

Press Release

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YAP Ireland Potentially Saving State Agencies Millions by supporting 93% of Young People Worked With in remaining at Home and Achieving their Goals



YAP launch their Strategic Plan 2017 –2020 and Annual Report for 2016 today, Thursday 23rd March 2017. Youth Advocate Programmes (YAP) Ireland worked with 533 Young People and Families in 2016 and out of those who were at home when referred, 93% remained at home at the end of the Programme. The average cost of a YAP place for six months is approx. €7,500 whereas private residential placements for Young People can cost up to €6,000 per week, potentially saving the state a considerable €148,000 per residential placement. This is not only a major saving to the State, but the Annual Report also illustrates the long-term benefit to Young People and Families of participating in the Programme. Outcomes show that services that are flexible, strengths based and needs led by their service users do make a real difference to Young People and Families lives.

Siobhán O'Dwyer, CEO of YAP Ireland said: "I am delighted to present our new Strategic Plan and Annual Report today. The Principles of the YAP Model ensure that we are providing high quality, flexible services that are tailored to the needs of each Young Person and Family referred to us."

Speaking in advance of the event Ombudsman for Children Dr. Niall Muldoon said; "The work of YAP in helping to maintain, and build, a connection between young people and their families and communities is needed now more than ever. The cost to us as a society of

losing the connection with our young people, regardless of their behaviour, is enormous. It is vital that we continue to invest in the maintenance of positive relationships with those young people who are struggling to conform, are in trouble with the law, or who have difficulties in finding their place in life. YAP's philosophy of "no reject/no eject" and "never give up"[on a young person] is the essence of community and provides young people with the possibility to generate a new trusting and supportive relationship, probably at the time they need it most. The work done to keep 93% of young people who came to them in their own homes is admirable and also highlights YAP's engagement with parents and other family members. Rebuilding a young person's respect, for themselves and others, and their self-confidence is a major step in preventing broken and potentially harmful adults. I wish YAP well with their work into the future and their new Strategic Plan."

Also speaking in advance of the event Fred McBride, Chief Executive, Tusla, said: "The YAP Programme makes a real difference to children and young people, allowing them to remain at home in the vast majority of cases. Tusla works with YAP Ireland on a regular basis and their focus on a wraparound intensive support service ensures an effective and inclusive service for children and young people. Similarly, Tusla encourages and supports families around the country by providing wraparound services through the Prevention, Partnership, and Family Support Programme. I look forward to the implementation of YAP's strategic plan, and to continuing our working relationship into the future to ensure that children and families receive the tailored, appropriate, and timely responses necessary to improve outcomes and that they are encouraged to participate in the decisions made on their care."

The Strategic Plan sets out YAP's ambitious Vision, Mission and Goals for the next three years focusing on meeting the needs of Young People and Families across the country. The Annual Report for 2016 confirms the excellent outcomes with Young People and Families where 84% of Young People showed an Improvement in Self Esteem and Confidence; 78% Improvement in School Attendance and 80% Improvement in feeling Withdrawn and Isolated. The improvements in all outcomes have been maintained as the number of Young People and Families has increased and the feedback from Young People and Families remains very positive.

About YAP Ireland: YAP Ireland is a leading provider of intensive support programmes for young people and families. It uses a strengths-based, family focused approach delivering intensive support over 6 months to young people with complex needs helping them to achieve their goals. In 2016, YAP Ireland worked in countless communities within 22 counties in Ireland. To find out more about YAP, visit www.yapireland.ie email info@yapireland.ie or check out their Facebook & Twitter pages.

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- For further information and/ or to set up an interview with Siobhán O'Dwyer, CEO YAP Ireland, please contact 087 3770013 or 01 8689180.