
ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF YOUTH WORK

National Youth Council of Ireland

Prepared by Indecon
International Economic Consultants



The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for national voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland. It represents and supports the interests of voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS
& ABBREVIATIONS

BCR..... Benefit-Cost Ratio.

This measures the ratio of the present value of the benefits of a programme to the present value of the costs of operating this programme over a defined period.

CBA..... Cost-Benefit Analysis.

This technique enables comparison of the costs and benefits of a project or programme over a defined time period.

CSO..... Central Statistics Office

DCYA..... Department of Children and Youth Affairs

DPER Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

GYDP Garda Youth Diversion Projects

HSE..... Health Service Executive

IYJS Irish Youth Justice Service

LDTF Local Drugs Task Force

LYCGS Local Youth Club Grant Scheme

NEET..... Not in Education, Employment or Training

NPV..... Net Present Value.

This measures the difference between the present value of the benefits of a programme and the present value of the costs of operating this programme over a defined period.

NYA National Youth Agency (UK)

NYCI..... National Youth Council of Ireland

SPY Special Projects for Youth

VEC..... Vocational Education Committee

YIC..... Youth Information Centres

YMCA Ireland Young Men's Christian Association of Ireland

YPFSF..... Young People's Facilities and Services Fund

YSGS..... Youth Service Grant Scheme

YWCA Ireland..... Young Women's Christian Association of Ireland

0.1

FOREWORD

I warmly welcome the publication of the “Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work” which we commissioned Indecon International Economic Consultants to undertake on our behalf. This study is the first of its kind nationally and as far as we are aware internationally and provides a comprehensive and rigorous economic assessment of youth work. The findings of the cost-benefit assessment of the economic value of youth work present clear evidence that the public funding provided by the State for youth work services represents value for money. The Indecon analysis suggests that over a 10-year period the economic benefit to the state through investment in youth work exceed the costs by a factor of 2.2.

The report also presents the stark reality of life for many young people. Levels of youth unemployment remain high. Almost a fifth of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are not in education, employment or training, which the fourth is highest in the EU27. We also have the highest number of children and young people less than 18 years old at risk of poverty in the EU15.

Youth work services are already working to support young people impacted by the current economic recession and with

sufficient resources could make a much greater contribution to addressing youth unemployment, social exclusion and poverty. As Indecon outline in the report, the youth work sector is substantial in both scale and reach, with almost 383,000 young people benefiting from a wide range of programmes and services, with a majority of participants being economically and socially disadvantaged. While the existing statutory funding supports the employment of almost 1,400 full time staff equivalents, this funding also leverages the time, energy and commitment of over 40,000 volunteers who work with and for young people in their communities.

However, funding provided to the sector has declined significantly since 2008. These cuts have severely impeded the capacity of the sector to address the growing needs of young people, particularly those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. While we understand the pressures on public expenditures we also believe that budgetary decisions must be informed by independent and rigorous evidence which suggests that investment in youth work has the capacity to meet the needs of young people impacted by the recession in the short term while also being of economic benefit to the state and saving costs

over the longer period. In our view sustained and increased investment in youth work is not only socially fair but is also economically sound.

On behalf of NYCI I want to thank Mr Alan W. Gray and Mr William Batt from Indecon for undertaking this important report on our behalf and for working very closely with us throughout the process. I want to thank all those who provided information and insights to Indecon in the development of this report. I want to thank Dr John Bamber and Ms Brid O'Brien who provided invaluable advice and feedback on the draft report. I would also like to thank all the NYCI staff who worked on the production and publication of this report.

I look forward to this report being widely disseminated, read and reported and hope that it will inform and influence both youth and youth work policy in the coming years.

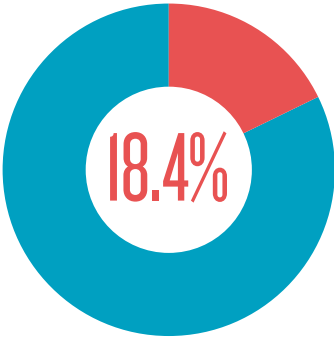


Mary Cunningham
Director

Mary Cunningham

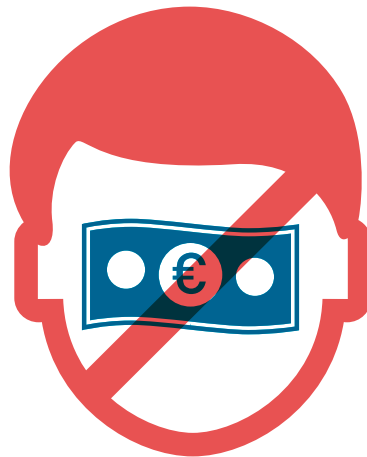
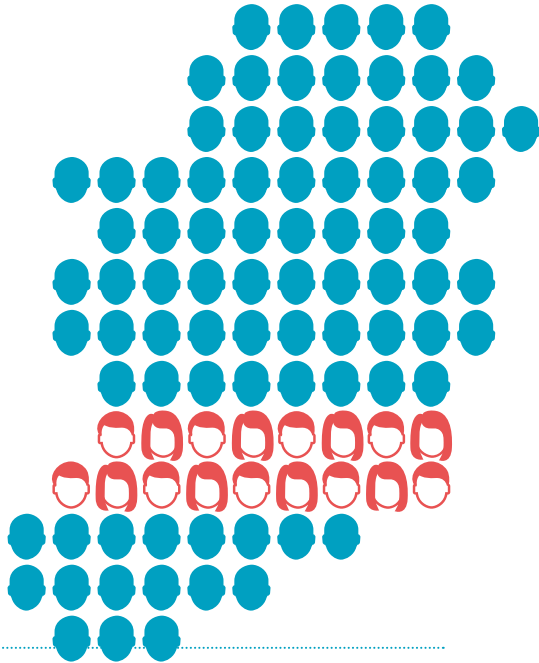
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



882,741

882,741 young people between the ages of 10-24 years in Ireland or 18.4% of the population



29.4% of young people under 25 unemployed

Background

The National Youth Council of Ireland commissioned Indecon International Economic Consultants to conduct an independent assessment of the economic value of youth work in Ireland.

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. The Council functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations. The onset of recession in Ireland has had a significant impact on the youth work sector, with successive budgetary cuts. To date the youth sector has experienced losses in terms of redundancies, reduction in services and closure of projects. It is in this context that the NYCI has commissioned Indecon to prepare an independent examination of the value of youth work in economic terms, in terms of its value to the individual, to society and to the Exchequer.

In line with the terms of reference, this assessment presents:

- An outline of the economic context within which youth work operates.
- A review of the research documenting the international and national experience and economic impact of youth work.
- A cost-benefit analysis which outlines the costs and the benefits of youth work.

The Youth Work Sector in Ireland

‘Youth work’ is defined by the Youth Work Act 2001 as “a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations”.

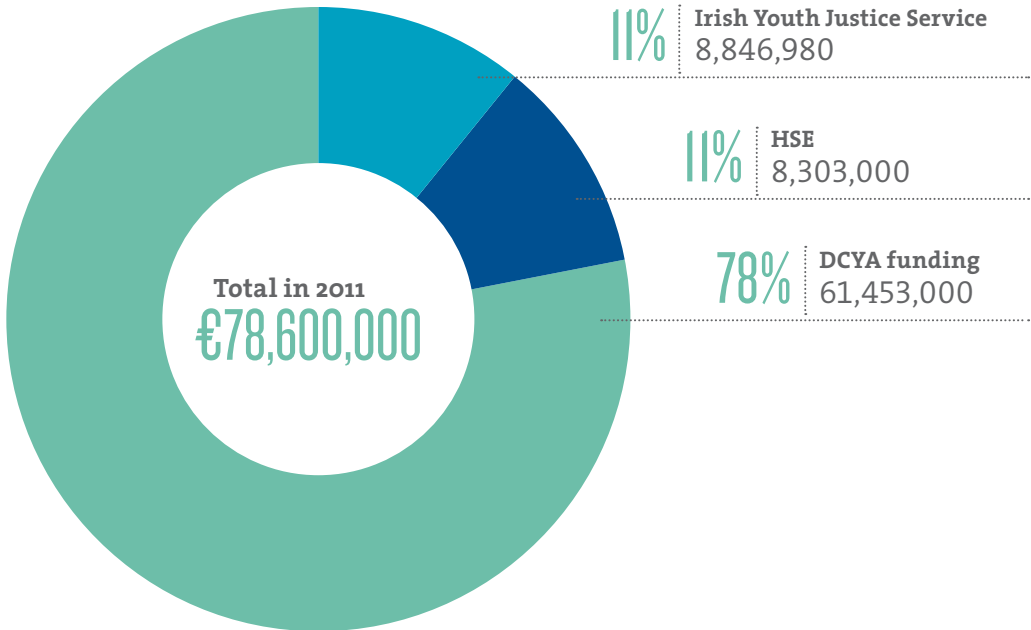
In total, there are over 40 national youth work organisations in the youth work sector in Ireland, and they in turn oversee a much larger number of local, community-based projects, services and groups, which deliver services on the ground.

Funding

The youth work sector received almost €79 million in public funding during 2011, with the main sources being the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (€61.5 million), the HSE (€8.3 million) and the Irish Youth Justice Service (€8.8 million). One of the important issues considered in this study concerns the economic benefits achieved through State funding provided to the sector.

The vast majority of youth work organisations provide recreational, arts and sports-related activities, while over half are engaged in activities which are focussed on welfare and wellbeing. Issue-based activities form an important focus for youth work organisations,

Public Funding for Youth Work Sector by Main Source - 2011



Sources: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, HSE, Irish Youth Justice Service/ Department of Justice and Equality¹

1: The funding sources shown represent the primary sources of youth work funding. Additional funding may also be channelled into the youth work sector via programmes managed by other Government Departments and agencies, including the Department of Health.

many of which deal specifically with addressing challenges such as substance and alcohol misuse. Some of the organisations also provide specific education and training supports. A number of organisations offer programmes which seek to divert young people from committing crimes or engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Number of Young Persons Participating

Based on Indecon's research among youth work organisations, it is estimated that 382,615 young people participate in and benefit from the various activities and programmes provided by youth organisations throughout Ireland; this represents 43.3% of the total youth population aged between 10 and 24². Indecon's independent analysis indicates that 53.3% of young people participating in youth work organisations in Ireland are believed to be economically or socially disadvantaged and this has important implications for both the focus of youth work activities, and the impacts of these activities on affected groups within society.

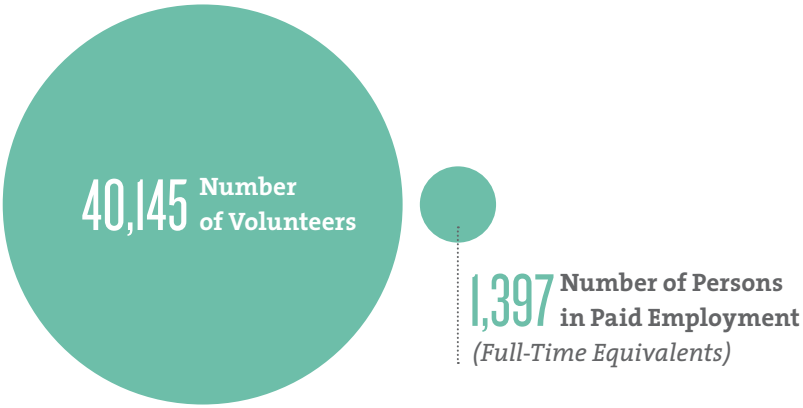
Volunteering Activity and Employment

Volunteering represents a key component of the youth work sector in Ireland and voluntary youth work organisations are the main providers of youth work services. Through Indecon's research among the organisations, it is estimated that 40,145 individuals work in a voluntary capacity in the sector. This is an important consideration when evaluating the economic impact of youth work. As well as providing a critical resource to organisations in the sector, volunteering also yields considerable savings in terms of youth work funding compared to a scenario where these resources are provided on a paid basis.

These volunteers are supported by employees, who are engaged in management as well as service delivery roles, in addition to providing important training and other supports to volunteers. Indecon's independent analysis of data provided by the youth work organisations estimates that 1,397 individuals are employed in the sector.

2: Source: Indecon analysis of CSO data from the 2011 Census of Population.

Extent of Volunteering and Paid Employment in the Youth Work Sector in Ireland - 2012



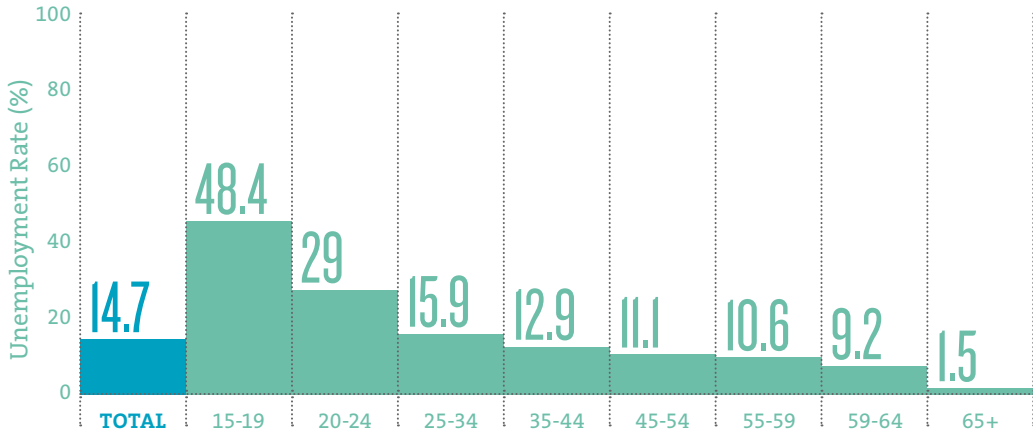
Source: Indecon analysis

Economic Context for Youth Work

The youth work sector in Ireland operates within a very challenging economic context. This study highlighted the economic context by reference to the demographic, labour market, and other socio-economic features impacting on the sector and ultimately driving the need for youth programmes and services. The main findings were as follows:

- There are 882,741 young persons between the ages of 10 and 24 in Ireland, accounting for 19.2% of the total population in 2011.
- Reflecting the impact of the recession, employment rates among persons aged 15 to 19 years who are in the labour force are substantially below those across all other age groups and the national average, and this is more pronounced among males compared with females.
- The incidence of unemployment is markedly greater among young people. In particular, among persons aged between 15 and 19 who are in the labour force, almost half (48.4%) were unemployed in the 2nd quarter of 2012. The unemployment rate among 20 to 24 year olds was 29%, compared to a national unemployment rate of 14.7%. Unemployment among young people in Ireland is also above the EU average.

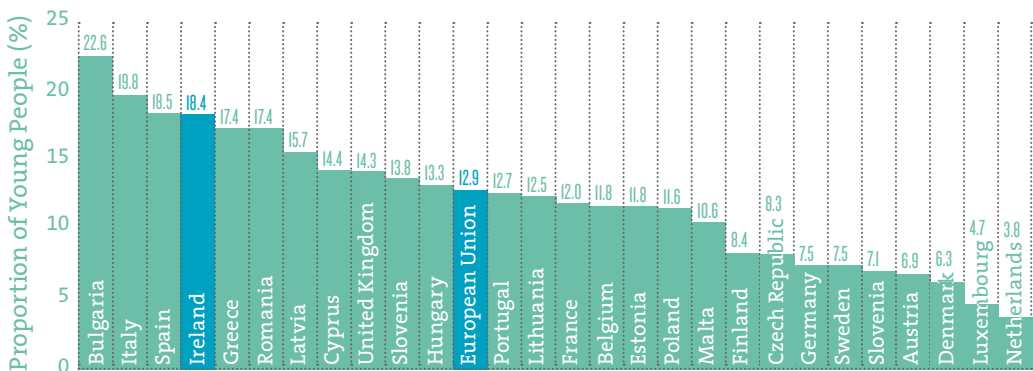
Unemployment Rate by Age Category, Q2 2012



Source: CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey, Quarter 2, 2012

- In addition, youth unemployment rates have increased at a faster pace than overall unemployment rates since the onset of the recession. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of unemployed young people rose by 29%.
- Ireland had the fourth highest percentage of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are not in education, employment or training ('NEET') in 2011, with 18.4% of young people in Ireland classified as NEET, compared to a rate across all EU countries of 12.9%.

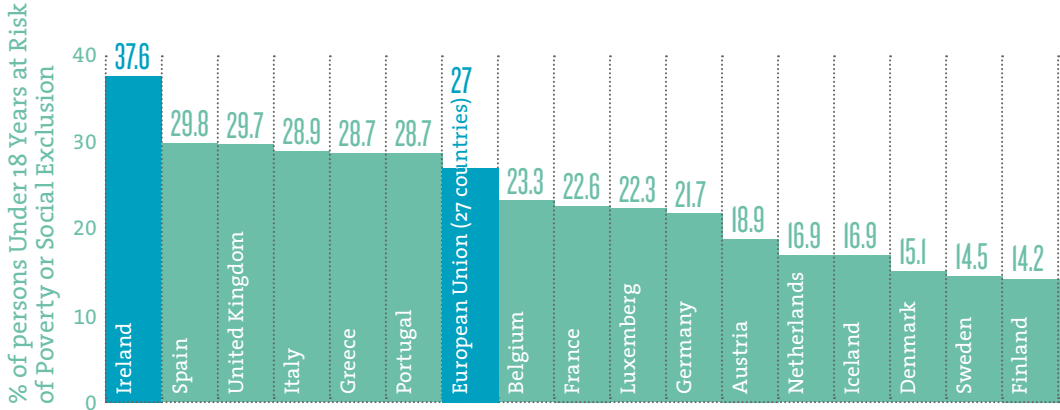
% of Young Persons 'Not in Employment, Education or Training' (NEET) by Country, 2011



Source: Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators, Eurostat

- Ireland also exhibits the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion among under 18s, at 37.6% in 2010 compared with 27% across the EU as a whole.

At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion Rates across EU 15 Member States – 2010



Source: Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators, Eurostat

The above findings highlight the challenging environment in which the youth work sector in Ireland operates. They also underscore the increasing importance of youth work programmes and activities in addressing social and economic exclusion among young people.

Existing Research on Economic Value of Youth Work

This study presents the findings of a comprehensive review of international and national research on the experience and economic impact of youth work. Key findings on the impacts of youth work or targeted youth programmes include reductions in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, increased numbers of young people in education, employment or training and reductions in substance abuse. A number of the papers reviewed also identified significant cost savings arising from youth work or early intervention programmes in the areas of justice, mental health, education and welfare. In addition to these tangible outcomes, further benefits arising from youth work include improved confidence and self-esteem, decision-making abilities, personal development and meeting new people.

Overall, the review indicated that although extensive research on various aspects of youth work has been completed internationally, including evaluations of specific programmes in areas such as health,

education and welfare, very limited research exists on the economic benefits of youth work. In particular, a comprehensive assessment of the economic benefits of youth work has never been undertaken in a rigorous fashion in Ireland. This study is the first of its kind in Ireland and provides a comprehensive and rigorous economic assessment of youth work.

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Economic Value of Youth Work

This study, for the first time, evaluates in quantified terms via a cost-benefit analysis the following direct and indirect benefits of youth work:

- Direct benefits, measured through:
 - The economic value of volunteering and paid employment;
 - The multiplier impacts of youth organisation expenditures.
- Indirect benefits, measured in terms of the estimated longer-run costs avoided by the State through the provision of youth programmes and supports, under the following areas:
 - Justice-related benefits;
 - Health-related benefits;
 - Welfare-related benefits; and
 - Education-related benefits.

Each of the first three areas of benefit identified above is related to the economic costs of public funding allocated to youth work programmes in these areas. The assessment poses the following question: 'What would be the likely outcomes for young people who are participating in justice, health and welfare-related youth programmes, and the costs to the State, if these programmes were not available?' This is assessed over a 10-year time horizon using an economic Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) framework. CBA is a best practice appraisal technique which enables costs and benefits that occur across different points in time to be aggregated and compared in present value terms (using appropriate discounting), with the objective of ascertaining whether a programme or project yields a net return (i.e. whether the benefits exceed the costs). Importantly, the evaluation applies a prudent approach, based on conservative assumptions regarding what would be the likely outcomes for individuals in the absence of the youth programmes under these headings.

The table overleaf presents a summary of the estimated net economic benefits of youth work.

Summary of Estimated Net Economic Benefits of Youth Work

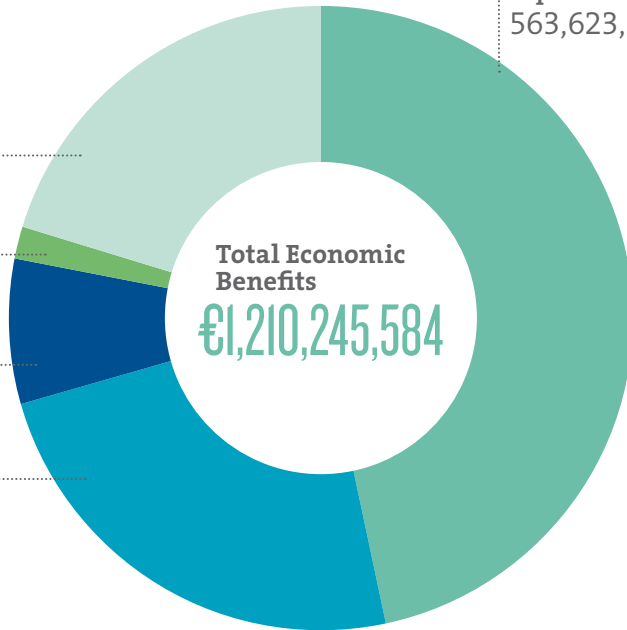
Multiplier Impacts of Youth Work Organisation Expenditures
563,623,504

Net Economic Value of Volunteering Activity
245,685,202

Justice-related Benefits
21,821,326

Health-related Benefits
89,455,764

Welfare-related Benefits
289,659,788



Source: Indecon analysis

If the volunteering, justice, health and welfare-related benefits, in addition to the multiplier impacts of youth work organisation expenditures, are evaluated over a 10-year time horizon, we estimate the overall economic benefits of these programmes and activities at €2.2 billion in present value terms. If one assumes on a hypothesised basis that 2011 funding streams were maintained, the cost to the State of sustaining youth sector funding over the same period would be of the order of just under €1 billion in present value terms. Relating the present value of the estimated benefits of youth programmes with the present value of Exchequer funding over a 10-year period indicates an overall net economic return arising from these quantified aspects of youth work of €1.21 billion, or a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 2.22:1. This is equivalent to indicating that the benefits of youth work programmes exceed the costs by a factor of 2.22 over this period³.

3: We also undertook sensitivity analysis based on alternative assumptions regarding the likely outcomes for individuals in the absence of the youth programmes and services examined. This analysis found that the benefit-cost outcomes remained positive and robust to these alternative assumptions.

Education and Other Impacts of Youth Work – Qualitative Assessment

In addition to quantifying the economic benefits associated with the areas of justice, health and welfare, we also assess on a qualitative basis the importance of education and other youth work activities.

As part of Indecon's research, the views of youth work organisations were sought in relation to the levels of significance they attach to different aspects of the economic value and impact of youth work programmes and services. The findings are summarized overleaf. It is notable that a large majority of organisations in the sector attach very significant or significant levels of importance to the following aspects of youth work:

- helping young people to gain practical skills,
- helping young people to gain education and training qualifications,
- helping to reduce costs associated with crime and anti-social behaviour,
- helping to reduce health and social care costs associated with substance abuse,
- helping to expand labour market and other economic opportunities for young people, and
- helping to promote equal economic opportunity between women and men.

Views of Youth Work Organisations on Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services	% of Responses by Indicated Level of Significance				Total Responses
	Very Significant Impact	Significant Impact	Minor Impact	No Impact	
Helping to Expand Labour Market and Other Economic Opportunities for Young People	20.8%	37.5%	41.7%	0.0%	100%
Helping Young People to Gain Education and Training Qualifications	45.8%	41.7%	12.5%	0.0%	100%
Helping Young People to Gain Practical Skills	70.8%	29.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
Helping to Address Socio-Economic Disadvantage in Local Communities	33.3%	37.5%	25.0%	4.2%	100%
Helping to Reduce Costs associated with Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	45.8%	33.3%	12.5%	8.3%	100%
Helping to Reduce Health and Social Care Costs associated with Substance Abuse	37.5%	25.0%	25.0%	12.5%	100%
Helping to Promote Equal Economic Opportunity between Women and Men	12.5%	50.0%	25.0%	12.5%	100%

Source: *Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations*

Overall Conclusions

This study, for the first time in Ireland, completed a detailed, comprehensive assessment of the economic value and contribution of the youth work sector. Indecon's independent analysis found that the sector is substantial in scale and reach, with almost 383,000 young people benefiting from a wide range of programmes and services, provided by almost 1,400 staff and over 40,000 persons working in a voluntary capacity across the State. The sector operates within a very challenging economic context, with young people experiencing high rates of unemployment and social and economic exclusion, while significant numbers are at risk of poverty and the adverse long-term implications of drug and alcohol abuse, and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The results of the cost-benefit assessment of the economic value of youth work presented in this study suggest that the public funding provided by the State for youth work services represents value for money. Specifically, we estimate that over a 10-year period the benefits of youth work programmes would exceed the costs by a factor of 2.2. This reflects in particular the benefits of targeted programmes in the areas of justice, health and welfare, compared to a scenario where the absence of these supports is likely to mean that the State would face higher costs. It also reflects the strong volunteering effort in the delivery of youth work services throughout the State, the absence of which would mean that the State would face a substantially greater cost if these human resources had to be fully remunerated.

Policy decisions on the future development of the youth work sector should factor in these features and, in particular, the economic as well as social impacts of targeted interventions which address the needs of young people in a pre-emptive and holistic manner.

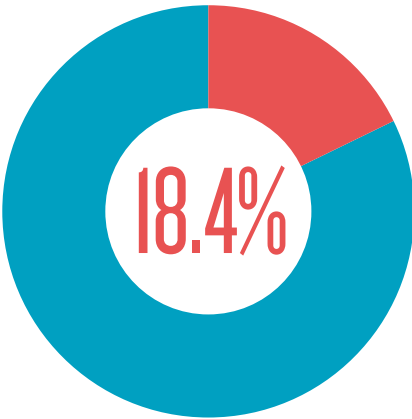
Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

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1.0

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND
AND METHODOLOGY

Over a third of young men aged 20-24 years are unemployed



Ireland had the 4th highest number of young people not “in education, employment or training” (NEETS) in 2011, 18.4% here compared to an average of 12.9% in Europe

1.1 Introduction

The National Youth Council of Ireland commissioned Indecon International Economic Consultants to undertake this study to provide an independent assessment of the economic value of youth work in Ireland.

1.2 Background and Terms of Reference

The background to this study is that National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. The Council functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations. Its role is recognised in legislation under the Youth Work Act, 2001. The Council aims through its member organisations and its representative role to empower young people to participate in society as fulfilled confident individuals. The work of the Youth Council is based on principles of equality, social justice and equal participation for all. In achieving these aims, the NYCI seeks the emergence of a society in which young people are valued citizens who can make a meaningful contribution to their community.

The onset of recession in Ireland has had a significant impact on the youth work sector, with successive budgetary cuts. To date the youth sector has experienced losses in terms of redundancies, reduction in services provided and closure of projects. It is in this context that the NYCI has commissioned Indecon to prepare an independent examination of the value of youth work in economic terms, in terms of its value to the individual, to society and to the Exchequer.

1.2.1 Terms of reference

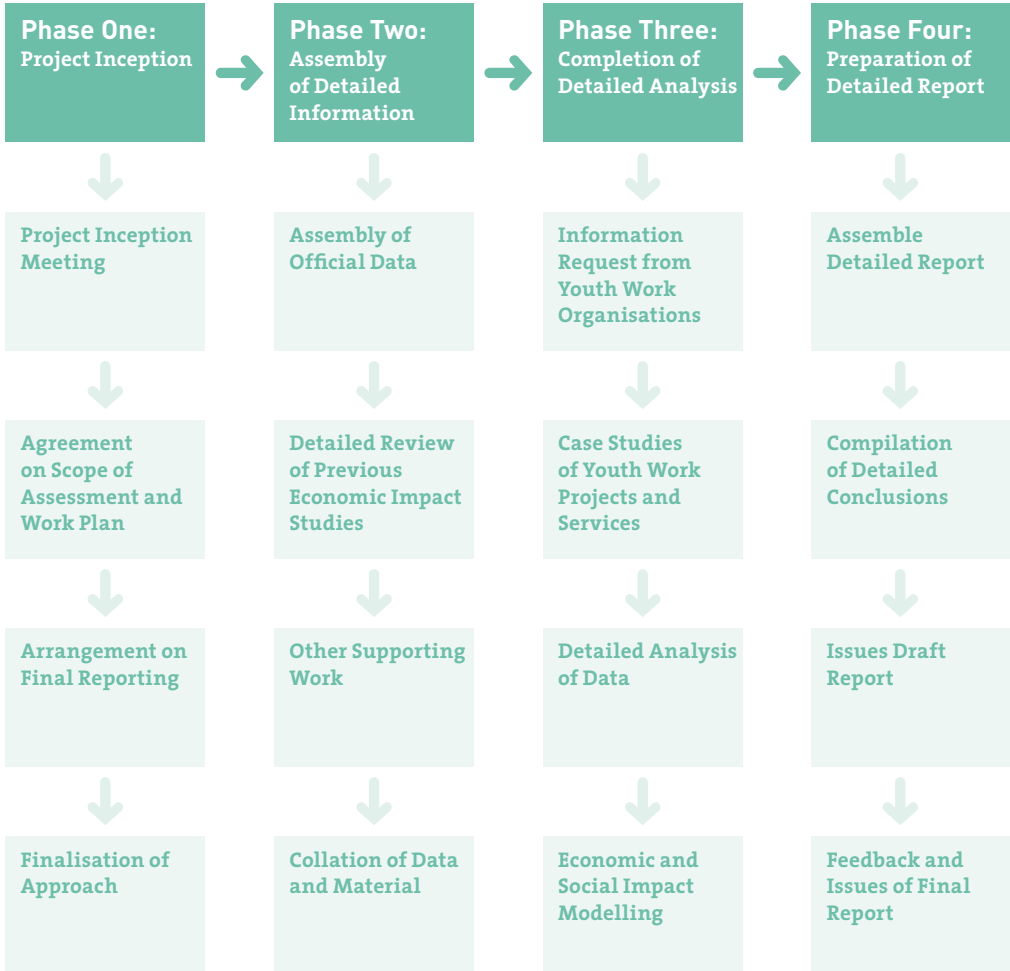
The terms of reference for this assessment required the completion of the following elements of research:

- An outline of the economic context within which youth work operates.
- A review of the research documenting the international and national experience and economic impact of youth work.
- A cost-benefit analysis which outlines the costs and the benefits of youth work.

1.3 Methodology

In addressing the above terms of reference, this review entailed the application of a detailed methodology designed to rigorously examine and evaluate each aspect. A schematic description of the methodological approach applied is presented in the figure overleaf.

