



# Youth Work Ireland



## Election 2020: 12 Point Plan for Young People & Youth Services

**1.** Reverse the disproportionate cuts to youth services over the last number of years by way of annual increases of 5% in the lifetime of the next Government, linked to the Value for Money Review. This can be supported from envisaged increased lottery income.

**2.** Introduce capital funding for youth work, a major shortcoming in current provision.

**3.** Respond to teen-led climate action by increasing our annual emissions cuts targets to 8% to fulfil our Paris commitments. Remove us from the bottom of the EU polluters league and prevent massive fines.

**4.** Reverse the cuts to Job Seekers Allowance for young people. They are unfair, increase poverty and encourage emigration.

**5.** Ensure voluntary youth organisations are involved and consulted in all decisions affecting them and support the role of the voluntary sector as the prime provider of youth work in Ireland, consistent with the 2001 Youth Work Act.

**6.** Ensure greater security for young tenants and guarantee that all young people leaving State care have a secure home to prevent spiralling youth homelessness.

**7.** Introduce votes for 16 year olds in local and European Elections (*no referendum needed*) to trial the measure in advance of a constitutional referendum.

**8.** Stop placing young people in adult mental health facilities and implement the recommendations of The National Youth Mental Health Taskforce.

**9.** Support Community Employment Schemes and ensure they are protected and maintained. They are an important support for local youth services.

**10.** Make Garda Vetting portable for a 2-year period, thus reducing waiting times and making volunteering easier.

**11.** Ensure active student councils in every school and in time ensure students on school Boards of Management.

**12.** Reinforce the network of Youth Information Centres as a key resource to support young people in career & employment decision making & ensuring positive health choices.

