

## ANNUAL NEWS BULLETIN

2005



### NEWS & EVENTS pages 2 – 3

Video wins award for young people  
Conference explores service needs of asylum seekers  
Inter-agency network's open day  
Domestic violence publicity campaign  
Urban Arts festival  
Student placement experience

### SERVICES & RESOURCES pages 4 – 6

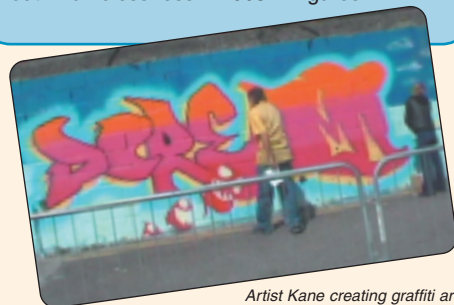
LSH active in European network  
Parent Support programme  
Youth Homelessness Forum  
Human trafficking  
Sexual Health Centre  
Adolescent Sexual Health Service  
Clubs for teens  
BTEI at Meitheal Mara  
Beech's Story  
Youth Health Service

### ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS page 7

Where can young people stay?  
Can you provide a home?  
Our experience of providing a home

### ABOUT US page 8

About Liberty Street House  
2005 administration report  
The team at LSH  
Youth homelessness – 2005 in figures



Artist Kane creating graffiti art at White Street Car Park during the Urban Arts festival organised by Cork 2005.

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our Annual News Bulletin – our way of letting you know what we do and what's been happening over the past year at Liberty Street House.

Inside, we have tried to avoid our usual mantra when talking about our services – that Liberty Street House was set up in 1995 by the SHB as the Homeless Adolescent Unit in response to Section 5 of the Child Care Act 1991, etc! Instead, we bring you highlights of 2005; an overview of the activities and programmes we are involved in; details on accommodation options in place at present and contact details if you need to get in touch with us. We hope you get a real sense of how Liberty Street House aims to meet our core objective of providing services to young people who are out of home.

I would like to thank our colleagues in the HSE South for their ongoing support in particular Pathways and the area Social Worker Teams. Our work is equally dependent on the partnership approach we have with other services, including; the Good Shepherd Services, Wellsprings, Cork Simon Community, Meitheal Mara, YMCA, VEC, UCC, Northside and Southside Network Groups.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter, in particular; Cathleen Callanan, Child Care Manager, Kieran Campbell, Manager of Pathways and Kenneth Burns, UCC.

BRIGETTE MINTERN *Principal Social Worker*

*Failte go LSH. Seo chugaibh nuachtlitir LSH. Cuireann LSH serbhís ar fáil do deagóirí gan dídean agus deagóirí i mbaol a bheith gan dídean.*

*Deannainn muid iarracht dul i gceann ar riachtanais praicticiúil, maoithneach, 's sóisialta na daoine óige ag baint úsáid as stíl solúbtha chun na daoine óige a tharraingt isteach sa seirbhís.*

*Seo seans duinn cur síos a thabhairt ar cinn dos na rudaí spéisiúil atá cúrtha ar bun againn le bliain anuais.*

*Tá súil againn go mbaineadh sibh taithneamh as. Slán go Foill!*

Here is the LSH Newsletter. LSH offers a service to teenagers who are out of home and teenagers who are in danger of being out of home.

We endeavor to meet the emotional, practical and social needs of the young people using a broad flexible approach to engage the young people.

This is a chance for us to keep you posted on some of the exciting events which happened in the last year.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Goodbye for now.