Figure 1.1: Description of Methodological Approach to Review



Source: Indecon

1.3.1 Engagement with youth work organisations

The assessment has drawn on inputs provided by a number of stakeholders. In particular, this has included:

- Detailed discussions with NYC1
- Contact with over 40 organisations in the sector, via:
 - Written invitation for submissions and detailed information request (see below) issued to all member organisations of NYC1, as well as to a number of other small, medium and large organisations in the sector. A listing of organisations contacted is provided in Annex 2.0.
 - Engagement/discussion with a subset of youth work organisations, including:
 - Foroige
 - Youth Work Ireland
 - Involve Youth Services Ltd
 - ECO-UNESCO
 - National Association for Youth Drama
 - Catholic Youth Care
 - YMCA Ireland

1.3.2 Information request to youth work organisations

To assist in collating detailed statistical and other information, and also to seek the views of organisations on aspects of the economic value of youth work, an information request was issued to all organisations contacted (as per above). A copy of this information request is provided in 6.1. The request sought information on the following aspects:

- Nature of youth work activities
- Number of participants
- Gender and age profile of participants
- Extent of volunteering activity
- Number of paid employees
- Breakdown of expenditures
- Views on significance or otherwise of specific aspects of the social and economic impacts and value of youth work

Further contact was also undertaken subsequently with individual organisations to seek data on public and other funding of their activities.

1.3.3 Review of the literature

The study was also informed by an extensive review of the literature on aspects of the economic value of youth work. This included research undertaken in Ireland and research completed in other countries. This is presented in Section 3.

1.3.4 Economic appraisal and cost-benefit analysis

One of the specific and innovative features of this assessment is the application of a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) framework to the evaluation of the economic benefits of funding programmes for the youth work sector in Ireland. CBA is a best practice appraisal technique which enables costs and benefits which occur across different points in time to be aggregated and compared in present value terms (using appropriate discounting), with the objective of ascertaining whether a programme or project yields a net return (i.e. whether the benefits exceed the costs).

In this assessment we pose the following question: ‘What would be the likely outcomes for young people who are participating in justice, health and welfare-related youth programmes, and the costs to the State, if these programmes were not available?’ We assess the benefits of these programmes in terms of how they assist in avoiding costs in the longer run – such as costs associated with the probability of young people participating in crime or anti-social behavior which could result in a prison sentence or detention order, increased health costs associated with challenges such as substance abuse, and higher welfare-related costs resulting from unemployment. Thus, the potential longer-run costs avoided by the State are assessed as indirect benefits of youth work programmes. The CBA also incorporates the economic value of the volunteering effort that supports the delivery of youth work programmes and services, in addition to the multiplier impacts of the day-to-day expenditures of youth work organisations.

1.4 Report Structure

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

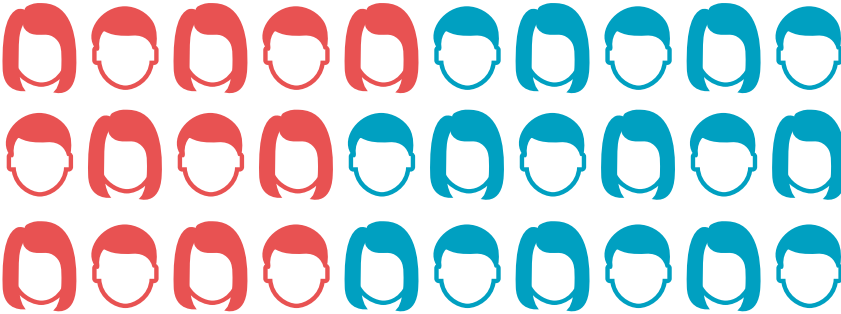
- Section 2 provides an overview of the youth work sector in Ireland, in terms of the legislative context, the voluntary and other organisations working in the sector, and the nature of youth work activities and participation;
- Section 3 highlights the economic context in which the youth work operates in Ireland, by reference to the demographic, labour market, and other socio-economic features impacting the sector and ultimately driving the need for youth programmes and services;
- Section 4 presents a comprehensive review of existing Irish and international research on the economic value of youth work;
- Section 5 presents a cost-benefit analysis of youth work in Ireland, by relating the level of public funding allocated to the sector to the direct and indirect benefits of youth work, and assesses the overall economic return on this funding. This section also presents a number of case studies, which illustrate the nature and impacts of youth work on the ground; and
- Finally, Section 6 brings together the analysis and assessment undertaken in the preceding sections to reach overall conclusions on the importance and economic value of youth work in Ireland, and identifying the implications for government policy in this area.

1.5 Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

Indecon would like to acknowledge the contributions and inputs provided by a number of individuals and organisations to this review. We would particularly like to acknowledge the valuable assistance provided by senior management at the National Youth Council of Ireland, including James O’Leary, President, Mary Cunningham, Director, James Doorley, Deputy Director, and Marie-Claire McAleer, Senior Research and Policy Officer. We would also like to thank Catherine Hazlett and Conor Rowley at the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to senior members of the various youth organisations who provided valuable inputs, including Sean Campbell and John Cahill of Foroige, Patrick Burke of Youth Work Ireland, David Treacy of City of Dublin VEC, Carol Hanney of the Irish Vocational Education Association, James O’Leary of Involve, Ivan McMahon of YMCA Ireland, Eddie d’Arcy of Catholic Youth Care, Elaine Nevin of ECO-UNESCO, Michelle Carew of the National Association for Youth Drama, David Rock of the Irish Methodist Youth & Children’s Department, Kevin Hickey of EIL Ireland, Tom Ryder of Voluntary Service International, Mick Ferron of Sphere 17, Catherine Lenihan and Laura Saunders of Catholic Guides of Ireland, Maggie Ryan of Pavee Point, Gerry McCarthy of Ballyfermot Youth Service, Joan Nicoll of The Girls’ Brigade Ireland, Ciara Cunningham of Swan Youth Service, David Brown of Church of Ireland Youth Department, Philip Daley of The Boys’ Brigade, Sinead Leydon of the Blakestown and Mountview Youth Initiative, John Donovan of No Name Club, Edmond Connolly of Macra na Feirme, David Owens of An Oige, Maedhbh Ni Dhonaill, of Ogras, and Maria Place of Ballymun Regional Youth Service. The usual disclaimer applies and responsibility for the analysis and findings in this independent report is the sole responsibility of Indecon.

2.0

OVERVIEW OF THE YOUTH WORK SECTOR IN IRELAND



382,615 young people participate in and benefit from youth work, representing 43.3% of the total youth population aged between 10 and 24

46% male / 54% female



53.3% are socially or economically disadvantaged



2.1 Introduction

This section sets the context for the assessment by providing an overview of the youth work sector in Ireland, in terms of the legislative context, the voluntary and other organisations working in the sector, and the nature of youth work activities and participation of young people.

2.2 Defining Youth Work

Before considering the key features of the youth work sector in Ireland, it is instructive to define the nature of youth work. This is also important from the perspective of delineating the types of organisations that operate in the sector. As part of this process, Indecon has considered various dimensions applied to different jurisdictions. The definition of youth work in Ireland is first considered, followed by UK and EU definitions.

In Ireland, youth work is given formal statutory recognition in the Youth Work Act 2001, which defines youth work as:

“A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.”⁴

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) extends this definition to include a more holistic list of attributes that can be developed through youth work. These include⁵:

- Building young people’s self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Developing their ability to manage personal and social relationships;
- Offering worthwhile and challenging new experiences;
- Providing learning opportunities to enable young people to gain knowledge and develop new skills;
- Building young people’s capacity to consider risks and consequences and make informed decisions and take responsibility;

4: Youth Work Act 2001. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0042/index.html>.

5: National Youth Council of Ireland, *What is youth work?* See: <http://www.youth.ie/nyci/what-youth-work> Accessed: 16/07/2012.

-
- Helping young people to develop social awareness and a sense of social solidarity;
 - Giving young people a voice in decision-making which affect their lives;
 - Enhancing young people's role as active citizens; and
 - Listening to and hearing what young people have to say.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs also points to the potential wider social, health and welfare impacts of youth work.

“Youth work operates in various settings spanning the non-formal education through to informal education. Youth work engages young people from ten to twenty-four years of age, a significant period in terms of both development and duration. Therefore as an educational methodology, it is in a pivotal position to contribute to the educational welfare of young people. Youth work is predicated on the voluntary participation of young people. Flexibility of approach and emphasis on the interpersonal enables it to offer an educational and developmental process complementary to that provided through formal education. In addition, youth work often acts as the point of contact and referral in the interface with other youth related issues spanning the realms of care, health, and welfare.”⁶

The Department views youth work as both a sustainable educational strategy and a significant educational support to young people, who may be either inside or outside the formal education system. It notes that the stimulation of critical reflection and action facilitates the cultivation of active citizenship and the enhancement of sustainable personal and social competencies and capacities. Thus, youth work has a defined position on the continuum of educational and lifelong learning provision.

6: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, *What is youth work?* <http://www.dcy.a.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=%2Fdocuments%2Fyouthaffairs%2Fwhatisyouthwork.htm&mn=youi&nID=2>.

In the UK, the National Youth Agency (NYA) defines youth work as:

“Promoting young people’s personal and social development, helping them learn about themselves, others and society, through non-formal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning. It is characterized by its voluntary nature, where the young person chooses to engage in an activity undertaken in their free time. It starts with young people’s view of the world, helping them to develop stronger relationships and collective identities, respect and value differences, take control of their lives and develop a voice. It is delivered via a complex network of providers: community groups, voluntary organisations and local authorities, in youth clubs and community centres, in parks, on the streets, in mobiles, in schools and further education colleges and many other settings.”⁷

In the wider European context, there is no set definition of youth work. Indeed in many European countries, youth work is not regulated by law. The degree to which youth work is regulated and a definition is provided for varies from State to State. The table overleaf outlines a selection of frameworks of youth work in operation across Europe.

Table 2.1: Traditions and Frameworks of Youth Work in Europe – Selected Countries

	Austria	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Norway
Legislation at National Level	Federal Act on the Promotion of Youth	Children and Youth Service Act	Endorsed in Various Laws	Youth Work Act	Endorsed in Various Laws	Child Welfare Act
Additional Legislation at State Level	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Definition within the legislation	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Source: Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007), *The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe. Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.*

7: QAA (2008) “Subject benchmark statement: Youth work, community education and community development”, Draft for consultation, <http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/9724/1/YouthCommunity08.pdf>.

According to the European Commission:⁸

“Some of the reasons for the inconsistency of definition of youth work may be, on the one hand, the traditional absence of youth policy in some countries and, on the other hand, the tradition of self-determination and process-related development of the youth work sector in some other countries. In addition, the growing necessity to deal with socio-economic changes in society and to address problems of social exclusion has constantly influenced the development and adaptation of youth work.”

Overall, it is seen that youth work encompasses a number of dimensions and definitions vary at national level. However, a common thread is the emphasis on the individual and application of a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young people across a range of settings. A particular aspect concerns the potential wider social, health and welfare, and socio-economic impacts of youth work and these are among the features which are given detailed consideration in this assessment.

2.3 Structure of the Youth Work Sector

The Youth Work Act 2001 provides a legal framework for the provision of youth work programmes and services and gives statutory responsibility at national level to the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs and at local level to the Vocational Education Committees (VECs) (see overleaf), for the development of youth work and its coordination with other services for young people.

The Act stipulates that VECs are required to undertake an assessment of youth needs, develop three year plans, coordinate services and fund voluntary youth organisations who in the main are the providers of youth work services. Only some of the provisions of the Youth Work Act have been implemented, therefore the role of the VECs is more limited to date than set out in the legislation.

8: Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007), The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe. Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

There are 33 VECs throughout Ireland.⁹ These are shown in the table below. The VECs play an important role in channelling funding and providing infrastructure/resources to the sector. They work closely with organisations to ensure that youth schemes are available in their area. Similarly, they are charged with providing financial assistance to voluntary youth work organisations, through a number of schemes which include Special Projects to assist disadvantaged youths, Youth Information Centres and the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme¹⁰.

Table 2.2: Vocational Education Committees

Area	VEC
North	Cavan, Donegal, Monaghan
South	City of Cork, Co. Cork, Kerry, City of Limerick, Co. Limerick, Tipperary, City of Waterford
East	Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Louth, Meath, Wexford, Wicklow
West	Clare, City of Galway, Co. Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo
Midlands	Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath
Dublin	City of Dublin, Co. Dublin, Dún Laoghaire

Source: Irish Vocational Education Association

2.3.1 Voluntary Youth Work Organisations and NYCI

There are a large number of voluntary youth organisations involved at various levels throughout the youth work sector. At national level, the NYCI is the representative body for voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland, which is recognised by the Youth Work Act 2001, while the VECs also play an important role. In total there are over 40 national voluntary youth organisations in the sector, and they oversee a large number of local community-based projects, groups, units and branches, which deliver services on the ground. A summary description of the organisations in the sector is presented overleaf.

⁹: Irish Vocational Educational Association. See: <http://www.ivea.ie>

¹⁰: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Funding Programmes, Initiatives and Location of Projects. See: <http://www.dcy.a.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=%2Fdocuments%2Fyouthaffairs%2Ffunding.htm&mn=youl&nID=5>

Table 2.3: National Voluntary Youth Organisations in the Youth Work Sector in Ireland

Type of Organisation	No.	Name
Outdoor / Education	1	An Óige
Equality Issues	1	BeLonG to Youth Service
Faith Based	6	Church of Ireland Youth Department, Dept. of Youth and Children's Work of the Methodist Church in Ireland, YMCA Ireland, Young Christian Workers, Presbyterian Youth and Children Ministry, YWCA of Ireland
Uniform Organisations	6	Irish Girl Guides, Scouting Ireland, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society, Catholic Guides of Ireland
Welfare and Health	2	No Name Club, Order of Malta Cadets
Environment	1	ECO-UNESCO
International Volunteering	2	EIL Intercultural Learning, Voluntary Service International
Travelling Community	3	Exchange House, Involve, Pavee Point Travellers Centre
Irish Language	2	Feachtas, Ógras
Rural Youth	1	Macra na Feirme
Civic	1	Junior Chamber Ireland
Arts/Creative	2	National Association for Youth Drama, Young Irish Film Makers
Community Services	1	Peace Corps/ Localise
Independent Local/ Regional Youth Services	8	Blakestown and Mountview Initiative, Ballymun Regional Youth Service, The Base Youth Service, Ballyfermot Youth Service, Sphere 17, Swan Youth Service, Lourdes Youth and Community Services, Bradog Regional Youth Service*
Multi-service Organisations	3	Catholic Youth Care, Foróige, Youth Work Ireland
Sector Representative Body	1	National Youth Council of Ireland
Total	41	

Source: NYCI and organisation websites

Note: Ógra Chorcaí merged with Foróige in 2012 and thus all subsequent analysis will treat these as the same organisation.

*This may not be an exhaustive list but the vast majority of other local / regional services come under the remit of national youth organisations listed here.

It can be seen that youth work organisations are involved in a diverse range of programmes and activities. It should be noted that the categories presented above represent generalised categorisations as many organisations operate in a range of sectoral areas.

2.4 Funding of Youth Work

2.4.1 Main sources of public funding

Funding for the youth work sector comes from an array of sources and can be broadly broken down between the public and private spheres. Private funding includes charitable donations, commercial sponsorship and income, and philanthropic funding. Within the public domain of funding, there are three broad funding sources for youth work programmes. The primary sources are identified in the table below¹¹. It is also important to note that funding originating from these sources may be distributed via other organisations, including through the VECs.

Table 2.4: Main Sources of Public Funding for Youth Work in Ireland

Main Public Funding Source
Department of Children and Youth Affairs incl. National Lottery
Health Service Executive
Irish Youth Justice Service

Source: Indecon Analysis

2.4.2 Level of funding

DCYA funding

In the ensuing analysis the various funding streams are considered. The table overleaf highlights funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. In 2011, the Department channelled a total of €61.5 million into the youth work sector, via a range of grant and other supports.

11: The funding sources shown represent the primary sources of youth work funding. Additional funding may also be channelled into the youth work sector via programmes managed by other Government Departments and agencies, including the Department of Health.

Table 2.5: Department of Children and Youth Affairs Funding Streams for Youth Work Sector

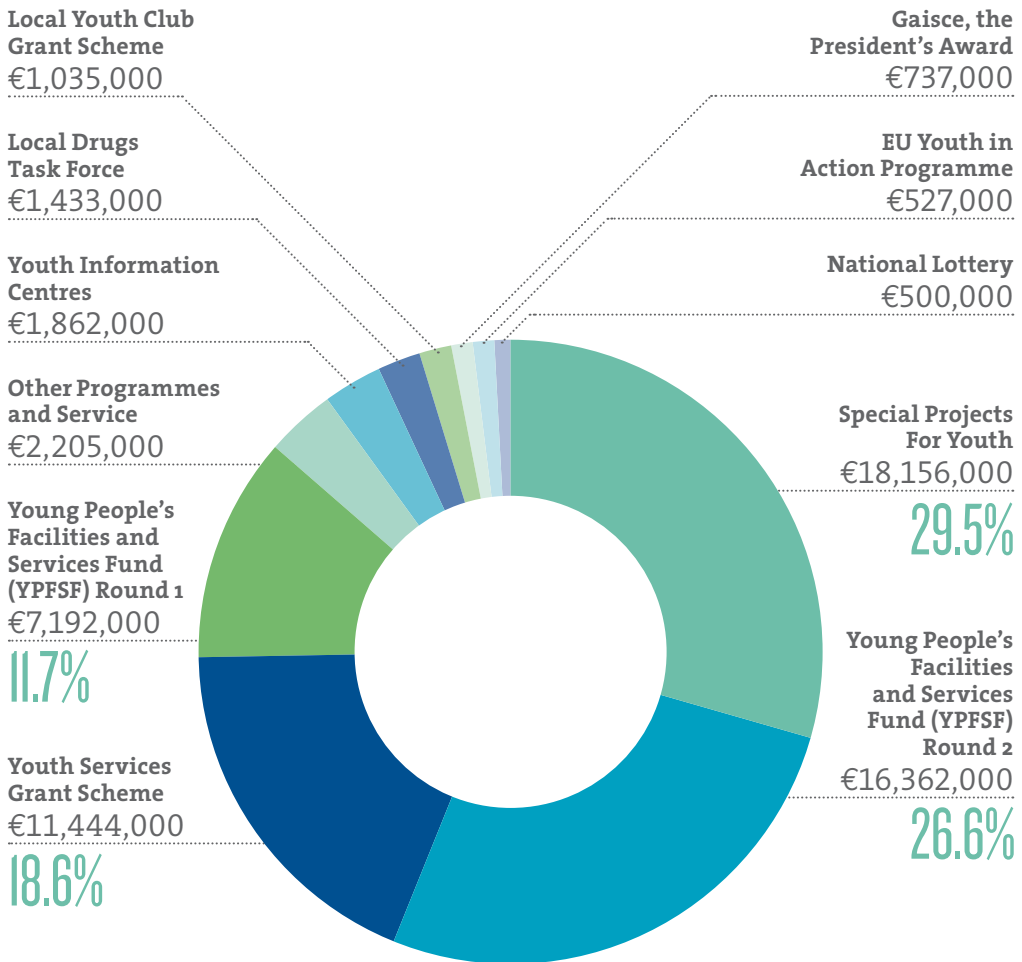
Youth Funding Stream	2011 - €
Special Projects For Youth	18,156,000
Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF) Round 2	16,362,000
Youth Services Grant Scheme	11,444,000
Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF) Round 1	7,192,000
Other Programmes and Service*	2,205,000
Youth Information Centres	1,862,000
Local Drugs Task Force	1,433,000
Local Youth Club Grant Scheme	1,035,000
Gaisce, the President's Award	737,000
EU Youth in Action Programme	527,000
National Lottery	500,000
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	61,453,000

Sources: Department of Children and Youth Affairs Comprehensive Review of Expenditure 2011

* Including funding for Youth Cafes

The chart overleaf provides a pictorial representation of the sources of public funding for youth work distributed through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This highlights the main streams of Department funding as being the SPY scheme for disadvantaged areas (29.5%), the Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (Round 1 accounting for 11.7% and Round 2 representing 26.6% of Department funding) and the Youth Services Grant scheme (18.6%), which funds national organisations to provide supports to locally based services (which are primarily volunteer-led).

Figure 2.1: Department of Children and Youth Affairs Funding Streams for Youth Work Sector – 2011 - % Breakdown



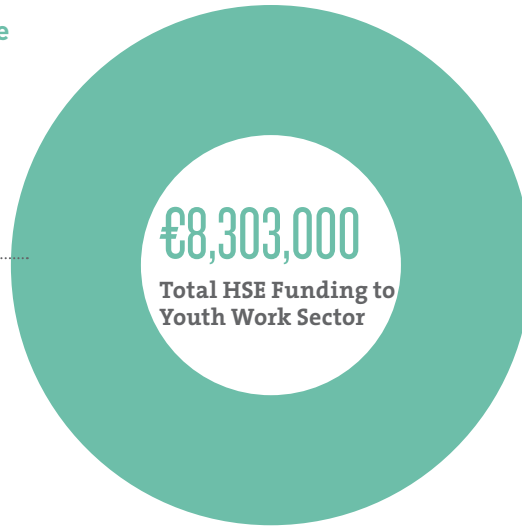
Sources: Department of Children and Youth Affairs Comprehensive Review of Expenditure 2011

HSE funding

The sector also benefits from funding provided to specific programmes by the Health Service Executive (HSE). HSE funding by its nature supports health-related programmes that are on-going across youth work organisations. While the HSE provides the majority of health-related funding to the sector, the DCYA also apportions some of its fund to support health-related projects. HSE funding to the youth sector amounted to €8.3m in 2011.

Graphic 2.6: Health Service Executive Funding

Health programmes delivered through youth organisations
€8,303,000



Sources: HSE Annual Report 2011

Irish Youth Justice Service funding

The third main funding stream comes from the Irish Youth Justice Service, which in turn is funded by the Department of Justice and Equality (see graphic below). The Irish Youth Justice Service aims to improve the delivery of youth justice services and reduce youth offending across Ireland. This challenge is met by focusing on diversion and rehabilitation, involving greater use of community-based interventions. In this respect, funding through youth work organisations provides a focused vehicle for the provision of such funds. This funding is in the form of Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs). In 2011, €8.85 million or 82% of all GYDP funding was channelled into youth work organisations.

Graphic 2.7: Irish Youth Justice Service Funding

Garda Youth Diversion Projects
€8,846,980

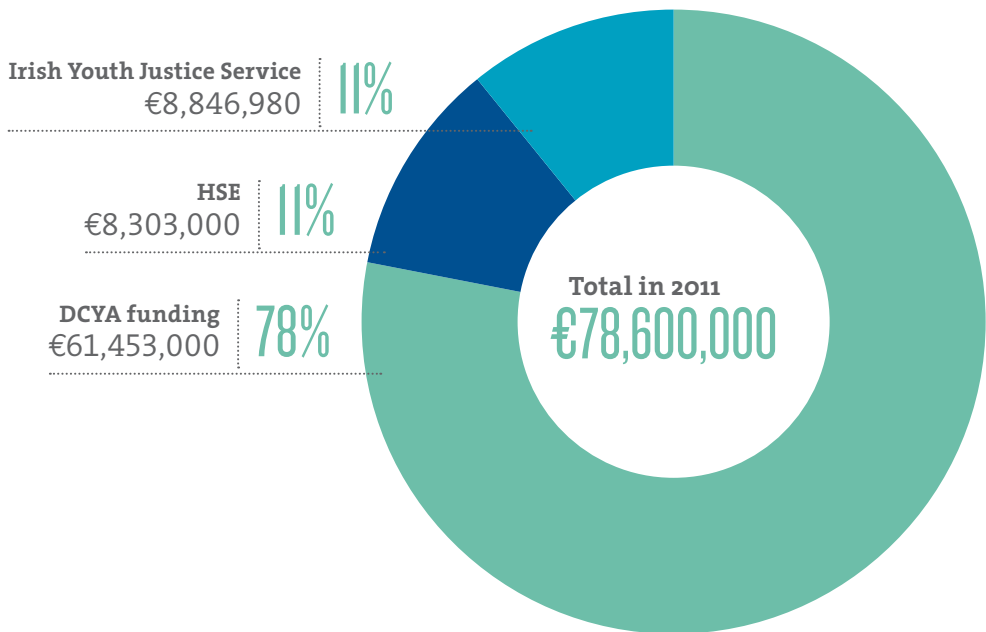


Sources: Irish Youth Justice Service Annual Report 2009, Indecon Analysis

Overall Public Funding

The figure below brings together the above components to describe the overall breakdown of the main sources of public funding for the youth work sector in Ireland. In total, the sector received almost €79 million in public funding during 2011, comprised of funding from the DCYA, the HSE and the Irish Youth Justice Service. One of the important issues considered in this study concerns the economic benefit and value for money achieved through State funding provided to the sector.

Figure 2.2: Public Funding for Youth Work Sector by Main Source - 2011



Sources: Department of Children and Youth Affairs, HSE, Irish Youth Justice Service/Department of Justice and Equality

2.5 Nature of Youth Work

The following table outlines the types of provision of youth work services in Ireland, and in addition, demonstrates the funding streams for each respective type of service.

Figure 2.3: Provision of Youth Work Services in Ireland

Type	Funding Stream
Staff-led provision	Special Projects for Youth, Youth Information Centres, Young People's Facilities and Services Fund
Volunteer-led provision	Local Youth Club Grant Schemes
National Youth Organisations (includes direct provision and staff-supported volunteer provision)	Youth Services Grant Scheme

Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs

When considering the benefits and impacts of youth work, it is important to identify the specific nature of activities and programmes provided by youth work organisations. The table below presents a summary of the types of activities provided by youth work organisations. In addition to the specific activities described below, it should also be noted that youth organisations play a significant role in assisting young people who are experiencing social and economic disadvantage.

Table 2.8: Activities Supported by Youth Work Organisations

Activity	% of Organisations Engaged in Activity
Recreation, arts and sport	80
Welfare and well-being	51
Issue-based activities	39
Spiritual development	32
Education & IT	29
Crime prevention	29
Life skills	27
Intercultural and international awareness activities and exchanges	24

Source: Indecon analysis based on review of youth work organisation publications/websites

It is clear that the vast majority (80%) of youth work organisations provide recreational, arts and sports-related activities, while over half are engaged in activities which are focussed on welfare and wellbeing, many of which deal specifically with addressing the challenges around substance and alcohol misuse. Issue-based activities form an important focus for youth work organisations and many of these consist of rights and equality programmes. Some of the organisations also provide specific education supports – for example, some organisations provide stay-in-school programmes (e.g. Exchange House) or target early school leaving as a specific problem (e.g. Involve) – as well as providing training supports. A number of organisations offer programmes which seek to divert young people from committing crimes or engaging in anti-social behaviour. The most widely recognised of these schemes is the Garda Youth Diversion scheme, with projects provided predominantly by Youth Work Ireland, Foróige and Catholic Youth Care.

The benefits and outcomes associated with some of the activities described above are examined in greater detail further on in this report, but the table below provides a brief summary of some of the benefits that have been found to be associated with youth work. These benefits span direct and indirect benefits; the direct benefits refer to observable outcomes for young people involved in youth work programmes, while the indirect benefits refer to longer-term benefits for the individual and for society.

Figure 2.4: Benefits of Youth Work

Direct Benefits	Indirect Benefits
Participation	Justice-related benefits
Personal Development	Health-related benefits
Increased Self-Esteem	Education-related benefits
Decision-Making	Welfare-related benefits

Source: Indecon review of international and national research (see Section 4)

An important aspect of the benefits of youth work is the preventative role which youth programmes and services can play in reducing costs which the state might otherwise face. We review previous research on this aspect in Section 4 and we quantify the direct and indirect benefits of youth work in Section 5.

2.6 Volunteering and Employment in Youth Work

2.6.1 Volunteering activity

Volunteering represents a key component of the youth work sector in Ireland. Indecon has estimated the overall extent of volunteering in youth work based on information supplied by individual organisations in the sector as well as sector-wide funding. The estimated overall number of volunteers active across the youth work sector is presented in the graphic below.

Graphic 2.9: Extent of Volunteering Activity in the Youth Work Sector in Ireland

Volunteering – All Organisations



Source: Indecon analysis based on information provided by Youth Work Organisations.

** This figure is estimated by combining the ratio of volunteering to income across organisations responding to Indecon's survey with information on total income across 41 organisations tracked across the youth work sector as a whole. It is assumed that the extent of volunteering is correlated with overall income and expenditure across the sector.*

Based on Indecon's independent analysis, it is estimated that 40,145 individuals work in a voluntary capacity in the youth sector. This is an important consideration when evaluating the economic impact of youth work, since as well as providing a critical resource to organisations in the sector, volunteering also yields considerable savings in terms of youth work funding compared to a scenario where these resources are provided on a paid basis.

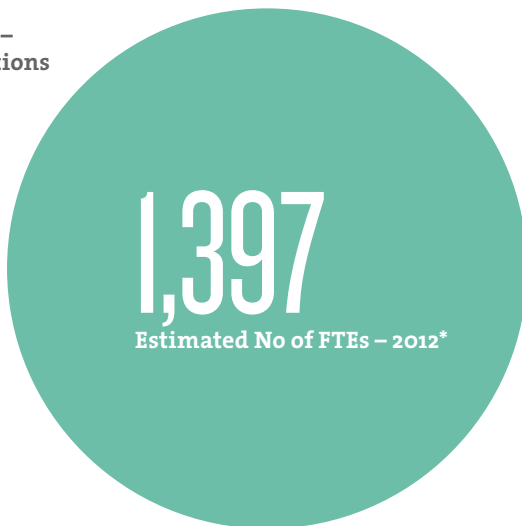
Salamon et al. (2011)¹² provide estimates of the global economic value of volunteer work. They note that volunteering can benefit the volunteer as well as the beneficiaries of the volunteer scheme. Volunteering can result in personal satisfaction for the volunteer, but can also result in more tangible benefits such as job skills and experience. In Section 5, the economic value of the voluntary effort provided to the sector is evaluated.

2.6.2 Employment in youth work

It is important to note that the substantial input provided by volunteers in the youth work sector is also supported by paid employees, who are engaged in management as well as service delivery roles, in addition to providing important training and other supports to volunteers. Paid staff are particularly important in community-based services, where specialist skills are required. The estimated number of full-time equivalent staff employed in the youth work sector is provided in the graphic below. Based on information collated through Indecon's survey of youth work organisations, it is estimated that the equivalent of 1,397 individuals are employed on a full-time, paid basis in the sector.

Graphic 2.10: Employment in Youth Work

Employment –
All Organisations



Source: Indecon analysis of Youth Work Organisations*

* This figure is estimated by combining the ratio of paid employees to income across organisations responding to Indecon's survey with information on total income across all 41 organisations tracked across the youth work sector as a whole. It is assumed that the extent of employment is correlated with overall income and expenditure across the sector.

