



INFORMATION SHEET

GUIDANCE IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS IN IRELAND

The following provides a comprehensive overview of guidance in educational settings in Ireland. The information sheet begins with an overview of the provision of guidance services in Ireland outlining recent developments in the area. Each guidance service is then described in tabular format with information on the activities of guidance clients, administrative control, and training and qualifications of practitioners in each setting. The training of practitioners is then outlined and links to further information is provided.

OVERVIEW

Within educational settings guidance services are based in post-primary schools, higher and further education institutions and through second chance education programmes eg. YOUTHREACH.

PROVISION AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Primary – there is no formal guidance provision at primary school level, however there are elements of guidance in the primary school curriculum eg. SPHE Programme. In some schools support teachers are available to support the needs of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Post-primary – guidance is a universal entitlement as per the Education Act, 1998. Schools are encouraged to develop a comprehensive guidance plan as part of their overall school development plan, taking into account the needs of students, available resources and contextual factors. Guidance also forms part of the curriculum in senior cycle through the Transition Year Programme (TYP), Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP).

YOUTHREACH – additional resources are allocated to VECs for the delivery of guidance, counselling and psychological services to learners in centres for education providing the Youthreach and STTC programmes and to FAS-funded Community Training Centres (CTCs). VECs and CTCs use this budget to address a spectrum of needs ranging from initial orientation and guidance and vocational information to psychological services. The vast majority prioritise counselling and guidance services. On average these funds allow for a visiting service where each centre receives support of the order of 5 hours per fortnight. Other guidance and counselling functions are delivered by staff within centres. In some cases the service is supplemented by advocates funded by FÁS. A number of centres also have the service (on a fulltime or part-time basis) of an advocate funded by FAS

Further Education – The guidance and counselling provision in this sector is within the VEC system and in community education settings. The guidance allocation to VECs is the same as for post-primary schools. In addition information regarding Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses is provided to students by the course tutor. Information is provided to participants on community education programmes through the course tutor /co-ordinator also.

Third Level – All Universities and Institutes of Technology (IoTs) have career and counselling services available to students. Career services are based in Career Advisory and Appointments Offices, and counselling services are offered through the Student Counselling Service.

Adult Education – The Adult Educational Guidance Initiative (AEGI) was initiated in 2000 with the aim of providing guidance to adults participating in VTOS, literacy and other adult community education programmes nationwide. The centres throughout the country support adults in guidance and counselling matters.

Youth Information Centres – There are over 30 Youth Information Centres (YICs) nationwide managed by a variety of youth organisations. YICs offer an information service on a wide number of issues including employment matters, local community services and education and training to young people.

OVERVIEW OF GUIDANCE SERVICES

	GUIDANCE SERVICE	ACTIVITIES	CLIENTS	ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL	PROVIDED BY	TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS
1.	Guidance and Counselling in post-primary schools	Personal and social, educational and career guidance. Guidance delivered through modules on TYP, LCA, LCVP by subject teachers under supervision of the guidance counsellor	Age 12/13-18: pupils attending post-primary schools	Department of Education and Skills (DES)	Guidance Counsellor Subject teachers	Guidance Counsellor - Degree + Teaching Qualification + Recognised Guidance Qualification (see overleaf)
2.	Careers Advisory Services in third-level institutions	Career and educational guidance – concentration on further educational and employment opportunities	Majority aged 18/19-22: students attending most major third-level institutions	Universities and Colleges	Careers & Appointments Officer / Adviser	Preferably Qualification in Guidance
3.	Adult Educational Guidance Initiative	Educational and career guidance	Literacy, VTOS and Community Education participants	Department of Education and Skills (support, training and evaluation role: NCGE) Local voluntary agencies	Guidance Counsellor/ Information Officer Youth Information Officer Psychologist / Guidance Counsellor	Guidance Counsellor Degree + Recognised Guidance Qualification (see overleaf)
4.	Youth Information Service	Information and referral	Age 15-25			Various
5.	Private guidance agencies	Personal and social, educational and career guidance	All ages	Private		Degree and Masters in Psychology, Guidance qualifications, and various