AILIS NI CHÁRTHAIGH *Social Worker*

## Who are the children behind the statistics?

Over the past 10 years, children have been arriving on our shores seeking asylum because of fear of persecution or lack of protection due to human rights violations, armed conflict or disturbances in their own country. They may be victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or other abuse, or they may have travelled to Ireland to escape conditions of serious deprivation. This is their story:

Ash (not his real name) arrived in Pathways last summer. While we were

celebrating our fine weather, he was in a misty and foggy place. His journey to Ireland had been along the back roads of Europe, the fleeing of his country had been traumatic and his arrival in Ireland was full of fear and uncertainty. Such were his traumas that Ash no longer remembered his mother's face – this loss was the most painful for him. He journeys through Pathways in a miasma of fog and mist, others walk with him – young people from Ireland and abroad, staff stick by him as a voice, a face, a

presence, as a substitute family. He gets ready to leave; a family has been found whom he can live with, he looks forward to living with a family. Ash buys staff chocolate, writes a lovely card of thanks; he goes to his favourite staff member and tells her he can now remember his mother's face.

KIERAN CAMPBELL  
Manager of Pathways

*See Beech's story on page 6.*





## Video wins award for young people

A group of young people separated and seeking asylum who worked with Liberty Street House in producing a video were runners up in the Cork City Garda Division Youth Awards 2005. The group received certificates from the Lord Mayor for their contribution to the community in the City Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> January last.

The video was developed originally as a presentation for the Guests of the Nation? conference last year and in it five young people present personal perspectives of separated children seeking asylum in HSE South. The content covers the main issues that the group agreed were pertinent to all of them:

- The asylum process
- Accommodation
- Education
- Racism.

At times during production, the discussions were difficult for the young people to take part in but they remained supportive and sympathetic to each other throughout the process. Well done and CONGRATULATIONS to each one of them!

LYN DORNEY *Social Worker*  
and KATRINA KING *Team Leader*

## Conference explores service needs of asylum seekers



Kenneth Burns, UCC, Aurora Imanzi, Andrei Gratzui and Brigitte Mintern, principal social worker, Liberty Street House

The Department of Applied Social Studies and the Health Service Executive South facilitated a national conference in April 2005 to critically look at how Ireland manages access to its borders and services. The questions associated with how nation states should respond to persons

seeking refuge and sanctuary, from war, oppressive regimes and religious, political or moral persecution, have been a significant topic of recent public and political debate. While international treaties have made it easier to travel for business, vacation, and study, barriers between nation states have become less fluid for some. The Guests of the Nation? conference examined the implications of this new service user group for the profile and delivery of community and social services. Service responses to this group of users, user narratives and best practice initiatives in Ireland and elsewhere were also explored. This conference initiative signified the importance of partnerships between the University and the HSE in examining and responding to contemporary practice themes. The next phase of this partnership will see the publication of the conference papers in a special edition of the Irish Journal of Applied Social Studies later in 2006. The publication will develop our knowledgebase in the area of asylum and contribute to debates on social policy and legislative developments in Ireland.

KENNETH BURNS  
*Department of Applied Social Studies, UCC*

## Inter-agency network's open day

The inter-agency network of service providers to young people who are out of home includes; Liberty Street House, Pathways, Riverview and Wellsprings. The network held an open day at Liberty Street House last December to raise awareness of the accommodation options and services offered to young people under eighteen. Each agency had a stand and staff available to provide information on all services.

We, as an interagency forum, welcomed the opportunity of discussing, advising and informing colleagues in the statutory and voluntary sector of the referral process and services each agency offers to these young people.

The open day was well attended and achieved its purpose with a festive aspect also added giving visitors the chance to mingle over coffee and mince pies.

SUE BROSAN *Child Care Worker*

## Domestic violence publicity campaign

Last December, the Domestic Violence Social Work Service took part in a publicity campaign to promote domestic violence support services in Cork city and county. The Cork Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Group, of which our service is a member, spent a day at Mahon Point Shopping Centre where we set-up an information stand with literature on all available services in Cork and Kerry. This was our local contribution to an international campaign called '16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women'.

Service providers took the opportunity on the day to inform people of their work and used the publicity to remind people of the reality of continuing domestic violence in our communities.