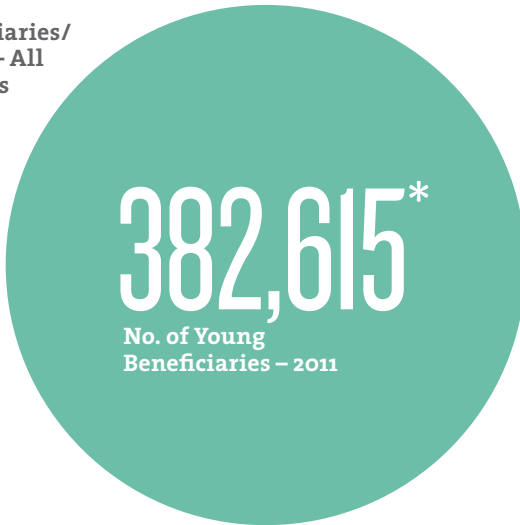
12: Salamon, L., Sokolowski, S. and Haddock, M. (2011) "Measuring the economic value of volunteer work globally: concepts, estimates, and a roadmap to the future", *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 82 (3), pp. 217-252.

2.7 Beneficiaries of Youth Work

Given the large number of youth organisations, it is difficult to identify an exact figure for the number of young people participating in and benefiting from youth work organisations. However, based on Indecon's research among the organisations, it is estimated that 382,615 young people benefited from the various activities and programmes provided by youth organisations throughout Ireland during 2011; this represents 43.3% of the total youth population aged between 10 and 24 (see graphic below).¹³

Graphic 2.11: Number of Young People Benefiting from Youth Organisations

**Total Beneficiaries/
Participants – All
Organisations**



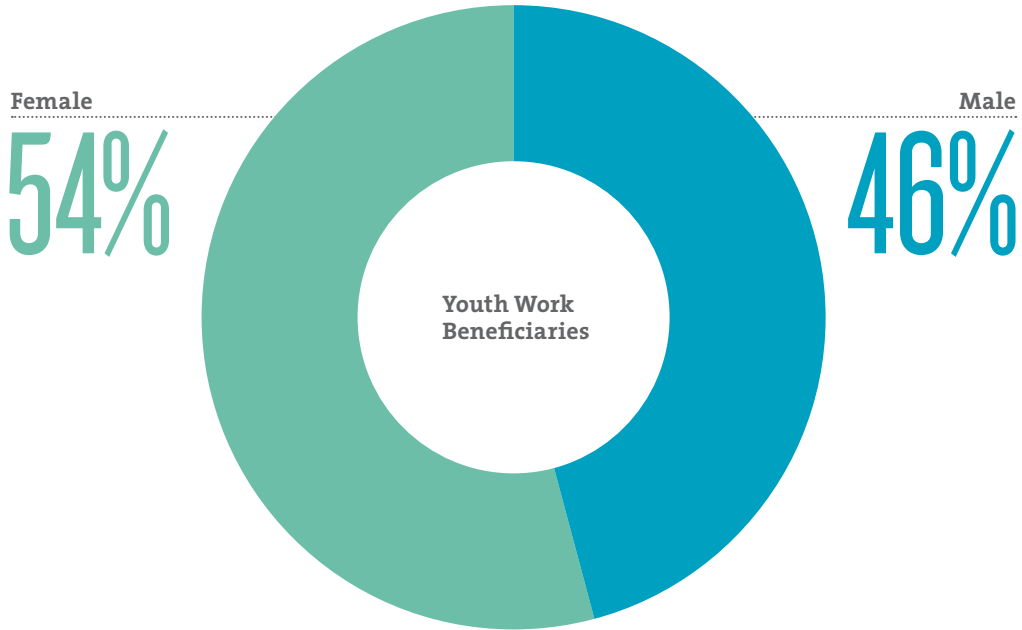
Source: Indecon analysis of Youth Work Organisations

** This figure is estimated by combining the ratio of young participants to income across organisations responding to Indecon's survey with information on total income across all 41 organisations tracked across the youth work sector as a whole. It is assumed that the extent of participation is correlated with overall income and expenditure across the sector.*

13: Source: Indecon analysis of CSO data from the 2011 Census of Population.

There is a more or less equal level of participation among young males and females, as indicated in the graphic below.

Graphic 2.12: Gender of Beneficiaries of Youth Work Organisations



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

The definition of youth work in the Irish context highlights that it applies particularly to those between the ages of 10 and 21. To get an idea of the breakdown within this, Indecon surveyed youth work organisations on the various age proportions of their participant base. We found that the largest group of participants are between the ages of 10 and 15, representing 35% of the overall number of young people involved. The 16 to 20 year old group represents another 29.1% of youth beneficiaries, while 21.4% of beneficiaries are less than 10 years of age (see graphic overleaf).

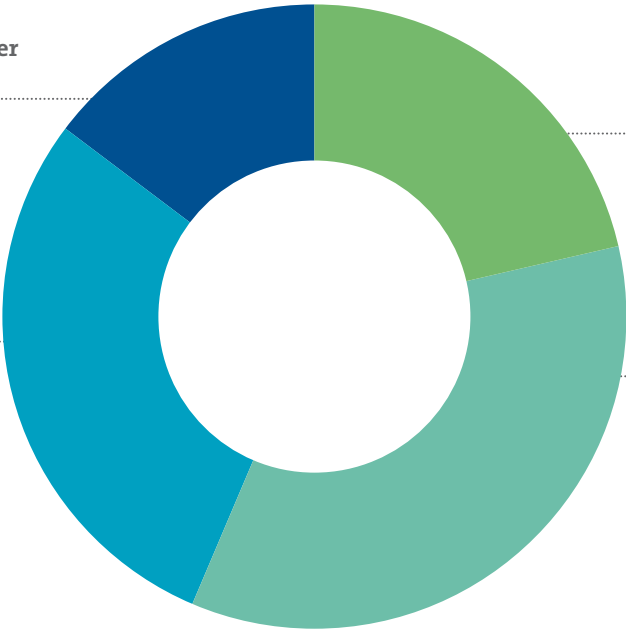
Graphic 2.13: Participation by Age Group

Youth Work Participation Over 21 Years of Age

14.5%

Youth Work Participation 16 – 20 Years of Age

29.1%



Youth Work Participation Under 10 Years of Age

21.4%

Youth Work Participation 10 – 15 Years of Age

35%

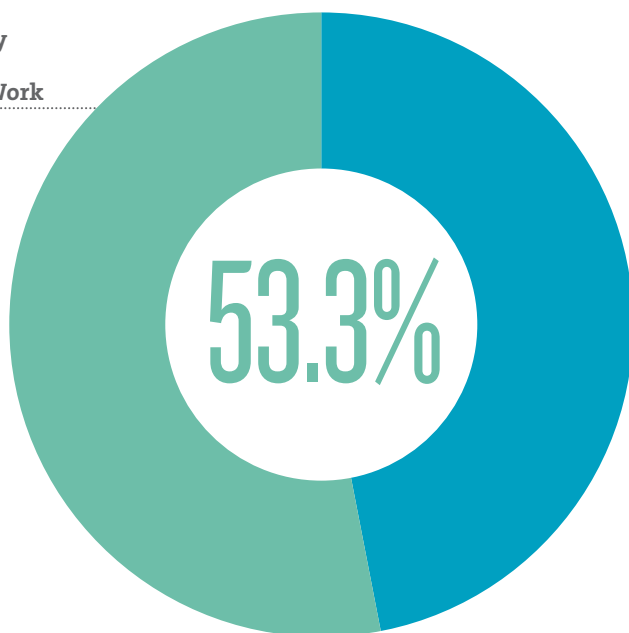
SECTION 2.0

Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Through our review of previous studies in this area both nationally and internationally it became evident that participation in youth work is particularly high in areas that may be considered economically or socially disadvantaged. The graphic overleaf summarises the findings from Indecon’s survey of youth work organisations in relation to the proportion of young beneficiaries who are considered economically or socially disadvantaged.

Graphic 2.14: Socially or Economically Disadvantaged Beneficiaries of Youth Work

Socially or Economically Disadvantaged Beneficiaries of Youth Work



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Indecon's research among youth work organisations indicates that 53.3% of young people who participate in programmes and activities provided by these organisations are believed to be economically or socially disadvantaged. This of course has important implications for both the focus of youth work activities, and the impacts of these activities in affected groups within society. The numbers of young people at risk of poverty/social exclusion in Ireland and throughout Europe are discussed further in Section 3.

2.8 Summary of Main Findings

This section set the context for the assessment by providing an overview of the youth work sector in Ireland, in terms of youth work structures, the funding of the sector, the nature of organisations working in the sector and the focus of their activities, the extent of volunteering and employment supported, and the level of participation among young people. The main features of the youth work sector highlighted in this overview were as follows:

- ‘Youth work’ is defined by the Youth Work Act, 2001, as “A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.”
- In total there are over 40 national youth work organisations in the sector, and they in turn oversee a much larger number of local, community-based projects, services and groups, which deliver services on the ground.
- In total, the youth work sector received almost €79 million in public funding during 2011, with the main sources being the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (€61.5 million), the HSE (€8.3 million) and the Irish Youth Justice Service (€8.8 million). One of the important issues considered in this study concerns the economic benefit and value for money achieved through State funding provided to the sector.
- The vast majority of youth work organisations provide recreational, arts and sports-related activities, while over half are engaged in activities which are focussed on welfare and wellbeing. Issue-based activities form an important focus for youth work organisations, many of which deal specifically with addressing challenges such as substance and alcohol misuse. Some of the organisations also provide specific education supports – for example, some organisations provide stay-in-school programmes (e.g. Exchange House) or target early school leaving as a specific problem (e.g. Involve) – as well as providing training supports. In addition, a number of organisations offer programmes which seek to divert young people from committing crimes or engaging in anti-social behaviour.

- Volunteering represents a key component of the youth work sector in Ireland and voluntary youth work organisations are among the main providers of youth work services. Indecon's independent estimates indicate that 40,145 individuals work in a voluntary capacity in the youth sector. This is an important consideration when evaluating the economic impact of youth work, since as well as providing a critical resource to organisations in the sector, volunteering also yields considerable savings in terms of youth work funding compared to a scenario where these resources are provided on a paid basis.
- These volunteers are supported by paid employees, who are engaged in management as well as service delivery roles, in addition to providing important training and other supports to volunteers. Indecon's independent analysis estimates that there are 1,397 full time equivalents employed in the sector.
- It is estimated by Indecon that 382,615 young people participated in and benefited from the various activities and programmes provided by youth organisations throughout Ireland during 2011. Indecon's analysis indicates that 53.3% of young people participating in youth work organisations in Ireland are believed to be economically or socially disadvantaged. Such funding has important implications for both the focus of youth work activities, and the impacts of these activities on affected groups within society.

3.0

ECONOMIC CONTEXT FOR YOUTH WORK

SECTION 3.0



HSE

€8.3 million



Department of Children
and Youth Affairs

€61.5 million



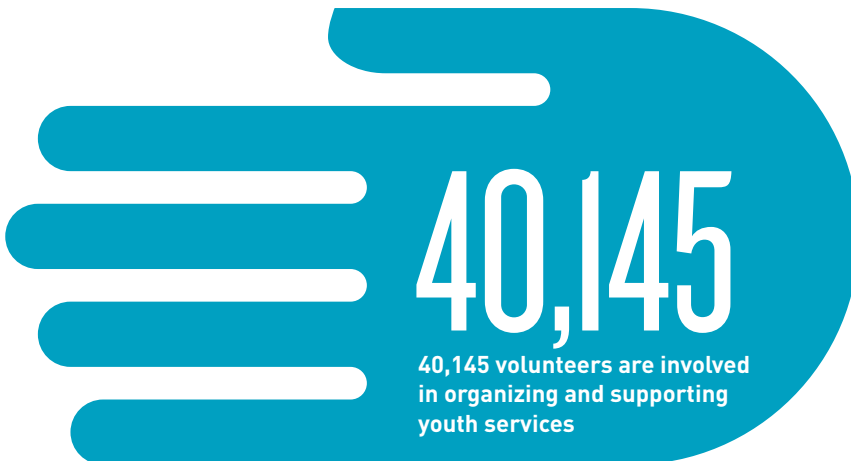
Irish Youth
Justice Service

€8.8 million

€79m



€79m in public
funding for the youth
work sector in 2011



3.1 Introduction

An important factor to consider when assessing the economic value of youth work is the wider economic context in which the sector operates. This section highlights the demographic, labour market, and other socio-economic features impacting on the sector and ultimately driving the need for youth programmes and services. The analysis is undertaken by reference to national as well as international comparative data.

3.2 Demographic Context

We first consider total numbers of young people in Ireland. The 2011 Census of Population revealed that there were 4,588,252 individuals living in Ireland. 882,741 of these were between the ages of 10 and 24. This indicates that young people make up 19.2% of the total population. This represents a slight decline on the proportion of young people in 2006.

Table 3.1: Number of Young People in the Irish Population

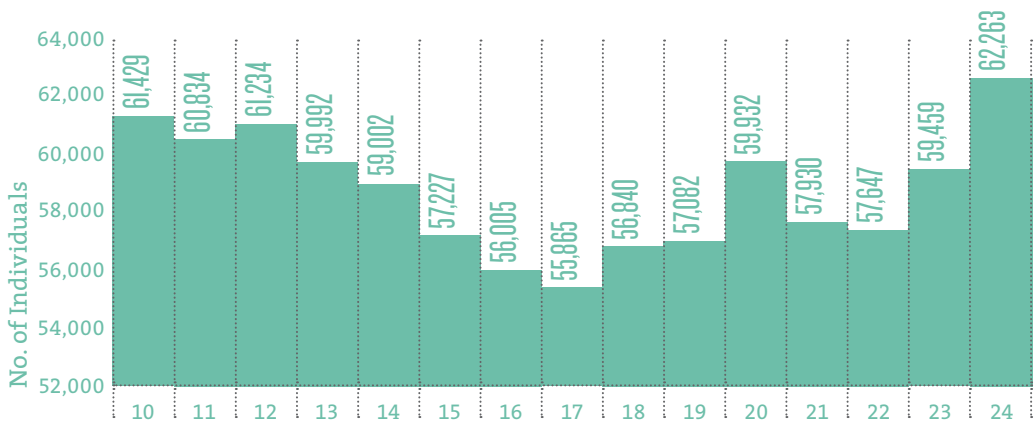
	2006	2011	% Change 2006-2011
No. of Persons aged 10 to 24 years	906,604	882,741	-2.6%
Total Population – Persons	4,239,848	4,588,252	8.2%
% Young People	21.4%	19.2%	-2.1% ¹⁴

Source: *Indecon analysis of CSO Census of Population, 2011*

The figure overleaf provides a more detailed breakdown by reference to the number of young people at each age. This demonstrates that the distribution of young people is not uniform across ages, with a high number evident in the 10 to 14 age group, lower numbers aged between 15 and 19, and higher numbers in the 20 to 24 age group.

¹⁴: This represents the percentage point difference between 2006 and 2011.

Figure 3.1: Age Profile of Young People in Ireland, 2011



Source: CSO, Census of Population, 2011

It is also interesting to compare how the age profile of young people in Ireland might have changed between 2006 and 2011. The table overleaf presents the number of young people in Ireland in 2006 and 2011, the total change between 2006 and 2011 and the percentage change between 2006 and 2011 for each age. The number of young people fell by 2.63% between 2006 and 2011. The number of young people for each age category between 10 and 14 grew, but this was more than matched by declines in the numbers of young people in each age category from 15 upwards.

Table 3.2: Age Profile of Youth Population, 2006 and 2011

Age	Population			
	2006	2011	Change 2006-2011	% Change 2006-2011
10	54,491	61,429	6,938	12.7%
11	53,789	60,834	7,045	13.1%
12	53,469	61,234	7,765	14.5%
13	55,018	59,992	4,974	9.0%
14	57,105	59,002	1,897	3.3%
15	58,318	57,227	-1,091	-1.9%
16	56,551	56,005	-546	-1.0%
17	56,716	55,865	-851	-1.5%
18	58,326	56,840	-1,486	-2.5%
19	60,346	57,082	-3,264	-5.4%
20	64,091	59,932	-4,159	-6.5%
21	65,466	57,930	-7,536	-11.5%
22	67,904	57,647	-10,257	-15.1%
23	71,297	59,459	-11,838	-16.6%
24	73,717	62,263	-11,454	-15.5%
Total	906,604	882,741	-23,863	-2.6%

Source: CSO Census of population 2006 and 2011, Indecon analysis

The table overleaf presents the youth population by gender and age category for 2006 and 2011. The total change for each age category by gender is also provided, as well as the percentage change for each age category between 2006 and 2011. An increase was observed between 2006 and 2011 in the number of male and female young people in the 10-14 year age category. There were decreases in the number of male and female young people in the 15-19 year and the 20-24 year age categories. It is also interesting to note that the number of female young people in total declined by less than the male population, which seems to be driven by the greater fall in the male 20-24 year age category.

Table 3.3: Population by Gender and Age Category, 2006 and 2011

	Population			
	2006	2011	Change 2006-2011	% Change 2006-2011
Male				
10-14 years	140,504	155,076	14,572	10.4%
15-19 years	148,241	144,262	-3,979	-2.7%
20-24 years	172,766	146,636	-26,130	-15.1%
Total	461,511	445,974	-15,537	-3.4%
Female				
10-14 years	133,368	147,415	14,047	10.5%
15-19 years	142,016	138,757	-3,259	-2.3%
20-24 years	169,709	150,595	-19,114	-11.3%
Total	445,093	436,767	-8,326	-1.9%

Source: CSO Census of Population 2006 and 2011, Indecon analysis

3.3 Labour Market Context

When considering the economic context of youth work, it is also important to examine the state of the labour market, placing particular emphasis on the situation for young people. The table overleaf describes the pattern of employment and unemployment rates by age group and gender, based on information from the CSO's Quarterly National Household Survey for the second quarter of 2012.

The economic recession in Ireland has led to a substantial decrease in the numbers of people in employment and a sharp increase in unemployment. The analysis indicates that employment rates among persons aged 15 to 19 years are substantially below those across all other age groups and the national average, and this is more pronounced among males compared with females. However, the incidence of unemployment is markedly greater among young people. In particular, among persons aged between 15 and 19 who are in the labour force, almost half (48.4%) were unemployed in the 2nd quarter of 2012. The unemployment rate among 20 to 24 year olds was 29%, compared to a national unemployment rate of 14.7%.

Table 3.4: Employment and Unemployment Rates among Young People in Ireland – Q2 2012

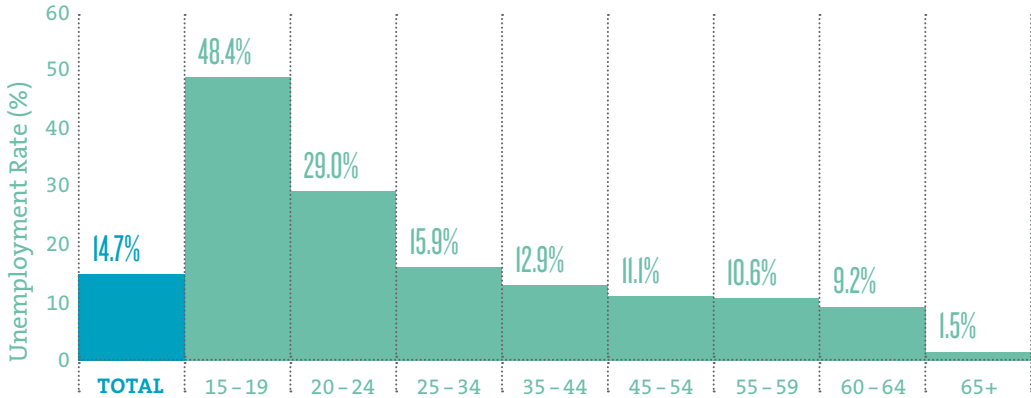
	Age categories (%)								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
All persons									
Employment rate - % of Population in Age Group	9.2	46.6	70.2	70.5	67.8	57.9	40.3	-	59.1
Unemployment rate - % of Labour Force	48.4	29.0	15.9	12.9	11.1	10.6	9.2	1.5	14.7
Males									
Employment rate - % of Population in Age Group	8.7	43.7	71.9	77.0	74.4	62.8	48.4	-	62.9
Unemployment rate - % of Labour Force	51.3	35.6	20.3	15.5	13.7	14.7	11.2	1.7	17.8
Females									
Employment rate - % of Population in Age Group	9.7	49.4	68.7	64.0	61.2	53.0	32.3	-	55.4
Unemployment rate - % of Labour Force	45.3	22.1	11.1	9.5	7.8	5.1	6.1	x	10.9

Source: CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey, Quarter 2, 2012

Notes: * indicates that the population estimate was less than 1,000 and thus not reported due to the possibility of greater sampling/survey errors. The CSO figures for employment rates do not include a category for 65+.

The figure below comprises a graphical representation of the unemployment rate by age category in the second quarter of 2012.

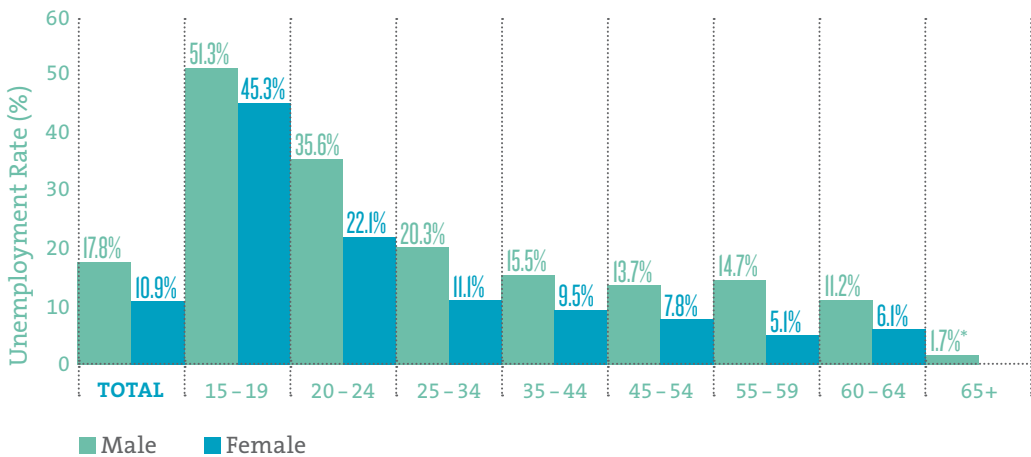
Figure 3.2: Unemployment Rate by Age Category, Q2 2012



Source: CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey, Quarter 2, 2012

The figure below compares the extent of unemployment by gender and age group. This demonstrates that male unemployment is much higher than female unemployment across all age categories, with the widest disparity between male and female unemployment levels occurring in the 20-24 year age group.

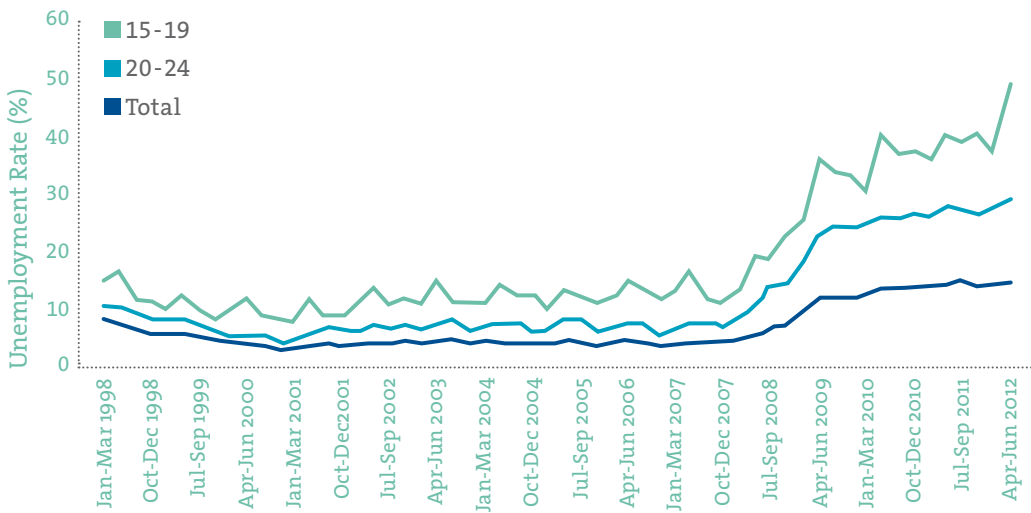
Figure 3.3: Unemployment Rate by Gender, Q2 2012



Source: CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey, Quarter 2, 2012

It is instructive to place the above analysis in context by referring to the recent trends in unemployment. The figure below displays the trend in the unemployment rate since 1998 by age group as well as across the entire labour force. This demonstrates that youth unemployment has historically been higher than overall unemployment, although the youth unemployment rate is also more volatile. Furthermore, youth unemployment rates have increased at a faster pace than overall unemployment rates since the onset of the recession.

Figure 3.4: Unemployment Rate by Age Category, Q1 1998-Q2 2012

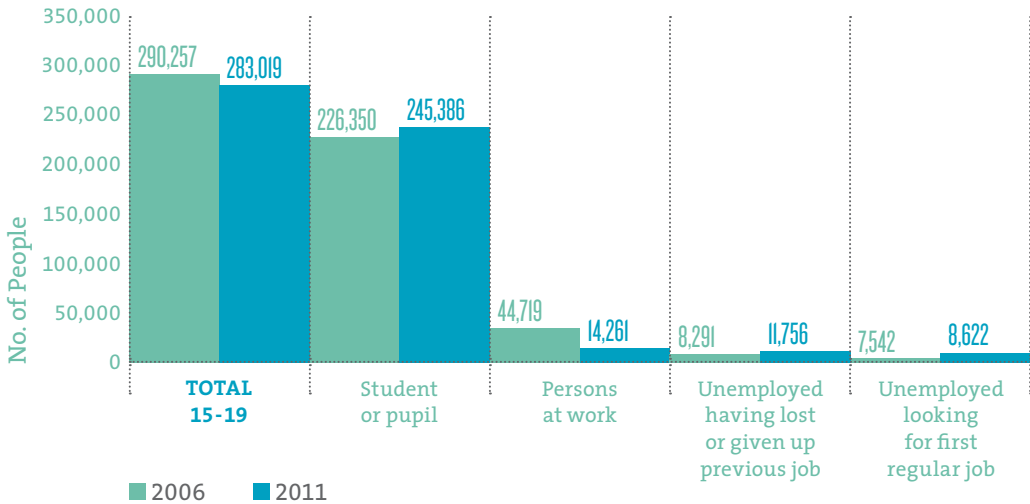


Source: CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey, Quarter 2, 2012

3.3.1 Trends in economic status of young people

It is also useful to consider how the economic status of young people has moved over time. The impact of the recession is clear and it is notable in particular that the number of young people at work fell by 68%, while the number of unemployed young people rose by 29% since 2006.

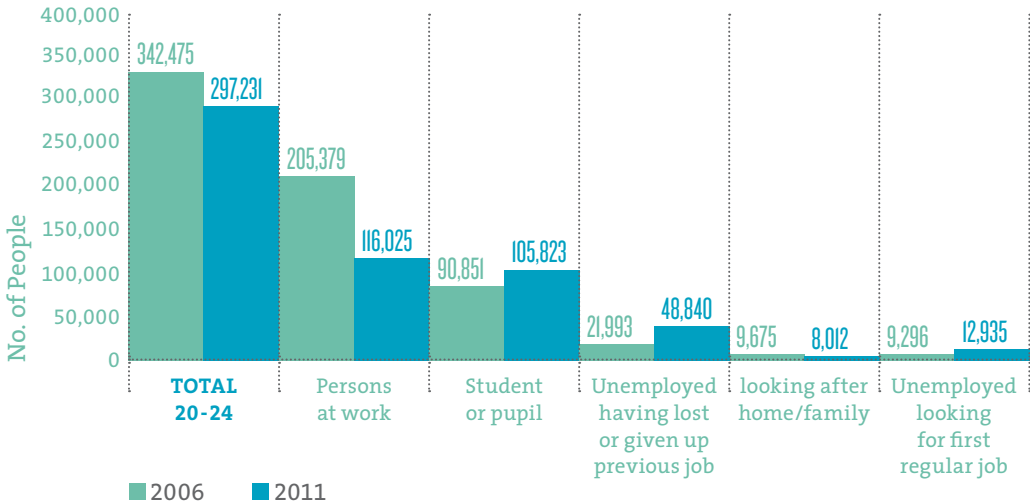
Figure 3.5: Principal Economic Status for Young People Aged 15-19, 2006 and 2011



Source: CSO Census of Population 2006 and 2011, Indecon analysis

The figure overleaf presents the main categories of principal economic status for young people in the 20-24 year age category. The number of young people in this category fell by 13% between 2006 and 2011. The number of young people at work fell by 44% and the number of students in this age category increased by 16%. There was a significant increase (122%) in the number of young people who were unemployed having lost or given up their jobs. The number of young people looking after their homes/family fell by 17% and there was an increase of 39% in the number of unemployed young people looking for their first job.

Figure 3.6: Principal Economic Status for Young People Aged 20-24, 2006 and 2011

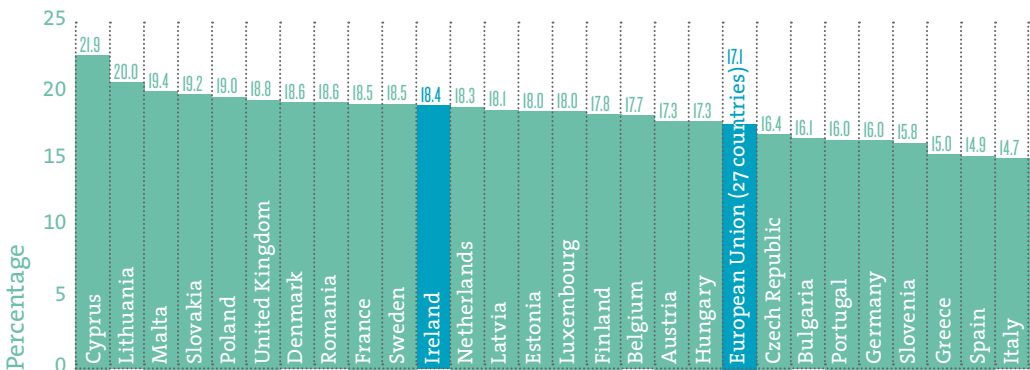


Source: CSO Census of Population 2006 and 2011, Indecon analysis

3.4 Comparative International Context

It is also instructive to assess the economic context for youth work in Ireland within an international perspective. This section compares the position in Ireland vis-à-vis other EU Member States based on selected measures.

