

Forum Fee

Agencies are reminded that subscriptions to London Irish Youth Forum are currently due.

The subscription year is from September 1991.

If you have not paid please return the enclosed yellow form with a cheque payable to AGIY for the appropriate amount.

Forum membership entitles agencies to FREE copies of AGIY INFO; FREE stocks of the new Guide to London for Young Irish People and FREE stocks of AGIY/LIYF reports, briefings, pamphlets.

Joint Seminar on Information Needs of Emigrants

Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY), Emigrant Advice (Dublin), Emigrant Advice (Belfast) and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) are hosting a joint seminar on the information needs of emigrants on Sat. November 9th at the Dublin Institute of Adult Education, 1 Mountjoy Sq., Dublin 1

The Seminar will aim to assess the current levels of information provision for emigrants and identify strategies around the development of future services in this area.

The Seminar is open to groups (both statutory and voluntary) and individuals working with emigrants and intending emigrants in the Republic of Ireland, N. Ireland and in London.

The Seminar will be broken into morning and afternoon sessions.

The morning session will be addressed by Mr. Ray Crotty, an Economist from the Department of Statistics, Trinity College, Dublin and Professor Paul Compton from the School of Geo-Sciences, Queen's University, Belfast who will contextualise contemporary emigration in modern Ireland focussing on the socio-economic impact of emigration to date and implications of continuing projected emigration for the future.

The 3rd speaker will be Mr. Seamus Taylor, Senior Equalities Officer, London Borough of Haringey who will focus on the implications of emigration research findings and policy recommendations for the development of emigrant services in Ireland.

The afternoon session will be broken into five different workshops which will cover the following areas:

- (a) Information needs of emigrants including the role of the statutory services
- (b) Migrants Rights and 1992
- (c) Discrimination against Irish people in Britain
- (d) Emigration in the Curriculum
- (e) Co-ordinating information for agencies in Ireland.

There will be opportunities for questions and answers throughout the day and the organisers hope to produce a Seminar Report which would summarise the day's discussions and recommendations.

If you are interested in attending the Seminar please complete the enclosed booking form and return to: Emigrant Advice, 1A Cathedral St., Dublin 1 Ireland with cheque payment for £6 or for further information contact any of the organising groups (see booking form for details).

New Guide to London

AGIY are currently in the process of finalising the publication of a new Guide to London for Young Irish People.

The new Guide is again an invaluable resource packed with over 160 pages of practical information, addresses, telephone numbers, advice and useful tips on access to services in London and is also a useful reference manual for advice workers.

The 1991 Guide includes new sections on Training Schemes & Courses, Young Mothers, Employment Rights, Studying in Britain, and Services for People with Disabilities. The Guide also provides current and up-to-date information on how to find a job, finding a place to live, claiming the dole/social security, advice centres and Irish contacts etc.

Financial assistance for the production of the Guide was received from The Baring Foundation, The Lawlor Foundation, The Irish Youth Foundation, The Pilgrim Trust and The John Paul Getty Foundation.

AGIY will be officially launching the Guide at the Seminar in Dublin in November.

Watch the next edition of AGIY INFO for order forms!

Funding News

Irish Youth Foundation

The Irish Youth Foundation (UK), an independent charitable development trust is currently accepting applications for funding from projects working with young Irish emigrants in Britain.

The Foundation is particularly interested in assisting programmes and projects which address the disadvantage experienced by young Irish people and gives priority to small organisations which do not have the ability to fund raise for themselves.

The Foundation has outlined 4 main areas of interest:

(1) programme development grants i.e. grants to enhance existing programmes or to develop new ones;

(2) seeding grants i.e. grants to help start up projects, especially ones of an innovative nature;

(3) grants to upgrade premises/equipment and

(4) small grants.

The Foundation will not fund salaries, but in certain circumstances contributions towards salary costs may be considered.

Only programmes that deal substantially with Irish young people will be considered.

The Foundation has up to £100,000 available for disbursement and grants can range in size from £200 - £10,000.

Applications close at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 21st October 1991.

Guidelines and application forms are available from:

Irish Youth Foundation,

1 Ringsend Road,

Dublin 4

Ireland.

Tel. 010 353 1 602933.

DION announce 1991 Grants

The Irish Government's Minister for Labour, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD, recently announced details of the 1991 DION grants to Emigrant Welfare Services.

Mr. Ahern pointed out that the number of projects assisted by DION has increased since last year and that nearly half the agencies funded received an increase on the 1990 grant.