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE IN GUIDANCE

COURSE TITLE	INSTITUTION	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT NO.	WEB ADDRESS
Masters in Applied Psychology (Guidance Counselling) 1 year FT	University College Cork	Department of Applied Psychology, University College Cork, Cork	Tel: 353 21 4904601	W: http://apsych.ucc.ie/
Post Graduate Diploma in Arts: School Guidance Counselling 1 year FT (Will not run in 2012/13)	National University of Ireland Maynooth	Education Department, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Tel: 353 1 7086087	W: www.nuim.ie/academic/education/
Graduate Diploma in Guidance & Counselling 2 year PT (Will not run in 2012/13)	University of Limerick	Education and Professional Studies University of Limerick, Plassey, Technological Park, Limerick	Tel: 353 61 202701	W: www.ul.ie/education/
Master in Education (Guidance and Counselling) 2 years PT	University of Dublin Trinity	Education Department University of Dublin Trinity College, Dublin 2	Tel: 353 01- 8963568	W: www.tcd.ie
Higher Diploma in Arts: Adult Guidance & Counselling 2 years PT	National University of Ireland Maynooth	Centre for Adult & Continuing Education NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co Kildare	Tel: 353 1 7083752	W: http://adulthoodeducation.nuim.ie
MSc in Guidance and Counselling 2 years PT	Dublin City University	School of Education Dublin City University, Dublin 9	Tel: 353 1 7007151	W: www.dcu.ie

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE IN GUIDANCE

COURSE TITLE	INSTITUTION	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL & WEB ADDRESS
MEd in Adult Guidance & Counselling 1 Year	National University of Ireland Maynooth	Department of Adult & Community Education, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Tel: 353 1 708 3937	W: http://adulthoodeducation.nuim.ie
MA in Guidance Counselling 1 Year (PT)	University of Limerick	Education and Professional Studies University of Limerick, Plassey, Technological Park, Limerick	Tel: 353 61 202931	W: www.ul.ie/education
NUI Certificate in Adult Guidance, Theory and Practice (Level 8 – NQF)	National University of Ireland Maynooth	Department of Adult & Community Education, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Tel: 353 1 708 3937	W: http://adulthoodeducation.nuim.ie

RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED OUTSIDE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Guidance practitioners with qualifications obtained outside of Ireland who wish to work in Ireland should contact the Inspectors of Guidance in the Department of Education and Skills if they wish to work in an educational setting.

Information correct at time of update May 2012.

The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is an agency of the Irish Department of Education and Skills, with responsibility to support and develop guidance provision and practice in all areas of education and to inform the policy of this Department in the field of guidance.

Address: Fitzwilliam Court, Leeson Close, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 8690715/6
Fax: 01 8823817
Email: ncgeinfo@ncge.ie
Web: <http://www.ncge.ie>

USEFUL ADDRESSES

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

ORGANISATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE / EMAIL
Department of Education and Skills – responsible for the administration of the public education system.	Marlborough Street, Dublin 1	Tel: 353 1 8896400	W: http://www.education.ie
National Educational Psychological Service Agency - an agency of the Dept of Education and Skills, responsible for the provision of a psychological service to schools and education centres.	Dept. of Education & Skills, Frederick Court, 24/27 North Frederick St. Dublin 1	Tel: 353 1 8892700	E: neps@education.gov.ie
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Innovation, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Responsible for the development of a 'competitive enterprise economy.'	23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2	Tel: 353 1 6312121	W: http://www.deti.ie

PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE / EMAIL
Institute of Guidance Counsellors – professional association for guidance counsellors working in education settings (mainly post-primary)	17 Herbert Street, Dublin 2	Tel: 353 1 6761975	http://www.igc.ie E: igc@eircom.net
AHECS – professional association for career advisers working in third level	Careers Service, East Chapel, Trinity College, Dublin 2	Tel: 353 1 7021705	http://www.ahecs.ie
AEGAI- Adult Educational Guidance Association of Ireland – Association representing staff of the AEGI	Mary Stokes Chairperson		http://www.aegai.ie/ E: guidance@aegai.ie