The international 16-day campaign runs every year from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December. It started in 1991 and now has over 2000 organisations from over 130 countries participating. In 1999, the United Nations officially recognised 25<sup>th</sup> November as the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'.

The aims of the campaign are:

- To highlight the prevalence of violence against women
- To raise awareness of violence against women as a human rights issue at local, national and international level
- To show the solidarity of women around the world organising to challenge violence against women
- To work towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

The Domestic Violence Social Work Service welcomed being involved and aims to participate in events again later this year including 'Violence against Women 365 International Poster Exhibition' which will be held in Cork from the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2006.

JOAN MURPHY *and* EIBHLIN FLEMING  
*Domestic Violence Social Workers*

## Urban Arts festival



Cork was the European Capital of Culture in 2005 and one of the events supported and funded by the City of Culture was a course in graffiti art for Liberty Street House. Five boys, one girl and I were given the chance to learn about and practice graffiti art in a course run over two months in Meitheal Mara and taught patiently by renowned local artist Dex.

The culmination of the hard work was a chance for our young artists to rub shoulders with the best graffiti artists in Europe over an Urban Arts Festival weekend in May. As part of this festival, Liberty Street House held an Open Day at White Street car park on May 27<sup>th</sup>, which featured urban music, video presentations and of course graffiti art itself.

The event was supported by established graffiti artists, the local media and of course the young people and staff of Liberty Street House, who all added their 'tags' (signatures) to a portable graffiti wall.

Thanks to Ann and Dee from Cork City of Culture and to Meitheal Mara especially Marie, Denise and Pdraig who let us cover their outside wall in graffiti art. Also thanks to Dex and the young people who participated in the course.

TIM O'BRIEN *Child Care Worker*



BERNADETTE PHELAN  
*student social care worker*

## STUDENT PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

"I am a third year Social Care student at Cork Institute of Technology and I am currently on placement in Liberty Street House for two days per week for the academic year. This is very useful experience in that it allows me to integrate my academic learning more effectively with practice.

Liberty Street House has offered me the opportunity to learn in a welcoming environment, within a multidisciplinary team offering a range of services. I have gained knowledge in such areas as responding to young people out of home (or at risk of being so) and separated children seeking asylum in terms of emotional, financial and practical supports provided. The placement has provided learning opportunities regarding the issues facing the client group, experience in assessment and in accessing appropriate services and networking with other agencies. I have also familiarised myself with the relevant legislation and gained insight and information on sexual health, domestic violence and supported accommodation.

The Social Care student can, by working with a Child Care Leader on a day-to-day basis, gain an understanding of their role while working with young people and their management of caseloads.

At Liberty Street House, I have had the chance to work with Social Workers, both in its service and co-working with other social work departments. I have also benefited from networking with other agencies providing services to young people out of home."



## LSH active in European network



From left to right: Carolina Romero Sanchez, IRIS coordinator; Josefa Maria Sanchez, councillor with responsibility for youth policies; Juan Morales Canovas, Lord Mayor of Totana and Alfredo Spositi, Roman municipality councillor

IRIS Youth Focus is a network created by professionals across Europe to facilitate the exchange of experiences between people working with young people who have been socially excluded. While the network has been active for the past few years with Liberty Street House joining in November 2004, it was officially launched in Spain at the end of last year.

The network idea was developed following professional exchanges between agencies working with young people in Italy, Spain and Germany. It was then decided to formally create a network that would also facilitate youth exchanges.

During 2005, representatives from agencies in six countries met on three occasions to officially set up IRIS. This project includes agencies from Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Holland and Ireland. So far, Liberty Street House is the only Irish agency member. Bulgaria and Norway have also recently joined.

A website [www.irisyouthfocus.net](http://www.irisyouthfocus.net) is currently being developed to enable young people access information about the work of the different agencies and will include a database containing detailed information about different projects. The site will also feature a forum where professionals can discuss topics relating to their work and exchange ideas.

