from the previous year's average of 54. During this period CHC dealt with a total of 1,793 individuals with problems which required resolution by their advice service. The highest number ie. 40% of the enquiries related to housing/homelessness issues while 37% were welfare related. 8% of CHC's clients experienced mental health problems.

CHC receives revenue funding from the **London Borough of Brent, the Irish Government and CRISIS** and employs two full-time workers; Rosemary Philips, Day Centre Manager, and Br. Ignatius Galvin, Advice Worker (Irish Chaplaincy Scheme).

For more information about CHC contact:

Cricklewood Homeless Concern,
60 Ashford Road,
London. NW2 6TU. Tel. (081) 208 1608.