

Guidance on Funding for Youth Work Services

Introduction

General election candidates and canvassers will be calling to your home in the coming week. It is also possible to contact your local candidates by email, on facebook and twitter. Likewise there will be debates on local radio stations. It is important that they hear about the need for investment in youth work services during the campaign.

Important background information

1. Youth organisations work with over 380,000 young people in every community in the country
2. Youth Services delivered by 1,400 staff and 40,000 volunteers
3. The number of young people aged 10-24 years will grow by 13% between now and 2020
4. Funding for youth services was cut from €73.1m in 2008 to €49.9m in 2014.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

Here are some questions you can ask?

1. As a voter I believe in supporting young people and investing in youth services, do you support an increase in youth work funding from €58 per young person in 2014 to €73 per young person in 2020?
2. We have over 40,000 volunteers working with and supporting youth services in Ireland. The Local Youth Service Grant Scheme which is disbursed at local level is one way to support volunteers. Do you support increasing this fund?
3. Youth organisations need good facilities and up to date technology to provide services to young people, will you support increased investment in capital funding for youth organisations?

Actions

1. Ask these questions when candidates and or canvassers call to your door, if they don't know the answer give them your email address and ask them to response before election day
2. Email these questions to your local candidates
3. Ask your local candidates these questions on social media, on their facebook page and/or twitter
4. Send these questions into your local radio stations in advance of election debates

Feedback

Please send any feedback from parties/candidates you receive to policy@nyci.ie