Further funding for the project is being sought from the European Union to continue developing IRIS over the next few years. It has also been agreed that each participating country will work towards presenting a substantial aspect of their work to the others during future meetings.

GIAN ANDREONI *Social Worker*

## Parent support programme

Parents Plus is a seven to eight week programme that gives parents the opportunity to discuss the difficulties in parenting teenagers; to learn from one another and to follow a programme which gives advice on ways of dealing with day-to-day issues.

Liberty Street House has run a number of these programmes. The most recent was with South Lee Social Work Team last year where social workers Fiona Geraghty and Frank Lingwood jointly facilitated a group of parents taken from the caseloads of each team. The feedback from participants was very positive and a further programme began in May 2006.

Developed in Dublin by John Sharry, Principal Social Worker at the Mater Hospital, the Parent Plus Programme is from an Irish perspective and is a very useful tool when working with parents.

FRANK LINGWOOD *Senior Social Worker*

## Youth Homelessness Forum

The Youth Homelessness Forum was set-up in 2004 as part of the Health Service Executive South's strategy to prevent youth homelessness. Membership of the Forum is made up of representatives from a wide range of voluntary and statutory bodies.

For the first year, the Forum divided itself into working groups that identified issues having a fundamental impact on homelessness, and made recommendations to the HSE and the Department of Health as to how these might be addressed. As a consequence of this work, the Forum intends to focus on the needs of the 18 to 25 year age group in 2006. While, strictly speaking, this group falls outside the definition of 'youth', the Forum has concerns about the vulnerability of this age group and intends to advance discussion in this area with colleagues involved with adult homelessness services.

Concerns also emerged about the vulnerability of young people with mild learning disability to homelessness, and the HSE has enhanced its

relationship with providers in the voluntary sector to investigate how this might be addressed in a practical manner.

In addition to the working groups, the Forum created new working relationships and strengthened existing ties between organisations with a common interest in preventing youth homelessness, e.g., the Vocational Education Committee, Cork Simon Community, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

During 2005, the Forum became aware of research that had been conducted in Dublin by Trinity College into the nature and incidence of youth homelessness in the city. The HSE invited the Trinity researchers to extend their research into Cork and Kerry and has established a research advisory group drawn from the Forum membership. This presents a unique opportunity to apply existing research to the local scene, while recognising that Cork and Kerry are likely to present quite different features than the Dublin street scene.

The Forum membership looks forward to continuing its work into 2006 and applying its collective experience and expertise to those young people vulnerable to homelessness.

CATHLEEN CALLANAN *Child Care Manager*

## Human trafficking



The trafficking of human beings, for the purpose of exploitation, is a very serious and a rapidly growing problem. The sexual exploitation of women and children is particularly concerning and has been the focus of much media interest in Ireland of late. While trafficking is a global issue, the problem is relatively new to Ireland and given the secretive nature of trafficking, the exact extent of the problem is extremely difficult to measure.

'Ireland en Route' is a multidisciplinary national forum set up in November 2000 to look at this issue and Liberty Street House is a member. The forum comprises of non-governmental organisations, academics, intergovernmental and statutory agencies, who work separately and jointly to address the problem of trafficking. The forum addresses issues such as:

- What is human trafficking?
- Who are the victims?
- How are people trafficked?
- What happens to victims?

These very questions are also addressed in a multimedia campaign being led by MTV. As part of this campaign, a DVD presented by Angelina Jolie was produced and this DVD is available on loan from Liberty Street House. It provides an excellent introduction to the topic of trafficking for colleagues and young people.

AILIS NI CHÁRTHAIGH *Social Worker*

## SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Sexual Health Centre (SHC), formerly known as Cork AIDS Alliance, provides support services in all areas of sexual health. The main aim of the SHC is to support healthy choices.