Figure 3.7: Proportion of young people aged 10-24 in total population by country, 2011

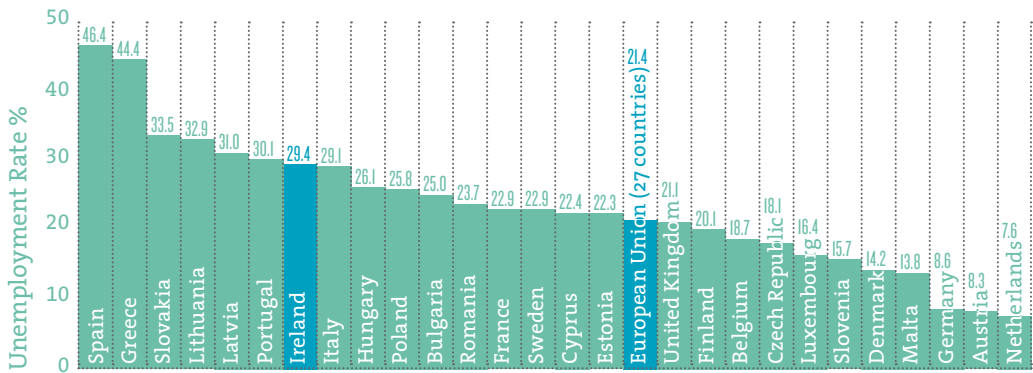


Source: Eurostat population statistics, Indecon analysis

Figure 3.7 describes the youth population as a proportion of the total population for each of the EU countries in 2011. This figure demonstrates that Ireland has a higher proportion of young people than the EU average.

Unemployment rates in 2011 for young people under the age of 25 are presented for all EU countries in the figure below. The unemployment rate for young people in Ireland (29.4%) was the 7th highest in the EU, and was significantly above the EU average of 21.4%.

Figure 3.8: Unemployment rates for people under the age of 25 by country, 2011

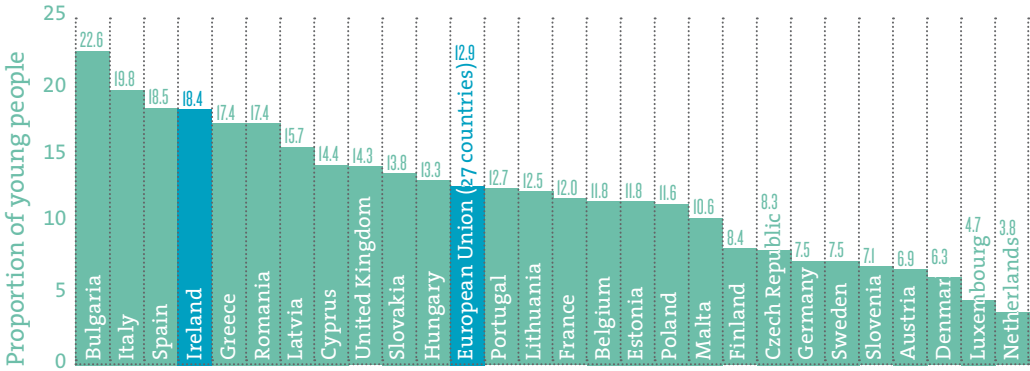


Source: Eurostat population statistics Source: Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators, Eurostat.

Note: These unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. tics, Indecon analysis

Attention is now turned to the percentage of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are not in education, employment or training ('NEET'). NEET rates by country for 2011 are presented in the figure below. Ireland demonstrated the fourth highest NEET rate in the EU in 2011, with 18.4% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in Ireland classified as NEET. This compares unfavourably with the NEET rate for all EU countries (12.9%).

Figure 3.9: 'NEET' rates by country, 2011*

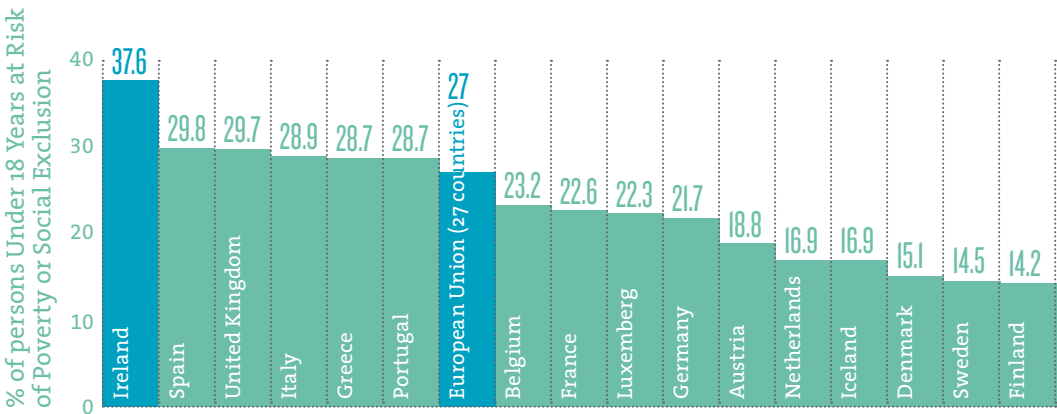


Source: Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators, Eurostat.

Notes: * 'NEET' = 'Not in Employment, Education or Training'

The figure below compares the risk of poverty and social exclusion among young people aged under 18 across fifteen EU Member States, based on figures for 2010. It is notable that Ireland exhibits the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion among under 18's across the countries profiled.

Figure 3.10: At Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion Rates across EU 15 Member States – 2010



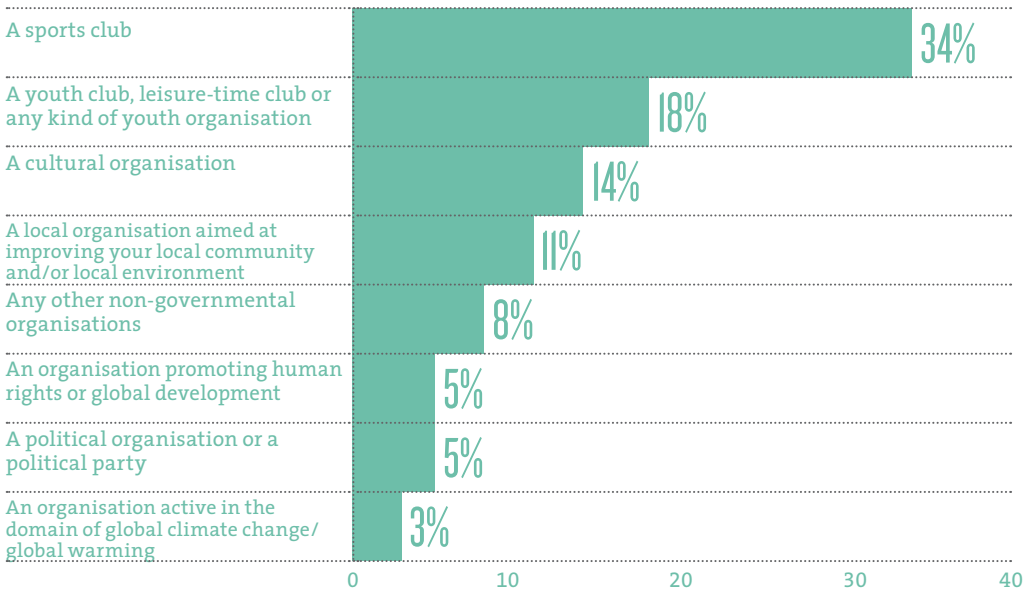
Source: Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators, Eurostat

The figures presented above have focussed on providing an EU-wide comparison of some key factors affecting young people; the proportion of young people, youth unemployment rates, risk of poverty and social exclusion, and NEET rates all appear relevant to a consideration of the benefits of youth work.

It is however difficult to find comparisons of direct youth work measures throughout Europe. The report titled *The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe* gathered data from a large number of sources in order to quantify youth work measures such as total participation in youth work organisations, volunteer numbers and numbers of youth workers, as well as funding information. This report considered 10 countries, including Ireland, and some of the key findings will be presented in the review of existing research in Section 4.

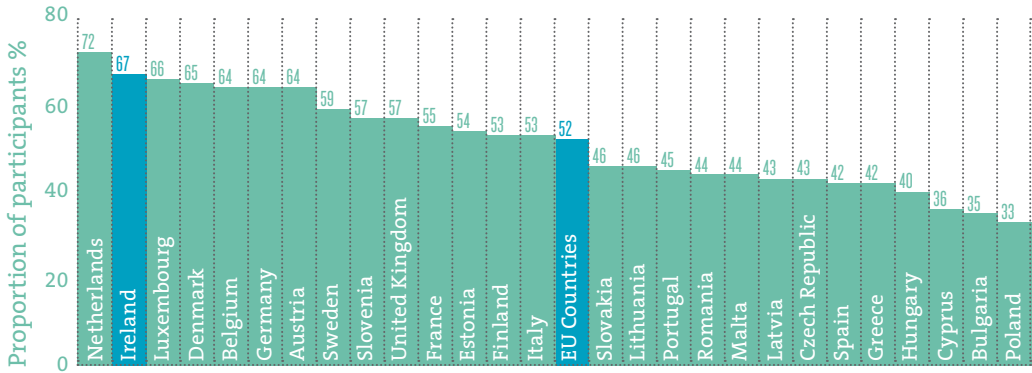
Subsequent figures present answers to the Flash Eurobarometer survey performed by the European Commission in 2011. The Eurobarometer surveys are performed in order to determine public opinion about various topics in the EU. The 2011 Flash Eurobarometer survey was specifically targeted at young people aged between 15 and 30 and sought to determine young people's participation in sports/youth organisations, politics, voluntary activities and international activities. A sample of 1,000 respondents was targeted for each country; the number of Irish respondents was 1,003.

Figure 3.11: Participation in Youth activities, percentage of Yes answers



Source: European Commission 2011, "Youth on the Move" - Analytical Report of Flash Eurobarometer # 319a

Figure 3.12: Proportion of young people that participated in at least one organisation

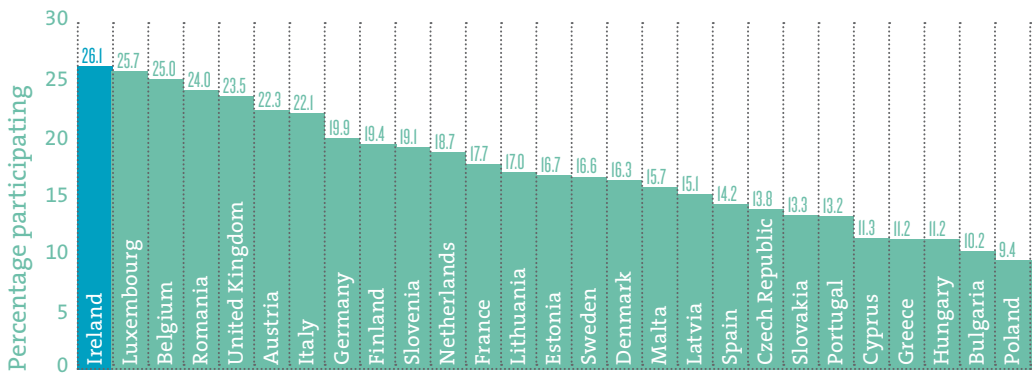


Source: European Commission 2011, "Youth on the Move" - Analytical Report of Flash Eurobarometer # 319a

The figure above presents the proportion of respondents who indicated participation for eight categories of activity/organisation. Sports clubs were by far the most popular organisation for young people; these were followed by youth organisations.

The figure below indicates the proportion of respondents who indicated that they participated in a youth club or youth organisation. Ireland demonstrated the highest percentage of young people participating in youth clubs or youth organisations; this highlights the strong reach of youth organisations in Ireland in comparison with the rest of the European Union.

Figure 3.13: Percentage of young people participating in a youth club, leisure-time club or any kind of youth organisation



Source: European Commission 2011, "Youth on the Move" - Analytical Report of Flash Eurobarometer # 319a

3.5 Summary of Main Findings

This section highlighted the economic context for youth work in Ireland by reference to the demographic, labour market, and other socio-economic features impacting on the sector and ultimately driving the need for youth programmes and services. The main findings were as follows:

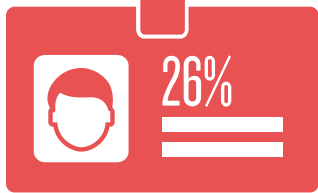
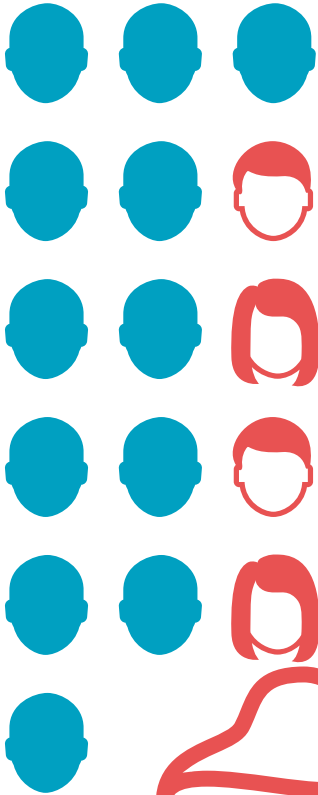
- The 2011 Census of Population revealed that there were 4,588,252 individuals living in Ireland. 882,741 of these were between the ages of 10 and 24, implying that young people make up 19.2% of the total population.
- The incidence of unemployment is markedly greater among young people. In particular, among persons aged between 15 and 19 who are in the labour force, almost half (48.4%) were unemployed in the 2nd quarter of 2012. The unemployment rate among 20 to 24 year olds was 29%, compared to a national unemployment rate of 14.7%. Unemployment among young people in Ireland is also noticeably above the EU average.
- Youth unemployment rates have increased as a faster pace than overall unemployment rates since the onset of recession.
- Ireland had the fourth highest percentage of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are not in education, employment or training ('NEET') in 2011, with 18.4% of young people in Ireland classified as NEET, compared to a rate across all EU countries of 12.9%.
- Ireland exhibits the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion among under 18s, at 37.6% in 2010 compared with 27% across the EU as a whole.

The above findings highlight the increasingly challenging economic environment in which the youth work sector in Ireland operates. They also underscore the increasing importance of youth work programmes and activities in addressing social and economic exclusion among young people.

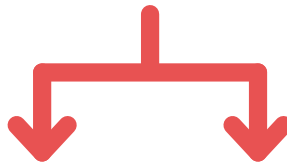
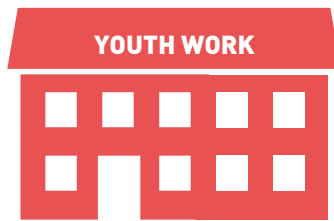
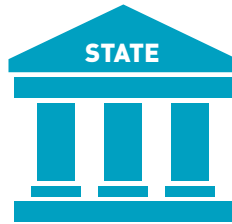
4.0

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE ON ECONOMIC VALUE OF YOUTH WORK

For every €1 the State invests in youth work-it saves €2.22 in the long run



26% of young people in Ireland participate in youth clubs or organisations. The highest in European Union



4.1 Introduction

There exists a wide variety of research that relates to the various facets of youth work. Many of these studies can be focussed specifically at a local, case study or programme level. Studies related to the wider economic impacts of youth work, both in Ireland and internationally, are more limited and scarce.

This review is structured as follows: firstly, research detailing the nature of youth work in Ireland and its place in the wider European context is considered. This is followed by a review of the national and international research on the benefits and economic impacts associated with youth work. The existing research is presented thematically, under the following headings:

- Justice-related impacts of youth work;
- Health-related impacts of youth work;
- Education-related impacts of youth work; and
- Other welfare-related impacts of youth work.

In addition to the material presented in this section, additional supporting tabular outputs from specific studies are presented in 6.1.

4.2 The nature of youth work in Ireland and Europe

This section comprises a review of the existing research profiling the nature of youth work in Ireland and in Europe. This section includes research detailing youth work activities and aims, relevant youth work policy documents and research aimed at determining the scope of youth work in Ireland in terms of participants and volunteers.

[Department of Education and Science \(2003\)](#)¹⁵

The National Youth Work Development Plan 2003 – 2007 can be seen as a culmination and extension of various policy documents in the area of youth work in Ireland going back many years previous to 2003. Some of these other policy documents include:

- A Policy for Youth and Sport (1977)
- Development of Youth Work Services in Ireland (1981)
- White Paper on Educational Development (1981)
- Costello Committee (1984)

¹⁵: [Department of Education and Science \(2003\) 'National Youth Work Development Plan 2003 – 2007'](#).

-
- In Partnership with Youth: the National Youth Policy (1985)
 - Education for a Changing World (1992)
 - Charting our Education Future (1995)
 - Youth Work Act (1997) Repealed by 2001 Act
 - Youth Work Act (2001).

What is evident from the various policy initiatives committed to by government over the years is that education, youth development, youth services and youth work have all been taken seriously by policy makers in Ireland.

Powell, F. and Swirak, K. (2010)¹⁶

This study attempted to determine the extent of youth work in Ireland; reporting numbers of participants and volunteers, the types of organisations and activities and the extent of funding. The authors gathered information from a range of sources and contacted a number of youth work groups; there were 659 respondents of which 582 were part of a larger organisation. The following table summarises the number of youth work groups in each organisation.

16: Powell, F. and Swirak, K. (2010) "Civil Society, Youth and Youth Policy in Modern Ireland", Presentation, Research project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)".

Table 4.1: Name and Frequency of Parent Organisations

Parent Organisation	Number of Groups Responding	Percentage of Total Responses
Foroige	141	24.5
Youth Work Ireland	132	24
Scouting Ireland	68	12.3
Girl Guides*	60	10.9
Youthreach	15	2.7
Catholic Youth care	13	2.4
Macra na Feirme	11	2
Church of Ireland	10	1.8
Girls' Friendly Society	9	1.6
Girls' Brigade	8	1.4
Ogra Chorcaí	8	1.4
No Name Club	7	1.3
Boys' Brigade	6	1.1
Others	64	11.6
Total	552	100

Number of respondents: 552 Non-response: 30

** This category includes both Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI) and the Irish Girl Guides (IGG), as many respondents replied with 'Guides' only*

Source: Powell, F. and Swirak, K. (2010) "Civil Society, Youth and Youth Policy in Modern Ireland", Presentation, Research project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)

The responding youth groups also indicated numbers of volunteers and paid staff. The table overleaf demonstrates that the sample of youth groups comprised 5,652 volunteers.

Table 4.2: Number of Volunteers and Employees in Youth Sector in Ireland

Description	Female	Male	Female / Male Ratio
Full-Time Volunteers	1,325	657	2.02:1
Part-Time Volunteers	2,335	1,335	1.75:1
Community Employment (CE) Workers	149	107	1.39:1
Full-Time Paid Employees	353	245	1.44:1
Part-Time Paid Employees (but not CE)	308	147	2.10:1
Board / Management / Steering Group members	668	568	1.17:1

Number of respondents: 641

Source: Powell, F. and Swirak, K. (2010) "Civil Society, Youth and Youth Policy in Modern Ireland", Presentation, Research project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)

The number of participants in the youth work organisations was also considered and the study findings are presented overleaf. This table indicates that 43,118 young people were participating in the respondent youth groups and that the gender ratio of participants was fairly even. In addition, there were more young people participating in the age categories 11-15 and 16-20 than in all other age categories¹⁷.

17: It should be noted that the authors contacted a number of local youth work organisations, some of which were members of larger national youth work organisations, in order to obtain the information provided above. This represents a different approach to that of Indecon, who contacted the national youth work organisations directly. In addition, youth groups represent one area of activity within the sector. As such, the numbers in this study are not comparable with the research undertaken by Indecon.

Table 4.3: Number, Age and Gender of Young People Participating in Youth Groups

Age range	Number of Females	Percentage of Females	Number of Males	Percentage of Males
0-5 years	481	2.2	218	1
6-10 years	4626	21.4	3792	17.6
11-15 years	9804	45.4	9677	44.9
16-20 years	5150	23.9	6223	28.9
21-25 years	996	4.6	1038	4.9
26-30 years	529	2.5	584	2.7
Total	21586	100	21532	100

Source: Powell, F. and Swirak, K. (2010) "Civil Society, Youth and Youth Policy in Modern Ireland", Presentation, Research project funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS)

De Róiste, Á. and Dinneen, J. (2005)¹⁸

This study was performed in order to determine what young Irish people did in their free time and what barriers or supports to their leisure-time activities might exist. The study was carried out in 51 schools across Ireland and 2,260 young people were surveyed; questions included demographic questions, questions aimed at determining what activities they pursued, perceived barriers or supports, and reasons why they would not join/had dropped out of activities.

This review will focus exclusively on the section concerning community/charity groups, which are defined as all clubs except for sports clubs or hobby clubs. The following table indicates respondents' participation in community/charity groups, and shows that young females were more likely to participate than young males.

¹⁸: De Róiste, Á. and Dinneen, J. (2005) "Young People's Views about Opportunities, Barriers and Supports to Recreation and Leisure", Research Commissioned by the National Children's Office.

Table 4.4: Number of Groups Reported

Groups	Males	Females	Total Sample
One	25.8% n=291	38.5% n=437	32.2% n=728
Two	26.9% n=74	45.4% n=121	36.2% n=195
Three	7.2% n=14	21.6% n=31	14.4% n=45

Source: Table 28 of De Róiste, Á. and Dinneen, J. (2005) "Young People's Views about Opportunities, Barriers and Supports to Recreation and Leisure", Research Commissioned by the National Children's Office.

In addition, the research indicates that participation seemed to decrease with age, as evidenced in the following table.

Table 4.5: Overall Participation in Groups

	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Male	32%	28.9%	30.3%	20.9%	23.1%	22.8%	18.4%	25.8% n=291
Female	41%	45.4%	43.6%	30.7%	36.9%	31.1%	27.2%	38.5% n=437
Total	36.4%	37.4%	37.6%	25.2%	29.6%	27.1%	23.1%	32.2% n=728

Source: Table 29 of De Róiste, Á. and Dinneen, J. (2005) "Young People's Views about Opportunities, Barriers and Supports to Recreation and Leisure", Research Commissioned by the National Children's Office.

Finally, the authors found that young people living in rural areas were more likely to be participating in community/charity groups than young people in urban areas. Youth clubs/groups were found to be the most popular groups; 58.7% of young people who indicated participation in community/charity groups were participating in youth groups.

Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007)¹⁹

This paper attempts to provide an overview of youth work across 10 European countries; namely Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Spain. The information and data presented in the report resulted from qualitative and quantitative national reports, quantitative surveys at local level, and interviews with youth work experts in each country.

A number of difficulties with a comparative report of this nature are noted. In particular, the definition of youth work varies by country, as does the age category of young people involved. In addition, youth work legislation and laws differ by country and youth work can fall under the jurisdiction of a number of sectors: for example, health, welfare, justice and education. This results in differences in the availability of information across countries.

The qualitative national reports indicate a wide range of activities and targeted outcomes resulting from youth work, including providing information relating to health and substance abuse, promoting self-esteem, reducing criminal behaviour, helping disadvantaged young people and education. These differ by country, but one of the key focuses seems to be prevention of social problems. Adding further to the disparity in reporting between countries, it seems that the education and professionalization of youth workers also differs by country. It is reported that Ireland was the only country to offer dedicated degree courses in youth work.

This study also provides a comparative overview of youth work in Ireland and in other countries. The table overleaf gives some indication of the numbers of young people, levels of funding and ratio of youth workers to volunteers for each country. This indicates that in 2007 Ireland had the highest proportion of young people relative to the other nine countries considered and had much higher proportions of volunteers than youth workers²⁰. In addition, this table highlights that the scope of youth work varied highly across the ten countries considered.

19: Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) "The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe", Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

20: It should however be noted that the table includes the following footnote: "This list contains available data and is not complete enough to draw a representative national overview" (Institute for Social Work and Social Education, 2007: 69).

The report then considers youth work on a local level by focusing on a number of municipalities within each country. The information available again varied by country; some of the information provided included activities of youth work, numbers of youth workers, participants and organisations as well as funding, all provided on a local level. In Ireland, this investigation centred on five municipalities in East Cork but the authors were not able to obtain quantitative data at local level, which prevented a comparison with other countries. The report for Ireland notes that “the local situation reflects the national picture of inadequate youth work services” (Institute for Social Work and Social Education, 2007: 85).

Table 4.6: Dimensions of Youth Work

Member State	Number of 13- to 30-year-olds	Percent- age of young people in relation to total population	Percent- age of non-organ- ised young people	Percentage of young people participat- ing in youth organisa- tions	National annual budget for youth work in €	Additional public (municipal) funds	Ratio of youth workers to volunteers
Austria	1,805,490	22,5	56.5	9.0	4,080,155	Yes	1:3
Estonia	354,071	25,8	83.5	19.6	No data	No data	No data
Germany	16,552,700	20,3	53.7	4.0	111,114,000	1,276,027,000	1:6
Greece	2,828,179	25,9	89.2	7.0	16,529,061	Yes	No data
Ireland	1,113,759	28,9	71.8	6.5	7,400,000	No data	1 : 50 youth organisations 1:6 projects
Italy	12,647,395	22,2	86.4	5.3	130,000,000	Yes	No data
The Netherlands	3,663,679	22,9	57.9	4.0	No data	Yes	No data
Norway	1,042,141	23,1	39.0	9.0	48,000,000	Yes	No data
Romania	6,089,468	28,1	92.5	25.8	2,630,500	Yes	1.5:1 public youth work 3:1 associations
Spain	10,675,605	26,3	88.0	8.3	4,003,989	Yes	No data

Source: Table 21 from Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) “The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe”, Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Interviews with youth work experts were also performed for each country; the Irish experts indicated that “the future will be exciting and productive if the Irish state is prepared to invest in its youth population” (Institute for Social Work and Social Education, 2007: 124). They also noted that it appeared that the Irish state was indeed beginning to invest in its youth population.

This report concluded with a number of recommendations, these were:

- 1. To work on concepts and indicators;
- 2. To establish a reporting system with the cooperation of all responsible levels; and
- 3. To improve co-operation between actors and sectors of youth activities.

National Youth Council of Ireland

The National Youth Council of Ireland highlights the development of skills and the help provided to disadvantaged young people as forming the benefits of youth work. As set out in a previous table, youth work organisations often provide a range of activities and these can entail a number of direct and indirect benefits, including:

- Health: Many of the organisations note that they provide activities relating to welfare and wellbeing, such as health promotion, first aid and awareness of substance misuse. These have a number of social benefits including healthier lifestyles, but in particular, also have economic impact. The focus on the discouragement of drug and alcohol use may result in possible savings for the health service and indeed the Department of Justice.

In his 2010 report to the Health Service Executive (HSE), Byrne (2010) identifies that alcohol-related illnesses cost the HSE up to €1.2 billion.²¹ These figures apply for all patients, but it seems reasonable to assume that there are alcohol-related costs associated with young people. Indeed, a focus on awareness of substance misuse might entail potential long-term savings into the future. In addition, the 2008 IYJS report notes that, in 2006, alcohol-related offences contributed to a fifth of all juvenile crime,²² while a large number of other crimes were committed while under the influence of alcohol. It seems thus that preventing substance misuse in Ireland could be associated with significant savings for the HSE and the Department of Justice.

21: Byrne, S. (2010) “Costs to Society of Problem Alcohol Use in Ireland”, Dublin: Health Service Executive.

22: Irish Youth Justice Service (2009) “Designing Effective Local Responses to Youth Crime: A baseline analysis of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects”, page 16. This figure is obtained from 2006 An Garda Síochána statistics.

- **Life Skills:** Many of the organisations focus on promoting life-skills such as leadership and communication. The associated benefits include greater levels of confidence, self-esteem and sociability (Devlin and Gunning, 2009).
- **Issue-based activities:** A large number of organisations also focus on issue-based activities in areas such as active citizenship, participation, equality and human rights.
- **Education:** A number of the organisations provide after-school or homework clubs and some of the organisations offer Stay-in-School programmes. In addition, IT programmes are provided by a number of youth work organisations. These factors encourage young people to perform well in school and to continue their education, thereby increasing their skill level. The OECD (2010) notes that higher education can lead to increased earnings later on in life as well as a higher chance of employment for individuals. Governments may also benefit due to increased tax receipts and higher consumption of goods and services.²³
- **Crime Prevention:** Some of the organisations offer programmes which seek to deter anti-social behaviour among young people; the majority of these are Garda Youth Diversion Projects. These seek to deter young people from engaging in criminal activity through programmes which include education, employment training and recreational activities.²⁴ These provide a number of positive outcomes for the individual as listed above, but may also lead to significant savings for the state. If crimes committed by young people could be prevented, this would lead to reductions in the costs associated with detaining young offenders. The IYJS Guidelines note that, “The intended impact of this process is that those who are engaged in this process develop into responsible and valued citizens and the intended outcome is that young people engaged do not offend and do not progress into the criminal justice system.”²⁵ Thus effective crime prevention programmes should reduce costs associated with current crimes and detainment of young people, and could also reduce costs that these individuals might have incurred in later life by encouraging them never to enter the criminal justice system.

23: OECD (2010), “The economic benefits of education”, in OECD, *Highlights from Education at a Glance 2008*, OECD Publishing.

24: Irish Youth Justice Service, *Garda Youth Diversion Projects*. See: <http://www.iyjs.ie/en/IYJS/Pages/WPo8000062>.

25: Ryan, L., Warren, A., Caldwell, L. (2003) “Garda youth diversion project guidelines”. Research carried out for the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Government of Ireland.

4.3 Economic Value of Youth Work

The existing research on the benefits associated with youth work will now be considered thematically, in terms of some of the broad headings described above.

In a detailed literature review of many different types of studies and interventions, Fouché et al (2010) outline that there is now recognition internationally of the value that youth work can create in the lives of young people and by extension, society but that evidence in New Zealand suggests that more work needs to be done in order to effectively measure the impact of youth work. In addition, the authors note that a lack of a clear definition of youth work in New Zealand leads to difficulties when trying to measure the contribution of the youth work sector. The evidence from New Zealand suggests that measuring the value of youth work is challenging, while their analysis of the evidence from elsewhere presents strong evidence that youth work does have positive impacts for the individual, local communities and on a societal basis.

There are a large number of studies that consider the ideals and purposes of youth work. A number of papers also set out the value of youth work, which is often presented in terms of social benefits to the individual. Much less common, however, are studies which evaluate the economic value of youth work.

This review also includes studies relating to the benefits associated with early prevention programmes and from encouraging young people to avoid being NEET (not in education, employment or training).

4.3.1 Justice-related impacts of youth work

Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. and Pennucci, A. (2004)²⁶

This study combined evaluations of early intervention and prevention programmes over a number of years. More than 3,500 studies were considered, and only programmes which performed rigorous scientific experiments were included in the cost-benefit analysis. In addition, programmes were only kept if a monetary value could be placed on their contribution and if they targeted at least one of the seven key outcomes of interest; namely crime, substance abuse, educational attainment, teen pregnancy, teen suicide attempts, child abuse/neglect or domestic violence.

²⁶: Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. and Pennucci, A. (2004). *Benefits and costs of prevention and early intervention programs for youth*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

The average effect of each programme on each outcome of interest was then computed. Further to this, a cost-benefit analysis was performed; this involved assigning a monetary value to observed changes in the key outcomes.

One of the key findings of this study is that the highest net benefit was produced by programmes which targeted juvenile offenders; estimated benefits ranged from \$1,900 to \$31,200 per youth. In addition, the authors highlighted effective programmes such as early childhood education programmes, substance use prevention programmes and home visiting programmes for high-risk / low-income mothers and children as providing good returns on investment or significant cost efficiency. The overall findings showed that some programmes provided benefits which outweighed their costs, while others did not. A summary of the results from the cost-benefit analysis can be found in 6.1.

