



CAAB NEWS

Message from the Chief Executive



Aidan Browne, Chief Executive

The CAAB was very pleased to participate in the last few weeks in two very heartening developments

in the area of children and youth services.

The first was the official launch of YAP Ireland which took place in Croke Park on the 8th of October. YAP (Youth Advocates Programmes) has had a presence in Ireland since 2002 and is a strengths based, needs led model which engages with young people and families, not on the basis of what the problems are but on what they have achieved and still want to achieve. They also operate a 'no reject, no eject' policy. The social care and youth justice system is now working in a very proactive way with YAP services. As a part of the launch a number of parents and young people told their stories which, as much as reassuring us about what can be achieved when these approaches are used brought into stark profile what is to be lost when we fail to recognise and build on the strengths that exist in many children, their families and communities. The second event was the launch in Templemore Garda College on the 14th of October of An Garda

Síochána Youth and Children Strategy by the Garda Commissioner Fachtna Murphy. This is a very significant and welcome development in the evolution of the administration of juvenile justice. It has been increasingly apparent for some time through juvenile justice statistics and through the level of resources being made available to the JLO service that the Garda have been taking their key influencing role with children and youth much more seriously in recent years and the publication of this strategy now underpins that approach. The strategy also underlines the key importance of an inter-agency approach in dealing with children who come in conflict with the law or at risk of harm or in need of assistance.

CAAB would like to wish both organisations great success with the further implementation of their strategies.

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Contents

Message from the Chief Executive	1
National Awards for Services to Children and Young People	2
The Purpose and Outcomes of Youth Work	2
National Children's Strategy Implementation Group & Children's Services Committees	3
CAAB Updates	3
CSO Publication – Fewer Young People in Ireland	5
Research Updates	6

Two Research Launches by the CAAB

'Putting Research Evidence to Work, Key Issues for Research Utilisation in Irish Children's Services' will be launched on Friday the 13th of November from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

'Research on Inter-Agency Working' will be launched on Tuesday 24th November 2009 from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

For more details see back page. To attend the event please contact Anne-Marie Campbell by phone on 01 6724108 or by email at annemariecampbell@caab.ie

To view the live webcast pre-register at www.caab.ie

Proceedings from all of our conferences, seminars and events along with all our publications are available for download on our website, www.caab.ie In the event that you do not have access to the internet and still wish to receive articles, please contact Clodagh Thorne by phone on 01 6724119 or email clodagh.thorne@caab.ie

National Awards for Services to Children and Young People 2010

The Third National Awards is being jointly sponsored by the Children Acts Advisory Board and the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

Entries are now being sought across five categories.

- Effective Practice in Inter-Agency Working
- Effective Practice in the Community
- Effective Practice in Education
- Effective Practice in Youth Justice
- Effective Practice in Out of Home Care

The National Awards for Services to Children and Young People were established to recognise the invaluable work and contribution made by service providers to children and young people.

For further information, please see: www.caab.ie or www.omcya.ie

The closing date for entries is the 30th of November 2009.



Kilkenny Early Years Project, Overall Winners of the Awards for Services to Children and Young People 2009, with Barry Andrews, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs



An Bord Comhairleach um Achtanna na Leanáí
Children Acts Advisory Board



Óifig an Aire Leanaí agus Gníothaí Óige
Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

The purpose and outcomes of Youth Work

Original report by Dr Maurice Devlin (NUIM) and Ms Anna Gunning Published by Catholic Youth Care, City of Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB), Foróige, Ógra Chorcaigh and Youth Work Ireland. The research was funded by the Irish Youth Foundation.

An interagency group comprising of several of the country's key youth work organisations commissioned a research report which was carried out to facilitate a clearer understanding of youth work and its crucial value in modern Ireland's rapidly changing social landscape.

Youth work addresses issues of formal education, health, community, housing, family life, crime employment, parenting, relationships and a wide range of other issues affecting young people. The environment in which

youth work functions is changing at an unprecedented rate. Economically, Ireland is in the middle of the worst economic crisis, perhaps in the history of the State. Given all of this, the interagency group wanted to explore the benefits of youth work in our changed world? Is it a good investment? How does it fit in with an Ireland that is undergoing massive social and economic change? Based on the findings of the research it's clear to the group of agencies that youth work has even more relevance now than ever.

Youth work is a voluntary and non-formal education process taking place in an informal setting, and as such has a significant contribution to make to many aspects to the lives of young people. The challenge the sector faces is to remain focused on the essence of

youth work, while at the same time concentrating on a range of the key related issues of our time and the need to rhyme with the other key inputs into young people's lives.

The research consists of a combination of qualitative and quantitative research. It comprised surveys, focus groups and interviews in five sites in different locations in Dublin city and counties Dublin, Clare and Roscommon. It also included research into Irish and international studies and literature on the nature and outcomes of youth work.