The Centre's services include:

- Crisis pregnancy counselling
- Supporting people with HIV
- Sexual health promotion
- Training people on drugs awareness issues
- Training young people to be peer educators
- Website with online chat room and helpline
- Developing resources on sexual health and drugs for young people and those working with young people
- Input into national policy development.

Further information is available from: The Sexual Health Centre, 16 Peters Street, Cork.

Tel: 021 4276676.

Email: [info@sexualhealthcentre.com](mailto:info@sexualhealthcentre.com)  
[www.sexualhealthcentre.com](http://www.sexualhealthcentre.com)

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE

### What does the service do?

The Adolescent Sexual Health Service provides age-appropriate sexual health information to young people (male and female) and their parents and/or carers. We aim to provide young people with the correct information to enable them to make 'informed choices' in relation to their sexual health.

### How do you reach young people?

We reach and inform young people via our sexual health programme, which covers a wide range of issues, including:

- Self esteem
- Sexuality
- Values, relationships and choices
- Negotiation and assertiveness skills
- Communication skills
- The interplay of alcohol and sex
- Contraception
- Sexually Transmitted Infections.

### Do you provide pregnancy support?

Yes, via the pregnancy support programme. This provides information and support on all aspects of antenatal care during pregnancy. It also outlines preparation for the birth of the baby and postnatal advice. This includes:

- Introduction to maternity hospital and/or hospital visit
- Breathing exercises and pain coping techniques for managing labour and giving birth
- Postnatal care for mother and baby
- Practical demonstrations of baby care
- Support in the transition to parenthood.

Pregnancy support is given on a one-to-one basis and can include work with a partner, parent or carer.

### How do young people access the service?

Young people are referred by their social worker in agreement with the young person and his/her parent/carer. We work with young people, parents and professionals on an individual basis, as well as in groups. Each programme can be designed to cater for the individual needs of the young person.

### Where can I get more information?

Contact the Adolescent Sexual Health & Pregnancy Support Team at Liberty Street House, 18 Liberty Street, Cork.

The service operates from Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm.  
Tel: 021- 4921728.

OLIVE O'DONNELL *Child Care Worker*, LYN DORNEY *Social Worker* and  
MARGARET KEOHANE *Public Health Nurse*



## Clubs for teens

Liberty Street House in partnership with Good Shepherd Services and Pathways runs two weekly clubs for teenage girls and boys.

Henriettas, the girls' club, is now running into its fourth year. We meet at Bruac on Henry St. on Thursday evenings and activities range from visits to the cinema, social outings, cooking, crafts and jewellery making.

The girls also undertake fundraising events so we can head off on the odd jaunt or two! Fun, laughter and participation are the core aspects of our group and we hope to plan a short holiday this year.

The Boyz Club continued to meet three times a fortnight throughout 2005. Hail, rain or shine there was always a good attendance at outdoor soccer on Tuesday nights and we also entered a team in the Community Garda Tournament at the Mardyke (suffices to say we will do better next year!). On Thursday nights, the boys enjoyed various social activities including bowling, cinema outings, Cork City FC matches and pool tournaments.

The highlight of 2005 was our first holiday when eight of us went hostelling up the east coast, culminating in attending the Ireland versus Italy international soccer match.

For enquiries about these clubs, contact Tim O'Brien or Sue Brosnan at Liberty Street House, Tel: 021-4921728.

TIM O'BRIEN *Child Care Worker* and  
SUE BROSANAN *Child Care Worker*

## BTEI at Meitheal Mara

A group of young men all in some way associated with Liberty Street House services participated in a Back to Education Training Initiative (BTEI) course offered at Meitheal Mara. This is an organisation which offers services of a maritime nature and is located at Crosses Green in Cork city centre.

The young men aged between 16 and 21, are a dedicated group that have invested great energy and enthusiasm into this course. From different ethnic backgrounds, the group has had difficulties in the past committing to training courses and educational programmes. The course at Meitheal Mara is designed around ensuring that they can undertake and complete this programme.