This study was also complemented by a later study which considered the effects of programmes that targeted crime only.²⁷ One of the most relevant findings in the context of this youth work study was that adolescent diversion programmes were found to induce a -17.6 percentage change on crime outcomes; this figure was obtained from data on 6 studies. In addition, the net benefits associated with these diversion projects were estimated at \$48,488 per participant.

Morgan Harris Burrows (2003)²⁸

This report comprises an evaluation of Phase 1 of the Youth Inclusion Programme, which was set up in 2000 to deal specifically with the issue of youth crime. It consisted of 70 projects targeting 13-16 year olds. Participation in the programme was entirely voluntary, but each project identified a "top 50" in their area – individuals who were considered more likely than not to commit an offense.

Specific targets were set out for the scheme, including reductions in arrest rates, truancy and exclusion rates, and a 30% reduction in recorded crime by 2003. 22,688 young people participated actively in the scheme; 4,050 of these were in the 'top 50'. Activities in the programme included sports, education and training, health and drugs education, personal assessment and family projects. As such, the programme does not fall entirely within the remit of youth work, but certainly provides important findings in relation to the effects of youth work.

27: Drake, E. K. et al (2009) "Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Crime and Criminal Justice Costs: Implications in Washington State", Victims and Offenders, 4(2), pp. 170–196.

28: Morgan Harris Burrows (2003), "Evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme - End of phase one report" London: Youth Justice Board.

The findings were as follows:

- There was a clear reduction in arrest rates, which fell by 65% for the young people who were in the “top 50” and by 44% for other young people.
- 60% of young people in the “top 50” had not been arrested prior to involvement with the programme – 73% of these were not arrested after involvement in the programme. For the remaining 40% who had previously been arrested, 75% were found to have committed fewer offenses subsequent to programme engagement.
- Increases were observed in both authorised and unauthorised absences (i.e. truancy). There seemed to be some evidence that young people were participating more in “alternative to education” programmes via the Youth Inclusion Programme, but the increase in truancy remained largely unexplained.
- Reductions in the numbers of temporary and permanent exclusions were observed.
- Recorded crime increased by 5.8% over the three years of the scheme in the 56 projects evaluated; 20 of these projects recorded a reduction in crime, while the remaining 36 recorded increases.

A rigorous cost-benefit analysis was not performed due to the crime reduction target not being reached, but some basic figures of cost-effectiveness were provided.

Murphy, C. (2010)²⁹

This paper comprises a review of the national and international research concerning the effect of early intervention programmes on crime. The effects of these programmes are also considered in an Irish context. It should be noted, however, that this review does not concentrate specifically on youth work schemes.

Murphy notes that a number of benefits could arise from the use of early intervention and prevention programmes. Primarily, deterring a young person from committing offenses increases that individual’s human capital and provides social benefits to the individual. These programmes can also result in improved family situations due to reduced tensions and stress.

29: Murphy, C. (2010), “From Justice to Welfare: the Case for Investment in Prevention and Early Intervention”, CMAAdvice Ltd, Dublin: Irish Penal Reform Trust, Barnardos and the Irish Association of Young People in Care.

Murphy identifies a number of studies performed in the USA and in the UK and reports their findings. These include:

- Individuals who had been involved in an early intervention programme when young were found to have higher earnings at age 27 as well as lower levels of criminal activity, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy than their counterparts who had not been enrolled in such a programme. A cost-benefit analysis also indicated significant returns on investment.
- Individuals who had been involved in early intervention programmes benefited from higher levels of educational attainment.
- Lower levels of unhealthy activities such as smoking were reported.
- Other studies also highlighted lower rates of depression and obesity for individuals involved in early intervention programmes when young.

Murphy notes that costs to the state can be reduced if young people are deterred from committing crimes; immediate costs such as the cost of detaining a young person are avoided. Early intervention programmes can also be expected to have more far-reaching consequences, as young people not committing crimes can result in lower welfare payments and health care costs, and higher earnings arising from better employment opportunities result in higher tax receipts for the state.

In addition, Murphy notes that a study performed by Carneiro and Heckman in 2003 found that investing in early intervention/prevention programmes is cheaper than further investment in the police force as a means of deterring criminal activities.³⁰

Audit Commission (2009)³¹

This report begins by noting that youth work takes place in a sector where associated spending is high. It is estimated that the British Government spends £3.4 billion as a result of anti-social behaviour; an additional £1.6 billion is dedicated to funding youth activities and projects that deter anti-social behaviour.

30: Carneiro, P. and Heckman, J. (2003) Human Capital Policy, Institute for the Study of Labor.

31: Audit Commission (2009) "Tired of hanging around: Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people", Local Government National Report.

This report identifies three methods of dealing with anti-social behaviour: enforcement, support and prevention. Enforcement is the most widely-used method of tackling anti-social behaviour, but is also very expensive: the costs associated with receiving an ASBO, a supervision order and placing a young offender in custody for a year are £2,500, £4,000 and £45,000, respectively.

In addition, the report notes that “a young person who starts showing behavioural problems at age 5, and is dealt with through the criminal justice system will cost the tax-payer around £207,000 by the age of 16. Alternative interventions to support changes in behaviour would cost £47,000” (Audit Commission, 2009: 24). These figures are determined using data from the 2004 Youth Justice Review and it should be noted that the interventions in question are not predominantly through youth work. The estimated aggregate saving arising from these types of intervention across all young people demonstrating anti-social behaviour is £113 million.

This paper recommends investing in lower-cost recreational activities which will benefit a large number of young people. This should result in a reduction in the numbers of young people requiring medium-/high-cost interventions.

4.3.2 Health-related impacts of youth work

The following study does not strictly consider the impact of youth work but rather considers the economic value of early intervention programmes.

UK Department of Health (2011)³²

This report considers the benefits of a wide range of interventions in mental health. Key is their investigation of the effects of interventions for children with conduct disorders; the authors note that previous research has found that conduct disorders in early childhood can lead to delinquency and criminality. The authors also review research which claims that conduct disorders cost the state £22.5bn a year, and can cost £1.1m-1.9m for a single offender over the course of their lifetime.

The following table summarises the pay-off associated with parenting programmes which seek to deter conduct disorders. This demonstrates that savings associated with preventing conduct disorders are estimated to be £9,288 per child with a conduct disorder.

³²: Department of Health (2011), “Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case”, Knapp, M., McDaid, K. and Parsonage, M. (Eds), London: Department of Health.

Table 4.7: Gross pay-offs from parenting interventions at age 5, per child with conduct disorder (2008/09 prices)

	Age 6 (£)	Age 7-16 (£)	Age 17+ (£)	Total (£)
NHS	-168	-912	-197	-1,278
Social services	-24	-29	-14	-67
education	-132	-304	0	-437
Criminal justice system	0	-1,247	-340	-1,588
Public sector total	-324	-2,493	-551	-3,368
Voluntary sector	-3	-6	-5	-15
Victim costs (crime)	0	-3,361	-810	-4,171
Lost output (crime)	0	-995	-232	-1,227
Other crime costs	0	-377	-129	-506
Other sectors / individuals total	-3	-4,740	-1,176	-5,919
Total	-328	-7,233	-1,727	-9,288

Source: Table 1 from Bonin, E.-M., Stevens, M., Beecham, J., Byford, S. and Parsonage, M. (2011) "Parenting interventions for the prevention of persistent conduct disorders" in "Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case", Knapp, M., McDaid, K. and Parsonage, M. (eds), London: Department of Health.

Another programme seeks to prevent conduct problems through SEL (Social and Emotional Learning). The costs/savings associated with this type of intervention can be expected to have far-reaching consequences and are presented in the table overleaf. Although the costs associated with the first year outweigh the associated savings, the difference is small and significant savings are predicted to arise in subsequent years.

Table 4.8: Cumulative pay-offs per child through social and emotional learning programmes (2009) prices

	Year 1 (£)	Year 5 (£)	Year 10 (£)
NHS	-39	-751	-1,148
Social services	-4	-13	-23
Education	-26	-135	-186
Criminal Justice	-14	-1,139	-1,849
Public sector total	-83	-2,038	-3,206
Voluntary sector	0	-4	-8
Victim costs (crime)	-30	-3,164	-4,912
Other crime costs	-12	-1,295	-2,038
Other sector / individuals total	-42	-4,463	-6,958
Total pay-offs	-125	-6,501	-10,164
Cost of intervention	132	132	132
Net costs / pay-offs	7	-6,369	-10,032

Source: Table 2 from Beecham, J., Bonin, E., Byford, S., McDaid, D., Mullally, G. and Parsonage, M. "School-based social and emotional learning programmes to prevent conduct problems in childhood" in "Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case", Knapp, M., McDaid, K. and Parsonage, M. (eds), London: Department of Health.

4.3.3 Education-related impacts of youth work

This section considers the impacts and outcomes of programmes which target young people who are NEET, i.e. not in Education, Employment or Training. A number of reports have attempted to quantify the costs and effects of being NEET. Although the interventions highlighted in these reports do not necessarily include youth work interventions, they remain a topic of interest when considering economic benefits associated with youth work. In this respect, risks associated with being NEET include higher unemployment rates, criminal activity, substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and physical/mental health problems.³³ It is clear that these risks are similar to those which youth work seeks to prevent and are thus of interest.

33: Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010)³⁴

This paper was intended as an update to a 2002 paper which estimated the lifetime costs of being NEET. One of the key observations provided in this report is that total numbers of NEET had risen from 2002 figures to 208,196 at the end of 2008; this also represented an increase in the proportion of NEET young people within the 16-18-year age category. It is suggested that this increase was primarily due to the recession.

This paper identifies two types of costs associated with being NEET: public finance costs and resource costs. Although these costs differ conceptually, the authors suggest that these costs should not be aggregated together due to potential overlap.

The main findings are as follows:

- The lowest estimate of public finance cost associated with being NEET is £12 billion, while the highest estimate is £32.5 billion. This represents a significant increase on 2002 figures, but the individual cost of being NEET has only risen from £52,000 to £56,300 per person. The overall increase in public finance costs seems thus to be driven primarily by the increase in the number of NEET.
- The lowest estimate of resource costs associated with NEET young people is £22 billion and the highest estimate is £77 billion, which again represent a significant increase on 2002 figures. In this case, however, the increase seems to be driven primarily by an increase in individual resource costs resulting from growing wage differentials and higher unemployment.

The authors note that cuts to local spending for young people would result in higher costs to the state and to society. In addition, the authors highlight the importance of early intervention programmes in reducing the risks and costs associated with being NEET.

Golden, S., Spielhofer, T., Sims, D. and O'Donnell, D. (2004)³⁵

The Neighbourhood Support Fund was a programme set up in 1999 by the Department for Education and Skills to run until 2003. It was created with a view to engaging or re-engaging young people between the ages of 13 and 19 with education, employment or training; the young people targeted were thus NEET or at risk of being NEET.

34: Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

35: Golden, S., Spielhofer, T., Sims, D. and O'Donnell, D. (2004) "Supporting the Hardest-to-Reach Young People: the Contribution of the Neighbourhood Support Fund", Research Report 535, Slough: NFER.

This evaluation notes that some of the problems experienced by participants in the programme were low educational attainment prior to the programme, low/no attendance at school, exclusion from school, criminal activity, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.

The funding devoted to this project was £60 million, 650 projects were involved and 50,950 young people engaged in the programme throughout its initial time frame. One of the key findings of this project was that 68% of the young people who had left the programme had moved on to further education, employment or training.

A number of projects through which the Neighbourhood Fund Scheme operated were questioned about the focus of their activities. These included:

- Activities to promote young people's physical health, and to increase awareness of substance abuse and sexual health;
- Educational attainment and improved attendance at school;
- Improved relations between different ethnic groups;
- Reducing criminal activity;
- Involving young people in local or national decision-making;
- Improved relations between young people and communities; and
- Accumulation of skills.

Other outcomes included increased self-confidence, higher self-esteem, the development of new skills (including organisation and communication) and more qualifications.

In addition, two separate surveys were carried out following young people after they had left the Neighbourhood Support Fund programme to a positive outcome, such as education or employment. In the first survey, the response rate was very low; only 124 out of 409 individuals contacted responded. Nevertheless, 112 young people out of the 124 respondents were still in education, employment or training. A separate survey by the Learning Alliance indicated that 115 out of 154 respondents were still in education, employment or training. The authors urge caution when considering these figures and note that these should be considered as indicative given the small sample size.

Jastrzab, J., Masker, J., Bloomquist, J. and Orr, L (1996)³⁶

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of the Conservation and Youth Service Corps in America. Eight of the larger programmes were selected for evaluation over a 14-month period between 1993 and 1994; the prime focus of these programmes was to engage young people between the ages of 18 and 25 who were designated as 'out-of-school youth'.

The evaluation comprised a cost-benefit analysis, and an evaluation of community and participant impacts. The cost-benefit analysis was performed only for the four largest, most established programmes. The benefits identified were services to the community, valued at \$13.63 per service hour, and the return on investment arising from young people returning to education. The authors relied on previous research to determine the latter value; the value they used was \$0.19 per service hour. The costs included in the cost-benefit analysis related to operational costs or wages, stipends and benefits paid to participants. The table overleaf provides the results of the cost-benefit analysis; the authors identified the net value of benefits to be \$1.04 per service hour.

There were 2,382 participants in the eight programmes selected and they provided over \$1 million hours of service; 666 volunteers provided an additional 40,000 hours of service. The community benefited primarily through the provision of services resulting from participation in the Corps. As shown above, the value of program output was \$13.63 to the 'rest of society'. The authors thus estimated a total benefit to society of \$14 million.

The participant impacts included increases in paid employment, longer working hours, reduced likelihood of arrest and reduced likelihood of gaining a technical certificate or diploma.³⁷ Another interesting finding from this paper is that the participant impacts varied widely across sub-groups, and that the impacts were not always strictly positive.

36: Jastrzab, J., Masker, J., Bloomquist, J. and Orr, L (1996), Impacts of service: Final report on the evaluation of American Conservation and Youth Corps. Cambridge, Mass: Abt Associates Inc.

37: The authors hypothesize that young people were entering into the corps instead of earning technical certificates or employment.

Table 4.9: Benefits and Costs per Service Hour

Type of benefit or cost	Benefit (+) or Cost (-) to:		
	Participants (Column 1)	Rest of Society (Column 2)	Society (Column 3)
Monetary Benefits and Costs			
Operational costs of program (net of stipends, fringes, and post-program benefits)	0	-\$9.66	-\$9.66
Participant stipends, fringes, and post-service benefits	+\$6.76	-\$6.76	0
CNCS costs	0	-\$0.20	-\$0.20
Forgone earnings	-\$2.92	0	-\$2.92
Value of program output	0	+\$13.63	+\$13.63
Returns to additional education	+\$0.19	0	+\$0.19
Net monetary benefits:	+\$4.03	-\$2.99	+\$1.04
Nonmonetary benefits			
Impacts on participant civic, social and personal development	0	0	0
Reduced risk behaviour*	+	+	+
Strengthened collaborations and community networks and other indirect benefits to community	ne	ne	ne

Source: EIS forms, interviews with host agency staff in a statistically representative sample of projects, expenditure data provided by program staff, and follow-up surveys with treatment and control group members. See Appendix C for estimation methodology.

*Indicated by statistically significant reduction in the proportion of individuals ever arrested as reported at follow-up.

Source: Exhibit 3 from Jastrzab, J., Masker, J., Bloomquist, J. and Orr, L (1996), *Impacts of service: Final report on the evaluation of American Conservation and Youth Corps*. Cambridge, Mass: Abt Associates Inc.

4.3.4 Other welfare-related impacts of youth work

Crimmens et al., [2004]³⁸

The impact and outcomes of youth work are reported in a British study entitled 'Reaching Socially Excluded Young People' by Crimmens et al., [2004].

This study uses a ten point 'social exclusion inventory' to identify problems addressed by youth work projects and to chart the progress of young people over the course of their participation. The findings highlight the positive impact on young people of involvement in youth work. These findings include:

- Where nearly 30% of programme participants were unemployed or outside the education system or training when the research team first visited the project, this fell to 21% at a visit 3–6 months later;
- The rate of anti-social behaviour declined from 18% to 4%;
- Regular attendance and active participation in structured activities increased to 37% from 26% of participants;
- Number of known offenders in the project fell from 45% to 31%; and
- The numbers of young people maintaining contact with statutory welfare agencies over the period increased to 15% from 4%.

The authors conclude that, "street-based youth work offers one of the few ways of making and sustaining contact, and working effectively with, disaffected, socially excluded, young people; a social group which continues to cause concern to policy makers and practitioners in the fields of education, training, employment, health, housing, drugs, crime and disorder." (Crimmens et al., 2004: 78).

Devlin and Gunning (2009)³⁹

This 2009 study utilises both qualitative and quantitative methods including case studies, questionnaires and interviews in an attempt to analyse the purpose and outcomes of youth work in Ireland.

38: Crimmens, D., Factor, F., Jeffs, T., Pitts, J., Pugh, C., Spence, J. and Turner, P. (2004) 'Reaching socially excluded young people: a national study of street-based youth work.' Discussion Paper, National Youth Agency, Leicester.

39: Devlin, M and Gunning, A. (2009) 'The Purpose and Outcomes of Youth Work', Report of the Youth Services Interagency Group, June 2009.

The impacts of youth work are varied and can come from many groups and individuals right across society. Youth work activities are the building blocks on which the value of youth work is built. Through these activities, youth work creates economic value in a variety of ways including job creation, improved local services as well as the reduction in the cost associated with the justice system and the health system.

Some of the other benefits and outcomes from youth work that are highlighted in this report include:

- Enhanced personal attributes and qualities such as confidence, self-esteem, awareness (personal and social), amicability and sociability;
- Opportunities for more positive associations with people as well as inclusion across social groups;
- The personal development of young people through new and more diverse experiences and opportunities;
- Enhanced positive and pro-social behaviour and diminishing negative and anti-social behaviour;
- The development of practical skills, for example making decisions, planning and organising, budgeting, teamwork, communications, arts and creativity; and numerous sports, games and physical activities; and
- Information, advice and advocacy in relation to health, relationships, sexuality, the law, careers and formal education.

Canavan (1998)⁴⁰

Canavan's study of the outcomes from a North Mayo Project run by Foróige in partnership with three post-primary schools and with Area Development Management Ltd and Meitheal Mhaigheo, is an example of an attempt to measure the impacts of youth work on a programme basis. While this only gives an indication of the impact of youth work, its application more broadly can give us insights into the value of youth work in Ireland.

Canavan's methodology utilises a standardised measure of young people's development over the course of a year, in the form of the 'Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory', which was administered to the 45 programme participants and to a matched control group of non-participants on a before- and-after basis.

40: Canavan, J. (1998) 'North Mayo schools project: a blueprint for supporting young people in school', Report to Foróige, Child and Family Research and Policy Unit, NUI Galway.

The key findings of this study include:

- The self-esteem of the participants improved significantly amount over the course of the programme;
- Where the average self-esteem of the project participants was lower than the control group at the beginning of the programme, at the end of the school year there was no significant difference between groups; and
- Overall, the project had a positive measurable impact on self-esteem.

Significant in this type of research is not only that youth work programmes can have a statistically significant effect on people but also that the benefits for people are transposed into societal benefits. Effectively, this study indicates that building self-esteem is an investment at the levels of community and society as well as the individual, and thus there is a value to be yielded from such investment.

Merton, B., Payne, M. and Smith, D. (2004)⁴¹

This evaluation identifies and explains the impact of youth work provided by local youth services in England. While this study mainly focuses on impacts of youth work on young people, the authors also deal with the impacts on both a community level and its effects on other services for young people.

The findings of this study suggest that young people believe youth work to have positive impacts for them as individuals across a range of attributes such as:

- Increased confidence and self-esteem;
- Developing new networks;
- Developing new skills;
- Learning new Information; and
- Creating enhanced opportunities, including increased employment prospects.

On a broader level, the report's findings suggest that youth work also contributes to the building of positive social capital in communities by supporting young people to develop contacts, networks and opportunities. Ultimately, youth work contributes to the value of a

41: Merton, B., Payne, M. and Smith, D. (2004) 'An Evaluation of the Impact of Youth Work in England', Research Report No. 606.

community. The authors highlight that “by working with young people in schools and hospitals for example, youth workers are able to help young people to make better use of those services; and in some cases, enable the services themselves to become more responsive, and hence more effective, in meeting young peoples’ needs and aspirations.” (Merton et al., 2004: 8).

[Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. \(2002\)⁴²](#)

The Millennium Volunteering programme was a government-supported programme aimed at promoting volunteering for young people between the ages of 16 and 24. It was launched in 1999 and aimed to involve 100,000 young people in England, 820 in Northern Ireland and 1,000 in Scotland by 2004. The programme was entirely voluntary but required the commitment of 200 hours of volunteering per individual. The evaluation commenced in 2000 and lasted for 18 months; comprising telephone interviews with co-ordinators of the scheme, case studies, impact audits and reviews of the organisational structures surrounding the programme. 271 volunteers were interviewed throughout this process.

This paper evaluates the Millennium Volunteering programme over a wide range of criteria. One of these is benefits to the volunteer. The volunteers taking part in the scheme were interviewed and asked about how they had benefited from volunteering. The main benefits were identified as the development of skills, personal development such as increased confidence and satisfaction, and enhanced employability through training and career guidance. In addition, many of the youth volunteers felt more involved in the local community, thereby increasing social capital.

Benefits to the community were also evaluated, although it is noted in this report that these are harder to measure than benefits to the volunteer. Economic benefit arising from the scheme was determined via a rudimentary cost-benefit analysis; this identified that the return was £411 per volunteer at national level and £595 per volunteer at the individual project level.⁴³ The scheme also increased numbers of volunteers; this enabled the organisations to provide a wider variety of services and to improve on pre-existing services for the community.

42: Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002), “UK-Wide Evaluation of the Millennium Volunteers Programme”, Research Report 357, Nottingham: Department for Education and Skills.

43: It is noted in the report that these figures remain very dependent on a number of assumptions and thus it is difficult to exactly identify economic benefit arising from the scheme.

Tierney, J.P., Grossman, J. B. and Resch, N. L. (1995)⁴⁴

This study aimed to identify the impacts of the Big Brother Big Sister Mentoring Programme on the young people involved. This study was performed in the United States, and focused solely on participants between the ages of 10 and 16. The respondents were interviewed initially and a follow-up interview was performed 18 months later. The study took place between 1991 and 1993.

The sample consisted of 959 young people; the treatment group who had the possibility of being assigned a Big Brother/Big Sister numbered 487, while the remaining respondents were in a control group and not assigned a mentor. In the treatment group, 378 young people were assigned a Big Brother or Big Sister during the study.

The hypothesized impacts and actual results are presented below:

- **Reduced anti-social activities:** The probabilities of young people in the treatment group starting to use drugs or alcohol were 45.8% and 27.4% lower, respectively, than for the control group; these results were statistically significant. The respondents in the treatment group were also 32% less likely to hit someone.
- **Improved academic outcomes:** The effects of being in the treatment group were statistically significant and positive for GPA and perceived ability to complete schoolwork. Being in the treatment group decreased the probability of skipping classes or days at school.
- **Better relationships with family and friends:** Presence in the treatment group seemed to improve young people's relationships with their parents, and had a significant positive impact on trust. There was also some slight indication of improvement in peer relationships associated with presence in the treatment group.
- **Improved self-concept:** There were no statistically significant impacts for this outcome.
- **Social and cultural enrichment:** Being in the treatment group did not have a statistically significant impact on this outcome relative to the control group.

⁴⁴ Tierney, J.P., Grossman, J. B. and Resch, N. L. (1995), "Making a Difference – an Impact Study of Big Brother Big Sisters", Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.

Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009)⁴⁵

This report attempts to quantify the benefits of investing in early intervention programmes, providing a comparison between the initial costs of setting up appropriate programmes, and the potential savings that these might entail in the future. In addition, a number of Action for Children projects are evaluated using the method of SROI (social return on investment) in order to determine savings associated with a Government investment of £1.

The return on investments into early intervention programmes are considered for a number of problem areas, namely NEET (young people who are not in education, employment or training), obesity, crime, teenage births, substance misuse, mental health problems, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect. This report estimates that the costs associated with providing appropriate support to these problem areas would be £191 billion over the ten-year period from 2010 to 2020. The savings arising as a result of these programmes over the same period are estimated at £460 billion, however, which leads to an overall estimated return of £269 billion. The costs used to estimate these figures are demonstrated in the table overleaf.

⁴⁵: Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009) *“Backing the future: why investing in children is good for us all”*, London: New Economics Foundation.

Table 4.10: List of interventions and cost and effectiveness

Interventions	Unit cost (£)	Effect size	Sample size	Duration (months)
Obesity				
Coordinated approach to child health	63.09	0.10	3,900,000	36
Teenage births/NEETS				
Mentoring: Big Brothers/Big Sisters	2,430.06	0.08	3,311,425	18
Teen Outreach Program	375.72	0.14	13,575,100	48
Crime				
Multisystemic therapy (high-risk)	4,264.00	0.11	18,037	6
Restorative Justice (low-level offenses)	880.00	0.09	77,455	18
Adolescent Diversion Project	9,665.00	0.20	65,662	5
Substance misuse				
Life skills training	452.08	0.09	5,829,800	36
Wrap-around family services (mental health and relationships)				
Cognitive-behavioural therapy for teenagers	2,015.00	0.18	784,080	12
Triple P parenting program	31.00	0.26	1,950,000	36
Nurse family partnership	5,500.00	0.43	34,000	24
Home visiting programs for at-risk mothers and children	6,647.00	0.13	34,000	12
Early childhood education for low-income 3- and 4-year-olds	4,424.00	0.20	1,219,436.4	18

Note: These figures are estimated by Aked et al. (2009) listed below; initial derivations originate from: Aos S, Lieb R, Mayfield J, Miller M, Pennucci A (2004) "Benefits and costs of prevention and early interventions for youth" (Washington: Washington State Institute for Public Policy).

Source: Table 2 from Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009) "Backing the future: why investing in children is good for us all", London: New Economics Foundation.

This report also attempts to quantify the benefits of a number of specific programmes. An investment of £1 into one of these projects was estimated to produce between £7.60 and £9.20 of social value (this term relates to non-financial benefits, such as improved family relations). Government savings were identified through reductions in crime, reduced healthcare costs, other reduced child-related costs such as education, increased tax returns as a result of children's improved future employment prospects and earnings, and decreased benefit payments.

This report highlights, however, that the magnitude of the return on investments can differ greatly depending on the programme; a different programme was expected to generate £4.60 of social value for each £1 invested.

Youth Work Ireland (2011)⁴⁶

In 2011, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs released a call for submissions to their Comprehensive Review of Expenditure. As one of the largest youth work organisations in Ireland, Youth Work Ireland provided a submission which outlined the impact of Youth Work Ireland, the effect of possible cut-backs/changes in funding and Youth Work Ireland's contribution to the economy and to economic growth.

Youth Work Ireland reports that it invests €32 million in local communities throughout Ireland. Youth Work Ireland also estimates that it contributes cost savings of €1 billion to the state through early intervention and prevention programmes. This cost saving is identified through costs associated with detaining young people. Indecon believes, however, that this represents a possible overestimation of the benefits and it is important that the methodology applied utilises prudent assumptions in relation to what is likely to be the outcome for individuals in the absence of the programmes identified.

Youth Work Ireland also claims that it provides significant economic benefit through the work completed by volunteers.

⁴⁶: Youth Work Ireland (2011), Submission to "Book of estimates and Comprehensive Review Expenditure (CRE) – DCYA".

The potential outcomes highlighted by Youth Work Ireland in its submission include:

- Less anti-social behaviour among young people;
- Lower levels of court attendance;
- Healthier lifestyles/less medical costs;
- Longer periods in education;
- Personal development for young people;
- Partnership with schools, statutory and voluntary agencies, local communities and young people which allow the projects to implement prevention programmes targeted at young people who are at risk;
- Support for young people with mental health issues and self-harm/depression, interventions which reduce the use of emergency services and therapeutic services; and
- Support and post-suicide supports, which are critical to young people and communities. These can be expected to reduce the need for statutory services such as An Garda Síochána, social workers, emergency services and therapeutic services.

In terms of Youth Work Ireland's contribution to economic growth, the submission indicates that longer periods of education/training, better employment opportunities, and healthier lifestyles for young people number some of the benefits associated with Youth Work Ireland's programmes and activities. In addition, youth work promotes skills and entrepreneurship which could benefit the Irish economy.

More tangible benefits to the economy arise through employment in Youth Cafes and Hubs, youth work spending in the local economy and the hiring of venues/services. As discussed previously, Youth Work Ireland reports that its volunteers provide significant economic benefit. Youth Work Ireland also reports that its projects increase social capital, particularly in highly disadvantaged areas.

4.4 Conclusion

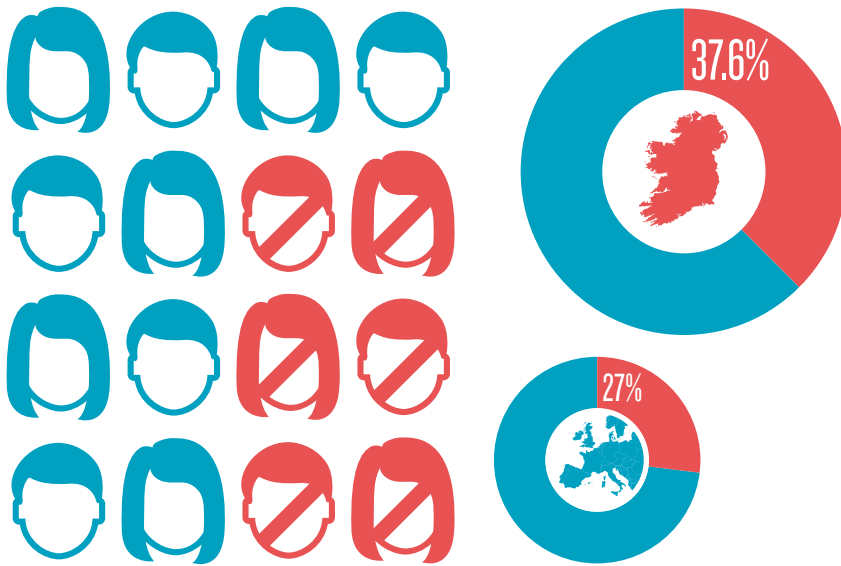
This section presented the findings from a comprehensive review of international and national research on the experience and economic impact of youth work. Key findings on the impacts of youth work or targeted youth programmes include reductions in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, increased numbers of young people in education, employment or training and reductions in substance abuse. A number of the papers reviewed also identified significant cost savings arising from youth work or early intervention programmes in the areas of justice, mental health, education and welfare. In addition to these tangible outcomes, further benefits arising from youth work include improved confidence and self-esteem, decision-making abilities, personal development and meeting new people.

Overall, the review indicated that although extensive research on various aspects of youth work has been completed internationally, including evaluations of specific programmes in areas such as justice, health, education and welfare, very limited research exists on the economic benefits of youth work. In particular, a comprehensive assessment of the economic benefits of youth work has never been undertaken in a rigorous fashion in Ireland. This present study is designed to address this gap.

As such, the following section estimates the economic benefits of a number of youth work schemes in terms of direct benefits such as the economic value of volunteering, and indirect benefits associated with the areas of justice, health and welfare. This evaluation comprises a sector-wide approach in attempting to determine the economic value of youth work in Ireland as a whole.

