



National Centre for Guidance in Education  
Lárionad Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas

# Lifelong Guidance Policy Developments in Ireland

Linda Darbey, NCGE



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



AN ROINN | DEPARTMENT OF  
OIDEACHAIS | EDUCATION  
AGUS SCILEANNA | AND SKILLS



# **PRESENTATION OVERVIEW**

- Guidance in Ireland: An Overview
- Policy Developments in Guidance



# Guidance in Ireland: An Overview

## Definition of Guidance:

Holistic definition: Personal & Social, Educational & Career Guidance

*Guidance facilitates people throughout their lives to manage their own educational, training, occupational, personal, social, and life choices so that they reach their full potential and contribute to the development of a better society (National Guidance Forum, 2007).*



# Guidance in Ireland: An Overview

## Guidance in Educational Settings:

- Second Level Schools (12-18 year olds): qualified guidance counsellor, whole school approach
- Further Education settings:
  - **Youthreach** (15-20 year olds): Advocates, guidance counselling hours, mentoring role of teaching staff
  - **Colleges of Further Education** (FE programmes): qualified guidance counsellor, whole college approach



# Guidance in Ireland: An Overview

- Further Education Settings:
  - **AEGI Services** (40 services): qualified guidance coordinator /guidance counsellor, information officer
    - Target groups: adults returning to education, back to education programme (level 1-6, NFQ)
- Higher Education: Careers Services in Universities, Colleges, Institutes of Technology: qualified guidance practitioner, information officers

## **Guidance in the Public Employment Sector:**

- Guidance for adults: in employment & unemployed
- Traditionally - FÁS & Local Employment Services (LES)



# Policy Developments: Education

## Second Level Schools:

- The Education Act, 1998 (Section 9)
  - *A recognised school shall....use its available resources to -*
    - (c) ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices*
- Government Policy Decision (2012) – changes to funding of guidance
  - Grant more autonomy to school management - devolving responsibility locally
  - Standard staffing allocation - provision of guidance to students




# Policy Developments: Education

## **AEGI:**

- Circular Letters
- Extension of target groups to 16s+ - BTEI, Adult Literacy, Community Education

## **Action Plan for SOLAS (Further Education & Training Authority)**

- 16 Education and Training Boards (FÁS training centres, VECs)
- Recognition - need for guidance provision in FET



# Policy Developments: Public Employment

## Guidance in the Public Employment Sector:

- FÁS Employment Services function to DSP National Employment & Entitlements Service (NEES) – INTREO (end 2014)
- INTREO – single point of contact for all employment & income supports
  - Work placement & job search assistance – self service facilities, Case Officers
  - Four One-Stop-Shops (pilot)





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## More Information:

NCGE: <http://www.ncge.ie>

Department of Education and Skills: <http://www.education.ie>

Department of Social Protection (NEES): <http://www.intreo.ie>