Throughout the course they have been hard working, have overcome language difficulties and have shown an awareness and acceptance of cultural difference. The course is designed in such an embracing way that the group assumes responsibility for their attendance, performance and the development of their social skills and the completion of a portfolio of work for their FETAC assessment.

They have developed a sense of teamwork through building a boat, which will be for the use of other community groups throughout the city availing of Meitheal Mara's services.

In 2005, this group also took up the challenge of researching the need for a Youth Café in Cork and visited a number of youth services including ones in Kerry, Ennis and Waterford to find out what is being done there. Congratulations to all who participated.

SUE BROSANAN *Child Care Worker*

## Beech's story

Beech is a 14 year old boy that arrived here with no English. In time, we get an interpreter to translate and to put a call through to his mother; it was Christmas Eve. He makes the call and gets very emotional. The interpreter gives us a quick summary; he is telling his mother that he is well and healthy and in a good place. He spends the next week laughing and walking around with a huge smile on his face. Early in the New Year, he leaves Pathways at 2.30pm and doesn't return. A call to a young person in the city informs us that he is on his way to England. We have another statistic of a separated child going missing.

Ash and Beech's stories can be repeated around the country: Stories of children fleeing from war, persecution and severe deprivation; stories of children who need secure and safe settings away from traffickers, poverty and fear; who need psychological therapy for their trauma. However, can their needs ever be fully responded to as these children may never have security of tenure, as they may be deported when they turn 18?

How will we look back on these times in five or ten year's time? How will future generations judge the quality and range of our services to these vulnerable children?

KIERAN CAMPBELL *Pathways*

## Where can out of home young people stay?

Liberty Street House provides and develops accommodation to meet the changing needs of young people out of home, separated children seeking asylum, young people in care and those leaving care.

We work hard to adapt to changing trends as they emerge, on maintaining a quality of service and on developing new accommodation options, which are flexible and adaptable. Here is a snapshot of what is available at this time.

**Parkview** is in operation for nearly four years and offers semi-independent living accommodation for young males between 17 and 18 years old. Placements are offered to young people who may need some time to improve their skills in independent living in a low support environment.

**Marina View** changed in the summer of 2005 to semi-independent living accommodation for young females between 17 and 18 years old, due to the growing need for accommodation. This operates on the same basis as Parkview.

Parkview and Marina View are staffed from 9.00pm to 9.00am. Applications to Parkview and Marina View can be made through Caroline Walsh at Liberty Street House.

**Pathways** is a HSE South service set-up to provide emergency residential care for young males aged 14 to 18 that find themselves out of home and/or away from home. It has five emergency beds and the maximum stay is 12 weeks.

**Riverview**, a Good Shepherd Service, provides emergency and short to medium term placements for female adolescents. The centre has the capacity for six girls who are out of home or at risk of being so. Riverview offers two emergency placements (one to six weeks) for girls aged 14 to 17 and four short to medium term placements (three to six months) for girls aged 15 to 18. Aftercare is also an integral part of this service.

**Edel House** also offers two emergency beds for female adolescents.

**Wellsprings.** We also have access to accommodation in Wellsprings, which is a Mercy Care Service. Wellsprings provides residential care on a short and medium term for up to eight female residents aged 16 to 23 in a structured living environment. The service aims to prepare each girl for the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood. Outreach support is offered to enable young people to move from Wellsprings to their own accommodation, supported accommodation or a family home.

CAROLINE WALSH  
*Accommodation Resource Manager*

## Can you provide a home for a young person?



Anne Cunningham,  
accommodation resource officer, outlines  
the supported accommodation service to a  
lady during a public awareness campaign

Liberty Street House has developed a supported accommodation scheme as part of the accommodation options available for young people who are out of home. At present we have nine families and individuals providing this service and three prospective families.