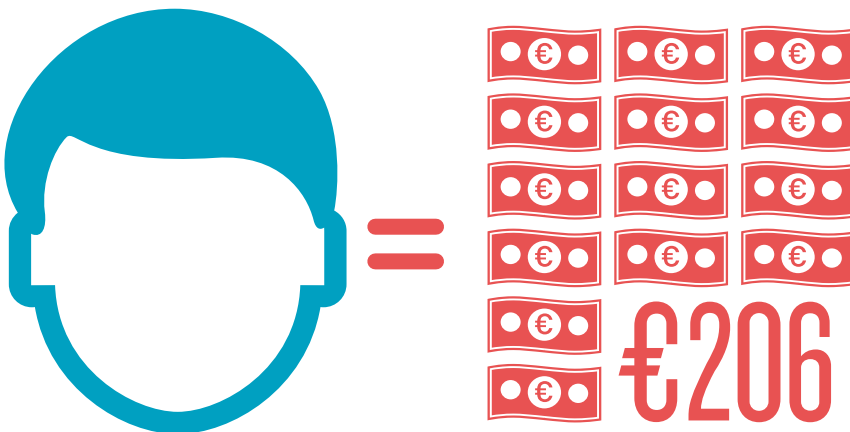
5.0

A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF YOUTH WORK



Ireland has highest number of children and young people under 18 at risk of poverty and social exclusion at 37.6% compared to 27% EU average

SECTION 5.0



Annual investment by state is €206 per young person participating in youth work

5.1 Introduction

This section presents a quantified cost-benefit analysis of youth work in Ireland and assesses the overall economic return on this funding. We also present a number of case studies, which illustrate the nature and impacts of youth work on the ground.

5.2 Methodological Approach

The extensive review of previous research presented in Section 4 has outlined how previous studies have attempted to assess the benefits of youth work. However, these studies have been focussed on qualitative assessment, with very limited quantified evaluation evident. In particular, a quantified cost-benefit assessment of the economic value of youth work has not been undertaken to date in Ireland. This study seeks to address this gap, through evaluating in quantified terms the following direct and indirect benefits of youth work:

- Direct benefits, measured through:
 - The economic value of volunteering and paid employment;
 - The multiplier impacts of youth organisation expenditures.
- Indirect benefits, measured in terms of the estimated costs avoided by the State through the provision of youth programmes and supports, compared with non-provision, under the following areas:
 - Justice-related benefits;
 - Health-related benefits;
 - Welfare-related benefits;
 - Education-related benefits.

In identifying and assessing indirect benefits, we apply the Hardiker Model⁴⁷ to the assessment of levels of intervention. This model relates interventions to four different levels of risk within the youth population and, in the context of this study, enables identification of the appropriate levels of costs and benefits of youth work across various categories. The model and its application are discussed further below. In addition, we assess the importance of education-related youth work activities on a qualitative basis later in this section.

47: In the 1990's in the UK, Pauline Hardiker and her colleagues developed a model to help understand different levels of need within a population of children (Hardiker et al, 1991). This model is now widely used and has been found to be a useful planning framework by both the UK and Irish Governments. The model is thus useful when thinking about the evaluation of youth related expenditures and so is applied in this analysis.

Each of the first three benefits presented above is then related to the economic costs of public funding allocated to programmes in these areas. The assessment poses the following question: 'What would be the likely outcomes for young people who are participating in justice, health and welfare-related youth programmes, and the costs to the State, if these programmes were not available?' This is assessed on the basis of a hypothesised scenario where it is assumed that annual funding to these programmes remains constant over a 10-year time horizon.

5.3 Economic Cost of Public Funding for Youth Work Programmes

For the purpose of analysing the net economic benefits of youth work, we assess the economic costs of public funding allocated to various programmes under the above benefit headings. Funding costs relate to 2011 levels of funding.⁴⁸ It is assumed based on a hypothetical scenario that these funding levels remain constant over the appraisal period (10-year period). Direct funding costs are adjusted to reflect the opportunity cost or shadow price of public funds.⁴⁹ A discount rate of 4% is used to obtain the present value of annual funding costs over the appraisal period.⁵⁰

5.3.1 Cost of funding for justice-related youth work programmes

The table overleaf indicates the level of public funding allocated to justice-related youth work programmes/activities, namely Garda Youth Diversion Projects. These programmes are assigned to Levels 1-4 within the Hardiker risk scale, which enables quantification of the benefits associated with these projects. The total direct public funding costs for Garda Youth Diversion Projects during 2011 was €8.85 million or €13.27 million after adjusting to reflect the shadow cost of public funds. If one assumes that this level of funding remains constant over a 10-year period, this would imply an overall cost of €111.7 million in present value terms.

48: With the exception of Garda Youth Diversion Projects, which take 2010 funding as the reference level for this assessment.

49: The Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit (CEEU) of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) recommends the use of a shadow cost of public funds in the completion of CBAs. The idea of shadow prices is that project inputs should be valued at their opportunity cost. The CEEU highlight that 'taxation gives rise to economic distortions by altering the incentives facing economic agents, leading to changes in their behaviour and reduced economic activity. For this reason, the shadow price of public funds is greater than one'. The existing recommended shadow price of public funds is 150% of the nominal cost.

50: Discount rate based on Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidance on appraisal of publicly funded expenditure and investment programmes.

Table 5.1: Economic Costs of Public Funding for Youth Justice-related Programmes

Funding	Amount (€)
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (Level 1 – 4)	8,846,980
Total Cost in 2011	8,846,980
Total Cost in 2011 incl. Shadow Cost	13,270,470
Discounted Costs over 10 Years	111,737,357

Source: Indecon Analysis

5.3.2 Cost of funding for health-related youth work programmes

The table overleaf considers the economic cost of public funds devoted to various health-related programmes and projects. For the purposes of this assessment, we include under this heading the YPFSF Rounds 1 and 2, given that these funds are distributed to organisations whose programmes are directed towards young people who are at risk of substance abuse and the associated potential health-related impacts. We also include youth-related HSE funding and Local Drugs Task Force funding. YPFSF and HSE funding streams are assigned a low Level 1-2 risk under the Hardiker scale, while the Local Drugs Task Force programmes are assigned a higher Level 3-4 risk profile. The nominal cost of State funding across these programmes in 2011 was €33.3 million, while the total cost after adjusting to reflect the opportunity cost of public funds was €49.9 million. Assessed over a 10-year period, this would equate to €420.5 million in present value terms.

Table 5.2: Economic Costs of Public Funding for Youth Health-related Programmes

Funding	Amount (€)
Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPF SF) Round 1 (Levels 1 – 2)	7,192,000
Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPF SF) Round 2 (Levels 1 – 2)	16,362,000
HSE Funding (Levels 1 – 2)	8,303,000
Local Drugs Task Force (Levels 3 – 4)	1,433,000
Total Cost in 2011	33,290,000
Total Cost in 2011 incl. Shadow Cost	49,935,000
Discounted Costs over 10 Years	420,452,700

Source: *Indecon Analysis*

5.3.3 Cost of funding for welfare-related youth work programmes

The table below estimates the economic cost of public funding allocated to welfare-related youth work programmes. The nominal cost of this funding in 2011 was €30.5 million, while the total cost after adjustment for shadow cost was €45.7 million. The discounted costs over 10 years would be equivalent to €385.1 million.

Table 5.3: Economic Costs of Public Funding for Youth Welfare-related Programmes

Funding	Amount (€)
Special Projects For Youth (level 1 – 2)	18,156,000
Youth Information Centres/Youth Clubs (Level 1 – 2)	2,897,000
Youth Service Grant Scheme and National Lottery funding (level 1 – 2)*	5,972,000
EU Youth in Action Programme (level 1 – 2)	527,000
Gaisce, the President's Award (level 1 – 2)	737,000
Other Programmes and Service (level 1 – 2)	2,205,000
Total Cost in 2011	30,494,000
Total Cost in 2011 incl. Shadow Cost	45,741,000
Discounted Costs over 10 Years	385,139,220

Source: *Indecon Analysis*

Notes: * 50% of Youth Service Grant Scheme funding (including National Lottery funding) is apportioned to the economic costs of public funding for youth welfare related programmes.

5.3.4 Cost of funding to support volunteering activity

While there is no direct funding cost to the State involved in facilitating the extent of volunteering activity within the youth work sector, it is unlikely that this activity would occur in the absence of the core administrative supports provided by the State to organisations in the sector. Therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, we apportion part of Youth Services Grant funding and National Lottery funding to supporting voluntary activity, as not capturing this funding in the analysis would lead ultimately to an overestimation of the benefits of youth work⁵¹. The nominal cost of Youth Service Grant funding and National Lottery funding in 2011 was €5.97 million or €8.96 million after adjusting to reflect the opportunity cost of public funds. If the 2011 level of funding were continued over a 10-year period, the discounted present value of this funding would amount to €75.4 million (see table below).

Table 5.4: Economic Cost of Funding to Support Volunteering in Youth Work

Funding	Amount (€)
Youth Services Grant Scheme funding and National Lottery funding	5,972,000
Total Cost in 2011	5,972,000
Total Cost in 2011 incl. Shadow Cost	8,958,000
Discounted Costs over 10 Years	75,426,360

Source: *Indecon Analysis*

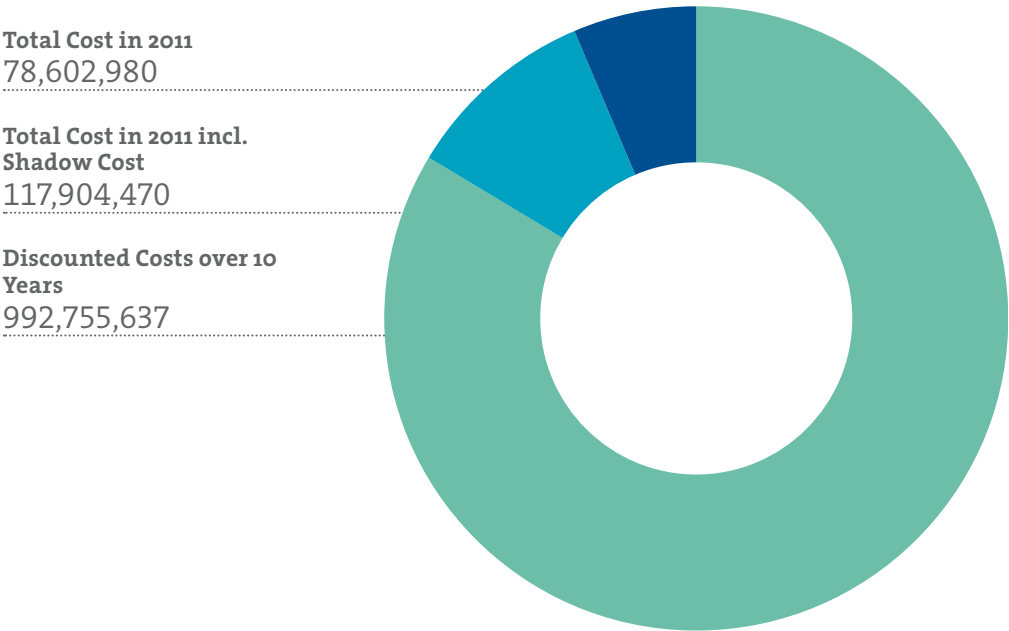
Notes: * 50% of Youth Service Grant Scheme funding (including National Lottery funding) is apportioned to the economic costs of public funding to support volunteering activity.

⁵¹: In the analysis of funding to support volunteering, 50% of the overall level of Youth Services Grant funding is included, as an approximation on the portion of funding that assists the volunteering component of activities in the sector. The remaining 50% is allocated to other welfare-related funding programmes (see Table 5.30).

5.3.5 Overall cost of public funding for youth work

Aggregating the above components, the estimated overall economic cost of public funding provided to the youth work sector is shown in the table below. As described previously in Section 2.4, the overall level of public funding allocated to youth work totalled €78.6 million during 2011. This equates to an estimated economic cost (after adjusting to reflect the opportunity cost of public funds) of €117.9 million in annual terms, or €992.8 million in present value terms if this level of funding were to be maintained over a 10-year time horizon.

Graphic 5.5: Overall Economic Cost of Public Funding for Youth Work



Source: Indecon Analysis

An important policy question concerns what is the extent of value for money or economic return achieved by the State through the allocation of this public funding. This requires detailed, programme-level assessment of the benefits of this funding, which is undertaken below.

5.4 Quantified Assessment of Benefits of Youth Work Programmes

In analysing the benefits of youth work, we have identified those benefits that are quantifiable in an economic assessment context and which represent the main areas of focus for youth work through consultation with organisations in the sector.

Specification of counterfactual reference scenarios

Specifically, in quantifying the benefits of justice, health and welfare-related youth programmes, as well as the value of the volunteering effort in the sector, in each case we pose an appropriate counterfactual or reference scenario, pertaining to what we consider would be the most likely outcome in the absence of these programmes and activities. We identify these counterfactual scenarios at different levels drawing on the Hardiker Model alluded to earlier. To these benefits are added the multiplier impacts of the day-to-day expenditures of youth work organisations. We model the benefits of youth work over a 10-year period against the funding streams (costs) outlined in the previous section.

5.4.1 Economic value of Volunteering in Youth Work

As noted in Section 2, volunteering is a central aspect of youth work in Ireland. Indecon estimates that the youth work sector supports over 40,000 volunteers. The economic value of volunteering is typically measured by reference to an assumed wage level which these individuals would be paid if they were engaged in similar employment on a paid basis. In the table below we present Indecon's upper and lower bound estimates of the economic value of volunteering in the youth work sector.

Table 5.6: The Economic Value of Volunteering in Youth Work Organisations

Components	2011
Estimated Number of Volunteers (A)	40,145
Estimated No of Volunteer Hours (B)	5,511,093
Average Hourly Weighted Earnings (CSO) - €/hr (C)	25.25
Minimum Wage (CSO) - €/hr (D)	8.65
Estimated Annual Value of Youth-related Volunteering – Upper Bound Estimate - € Million (E=(B) x (C))	139,155,104
Estimated Annual Value of Youth-related Volunteering – Lower Bound Estimate - € Million (F=(B) x (D))	47,670,956

Sources: *Indecon Survey of Youth Work Organisations, CSO Earning and Labour Costs 2012*

Notes: The average hourly weighted earnings is calculated from earnings in education, health and social work and arts, entertaining, recreation and other service activities, to take account of activities that are considered applicable to youth work.

Under our lower bound scenario, we estimate the annual value of youth work-related volunteering at €47.7 million. This estimate is based on assuming a counterfactual scenario whereby these individuals are paid the minimum wage, which is then applied to the estimated number of volunteering hours in the sector during 2011. Our upper-bound estimate of €139.2 million is based on average hourly earnings, weighted to reflect the nature of activities undertaken across the youth work sector.⁵²

These estimates in effect represent a saving to the State and the economy, compared to a scenario where these individuals are providing the same service on a paid basis, and are then reflected in the cost-benefit analysis, based on the figures presented in the table below. Assuming a constant annual level of volunteering effort and assessing this contribution over a 10-year period, we estimate that the gross economic benefits would amount to €321.1 million in present value terms, after adjusting to reflect deadweight.⁵³ Subtracting the economic costs of funding, this would imply a net economic value of volunteering of over €245 million in present value terms.

52: Estimates based on average earnings data for the Irish economy for Quarter 2, 2012 (CSO data). The weighted figure is representative of the education, human health and social work and arts, entertainment, recreation sectors.

53: Indecon believes that there is a measure of deadweight within the figures for volunteering in the sector in that if public expenditure in youth organisations was to decline, the number of volunteers would not decline in a proportionate manner. Thus we have adjusted the Net Present Value of the Benefits attributable to voluntary activity by 20%.

Table 5.7: Net Economic Value of Volunteering Benefits over a 10-year Period

Components	Details
Benefits/State Costs Avoided in 2011 (Lower Bound Estimate)	€47,670,956
Deadweight Adjustment	20%
Benefits/State Costs Avoided	€321,111,562
Less Economic Cost of Funding to Support Volunteering	(€75,426,360)
Net Present Value of Economic Benefits – Volunteering	€245,685,202

Source: Indecon Analysis

5.4.2 Economic Value of Justice-related Youth Work Programmes

The justice benefits of youth work that we quantify are in the form of State savings from costs avoided due to the provision of justice-related programmes or services by youth work organisations. We consider the actual cost of funding justice-related programmes against what we consider would be the longer-run cost to the State if such services were unavailable.

Table 5.8: Estimated Net Economic Value of Justice-related Youth Work Programmes over a 10-year Period

Components	Base Case - € - Based on 2% of Participants Admitted to Detention Centre
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided in 2011	5,105,935
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided over 10-year period	133,558,684
Less Economic Costs of Funding for Justice-related Youth Work Programmes over 10-year period	111,737,357
Net Present Value of Benefits over 10-year period – Justice-related Youth Work Programmes	21,821,326

Source: Indecon Analysis

As shown above, the economic cost of justice-related funding to the youth sector over a 10-year period is estimated at €111.7 million. These costs accrue from funding to Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs).

We estimate that some 4,493 young people participate in GYDPs. In the absence of State funding in the form of GYDPs, Indecon estimates that 2% of participants in these projects would be admitted to a detention centre.⁵⁴ This would cost the State €5.1 million annually.

We estimate that the total potential 10-year cost to the State if justice-related youth work programmes ceased to exist could be €133.6 million in present value terms. Comparing this to the estimated economic cost of public funding to Garda Youth Diversion Projects of €111.7 million indicates a net economic benefit of €21.8 million over a 10-year time horizon.

5.4.3 Economic Value of Health-related Youth Work Programmes

The health-related benefits of youth work arise in the form of State savings from costs avoided due to the provision of health-related programmes or services by youth work organisations. We compare the cost of funding such programmes with the estimated cost to the State if these services were unavailable at the youth work organisation level. Our estimated net economic value of health-related youth work programmes is shown in the table below.

Table 5.9: Estimated Net Economic Value of Health-related Youth Work Programmes over a 10-year Period

Components	Base Case - € - Based on 4% of Participants Admitted to Adolescent Treatment Centre
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided in 2011	60,559,200
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided over 10-year period	509,908,464
Less Economic Costs of Funding for Health-related Youth Work Programmes over 10-year period	420,452,700
Net Present Value of Benefits over 10-year period – Health-related Youth Work Programmes	89,455,764

Source: Indecon Analysis

⁵⁴ We also apply a recidivism rate of 25%, based on O'Donnell, I., Palmer, E.P. and Hughes, N. (2008) 'Recidivism in the Republic of Ireland' in *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 123-146.

The cost of health related funding to the youth sector over a 10-year period is estimated at €420.5 million, under a scenario whereby 2011 funding levels are maintained. These costs are split between YPFSF Rounds 1 and 2 and HSE funding (level 1 – 2) and Local Drug Task Force funding.

There are 647,000 participants involved in health related programmes across levels 1 to 4. In the absence of YPFSF, HSE and Local Drug Task Force funding, we assume that 4% of youth beneficiaries of these programmes would have to receive treatment in an adolescent treatment centre. This would entail a cost to the State of €60.6 million annually or €509.9 million in present value terms over a 10-year period. Relating this to the estimated economic cost of funding the YPFSF, HSE and Local Drug Task Force programmes indicates a net present benefit or economic return of €89.5 million over this period. In other words, we estimate that the State is substantially better off through devoting targeted funding to these programmes in the short- to medium-term, compared to having to face likely much greater longer-term costs if these young people did not benefit from these programmes and had to be assisted through much more costly treatment programmes.

5.4.4 Economic Value of Welfare-related Youth Work Programmes

The welfare benefits of youth work are in the form of costs avoided by the State as a result of provision of welfare-related programmes or services by youth work organisations. We estimate the cost of welfare-related funding to the youth sector over a 10-year period at €385.1 million, assuming 2011 funding levels are maintained. These costs are split between Special Projects for Youth/Youth Services Grant Scheme (50%)/EU Youth in Action/Gaisce, The President Award/Youth Information Centres (YICs)/Youth Clubs and Other Programmes. We estimate that there are 385,300 youth participants benefiting from welfare-related programmes which would fall within risk Levels 1-2 on the Hardiker scale. In the absence of such funding, we assume that 4% of participants would be on the Live Register and claim Jobseekers Assistance every year over 10 years at a cost to the State of €80.1 million annually. We estimate the total potential 10-year cost to the State if welfare-related youth work programmes ceased to exist at €674.8 million in present value terms. Comparing this to our estimate of €385.1 million of funding provided to youth work organisations over the same time period if current funding levels are maintained yields a net economic value or benefit to the State of €289.7 million over a 10-year period arising from welfare-related programmes delivered by youth organisations (see table overleaf).

Table 5.10: Estimated Net Economic Value of Welfare-related Youth Work Programmes over a 10-year Period

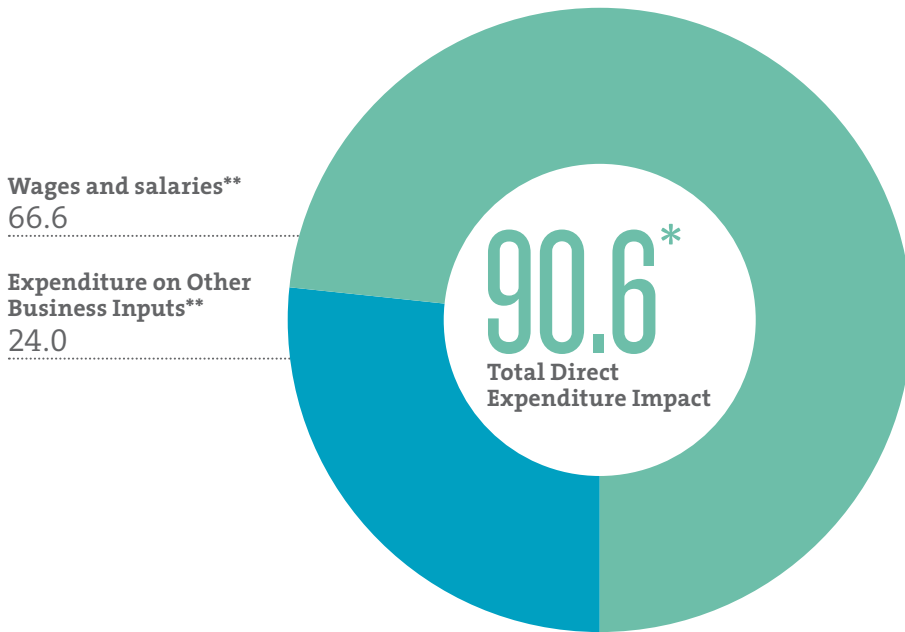
Components	Base Case - € - Based on 4% Claiming Jobseekers Allowance
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided in 2011	80,142,400
Estimated Benefits/State Costs Avoided over 10-year period	674,799,008
Less Economic Costs of Funding for Welfare-related Youth Work Programmes over 10-year period	385,139,220
Net Present Value of Benefits over 10-year period – Welfare-related Youth Work Programmes	289,659,788

Source: Indecon Analysis

5.4.5 Impact of Expenditures and Employment

In addition to the above benefits, the day-to-day expenditures of, and employment supported by, youth work organisations have an impact on the wider Irish economy both directly and indirectly. In relation to expenditures, of importance concern the purchase of goods and services and expenditure on wages and salaries. Indecon’s survey of youth work organisations has yielded estimates of expenditure in the youth sector. This includes estimates of expenditure on wages and salaries, as well as expenditures on other business inputs. The table below provides an overview of our assessment of the impact of expenditure of the NYCI member organisations on the Irish economy in 2011. The total direct impact of expenditure by NYCI member organisations is estimated at €90.6 million in 2011.

Graphic 5.11: Expenditure Impact of Youth Work Organisations



Source: Indecon Impact Modelling results based on NYCI Members Survey

Notes: * The figure for expenditure is derived through assuming that the total expenditure of youth work organisations surveyed equates with total income across organisations. Total income is estimated based on information provided by youth work organisations and additional research undertaken by Indecon.

** Wages and salaries are estimated based on the proportion of expenditure on salaries to total expenditure for those organisations that responded to Indecon's confidential survey. This percentage is then applied to total expenditure in estimating expenditure on wages and salaries. The residual of expenditure is the estimated expenditure on Other Business Inputs.

Multiplier Impacts

Applying an expenditure multiplier to the direct expenditure impacts, total indirect and induced impacts are estimated to amount to €66.9 million in 2011. The overall aggregate impact of the direct expenditures undertaken by NYCI member organisations, taking into account the indirect and induced (multiplier) impacts is estimated at €157.5 million in 2011 (see table overleaf).

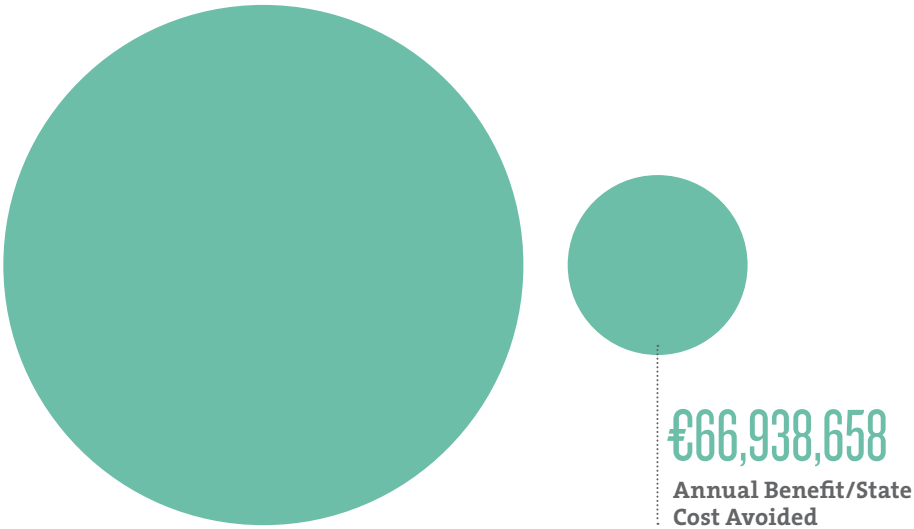
Table 5.12: Aggregate Economic Impact of NYCI Member Organisations 2011

Impact	Aggregate Economic Impact – 2011 € million
Total Direct Impact	90.6
Multiplier – Indirect and Induced effects	1.74
Total Indirect and Induced Impact	66.9
Overall aggregate economic impact of direct expenditures	157.5

Source: Indecon Economic Impact Modelling results based on Youth Work Organisations

Taking the €66.9 million of multiplier impacts that occurred in 2011 and discounting these impacts over a 10-year period generates a net present value of those benefits of €563.6 million.

Graphic 5.13: Multiplier Impacts of Youth Organisation Expenditures – Present Value of 10-year Period



Sources: Indecon Analysis

Multiplier impacts of paid employment

As shown in Section 2, it is estimated that a total of 1,397 full-time equivalent jobs are supported directly in youth work organisations. We apply appropriate sectoral employment multipliers to this direct employment level to estimate the additional indirect and induced employment supported elsewhere in the Irish economy (see table below).

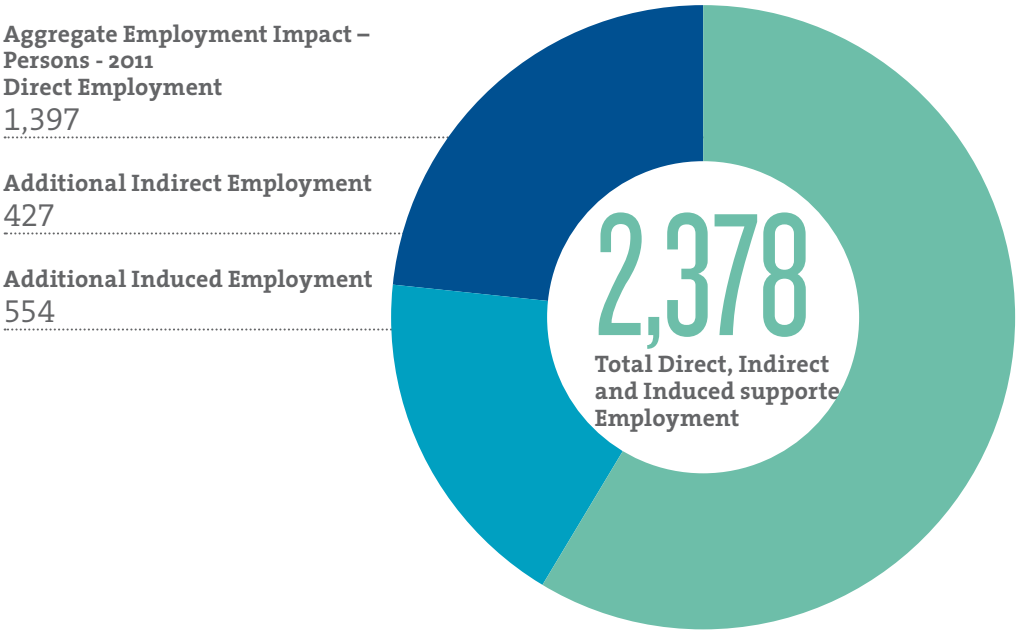
Table 5.14: Youth Work Multipliers

	Type I	Type II
Health and Social Work Services		
Employment Multiplier	1.317	1.787
Recreation		
Employment Multiplier	1.293	1.616
Youth Work		
Employment Multiplier	1.305	1.701

Source: Indecon model of Irish economy, based on CSO data

Based on this approach, we estimate that an additional 981 indirect and induced jobs are supported, bringing the overall paid employment impact to almost 2,400 jobs (see graphic overleaf). This is a significant overall employment contribution at a time when job losses are being experienced in all sectors of the Irish economy due to the economic downturn.

Graphic 5.15: Total Direct, Indirect and Induced supported Employment for NYCI Member Organisations 2011



Source: Indecon Economic Impact Modelling results bases on Youth Work Organisations

5.5 Overall Net Economic Benefits

The table overleaf brings together the components of economic benefit described above to develop an estimate of the overall net economic value of these aspects of youth work. If the volunteering, justice, health and welfare-related benefits, in addition to the multiplier impacts of youth work organisation expenditures, are evaluated over a 10-year time horizon, we estimate the overall economic benefits of these programmes and activities at €2.2 billion in present value terms. If one assumes on a hypothesised basis that 2011 funding streams were maintained, the cost to the State of sustaining youth sector funding over the same period would be of the order of just under €1 billion in present value terms. Relating the present value of the estimated benefits of youth programmes with the present value of Exchequer funding over a 10-year period indicates an overall net economic return arising from these quantified aspects of youth work of €1.21 billion, or a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 2.22:1. This is equivalent to indicating that the benefits of youth work programmes exceed the costs by a factor of 2.22 over this period.