The publication is available from the commissioning youth work organisations and from Irish Youth Work Press, 20 Lower Dominick St. Dublin 1. Tel 8729933 www.iywc.com

Restorative Practices in Residential Care

The CAAB has been involved in the development and training of staff, in Restorative Practices in Residential Care, with the HSE West, Galway. A total of six staff from Residential Care Units in Galway have been trained by Barnardo's Northern Ireland to implement and deliver the Restorative Practices in Residential Care programme in their units. Further updates on this initiative will be available in our December issue.

National Children's Strategy Implementation Group and Children's Services Committees

The national social partnership agreement Towards 2016 outlines a framework on the needs of children and young people and the establishment of the National Children's Strategy Implementation Group (NCSIG). This high-level group is chaired by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA).

The vision of the NCSIG is that children, young people and their families will receive the support and services they need to create better futures for children, through all local agencies and organisations working together. The aim is to avoid duplication of effort, support sensible collaboration in service delivery and provides an opportunity for agencies to assess the gaps sometimes caused by agency or service boundaries.

The model for integrated service delivery is being developed through the establishment of Children's Services Committees (CSCs) on a phased basis. Four initial multi-agency Children's Services Committees have been established in Dublin City, South Dublin, Limerick City and Donegal in 2007–2008.

All organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented on the Children's Services

Committees. These Committees will be responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery. They will also ensure that professionals and agencies work together in order that children and families receive better and more accessible services.

The learning from the set-up and early operation of these four committees will help to inform the most effective way of establishing the other 30 Children's Services Committees in the remaining City and/or County Development Boards. The OMCYA is currently liaising with new sites in the pre-development phase and working on their establishment based on learning from the first four CSCs. Sites in the pre-development phase include Longford/Westmeath, Kerry, Meath, Kildare and Carlow/Kilkenny.

The OMCYA is working with a number of support agencies to develop a work plan for on-going support and evaluation of the integrated working model.

For more information check out www.omcya.ie

CAAB Updates

Garda Case Management

An Garda Síochána, in co-operation with the CAAB have developed Case Management for Juveniles in the Dublin Metropolitan, North Central Division. Case Management involves assigning an individual Garda to a juvenile offender. The Garda manages that young person's case in relation to the charges before the Court, liaising with the family, schools, Probation Service, HSE, National Educational Welfare Board and other relevant agencies working with the young person. The objective is to reduce the young person's criminal activity and help to avoid re-offending. A training programme has been developed for all Case Managers which includes modules such as Case Management Processes and Procedures and Interagency Training.

Following a review of the Scheme in the Dublin Metropolitan North Central Division, the Garda Commissioner has directed that Case Management for Juveniles be rolled out in Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Donegal.

CAAB continue to be involved in the North Central Division and are currently liaising with the Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs in relation to the roll out.

Best Practice Guidelines in the Use of Physical Restraint (Child Care: Residential Units)

The 2006 guidelines have recently been the subject of review by a steering group chaired by the CAAB with nominees of the key agencies. The main objective of the group was to carry out a short review of the guidelines, to establish the need or otherwise of any amendments required and to identify any key issues arising in the operational implementation. The final report will be forwarded to the OMCYA, following consideration by the Board of the CAAB.

Therapeutic Interventions, Best Practice Guidelines

The work on these guidelines has been on-going and is currently being circulated for agreement of key agencies and is expected to be published next month.

Discharge of Children from Special Care Units

The working group on criteria for the discharge of children from special care units chaired by the CAAB is on-going and the criteria are expected to be published by the end of November.

Young people and families speak at YAP Ireland Launch

The Youth Advocate Programmes Ireland (YAP) was officially launched at Croke Park on Thursday the 8th of October 2009 before an audience of young people, families and partner agencies.

YAP Ireland has been operating in Ireland since 2002 but became constituted as a charity and limited company in Ireland with our own board of directors in April 2009. YAP Ireland provides a unique service in Ireland working within a strengths based, needs led model which offers young people and families up to 15 hrs per week of intensive 1:1 support for six months and an on-call service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The event was attended by over 80 young people and families from across the country who took part in the tour of Croke Park prior to the launch as well as representatives from the HSE, the Probation Service, the Garda Síochána, the CAAB and voluntary and community sector organisations. The young people and families spoke about their experiences of YAP and the way the service has helped and supported them. One young person said, 'Like many other young people today I have ups and downs in my life, and there have been times that because I was in a bad place myself I got myself into situations that I am not very proud of.' 'But in reality, my YAP experience has been life changing. Through my YAP



worker, I have grown in confidence and self belief.' A parent spoke of her experience of YAP for her son, 'I became very concerned about his mental health. I was full of worry and anxiety. I felt a huge sense of confusion and isolation. I did not know how to help him or who to turn to for advice and support...because of the advocate's encouragement, he struggled through third year and completed and passed his Junior Certificate last June. He is far happier in himself now and is becoming a more confident and out-going person.'