However, Mr. Ahern also added a cautionary note saying that "*a particular value of this Irish Government's funding is its use for pump-priming worthwhile projects*" warning that "*pump-priming by its very nature is temporary*" he urged "*agencies not to bank on its continuation next year*".

32 grants were made ranging from £72,000 down to £1,000.

Groups who received new grants from DION included:

the Irish Commission on Prisoners Overseas (IR£18,000), London Irish Women's Centre (IR£6,000), South London Family Service Unit (IR£4,000), Bristol Irish Society (IR£1,000).

Increased funding was received by:

Haringey Irish Community Care Centre, Irish Support and Advice Centre Hammersmith, Manchester Community Care, Irish Welfare Centre Birmingham, Merseyside Irish Community Care, Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Care, Kilburn Irish Youth Project, Acton Homeless Concern, Cricklewood Homeless Concern, Positively Irish Action on Aids, Islington Women and Mental Health Centre, Safe Start Foundation and Action Group for Irish Youth.

Two projects were joint funded:

(i) Rugby House and the Federation of Irish Societies and

(ii) AGIY and the Federation of Irish Societies (FIS).

The AGIY/FIS grant is a contribution towards the costs of undertaking a feasibility study into the introduction of a uniform system of keeping data and records amongst voluntary agencies in Britain assisting Irish emigrants which was originally a proposal from the London Irish Youth Forum.

£1.8m for Irish Housing

In a recent announcement as part of the Government's Rough Sleepers Initiative, the Department of Environment announced an allocation of £50m for the development of permanent accommodation for homeless people.

The £50m has been allocated to more than 50 Housing Associations across 22 London boroughs and will lead to the development of 1400 bedspaces in permanent homes for people sleeping rough or in hostels.

£1.8m (3.6%) facilitating the development of approx 36 units of accommodation has been specifically allocated to Irish housing associations as follows:

Irish Centre Hostels Ltd. - £940,000 to develop 1 housing scheme in Camden of approx. 20 units of permanent accommodation;

CARA Irish Homeless Project - £612,000 to develop 2 housing schemes in Hackney of approx. 10 units of permanent accommodation.

Innisfree Housing Association - £355,000 to develop 2 schemes in Brent of approx. 6 units of permanent accommodation.

Funds allocated to other housing associations may also benefit Irish people. The Housing Corporation are monitoring the allocation of permanent accommodation units by projects and have included a separate Irish category in monitoring forms which will indicate the numbers of Irish people who have succeeded in gaining access to these new permanent homes. It is envisaged that the development of these new housing initiatives will take up to 1/2 years.

TEC Decisions

In the last edition of "AGIY INFO" we reported that TEC's (Training and Enterprise Councils) were expressing doubts concerning the eligibility of Irish voluntary groups qualifying for Ethnic Minority Grant under the Government's new training initiative.

Organisations who have applied for funding under this initiative will know the outcome of their applications at the end of October/early November.

CRE Update

Representatives from Irish community groups met with Dr. Peter Sanders, the Chief Executive and Mr. Michael Day, the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) on 8 August as part of the ongoing discussions into how the CRE should be addressing Irish community needs in Britain.

On 24 September the CRE Commissioners again considered the Irish community's

proposal that the Irish should be included as a separate ethnic category in the Commission's recommended ethnic classification system. The Commissioners responded by saying that they would recommend others to include the Irish as a distinct and separate category, "*where appropriate but not as a matter of course.*"

The Commissioners also "*drew attention once again to the proposed research which we (the CRE) will be commissioning, central to which will be the examination of the nature and extent of anti-Irish discrimination.*"

In related developments the CRE have embarked upon two formal investigations which will both have an Irish dimension to them. These investigations are being carried out into the work of Housing Associations and in the area of mental health services in Britain.

TFC (Trans-Frontier Committee)

A Trans-Frontier Committee which is a statutory forum for careers, employment and training agencies has recently been established by the UK Employment Service and FAS the Irish Training Authority.

The TFC also includes voluntary sector representatives from Britain and Ireland who presently are the Safe Start Foundation (London) and Emigrant Advice (Dublin).

The TFC has indicated that there will be ongoing voluntary sector consultation in both Britain and Ireland and that it will identify and support initiatives aimed at improving access to jobs and training for people emigrating/migrating between both countries. At the most recent consultation in London, the TFC invited agencies working with young Irish people to make proposals/ submissions to the Committee on aspects of their work or issues that they would like the TFC to address.

Further information on the role and work of the TFC is available from Joe McKenna at Safe Start Tel. (081) 452 0182 or Kevin Quinn at FAS Tel. 010 353 1 685 777