Table 5.16: Estimated Net Economic Benefits of Youth Work

Quantified Benefits of Youth Work	Benefits/State Costs Avoided – Present Value over 10-year Period - €	Costs/Youth Work Funding Costs – Present Value over 10-year Period - €	Net Present Value of Benefits – Present Value over 10-year Period - €
Net Economic Value of Volunteering Activity	321,111,562	75,426,360	245,685,202
Justice-related Benefits	133,558,684	111,737,357	21,821,326
Health-related Benefits	509,908,464	420,452,700	89,455,764
Welfare-related Benefits	674,799,008	385,139,220	289,659,788
Multiplier Impacts of Organisational Expenditures	563,623,504	-	563,623,504
Total	2,203,001,222	992,755,637	1,210,245,584

Benefit-Cost Ratio: 2.22 : 1

Sources: *Indecon Analysis*

* All benefits and costs are evaluated in annual terms over a 10-year time horizon and discounted to present value terms using a 4% discount rate (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform advised rate)

** Benefit-Cost Ratio = Ratio of Present Value of Benefits to Present Value of Costs

5.5.1 Sensitivities on parameters

The above cost-benefit outcomes reflect the analysis undertaken on the basis of specific assumptions regarding what Indecon judge would have been the most likely outcomes in the absence of specific justice, health and welfare-related youth work programmes and services. It is instructive, however, to consider the robustness of these outcomes to alternative assumptions regarding the outcomes for programme participants. The table overleaf indicates how the above Benefit-Cost Ratio (of 2.22:1) would alter under the alternative assumptions for participant outcomes in respect of justice, health and welfare-related youth work programmes and services. Importantly, the sensitivity analysis indicates that the overall net economic return, measured in terms of the Benefit-Cost Ratio, remains positive if one lowers the assumed proportion of individuals who could be admitted to a detention centre in the absence of the youth justice programmes.

Likewise, the Benefit-Cost Ratio remains positive under an alternative scenario for health-related benefits, whereby the assumed proportion of programme participants who are admitted to an adolescent treatment centre is lowered. There is greater sensitivity under the scenario for welfare-related benefits of youth work programmes to the assumed proportion of programme participants who could require welfare supports in the absence of these programmes. However, if it is assumed that 2% of programme participants would be claiming jobseekers allowance if they did not benefit from the range of welfare-related programmes considered (compared to 4% in our base case scenario), the overall Benefit-Cost Ratio associated with youth work activities in Ireland would still be positive, at 1.87:1.

Table 5.17: Sensitivities on Quantified Benefits of Youth Work

Scenarios	Quantified Benefits of Youth Work – Benefit-Cost Ratio
Base Case Scenario – Overall Net Economic Benefits	2.22
SENSITIVITIES	
Justice-related Benefits	
% Admitted to Detention Centre = 1%	2.15
% Admitted to Detention Centre = 3%	2.28
Health-related Benefits	
% Admitted to Adolescent Treatment Centre = 2%	1.96
% Admitted to Adolescent Treatment Centre = 6%	2.47
Welfare-related Benefits	
% Claiming Jobseekers allowance – 2%	1.87
% Claiming Jobseekers allowance – 6%	2.55

Source: *Indecon analysis*

5.5.2 Conclusion from cost-benefit analysis

The results of this cost-benefit analysis suggest that the public funding provided by the State for youth work services represents value for money. This reflects in particular the benefits of targeted programmes in the areas of justice, health and welfare, which address the needs of young people in a pre-emptive and holistic manner, compared to a scenario where the absence of these supports is likely to mean that the State would face substantially greater costs over the longer term. It also reflects the strong volunteering effort in the delivery of youth work services, the absence of which would mean that the State would face a higher cost if these human resources had to be fully remunerated.

5.6 Qualitative Evidence on the Impacts of Youth Work

In addition to assessing the economic value of youth work in quantitative terms, it is also instructive to consider the impacts of youth work from a qualitative perspective. In this section we present the findings from Indecon's research with organisations on aspects of the impacts of youth work.

Expansion of the Labour Market and Other Economic Opportunities for Young People

The table below outlines the views of organisations in the sector in terms of the levels of significance attached to the role played by youth work in helping to expand labour market and other economic opportunities for young people. Of those that responded, the majority of organisations (58.3%) shared the view that youth work has a very significant or significant impact on this area.

Graphic 5.18: Helping to Expand Labour Market and Other Economic Opportunities for Young People

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- **Very Significant Impact: 20.8%**
 - **Significant Impact: 37.5%**
 - **Minor Impact: 41.7%**
 - **No Impact: 0.0%**
- Total Responses: 100%**



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Education-related Benefits of Youth Work

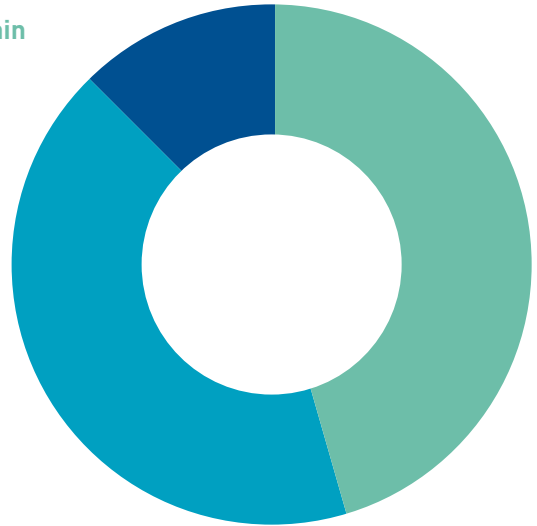
As highlighted in the review of existing research in Section 4, youth work can be instrumental in encouraging youth participation and in preventing young people from becoming NEET; i.e. not in education, employment or training. Studies aimed at preventing young people from becoming NEET have demonstrated improvements in young peoples' attitudes and wellbeing as well as returns to education or employment; in addition, they have demonstrated that there are significant costs associated with being NEET. These costs include costs to the individual and to society; costs which can be expected to accumulate throughout young peoples' lifetimes.

In addition, we have previously highlighted that among youth work organisations, one of the central themes of their programmes and services is education and training. When we surveyed these organisations, their views on the significance of education and training mirrored the level of service in that area, in that 45.8% believed that youth work has a very significant impact while a further 41.7% believe that youth work has a significant impact in this area (see graphic overleaf).

Graphic 5.19: Helping Young People to Gain Education and Training Qualifications

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 45.8%
- Significant Impact: 41.7%
- Minor Impact: 12.5%
- No Impact: 0.0%
- Total Responses: 100%



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Development of Practical Skills

The nature of youth work points to the fact that participants are exposed to an environment where they have an opportunity to gain practical skills. Access to skills may not be readily available in other settings, such as in a formal education setting. When asked their views on the importance of youth work in helping young people to gain these practical skills, 70.8% of responding organisations indicated that this was a very significant aspect of their activities.

Graphic 5.20: Helping Young People to Gain Practical Skills

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 70.8%
- Significant Impact: 29.2%
- Minor Impact: 0.0%
- No Impact: 0.0%
- Total Responses: 100%



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Addressing Socio-Economic Disadvantage in Local Communities

Indecon also sought organisations' views on the impact of youth work in addressing the important issue of socio-economic disadvantage, given that previous research suggests that a significant proportion of youth work activity takes place in settings that could be described as economically or socially disadvantaged. It is notable that almost 70% of respondents were of the view that helping to address socio-economic disadvantage in local communities was either a very significant or significant benefit of youth work.

Graphic 5.21: Helping to Address Socio-Economic Disadvantage in Local Communities

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 33.3%
 - Significant Impact: 37.5%
 - Minor Impact: 25.0%
 - No Impact: 4.2%
- Total Responses: 100%**



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Reduction of Costs Associated with Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

When asked their views about the degree to which youth work helps to reduce costs associated with crime and anti-social behaviour, 45.8% of organisations responded that youth work has a very significant impact, while a further one-third of organisations believe that youth work has a significant impact in this area (see graphic overleaf).

Graphic 5.22: Helping to Reduce Costs associated with Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 45.8%
- Significant Impact: 33.3%
- Minor Impact: 12.5%
- No Impact: 8.3%
- Total Responses: 100%



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Reduction of Health and Social Care Costs associated with Substance Abuse

The graphic below highlights the views of youth organisations in relation to health and social care costs and youth work’s contribution towards helping to reduce these costs through local community level interventions. It is noteworthy that a majority (62.5%) of organisations were of the view that youth work has a very significant or significant impact in helping to reduce health and social care costs associated with substance abuse.

Graphic 5.23: Helping to Reduce Health and Social Care Costs associated with Substance Abuse

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 37.5%
- Significant Impact: 25.0%
- Minor Impact: 25.0%
- No Impact: 12.5%
- Total Responses: 100%



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

Promotion of Equal Economic Opportunity between Men and Women

Finally, when asked what level of significance they attached to the impact of youth work in helping to promote equal economic opportunity between women and men, 50% of organisations believed there was a significant impact, while 12.5% responded that youth work has a very significant impact in this area.

Graphic 5.24: Helping to Promote Equal Economic Opportunity between Women and Men

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services

- Very Significant Impact: 12.5%
 - Significant Impact: 50.0%
 - Minor Impact: 25.0%
 - No Impact: 012.5%
- Total Responses: 100%



Source: Indecon Confidential Survey of Youth Work Organisations

5.7 Case Studies on Value of Youth Work

As part of our research programme for this assessment, we invited organisations to highlight particular case studies where the value of youth work to a young person or group was evident. The following case studies outline various stories and experiences that a number of organisations have had in this regard.

The case studies highlight that the value of youth work cannot merely be expressed in economic or monetary terms and that central to the youth work experience is connecting with young people who may be experiencing particular issues or problems and ultimately improving the quality of life for that person or group.

This section presents the case studies with reference to the themes discussed previously in this report; namely justice, health, education and other welfare-related benefits (it is clear that these programmes can be expected to demonstrate a wide variety of benefits which span a number of these fields. This categorisation is thus intended to be representative only).

It should also be noted that the case studies presented here represent a summary of some of the key elements of the youth work performed in these programmes. As such, the full nature of youth work cannot be captured by a case study alone and in order to fully understand the benefits of youth work for young people, it is necessary to delve deeper into individual youth work programmes. In addition, it is not possible to report every activity performed by each youth programme considered in these case studies. Nevertheless, Indecon believes that the following case studies provide an idea of what youth work means to young people participating in Ireland.

Justice-related benefits

Issues related to criminal behaviour and the potential effectiveness of intervention at the youth work level are outlined in the next case study, presented below.

Box 5.1: Case Study 1 - Priorswood Area Team Case Study 2010

The group that this case study is based on are a group of young people who were identified by the youth service as being intimidating to others within the community and confrontational with authority.

- They first came to the attention of the detached youth work team when they were involved in an unprovoked attack; throwing glass bottles and bricks at the staff team.
- The group are known to engage in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour within the local community (graffiti, lighting fires and intimidating behaviour).
- It was agreed at a team meeting that the Priorswood Area Team and the Woodale Youth Justice Project (Garda Youth Diversion Project) would endeavour to work with them.
- The group initially consisted of nine young males aged between thirteen and fifteen.

Group Issues

Three young people within the group have been cautioned by the Gardaí and have received JLO's for criminal damage and petty theft. The remainder of the group are at risk of receiving cautions due to engaging in antisocial/criminal behaviour (regular incidents of verbal abuse directed at Gardaí and stone throwing at Garda vehicles). Eight members of the group are in mainstream education while one member attends a school for young people with behavioural difficulties.

Interventions

The initial contact with the group was about relationship building. It was the aim of the staff to encourage the group to engage within a structured environment as opposed to engagement on the street which had led to conflict in the past.

- The group began with their structured time slot on a weekly basis. The programme included team building and social development activities which assisted in relationship building between young people and youth workers.

Outcomes

- The group have gone from lighting fires, intimidating people in the community and attacking the detached youth work team to engaging with staff inside the youth service building.
- Relationships have been built between youth workers, the young people in the group and their parents.
- The group have gained the confidence to engage in sessions with youth workers and feel comfortable talking about issues which affect them (crime, community, family).

The youth workers working with the group have established boundaries with the group and have observed that the group respond well to a consistent approach highlighting responsibility and accountability for actions. A consistent follow through with consequences, both positive and negative, have helped the group understand what behaviours are acceptable and unacceptable. From this it is felt by youth workers that the group understand what is expected of them by youth workers and what they can expect to gain from positive participation within the group.

Sources: Sphere 17

Health-related benefits

The second case study below highlights the impacts of manual labour and verbal communication in a structured setting.

Box 5.2: Case Study 2 - Engaging Young Men in Conversation

After running a number of mental health workshops with four young men where mental health and well being was discussed at length – through interactive discussion, walking debates, information sessions, etc, it was decided that an activity based programme which facilitated conversation and manual labour would be of benefit to the group.

The young men had verbalised their fears regarding talking in such a structured group and noted that in an environment whereby the main focus was not on mental health but on the completion of a task they were more inclined to talk and support each other as it was not the main focus. These comments are well supported in research based on the methodologies best suited for work with men only groups.

Pavee Point took their lead from 'Men's sheds' an initiative that began in Australia that looks to create spaces for men to come together. Their motto is 'Men talk shoulder to shoulder not face to face.' The primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment where young men are able to gather and or work on projects at their own pace, in their own time and in the company of other young men.

The project undertaken with Rothar shares the characteristics of both community education and health promotion projects in Ireland, due to the presence of trained youth workers; innovatively creating the space and the opportunity for a new skill to be developed increasing the confidence and esteem of all the young men who took part. They have been able to return to their community with a physical object that began as scrap and they transformed into something of value and use through their time and commitment.

Sources: Pavee Point Youth Work

Health-related benefits

The third case study examines the experiences of a young woman who suffered from drug use are highlighted in the YMCA case study presented here.

Box 5.3: Case Study 3 - A reflection from a young person involved in a YMCA drugs project

About 48 months ago I had reached a breaking point in my life. I knew I had to get on the right track again. All my family were behind me but we just didn't know how to put it into gear. As a foster child we got onto the social workers but they were oblivious to the situation and didn't know what to do as they had never come across treatment for a case quite like mine. We felt like they didn't care, a psychiatrist referred me to the YMCA drugs worker.

I was apprehensive about meeting her as I didn't know what to expect. Being in an emotional state I thought that she would think that I was crazy and just another wild teenager going through a stage that was rough.

I met the YMCA drugs worker in my home town and we met up for coffee at the local Café. As I sat down I felt like I had known her all my life. I felt so relaxed. I began to talk and tell her everything about how my life was and how I wanted my life to be and how I hoped I was going to do it.

I knew what I wanted but I just needed the motivation and courage to go ahead with it. The YMCA drugs worker made everything look so positive. She made me feel comfortable and she treated me like a real person whereas everyone else I had met just treated me like I was an addict. She made me so determined to do well because she believed in me and made me feel like everything would be ok.

I was given leaflets about substances that I was using and they made me realize how my life was in such danger. She recommended that I go to Narcotics Anonymous meetings and she took me to six to help me get started. After that I was able to go myself. I attended and it was so helpful to see other people just like me.

Looking back now I don't know if I would have coped without having someone to talk to. Each time I see her I'm reminded of how far I've come and how life has changed in a short period of time. I've gone back to school and really plan on making something of myself, it's nice to know that whenever I need someone to talk to I have someone who really understands and really cares.

(This young person has been clean and sober for 4 years now. She has a one year old daughter and lives in her own apartment with her baby. She is now in the second year of a college course).

Sources: YMCA Ireland

Education-related benefits

The case study below presents a situation where an individual had gained vocational training impacting on his employment prospects.

Box 5.4: Case Study 4 – Vocational Training for Unemployed Young People

The young man considered in this case study had left school early after completing his Junior Certificate due to a family tragedy. For a number of years after leaving school he drifted, with no clear sense of direction or purpose. At 21 he applied and was accepted onto the YMCA's STEP programme. Through STEP he was able to access a number of services which helped him deal with issues that had caused him to drop out of school early. He played a very positive role within the group. He began to get involved in leisure activities and he began to feel fitter and healthier than at any time in his life. As part of his course he did a placement in a youth work setting which he thoroughly enjoyed. He went on to complete his FETAC and ECDL modules and then began to consider pursuing a career in social/youth work. He applied and was accepted onto a social studies course in UCC. In tandem with the course, he completed the YMCA Leaders in Training Course and as part of this he began to volunteer in a YMCA PAKT club. This past summer he attended an International Youth Leaders training event hosted by the German YMCA which he says was one of the best experiences of his life to date. He is now volunteering with his local YMCA with the view to setting up a new "youth-space" for his community.

Sources: YMCA Ireland

Other welfare-related benefits

A study undertaken by Foróige is summarized below. This example points to the beneficial impacts of the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Youth Mentoring Programme in Ireland.

Box 5.5: Case Study 5 - A Randomised Control Trial Study of the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Youth Mentoring Programme in Ireland (2011)

This study aims to explore the effectiveness of youth mentoring in an Irish context. It makes use of randomised control groups, seen as the gold standard of evaluation, as well as other best practice methods and techniques to evaluate the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Youth Mentoring Programme in Ireland from 2007 and 2010. The research concluded that BBBS represents a valuable low cost policy option for young people in an Irish context.

The research combined the following three elements:

- A Randomised Control Trial consisting of 164 young people. Young people were either assigned to a control group, who received regular youth activities, or a treatment group, who received regular youth activities and an adult mentor.
- Nine longitudinal qualitative case studies to determine the longer-term attitudes of young people, mentors and family members regarding the effects of the programme.
- A review of programme implementation, taking into account staff interviews, monitoring data and programme materials.

The findings of this study are consistent with previous studies in that mentoring can be beneficial for the young people taking part. The study found that young people taking part in the programme showed improved outcomes on most measures over the course of the two-year study in areas such as;

- Mental well-being
- Hope
- Social acceptance
- School liking
- Drug and alcohol misuse

The study further suggested that young people from single parent families derived particular benefit from the programme. This suggests that this type of intervention can play an important role in increasing support available to young people not living with both parents.

In addition, the longitudinal studies suggested that the programme improved young peoples' sense of wellbeing and that this positive attitude might be expected to translate into other positive outcomes in the areas of education or risk behaviour.

Finally, the review of programme implementation found that the programme demonstrated best practice methods.

Taking all the evidence into consideration, the study concluded that the BBBS programme is a valuable, low-cost intervention for young people and is worthy of investment.

Sources: Foróige, Study performed by Child and Family Research Centre, School of Political Science & Sociology, NUI Galway

In the final case study, presented below, we describe an intervention where young men engage in sport as a means of expressing themselves.

Box 5.6: Case Study 6 - Bonnybrook Area Team Case Study 2010

In September 2009 we decided, as a team, to focus on targeting the older age group and in particular males between the ages of 15 and 21 years.

- We approached another youth project within the locality to see if they would be interested in organising a joint project to target this group.

Both organisations were fortunate to gain access to an indoor hall where football could take place on a Monday night from 9.00 p.m. – 10.00p.m.

- The next stage in this initiative was to source young males 15-21 years, who were available and interested in participating in this joint venture.

The Bonnybrook team realised that given the limited direct access to this age group, the project would be slow to start, but youth workers believed it would gain momentum as it progressed. The other youth project had an existing group fitting this age and gender profile so following some detailed planning and communication the Older Lads Football Programme began in October 2009.

Issues

These 4 – 5 young males all live in the same area and are residing with family members.

- Most of the group have experienced separation and bereavement issues of either one or both parents/carers. Their main social outlet appears to be football with most of them playing on a local team. This group were met regularly by the Friday night detached youth work team on the streets or in the parks. Detached youth workers identified the group as being involved in under-age drinking and smoking hash on a regular basis.

Broad Intervention

As the programme developed the numbers attending the Monday Night Football increased through word of mouth, with friends wishing to attend. The youth workers built up a core group of approximately 24 young men attending.

- Over the course of the first three months the workers and young people developed an open and honest relationship with each other with the participants realising there was more to this programme than playing football.
- As each team was made up of five players, at any given time ten young people would be playing whilst the other members watched on. This is when the other workers would engage with the young men to explore how day-to-day life was going for them, what issues were coming up etc. and that this was a safe space to talk with a worker.
- It was through this engagement process that the workers were able to help these young people address some of the issues above.

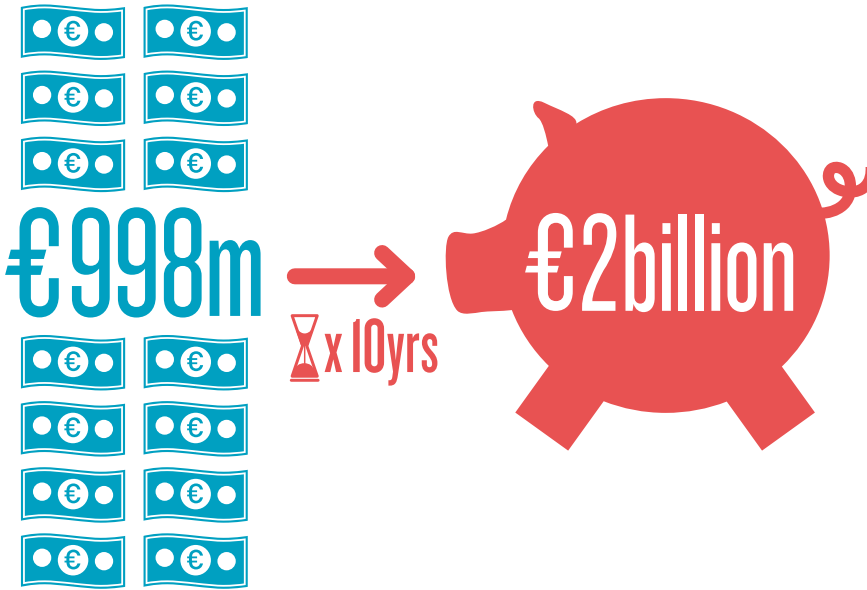
Outcomes

- There is increased awareness amongst these young men of the range of youth services available through Sphere 17 e.g. support, advocacy and personal and social development. Sphere 17 is not just about providing activities and outings for young people in the area but it was through these activities that they gained greater awareness about the service.
- These young people now drop into the also service at different times other than the Monday evening football.
- A better relationship between youth workers and these young people continues to develop. There is a new structured time for these young men on a Wednesday afternoon that explores and addresses further their needs and interests through group work, outings and informal discussions as well as providing food as some arrive up hungry. They are also aware that they can turn to a member of the youth work team for help/support.

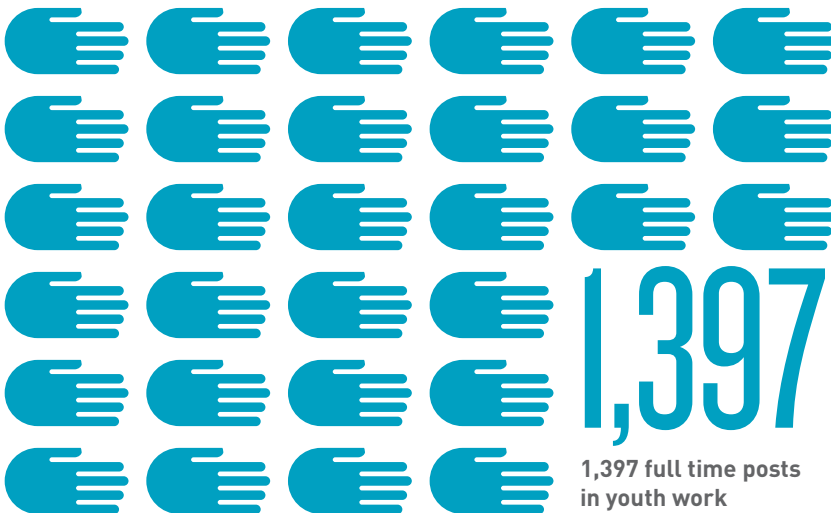
Sources: Sphere 17

6.0

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS



Estimated that State will benefit/save costs to the value of €2billion for the €992m investment over the next 10 years



6.1 Summary

This study, for the first time in Ireland, completed a detailed, comprehensive assessment of the economic value and contribution of the youth work sector. Indecon's independent analysis indicated that the sector is substantial in scale and reach, with almost 383,000 young people benefiting from a wide range of programmes and services, provided by almost 1,400 staff and over 40,000 persons working in a voluntary capacity across the State. The sector operates within a very challenging economic context, with young people experiencing high rates of unemployment and social and economic exclusion, while significant numbers are at risk of poverty and the adverse long-term implications of drug and alcohol abuse, and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The results of the cost-benefit assessment of the economic value of youth work presented in this study suggest that the public funding provided by the State for youth work services represents value for money. Specifically, we estimate that over a 10-year period the benefits of youth work programmes would exceed the costs by a factor of 2.2. This reflects in particular the benefits of targeted programmes in the areas of justice, health and welfare, compared to a scenario where the absence of these supports is likely to mean that the State would face higher costs. It also reflects the strong volunteering effort in the delivery of youth work services throughout the State, the absence of which would mean that the State would face a substantially greater cost if these human resources had to be fully remunerated.

Policy decisions on the future development of the youth work sector should factor in these features and, in particular, the economic as well as social impacts of targeted interventions which address the needs of young people in a pre-emptive and holistic manner.

ANNEX 1-4

ANNEX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANNEX 2: LIST OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS CONTACTED

ANNEX 3: COPY OF INFORMATION REQUEST
ISSUED TO ORGANISATIONS

ANNEX 4: ADDITIONAL FINDINGS FROM
REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ANNEX I.O

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ANNEX 2.0

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS CONTACTED

Peace Corps / Localise

Church of Ireland Youth Department

BeLonG to Youth Service

Catholic Guides of Ireland

DYCW - The Methodist Church of Ireland

EIL Intercultural Learning

Exchange House

Feachtas

Girls' Brigade Ireland

Girls' Friendly Society

Irish Girl Guides

Junior Chamber International Ireland

Macra na Feirme

No Name Club

Ogra Chorcai

Pavee Point

Presbyterian Youth and Children Ministry

Scouting Ireland

Voluntary Services International

YWCA of Ireland

An Oige

Blakestown and Mountview Youth

Initiative

Boys' Brigade

Young Christian Workers

Young Irish Film Makers Ltd

Ogras

Order of Malta Cadets

Ballymun Regional Youth Service

The Base Youth Service

Ballyfermot Youth Service

Sphere 17

Swan Youth Service

Lourdes Youth and Community Services

Bradog Regional Youth Service

ECO-UNESCO

National Association for Youth Drama

Catholic Youth Care

Foroige

Involve Youth Services Ltd

YMCA Ireland

Youth Work Ireland

ANNEX 3.0

COPY OF INFORMATION REQUEST ISSUED TO ORGANISATIONS

Confidential Information Request re Assessment of Economic Value of Youth Work

We would be very appreciative if you could complete this short information request. All data/information provided will be treated in strict confidence and will be used in anonymised form only along with responses provided by other organisations. Please forward your completed response for the attention of William Batt, Partner, Indecon Consultants, by e-mail to whbatt@indecon.ie, or by post to Indecon House, 4 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2. Thank you for your assistance on this important assessment for the National Youth Council.

1. Name of Organisation: _____

2. Please indicate the number of Youth Work Programmes or Services provided by your organisation: 2011: _____ 2010: _____

(Please also attach a summary description of Youth Work Programmes/Services delivered during 2011).

3. Please provide details below on the characteristics of Young Persons who benefit from Programmes or Services provided in 2011: (a) Number of Young Persons benefiting from Programmes or Services: 2011: _____

(b) Gender of beneficiaries: Male - %: _____ Female - %: _____

(c) Age Profile of beneficiaries:

Under-10 years - %: _____ 10-15 years - %: _____

16-20 years - %: _____ 21+ years - %: _____

(d) Estimated percentage of beneficiaries who were Socially or Economically Disadvantaged: 2011: _____%

4. Please indicate below the Number of Volunteers engaged in Youth Work Programmes or Services provided by your organisation and the No. of Hours devoted by volunteers in these Programmes and Services over the last two years:

Year	Total No. of Volunteers	No. of Hours of Volunteering per Volunteer
2011		
2010		

5. Please provide details of Paid Employment supported directly by your organisation:

Year	No. of Paid Persons Employed		
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time Equivalents
2011			
2010			

6. Please provide details of Expenditures of your organisation related to the provision of Youth Work Programmes or Services:

Total Expenditures during 2011 - €	
Category	2011 - €
Expenditure on Wages and Salaries	
Expenditure on Irish-sourced Goods and Services	
Inputs for Programme/Service Delivery*	
Irish-sourced Capital Expenditures*	
Total Expenditures	

** Irish-sourced expenditures represent goods or services purchased in Ireland as opposed to imported*

7. Please provide your views on the significance or otherwise of the following specific aspects of the social and economic impacts and value of Youth Work Programmes and Services delivered by your organisation. Please tick (☑) under each aspect below:

Aspects of Economic Value and Impact of Youth Work Programmes and Services	Very Significant Impact	Significant Impact	Minor Impact	No Impact
Helping to Expand Labour Market and Other Economic Opportunities for Young People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping Young People to Gain Education and Training Qualifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping Young People to Gain Practical Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping to Address Socio-Economic Disadvantage in Local Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping to Reduce Costs associated with Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping to Reduce Health and Social Care Costs associated with Substance Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helping to Promote Equal Economic Opportunity between Women and Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for completing this information request. If you have any queries re this information request, please contact William Batt at Indecon, E-mail: whbatt@indecon.ie or Tel: (01) 6777144.