YAP Ireland looks forward to working with many more young people and families in the coming years with the continued support of our funder the HSE and by developing services with other agencies. For further information please contact Siobhán O'Dwyer at sodwyer@yapireland.ie or visit the website www.yapireland.ie which is currently under construction.

Restorative Practices Update

Following a one day Evidence to Practice seminar on Restorative Practices, held on the 21st of May 2009 in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, significant interest in introducing the model across children's services in Ireland has been expressed.

The Children Acts Advisory Board (CAAB) facilitated a half day discussion forum on the 17th of September 2009 at the Gresham Hotel. Members of agencies who enquired into and are interested in introducing the restorative practices model into their service and/or at an inter-agency level had the opportunity to meet with: Estelle MacDonald, Project Leader, Hull Centre for Restorative Practices, 'Restorative City'; Mark Finnis, Project Consultant and Lead Trainer, Hull Centre for Restorative Practices, 'Restorative City'; and Les Davey, Director, International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP), UK.

Estelle presented her work, as a head teacher, leading a school from being in 'Special Measures' in 2004 to being judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2006. This work has since evolved into a whole-city project to develop restorative practices in Hull.

Estelle and Mark discussed their experiences. They gave advice on implementing the restorative practices model in response to key questions/issues raised by attendees. In addition, Les introduced the work of the IIRP and the training in restorative practices they provide.

The CAAB committed to supporting the development of a 'Restorative Practices Support Network' in Ireland. The aim of the network is to provide a support for services and 'champions' in implementing and developing restorative practices by creating links between network members to discuss and motivate one another, provide information on training, implementation and motivation for restorative practices and to encourage inter-agency support in these areas.

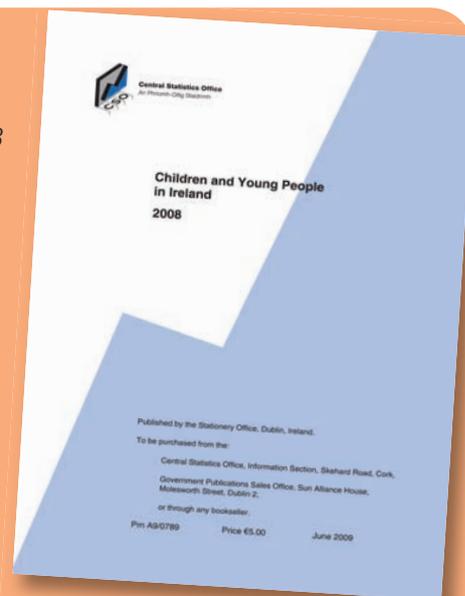
The meeting ended with those interested signing up to become members of the 'Restorative Practices Support Network' and committing to further consider how they could introduce/champion this model of practice. For more information please contact Marion Martin on marion.martin@caab.ie

Fewer young people in Ireland

A new statistical indicators report, Children and young people in Ireland, 2008 published by the CSO today examines key trends in the demographic, educational, health and lifestyle profiles of children and young people in Ireland.

Key findings of the report include:

- The number of persons aged 19 years or younger decreased from 1.36 million in 1986 to less than 1.2 million in 2008 (see Table 1.2). Persons aged 19 years or younger accounted for 38.3% of the population in 1986 but for only 27% of the population in 2008 (see Table 1.1);
- Ireland had the highest proportions of its population aged 0-4 years (7.4%) and 5-9 years (6.9%) in the EU in 2008, and the second highest proportion aged 10-14 years (6.4%). However Ireland had the eleventh highest proportion aged 15-19 years (6.5%) (see Table 1.5 and graph);
- People with Irish ethnicity accounted for 85.1% of the population aged 0-4 years and 92.3% of the 15-19 years age group in 2006. In contrast people with black ethnicity accounted for 3.4% of persons aged 0-4 years but only 0.7% of persons aged 15-19 years (see Table 1.8);
- The numbers of students at primary level increased by 7.5% between 1998/1999 and 2007/2008 but decreased by 7.4% at second level over the same period (see Table 2.1);
- Ireland had a student to teacher ratio of 19.4 at primary education level in 2005/2006. This was the joint second highest pupil teacher ratio in the EU (see Table 2.3);
- In 2008, the percentage of Leaving Certificate candidates in higher level Mathematics achieving an A grade was 14.3% compared with 13.1% of higher level candidates in Irish and 10.1% of candidates taking higher level English. Almost one-quarter of candidates taking higher level Chemistry (23.5%) were awarded an A grade (see Table 2.8);
- Boys accounted for 95.6% of higher level candidates in Engineering, 93.4% of higher level candidates in Construction studies and 90.2% of higher level candidates in Technical drawing in 2008 (see Table 2.9);
- The overall infant mortality rate in Ireland fell from 7.9 per 1,000 live births in 1987 to 3.1 in 2007. At EU 25 level, the corresponding decrease was from 10.7 in 1987 to 4.2 in 2007 (see Table 3.3);
- Almost 45% of mothers breastfed their babies in 2006 compared with just over 35% in 1999(see Graph 3.6)
- In 2006, 84% of children aged between three and the compulsory school age attended formal childcare in the EU 25 compared with 93% in Ireland. On average children in Ireland in this age group attended formal childcare for 22 hours per week compared with 27 hours in the EU 25 (see Table 3.9);
- The consistent poverty rate fell from 10.3% of persons aged 0-17 in 2006 to 7.4% in 2007 (see Table 3.10);
- Males accounted for 64% of persons aged 0-19 with a disability in 2006. Nearly three out of four persons aged 0-19 with a disability had intellectual and learning difficulties (see Table 3.12);
- There has been a marked decrease in the percentage of children aged 5-12 travelling to school on foot between 1986 (45.2%) and 2006 (24.3%). There was a commensurate increase in the percentage travelling as a passenger in a car, from 24% in 1986 to 55% in 2006 (see Table 4.1);
- There were 353 victims of rape in 2007. Of these, 37.1% were aged 19 or under (see Table 4.8);
- In 2006, the overall activity rate in sport and physical exercise was 82% for 15-19 year old males. This was considerably higher than the rate for 15-19 year old females (68.3%) (see Table 4.10).



Children and Young People in Ireland 2008 is available on the CSO web site www.cso.ie

Audit of Irish Child Protection Literature

Following a competitive tendering process the CAAB commissioned Dr Helen Buckley and a team from the School of Social Work and Social Policy, and the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin to undertake an audit of Irish child protection literature. The aim is to complete the work by the end of the year.

Tracing and Tracking Study of Children for Whom Special Care Applications were made in 2007

Following a competitive tendering process the CAAB commissioned Social Information Systems Ltd. to complete this study for all children who were subject to special care applications in 2007. It will examine the profile of those children, their previous service/intervention history, services/interventions provided since each application was made, where did the children 'go to' and 'where are they now'.

The study will involve a number of work streams: interviews with the social workers who made the application, analysis of case characteristics from anonymised applications/background documentation, consultation with the special care units, interviews with children/families, interviews with key workers where the child was in residential care prior to and/or immediately following an application to special care, and interviews with other key stakeholders. The aim is to complete the research by December 2009.

Database of Research on Children in Detention and Out of Home Care Now Online

The CAAB website (www.caab.ie) now contains an inventory or database of over 230 publications in relation to children in detention and out of home care in Ireland. The inventory listing can be searched using its 'key word' search engine or accessed by searching under any or all of four headings - sector, publisher, author, and year.

Once you click on your chosen publication you will then be directed to a short summary of topics covered and information sources, with the option to download/access the publication if it is available to download free of charge. Included in the database is a literature review, commissioned by the CAAB, of the documents covered in this database ('Thematic Analysis of Irish Literature on Children in Detention and Out of Home Care in Ireland') and this will be published before the end of the year.

Research Launches

Both of the Research Launches below will be broadcast live online, to view the live webcasts you must pre-register at www.caab.ie. If you wish to attend the event please contact Anne-Marie Campbell by phone on 01 6724108 or by email at annemariecampbell@caab.ie

Research Launch - 13th November, Gresham Hotel

Putting Research Evidence to Work (PREW): Key Issues for Research Utilisation in Irish Children's Services, Dr. Helen Buckley and Sadhbh Whelan, School of Social Work and Social Policy, and the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin in association with CAAB.

The event will involve a presentation on the research findings and a considered response from a policy maker, manager, practitioner and the research community.

Have you got news for us?

The final edition of CAAB NEWS will be published in mid-December. If you would like to contribute please contact Fiona Mullen on 01 672 4121 or email fiona.mullen@caab.ie.

If you wish to download a copy of our newsletter please visit our website www.caab.ie

Research and Guidance Launch - 24th November

Inter-agency Work in Children's Services: The Views of Some Stakeholders, Finbar McDonnell of Hibernian Consulting and the CAAB.

A Literature Review of Inter-agency Work with a Particular Focus on Children's Services, by Carmel Duggan and Carmel Corrigan, WRC, Social and Economic Consultants.

Organisational Case Studies of Inter-agency Co-operation in the Delivery of Children's Services, Mary Rafferty and Anne Colgan.

Guidance to Support Good Inter-agency Working Across Irish Children's Services, the CAAB.

The event will involve presentations from three research projects on inter-agency co-operation and the launch of a guidance document to support good inter-agency work.