The scheme is designed to offer practical and emotional support to help young people move to independent living. The range of placements has allowed us to tailor the scheme to best meet the needs of each young person who stay on an emergency basis or over the longer term.

We are actively recruiting so please look out for our leaflets and posters in the coming months and advise anyone that you feel would be suitable to provide this service to contact us for information.

The providers of such accommodation offer a room and level of support appropriate to the young person's needs. Supported accommodation providers are remunerated and also receive support from staff at Liberty Street House (see Kay and Jim's story to follow).

We have a very active provider's group, which meets every two months and offers the chance for those involved to meet each other and discuss any relevant issues. It also has an element of training, the most recent input being on drugs and alcohol from Frank Lingwood. Contact Anne Cunningham and Caroline Walsh at Liberty Street House for further information.

ANNE CUNNINGHAM  
*Accommodation Resource Officer*

## Our experience of providing supported lodgings

"It was about two years ago that we first took part in the supported accommodation scheme for young people. To begin with, we didn't know exactly what to expect, but as time goes on, we find we are learning a lot from the teenagers' different experiences, some good, some not so good.

So far things have worked out very well for us and we get great satisfaction in the knowledge that we are part of a team who have helped teenagers who otherwise might not have had such an opportunity.

Our part in the team is to try to prepare them for living and coping on their own. We try to teach them the basic skills needed to do this, e.g., cooking, cleaning, shopping and most importantly budgeting. We also provide a friendly non-judgmental ear when one is needed.

As for rules, we don't have very many, but one which we do try to enforce is time keeping. There are times when this is flexible. Some are also still in full-time education so we need to ensure that they attend school as best we can. If a problem were to arise that we felt we needed advice on ourselves, the staff at Liberty Street House are there and provide a great support service. There is always somebody just a phone call away.

We like to think we provide a 'home', be it long term or short term, for teenagers who really need it for a variety of different reasons."

KAY & JIM KENNY

## Youth Health Service

Youth Health Service is a specific health service for under-25's located at 73 Shandon Street, Cork. It is dedicated to young people, not just in what it offers, but also in how it offers it. YHS is a free, confidential, non-judgemental, friendly, relaxed and informal service, which includes:

- Crisis pregnancy counselling
- Family planning clinic
- Sexually Transmitted Infection clinic
- Drug/alcohol counselling/support

- Youth Officer
- Health promotion information/support.

YHS is a HSE South led service in partnership with Ográ Chorcaí and Cork City Development Board, and is supported by the Crisis Pregnancy Agency.

YHS came about because young people asked for the service. Drop in or contact us by phone.

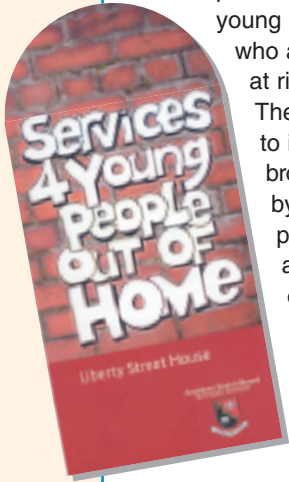
Tel: 021-4220490/1 or

Email: YHS@mailp.hse.ie



YHS Staff:  
Martin Grogan, coordinator,  
young person, Kelly Ann Motherway, crisis pregnancy  
counsellor and Liam Doocey, youth development officer





about LIBERTY STREET HOUSE

Who are we?

Liberty Street House (LSH) is a HSE South agency aimed at responding to the needs of young people under 18 who are out of home or at risk of being so. The agency seeks to implement a broad-based response by meeting the practical, emotional and social needs of these young people.

What services does LSH provide?

LSH provides services to meet the various needs of young people out of home and separated children seeking asylum, for example:

- Access to emergency and other accommodation options
- Supports – practical and personal
- Sexual health advice and pregnancy support
- Help in contacting other services that is, training, employment, counselling, drug and alcohol services.

Who should contact us?