ANNEX 4.0

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS FROM REVIEW OF RESEARCH

Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. and Pennucci, A. (2004)⁵⁶

Table 1: Summary of Benefits and Costs (2003 Dollars)

Estimates as of September 17, 2004	Measured Benefits and Costs Per Youth			
	Benefits (1)	Costs (2)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost(3)	Benefits Minus Costs (4)
Pre-Kindergarten Education Programmes				
Early Childhood Education for Low Income 3- and 4-Year-Olds*	\$17,202	\$7,301	\$2.36	\$9,901
HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters)	\$3,313	\$1,837	\$1.80	\$1,476
Parents as Teachers	\$4,300	\$3,500	\$1.23	\$800
Parent - Child Home Program	\$0	\$3,890	\$0.00	-\$3,890
Even Start	\$0	\$4,863	\$0.00	-\$4,863
Early Head Start	\$4,768	\$20,972	\$0.23	-\$16,203
Child Welfare / Home Visitation Programs				
Nurse Family Partnership for Low Income Women	\$26,298	\$9,118	\$2.88	\$17,180
Home Visiting Programs for At-risk Mothers and Children*	\$10,969	\$4,892	\$2.24	\$6,077
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	\$4,724	\$1,296	\$3.64	\$3,427
Healthy Families America	\$2,052	\$3,314	\$0.62	-\$1,263
Systems of Care/Wraparound Programs*	\$0	\$1,914	\$0.00	-\$1,914
Family Preservation Services (excluding Washington)*	\$0	\$2,531	\$0.00	-\$2,531
Comprehensive Child and Development Program	-\$9	\$37,388	\$0.00	-\$37,397
The Infant Health and Development Program	\$0	\$49,021	\$0.00	-\$49,021

⁵⁶: Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. and Pennucci, A. (2004). *Benefits and costs of prevention and early intervention programs for youth*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Continued: Table 1: Summary of Benefits and Costs (2003 Dollars)

Estimates as of September 17, 2004	Measured Benefits and Costs Per Youth			
	Benefits (1)	Costs (2)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost(3)	Benefits Minus Costs (4)
Youth Development Programs				
Seattle Social Development Project	\$14,426	\$4,590	\$3.14	\$9,837
Guiding Good Choices (formerly PDFY)	\$7,605	\$687	\$11.07	\$6,918
Strengthening Families Program for Parents and Youth 10-14	\$6,656	\$851	\$7.82	\$5,805
Child Development Project ‡	\$448	\$16	\$28.42	\$432
Good Behaviour Game ‡	\$204	\$8	\$25.92	\$196
CASASTART (Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows)	\$4,949	\$5,559	\$0.89	-\$610
Mentoring Programs				
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	\$4,058	\$4,010	\$1.01	\$48
Big Brothers / Big Sisters (taxpayer cost only)	\$4,058	\$1,236	\$3.28	\$2,822
Quantum Opportunities Program	\$10,900	\$25,921	\$0.42	-\$15,022
Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Programs				
Adolescent Transitions Program ‡	\$2,420	\$482	\$5.02	\$1,938
Project Northland ‡	\$1,575	\$152	\$10.39	\$1,423
Family Matters	\$1,247	\$156	\$8.02	\$1,092
Life Skills Training (LST) ‡	\$746	\$29	\$25.61	\$717
Project STAR (Students Taught Awareness and Resistance) ‡	\$856	\$162	\$5.29	\$694
Minnesota Smoking Prevention Program ‡	\$511	\$5	\$102.29	\$506
Other Social Influence / Skills Building Substance Prevention Programs	\$492	\$7	\$70.34	\$485
Project Towards No Tobacco Use (TNT) ‡	\$279	\$5	\$55.84	\$274

Continued: Table 1: Summary of Benefits and Costs (2003 Dollars)

Estimates as of September 17, 2004	Measured Benefits and Costs Per Youth			
	Benefits (1)	Costs (2)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost (3)	Benefits Minus Costs (4)
Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Programs (Continued)				
All Stars †	\$169	\$49	\$3.43	\$120
Project ALERT (Adolescent Learning Exp. In Resistance Training) †	\$58	\$3	\$18.02	\$54
STARS for Families (Start Taking Alcohol Risks Seriously)	\$0	\$18	\$0.00	-\$18
D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) #	\$0	\$99	\$0.00	-\$99
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs				
Teen Outreach Program	\$801	\$620	\$1.29	\$181
Reducing the Risk Program †	\$0	\$13	\$0.00	-\$13
Postponing Sexual Involvement Program †	-\$45	\$9	-\$5.07	-\$54
Teen Talk	\$0	\$81	\$0.00	-\$81
School-based Clinics for Pregnancy Prevention*	\$0	\$805	\$0.00	-\$805
Adolescent Sibling Pregnancies Prevention Project	\$709	\$3,350	\$0.21	-\$2,641
Children's Aid Society-Carrera Project	\$2,409	\$11,501	\$0.21	-\$9,093
Juvenile Offender Programs				
Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (in Washington)	\$32,087	\$843	\$38.05	\$31,243
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (v. regular group care)	\$26,748	\$2,459	\$10.88	\$24,290
Washington Basic Training Camp §	\$14,778	-\$7,586	/o	\$22,364
Adolescent Diversion Project	\$24,067	\$1,777	\$13.54	\$22,290
Functional Family Therapy (in Washington)	\$16,455	\$2,140	\$7.69	\$14,315
Other Family-Based Therapy Programs for Juvenile Offenders*	\$14,061	\$1,620	\$8.68	\$12,441
Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	\$14,996	\$5,681	\$2.64	\$9,316

Continued: Table 1: Summary of Benefits and Costs (2003 Dollars)

Estimates as of September 17, 2004	Measured Benefits and Costs Per Youth			
	Benefits (1)	Costs (2)	Benefits per Dollar of Cost(3)	Benefits Minus Costs (4)
Aggression Replacement Training (in Washington)	\$9,564	\$759	\$12.60	\$8,805
Juvenile Offender Interagency Coordination Programs*	\$8,659	\$559	\$15.48	\$8,100
Mentoring in the Juvenile Justice System (in Washington)	\$11,544	\$6,471	\$1.78	\$5,073
Diversion Progs. with Services (v. regular juvenile court processing)*	\$2,272	\$408	\$5.58	\$1,865
Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision Programs*	\$0	\$1,482	\$0.00	-\$1,482
Juvenile Intensive Parole (in Washington)	\$0	\$5,992	\$0.00	-\$5,992
Scared Straight	-\$11,002	\$54	-\$203.51	-\$11,056
Regular Parole (v. not having parole)	-\$10,379	\$2,098	\$4.95	-\$12,478
Other National Programs				
Functional Family Therapy (excluding Washington)	\$28,356	\$2,140	\$13.25	\$26,216
Aggression Replacement Training (excluding Washington)	\$15,606	\$759	\$20.56	\$14,846
Juvenile Boot Camps (excluding Washington)* §	\$0	-\$8,474	n/a	\$8,474
Juvenile Intensive Parole Supervision (excluding Washington)*	\$0	\$5,992	\$0.00	-\$5,992

Source: S. Aos, R. Lieb, J. Mayfield, M. Miller, A. Pennucci. (2004). *Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, available at <<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/04-07-3901.pdf>>.

More detail is presented in the Appendix to this report, available at <<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/04-07-3901a.pdf>>. The values on this table are estimates of present-valued benefits and costs of each program with statistically significant results with respect to crime, education, substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, and public assistance. Many of these programs have achieved outcomes in addition to those for which we are currently able to estimate monetary benefits. †Cost estimates for these programs do not include the costs incurred by teachers who might otherwise be engaged in other productive teaching activities. Estimates of these opportunity costs will be included in future revisions. *Programs marked with an asterisk are the average effects for a group of programs; programs without an asterisk refer to individual programs.

Source: Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. and Pennucci, A. (2004). *Benefits and costs of prevention and early intervention programs for youth*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Structures of Youth Work*

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Italy
Institutions		No data		No data	No data
Public	18%		11%		
Non-Public	18%		89%		
Semi-Public	23%		0%		
Voluntary	38%		0%		
For Profit	0%		0%		
Main activities	No data	No data			No data
Extracurricular youth education			16%	23%	
Recreation			8%	46%	
Open youth work/clubs			11%	2%	
Participation			45%	7%	
Sports			14%	6%	
Youth counselling			3%	2%	
Youth information			0%	2%	
Prevention of social exclusion			3%	3%	
International youth work			0%	8%	
Budget	Different sources – public budget public spending (43%), membership fees (26%) and miscellaneous sources (21%)	No data	€6,436,418 municipal funds 0.5 to 0.7 of total municipal public budget**	About 11m 7.75% of the municipal budget	No data

57: Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) "The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe", Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Continued: Structures of Youth Work*

	The Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Institutions			No data	
Public	3%	18%		60%
Non-Public	65%			20%
Semi-Public	10%			20%
Voluntary	0%	82%		0%
For Profit	13%			
Main activities				
Extracurricular youth education	11%	28%	45%	23%
Recreation	19%	3%	17%	52%
Open youth work/clubs	12%	9%	3%	1%
Participation	0%	15%	0%	8%
Sports	47%	38%	6%	12%
Youth counselling	2%	0%	0%	0%
Youth information	0%	1%	26%	0%
Prevention of social exclusion	8%	6%	1%	20%
International youth work	0%	1%	0%	1%
Budget	About €4.5m 30% membership fees, 25% participation fees, 17% sponsoring, 15% municipal funds	No complete data	About €450,000 European national and municipal funds each 1/3 of the sum	About €2.5m 70% public funds

*This table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports.

**0,5% refers to the municipality of Lingen; 0,75% to the municipality of Lübeck.

Source: Table 66 from Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) "The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe", Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Comparative Overview of Youth Workers*

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Italy
Youth workers	12%	No data	3.1%	52%	No data
Female	60%		No data	52%	
Male	40%			48%	
Qualification	No data	No data	No data		No data
Higher education				53%	
Professional School				5%	
No formal education				43%	
No answer				0%	
Status					
Full-time			34%	60%	
Part-time			6%	4%	
Other			59%	36%	
No answer			0%	0%	
Volunteers	88%	No data	96.9%	48%	No data
Training	71%	No data			No data

Continued: Comparative Overview of Youth Workers*

	The Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Youth workers	8%		No data	25%
Female	60%	88%	75%	63%
Male	40%	12%	35%	37%
Qualification		No data	No data	
Higher education	78%			31%
Professional School	22%			44%
No formal education	0%			25%
No answer	80%			81%
Status				
Full-time	3%	88%	100%	60%
Part-time	6%		0%	8%
Other	91%		0%	18%
No answer	0%		0%	82%
Volunteers	92%	No data	No data	75%
Training	37%	No data	No data	No data

**This table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports.*

Source: Table 67 from Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) "The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe", Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Comparative Overview of Participants in Youth Work*

	Austria	Estonia	Germany	Greece	Italy
Percentage of Participants	No data		No data		No data
1st activity				Extra curricular youth education 29%	
2nd activity				Recreation 24%	
3rd activity				Open youth work/clubs 19%	
Participants by sex	No data		No data		
Female				48%	
Male				52%	
Age			No data	No data	
13-14 years	50%				
15-19 years	32%				
20-24 years	13%				
25-30 years	5%				
No answer					

Continued: Comparative Overview of Participants in Youth Work*

	The Netherlands	Norway	Romania	Spain
Percentage of Participants				
1st activity	Sports 74%	Sports 39%	Extra curricular youth education 68%	Recreation 28%
2nd activity	Recreation 10%	Recreation 23%	Youth information 22%	Sports 26%
3rd activity	Extra curricular youth education 10%	Participation/peer counselling 15%	Sports 6%	Youth counselling 22%
Participants by sex				
Female	46%	44%	No data	
Male	54%	56%	No data	
Age				
13-14 years	40%	25%	No data	
15-19 years	37%	75%	No data	
20-24 years	6%	Not surveyed	No data	
25-30 years	9%	Not surveyed	No data	
No answer	8%		No data	

**This table lists the findings of local surveys, thus the figures given depend on the selection of municipalities and the restrictions declared in the national local survey reports.*

Source: Table 68 from Institute for Social Work and Social Education (2007) "The Socio-economic Scope of Youth Work in Europe", Study commissioned by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010)⁵⁸
The Economic Costs Attributable to the NEET Population

Current Costs	Resource Cost	Public Finance
Educational Underachievement		
Unemployed	£79,366,751	£1,199,238,148
Underemployed	£32,016,602	
Unemployment	£429,680,191	
Inactivity	£766,541,549	
Teenage Mothers	£432,843,048	£453,866,079
Crime	£61,382,528	£7,819,683
Poor Health	£413,022	£413,022
Substance Misuse	£1,335,458	£1,335,458
Sub-Total	£1,803,579,148	£1,662,672,388
Medium term costs		
Educational Underachievement (low estimate)	£2,221,895,298	£7,216,038,780
Unemployment (low estimate)	£16,928,726,082	
Educational Underachievement (high estimate)	£8,606,225,493	£27,950,397,552
Unemployment (high estimate)	£65,571,241,853	
Early Motherhood	£282,863,048	£2,185,747,288
Crime	£461,052,180	£67,309,377
Poor Health	£7,759,321	£7,759,321
Substance abuse	£11,495,200	£11,495,200
Sub-totals (low estimate)	£19,913,791,129	£9,488,349,966
Sub-totals (high estimate)	£74,940,637,095	£30,222,708,738
Long term costs		
Tax loss		£383,339,717
Additional benefits		£187,225,963
Sub-total		£570,565,680
FINAL TOTAL (low estimate)	£21,717,370,278	£11,721,588,036
(high estimate)	£76,744,216,244	£32,455,946,808

Source: Table 4.2 from Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

58: Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

Costing of 'NEET' up to the Age of 25

Case Study	Intervention costs	Welfare costs Only	Contributions £ NI+ direct tax	Lost contribution £ (NI+ D tax lost)	Total public finance cost £ (a+b+d)	Difference between B and A types
Baseline: Eve	2,340	0	41,309	13,770	16,110	
Chumer: Simon	0	15,701	45,136	27,082	42,783	
College drop out: Tom	0	12,467	18,054	54,163	66,630	
SEN: Dan A	22,000	0	18,054	54,163	76,163	42,103
Dan B	11,371	34,667	0	72,218	118,266	
Teenage mums: Sophie A	4,100	67,592	27,539	27,539	99,231	153,081
Sophie B (based on adoptions)	3,500	193,734	0	55,078	252,312	
Young carers: Sam A	265,410	11,333	18,054	54,163	330,906	-226,910
Sam B	1,170	44,149	13,541	58,677	103,996	
Young offenders: Tariq A	7,049	31,697	22,568	49,650	88,396	193,933
Tariq B	2,380	207,731	0	72,218	282,329	
Care leavers: Neeha A	49,847	90,141	6,885	48,194	188,182	-3,880
Neeha B	7,990	121,234	0	55,078	184,302	
Freidrick A	35,753	32,067	0	72,218	140,038	n/a
Freidrick B (up to 21 only)	34,387	13,480	0	36,109	83,976	
Pre-16: Amy A	21,424	0	20,654	34,424	55,848	
Amy B aka Sophie B cp A	3,500	193,734	0	55,078	252,312	196,464
Amy B aka Tariq B* cp A	2,380	207,731	0	55,078	265,189	209,341
Amy B aka Sophie B cp C	3,500	193,734	0	55,078	252,312	193,049
Amy B aka Tariq B* cp C	2,380	207,731	0	55,078	265,189	205,926
Amy C	20,947	10,777	27,539	27,539	59,263	3,415

Notes: *Female equivalent.

Intervention costs include: Connexion PA, client-specific programmes, leaving care cost, E2E, EMA.

Welfare costs include: mean-tested/non-mean-tested welfare benefits, residential care for child, childcare proceedings/conference, and criminal justice (incl. imprisonment).

Source: Table 7.4 from Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

Differential Public Finance Cost of Type A and B Scenarios for Case Studies

Case Study	Intervention Costs	Public Finance Cost up to Age 25	Life-time Public Finance Cost
SEN: Dan A	22,000	76,163	76,163
Dan B	11,371	118,266	641,984
Difference Dan B – Dan A	-10,629	42,103	565,821
Teenage mums:			
Sophie A	4,100	99,231	207,292
Sophie B (assume adoption)	3,500	252,312	286,736
Sophie B (assume fostered)		506,592	947,864
Difference Sophie B – Sophie A	-600		
Assume adoption		153,081	79,444
Assume fostered		407,361	740,572
Young carers: Sam A	265,410	330,906	330,906
Sam B	1,170	103,996	387,563
Difference Sam B – Sam A	-264,240	-226,910	56,657
Young offenders: Tariq A	7,049	88,396	315,715
Tariq B	2,380	282,329	2,371,067
Difference Tariq B – Tariq A	-4,669	193,933	2,055,352
Care leavers: Neeha A	49,847	188,182	443,801
Neeha B	7,990	184,302	613,407
Difference Neeha B – Neeha A	-41,857	-3,880	169,606
Care leavers: Freidrick A	35,753	140,038	403,964
Freidrick B (to age 21)	34,387	83,976	2,216,653
Difference Freidrick B – Freidrick A	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pre-16: Amy A	21,424	55,848	116,444
Amy B1 (aka Sophie B)	3,500	252,312	947,864
Amy B2 (aka Tariq B – female equivalent)	2,380	265,189	2,293,941
Amy C	20,947	59,263	127,389
Difference Amy B1 – Amy A	-17,924	196,464	831,420
Difference Amy B2 – Amy A	-19,044	209,341	2,177,497
Difference Amy C – Amy A	-477	3,415	10,945

Notes: Life-time public finance cost = intervention + welfare costs + lost contribution

Unless otherwise specified, all costing of tax and NI contributions in the case studies are based on the national average earnings with no discounting.

Source: Table 7.5 from Coles, B., Godfrey, C., Keung, A., Parrott, S. and Bradshaw, J. (2010) "Estimating the life-time cost of NEET: 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training", Research undertaken for the Audit Commission, University of York.

Murphy, C (2010)⁵⁹

Reducing Crime with evidence based options: what works and analysis of benefits and costs

Type of Programme	Effect on Crime Outcome and the Number of Evidence-based Studies on which the Estimate is based (in Parentheses)	Benefits to Crime Victims (of the Reduction in Crime)	Benefits to Taxpayers (of the Reduction in Crime)	Costs (Marginal Programme Cost, Compared to the Cost of Alternative)	Benefits (Total) Minus costs (per participant)
Pre-kindergarten education for low income 3 and 4 year olds	-16.8% (8)	\$9,882	\$5,579	\$612	\$14,848
Nurse family partnership: Children	-15.7% (1)	\$8,515	\$4,808	\$756	\$12,567
Nurse family partnership: Mothers	-38.2% (1)	\$8,093	\$5,676	\$5,580	\$8,189
Guiding good choices	-7.2% (1)	\$959	\$1,627	n/e	n/e
High school graduation	-21.1% (1)	\$3,647	\$5,915	n/e	n/e
Parent-child interaction therapy	-5.1% (1)	\$1,793	\$994	n/e	n/e
Seattle social development project	-15.7% (1)	\$1,793	\$3,652	n/e	n/e

Note: n/e = not estimated at this time. This table was taken from Drake et al (2009).

Source: Table 3.7 from Murphy, C. (2010), "From Justice to Welfare: the Case for investment in Prevention and Early intervention", CM Advice Ltd., Dublin : Irish Penal Reform Trust, Barnardos and the Irish Association of Young People in Care.

59: Murphy, C., (2010), "From Justice to Welfare: the Case for investment in Prevention and Early intervention", CM Advice Ltd., Dublin: Irish Penal Reform Trust, Barnardos and the Irish Association of Young People in Care.

Department of Health (2011)⁶⁰

Medium-term Returns on Investment (Years 2-5): Economic Pay-offs per £1 expenditure ab

	NHS	Other Public Sector	Non-Public Sector	Total
Early identification and intervention as soon as mental disorder arises				
Early intervention for conduct disorder	0.13	0.13	0.05	0.30
Early detection of psychosis	1.74	0.32	3.37	5.43
Early intervention in psychosis	3.98	0.10	3.60	7.69
Screening for alcohol misuse	1.41	0.59	5.40	7.40
Suicide training courses provided to all GPs	0.03	0.01	21.15	21.19
Suicide prevention through bridge safety barriers	0.64	0.42	16.66	17.73
Promotion of mental health and prevention of mental disorder				
Prevention of conduct disorder through social and emotional learning programmes	5.39	9.42	33.49	48.30
School-based interventions to reduce bullying	0	0	0	0
Workplace health promotion programmes	-	-	-	-

Notes:

a: Returns on investment calculated as gross economic pay-offs divided by expenditure on the intervention. Depending on the availability of data, these returns may be calculated over different time periods for different interventions, see Section 2 and Tables 14-16 for details. Returns and expenditures discounted back to present values, expressed in 2009/10 prices.

b: Estimated returns for some interventions are not available for all years, see Section 2 for these details.

c: Estimates for this model only cover year 2, estimates for further years are not available

d: For e-learning of GPs, plus CBT for all people with somatoform conditions (including sub-threshold cases as well as those with full somatoform disorders)

Source: Table 15 from Department of Health (2011), "Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case", Knapp, M., McDaid, K., and Parsonage, M. (eds.) London: Department of Health

60: Department of Health (2011), "Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case", Knapp, M., McDaid, K., and Parsonage, M. (eds.) London: Department of Health

Long-term returns on Investment (Year 6 onwards): Economic Pay-offs per £1 expenditure ab

	NHS	Other Public Sector	Non-Public Sector	Total
Early identification and intervention as soon as mental disorder arises				
Early intervention for conduct disorder	0.81	1.52	4.98	7.31
Health visitor interventions to reduce postnatal depression	-	-	-	-
Early intervention for depression in diabetes	-	-	-	-
Early intervention for medically unexplained symptomsc	0	0	0	0
Early diagnosis and treatment of depression at work	-	-	-	-
Early detection of psychosis	1.88	0.47	3.48	5.84
Early intervention in psychosis	0	0.05	4.42	4.47
Screening for alcohol misuse	0.22	0.09	0.86	1.18
Suicide training courses provided to all GPs	0.01	0.01	3.74	3.76
Suicide prevention through bridge safety barriers	1.09	0.83	32.31	34.23
Promotion of mental health and prevention of mental disorder				
Prevention of conduct disorder through social and emotional learning programmes	3.75	7.25	23.48	34.48
School-based interventions to reduce bullying	0	0	14.35	14.35
Workplace health promotion programmes	-	-	-	-
Addressing social determinants and consequences of mental disorder				
Debt advice services	-	-	-	-
Befriending for older adults	-	-	-	-

Notes:

a: Returns on investment calculated as gross economic pay-offs divided by expenditure on the intervention. Depending on the availability of data, these returns may be calculated over different time periods for different interventions, see Section 2 and Tables 14-16 for details. Returns and expenditures discounted back to present values, expressed in 2009/10 prices.

b: Estimated returns for some interventions are not available for all years, see Section 2 for these details.

c: For e-learning of GPs, plus CBT for all people with somatoform conditions (including sub-threshold cases as well as those with full somatoform disorders).

Source: Table 16 from Department of Health (2011), "Mental health promotion and mental illness prevention: the economic case", Knapp, M., McDaid, K., and Parsonage, M. (eds.) London: Department of Health

Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E., and Spratt, S. (2009)⁶¹

The Comparative Costs of Social Problems in 16 Countries across Europe (£ billions)*

Index of Countries	Costs in £ billions
Finland	44.55
Denmark	84.94
Sweden	88.54
Austria	90.87
The Netherlands	97.24
Spain	98.70
France	108.11
Norway	107.03
Belgium	101.80
Germany	110.41
Ireland	116.07
Luxembourg	118.33
Greece	121.29
Portugal	118.16
Italy	118.87
United Kingdom	161.31

*Costs of social problems have been calculated based on UK cost equivalent

Source: Table 1 from Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009), "Backing the future: why investing in children is good for us all", London: New Economics Foundation.

61: Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009), "Backing the future: why investing in children is good for us all", London: New Economics Foundation.

Universal Childcare Provision and Funded Parental Leave:

Cumulative Costs and Savings from universal childcare provision and funded parental leave UK (£ billions)

	Cumulative 2020	Cumulative 2030
Targeted provision		
Intervention costs	191.40	191.40
Intervention savings		
Direct savings from intervention	436.83	436.83
Indirect savings (reduced poverty rates)	23.24	23.24
Total targeted savings	460.07	460.07
Net targeted intervention position	268.67	268.67
Universal provision		
Universal (fixed + running) costs	223.70	428.30
Intervention savings		
Universal savings from lower expenditure on transfer payments for child poverty	68.31	320.21
Universal post 2020 savings from lower costs through maintaining better outcomes	0.00	719.63
Total universal savings	68.31	1039.84
Net universal position	-155.39	611.54
Total new spending (targeted + universal)	415.10	619.70
Total savings	528.38	1499.91
Net savings	113.28	880.21

Source: Table 4 from Aked, J., Steuer, N., Lawlor, E. and Spratt, S. (2009), "Backing the future: why investing in children is good for us all", London: New Economics Foundation.

Morgan Harris Burrows (2003)⁶²

Percentage change in crime in the neighbourhood

	% change in crime in the YIP area
Pre-implementation to Year 1 (n=59)	+3.6%
Year 1 to 2 (n=57)	+7.9%
Overall % change in crime (Pre-implementation to Year 2) n=56	11.4%

Source: Table 7.1 from Morgan Harris Burrows (2003), "Evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme - End of phase one report" London: Youth Justice Board.

62: Morgan Harris Burrows (2003), "Evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme - End of phase one report" London: Youth Justice Board.

Percentage change in crime in the neighbourhood from pre implementation to Year 2, for four key crime types (n=40)

	Actual % change	% change taking into account changes in host force
Violence against the Person	15%	4%
Robbery	54%	8%
Burglary	7%	6%
Criminal Damage	18%	5%

Source: Table 7.3 from Morgan Harris Burrows (2003), "Evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme - End of phase one report" London: Youth Justice Board.

Calculating the optimum number of offenses committed by member of the 'top 50' to achieve the crime reduction effect

	Recorded offenses
Recorded crime in the neighbourhood for 12 months (12 months to the 'go-live' date, based on 56 projects)	88,594
Average number of recorded crimes per neighbourhood for 12 months (total divided by 56)	1,582
30% reduction in recorded crime per neighbourhood (30% of 1,582)	-475
Optimum number of offenses committed per member of the 'top 50' engaged (assume 59 young people engaged)	-8

Source: Table 7.4 from Morgan Harris Burrows (2003), "Evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme - End of phase one report" London: Youth Justice Board.

Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002)⁶³

Notional Economic Value - Calculations based on a notional total number of hours completed

	Starts	Awards	Notional hours to date*	Investment = funding allocated 1998-2002 (£)	Cost per MV (£)	Value @ £10.66 multiplied by notional hours to date (£)	Value @ £10.66 per MV (£)	Balance @ £10.66 minus investment (£)	Balance based on value @ £10.66 minus investment (£)	Ratio = value @ £10.66 versus investment (£)	Value = @ £7.11 *** multiplied by notional hours to date	Balance = value @ £7.11 minus investment (£)	Ratio = value @ £7.11 versus investment (£)		
NI	992	560	198400	780000	786	1539304	1552	759304	765	2.0	1026684	1053	246684	249	1.3
England	53768	11574	10753600	36611000xx	681	58409871	1086	21798871	405	1.6	38958179	725	2347178	44	1.1
Scotland	2584	519	516800	2195000	849	2757476	1067	562476	218	1.3	1839179	712	-355821	-138	0.8
Wales	2488	416	497600	1063000	427	2543476	1022	1480476	595	2.4	1696446	682	633446	255	1.6
UK-wide	59832	13069	6121025	£40,649,000	£679	£65,250,127	£1,091	£24,601,127	£411	1:1.6	£43,520,488	£727	£2,871,487	£48	1:1

*Notional hours calculated according to formula: (Awards*200hours)+(Starts-Awards)*75 hours). 75 hours represents a notional number of hours for those who have started MV but are as yet to complete 200 hours, it encompasses those who will have exceed 100hours as well as those who dropped out of the scheme.

** Actual expenditure for 1998-2001 plus forecasted expenditure for 2001-2002.

*** The formula of two-thirds the average hourly wage rate of £10.66 as recommended in the government's cross-departmental review of the active community.

Source: Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002), "UK-Wide Evaluation of the Millennium Volunteers Programme", Research Report 357, Nottingham: Department for Education and Skills.

63: Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002), "UK-Wide Evaluation of the Millennium Volunteers Programme", Research Report 357, Nottingham: Department for Education and Skills.

Potential Economic Value - Calculations based on all those who have registered as MVs to date completing 200 hours

	Starts	Awards	Potential hours if all starts did 200 hours	Investment = funding allocated 1998-2002 (£)	Cost per MV hours to date (£)	Value @ £10.66 multiplied by notional hours to date (£)	Balance = value @ £10.66 minus investment (£)	Ratio = value @ £10.66 versus investment (£)	Value = @ £7.11 multiplied by potential hours if all complete (£)	Balance = value @ £7.11 minus investment (£)	Ratio = value @ £7.11 versus investment (£)	
NI	992	560	198400	780000	786	2114944	1334944	1346	1410624	630624	636	1.8
England	53768	11574	10753600	36611000	681	114633376	78022376	1451	76458096	39847096	741	2.1
Scotland	2584	519	516800	2195000	849	5509088	3314088	1283	3674448	1479448	573	1.7
Wales	2488	416	497600	1063000	427	5304416	4241416	1705	3537936	2474936	995	3.3
UK-wide	59832	13069	11966400	£40,649,000	£679	£127,561,824	£2,132	£86,912,824	£85,081,104	£44,432,104	£743	01:02.1

Source: Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002), "UK-Wide Evaluation of the Millennium Volunteers Programme", Research Report 357, Nottingham: Department for Education and Skills.

Cost-benefit analysis of 13 England Projects

	Target no. of Plans (A)	Target no. of Certs (B)	Target no. of Award (C)	Notional total number of hours* (D)	Notional economic value (£) based on average hourly wage rate @ £10.66	Notional economic value (£) based on 2/3 of average hourly wage rate at £7.11**	Notional economic value based on average hourly wage rate for 18-24 year olds (2000 figures) @ £5.19
Organisation 1	571	460	423	93850	1000441	667274	487082
Organisation 2	200	160	150	33000	351780	234630	171270
Organisation 3	255	217	204	44000	469040	312840	228360
Organisation 4	150	120	96	23100	246246	164241	119889
Organisation 5	300	240	230	50000	533000	355500	259500
Organisation 6	410	328	295	66400	707824	472104	344616
Organisation 7	300	240	210	48000	511680	341280	249120
Organisation 8	430	375	300	70250	748865	499478	364598
Organisation 9	800	650	560	128500	1369810	913635	666915
Organisation 10	540	432	378	86400	921024	614304	448416
Organisation 11	240	180	150	36000	383760	255960	186840
Organisation 12	250	200	175	40000	426400	284400	207600
Organisation 13	75	69	60	13200	140712	93852	68508
Total	4521	3671	3231	732700	£7,810,582	£5,209,497	£3,802,713
Ave per project					£600,814	£400,731	£292,516
Ave per MV					£1,728	£1,152	£841

* Based on a nominal calculation of: $D = (Awards * 200 \text{ hours}) + ((Certificates - Awards) * 100) + (Volunteer Plans - certificates * 50)$ NB - a nominal figure of 50 hours has been attributed to those MVs who have completed a Volunteer Plan but have not continued on to complete a Certificate or Award.

**The formula of two-thirds the average hourly wage rate of £10.66 as recommended in the government's cross-departmental review of the active community.

Notional economic value based on minimum wage @ £4.10	Total funding (investment) (£)	Balance = value @ £10.66 minus investment (£)	Balance per MV based on value @ £10.66 minus investment	Ratio - value @ £10.66 versus investment	Balance = value @ £7.11 minus investment (£)	Balance per MV *** based on value @ £7.11 per hour minus investment	Ratio - value @ £7.11 versus investment
384785	392971	1133541	1985	4	274303	480	2
135300	149747	202033	1010	2	84883	424	2
180400	159069	309971	1216	3	153771	603	2
94710	84392	161854	1079	3	79849	532	2
205000	210002	322998	1077	3	145498	485	2
272240	299982	407842	995	2	172122	420	2
196800	204069	307611	1025	3	137211	457	2
288025	182214	566651	1318	4	317264	738	3
526850	426000	943810	1180	3	487635	610	2
354240	204308	716716	1327	5	409996	759	3
147600	183732	200028	833	2	72228	301	1
164000	142010	284390	1138	3	142390	570	2
54120	59999	80713	1076	2	33853	451	2
£3,004,070	£2,698,495	£5,638,158		Av. 1:3	£2,511,002		Av. 1:2
£231,082	£207,577						
£664	£597		£1,174			£525	

***Number of volunteers taken as number of Volunteer Plans.

Source: Davis Smith, J., Ellis, A. and Howlett, S. (2002), "UK-Wide Evaluation of the Millennium Volunteers Programme", Research Report 357, Nottingham: Department for Education and Skills.

The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for national voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland. It represents and supports the interests of voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.

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