Contact us if you are under 18 and feel you may have to leave home or if you have already left due to difficulties within your family. Parents having difficulties with their children are also very welcome to make contact for advice and support. Colleagues in other departments working with young people and concerned they may be at risk of being out of home are welcome to contact us for advice.

Contact details

Address: 18 Liberty Street, Cork  
Tel: 021 49 21728  
Email: [liberstreethouse@mailp.hse.ie](mailto:liberstreethouse@mailp.hse.ie)

2005 administration report

Last year, the Administration Team of Liberty Street House undertook projects to streamline operations in the office. This was aided by the Team Based Performance Monitoring programme, which gave us the opportunity to highlight areas that could be improved.

The beginning of last year saw an overhaul of the filing system and we now have a system which makes the locating and insertion of files much more straightforward – almost a pleasure!

We also updated our electronic and cash payment forms which have helped us in our aim to maintain a high standard of recorded backup for our financial transactions. With the new forms, we also compiled an easy-to-read explanatory booklet, which will be used when processing payments for outside departments.

Other projects included; compiling a list of useful contact numbers and increasing the number of shops which accept purchase orders, thus resulting in our young people having a wider choice.

NICOLA CAHILL *Clerical Officer*



The team (most of us) at Liberty Street House!

THE TEAM AT LSH

Brigette Mintern	Principal Social Worker
Denise Twohig	Team Leader
Katrina King	Team Leader
Caroline Walsh	A/Accommodation Resource Manager
Anne Cunningham	Accommodation Resource Officer
Frank Lingwood	Senior Social Work Practitioner
Joan Murphy	Domestic Violence Social Worker
Eibhlin Fleming	Domestic Violence Social Worker
Olive O'Donnell	Child Care Worker – Adolescent Sexual Health
Maira O'Sullivan	Social Worker- Adolescent Sexual Health
Margaret Keohane	Public Health Nurse
Tim O'Brien	Child Care Worker
Susan Brosnan	Child Care Worker
Jean O'Sullivan	Social Worker
Deborah Kelleher	Social Worker
Gian Andreoni	Social Worker
Kieran Barrett	Social Worker
Ailis Ni Chárthaigh	Social Worker
Lyn Dorney	Social Worker
Noelle Dalton	A/Staff Officer
Katie Casey	Clerical Officer
Nicola Cahill	Clerical Officer
Denise O'Donovan	Clerical Officer
Carol Barry	Clerical Officer

Youth homelessness – 2005 in figures

There is a public perception that young people are out of home primarily because of drug and alcohol issues. However, there were only nine referrals to our service in 2005 where the primary reason for the young person being out of home was their abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. While many more young people referred to the service may use drugs and/or alcohol, it was not considered the primary problem.

There were 120 referrals to the service at LSH in 2005, seven of whom were categorised as sleeping on the streets at the time of referral.

The experience of homelessness in Cork differs greatly from that in Dublin in that we do not have a large street culture involving young people sleeping rough and using drugs. Recent research in Dublin carried out by Trinity College involved interviewing 40 young homeless people aged between 14 and 22. It found that 50% of this group

had experience of heroin use. In the HSE South, by far the biggest factor leading to young people becoming homeless and disenfranchised from their families is family breakdown/ dispute – 56 referrals to LSH last year fell into this category.

The majority of the 125 referrals in 2005 (109) were in the 16/17 year old bracket. The youngest person referred to the service was 13 year old. In terms of gender, the breakdown is more or less 50/50 male and female.

What is significant in terms of the direction the service has taken is that 40 of these young people continued to live at home, 20 with extended family, 23 with a neighbour or friend, 20 in hostel accommodation and five in B & Bs. There was no referral where we were not able to provide accommodation.

Another factor worth noting is that 20 of the young people referred to our service had been in the care of HSE South in the previous 12 months.

BRIGETTE MINTERN *Principal Social Worker*