CHILDLINKS

The quarterly publication of the National Children's Resource Centre

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IN THIS ISSUE

Items for inclusion should be sent to:
ANGELA CANAVAN
Information Officer
National Children's Resource Centre
Barnardo's
Christchurch Square
Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 4549699
Fax: (01) 4530300

EDITORIAL

It could be argued that the potential for improving the situation of children in Ireland has never been better. A number of factors combine to make this the case. These include the government's commitment to resource the full implementation of the 1991 Child Care Act, the introduction of the Health Strategy and the ratification of the UN Convention on Children's Rights. While the more cynical observers point out that such factors are no more than *`paper realities'* the more optimistic among us view these as representing very real opportunities to improve the lot of children and families in this country.

Commitments to preventative as well as crises intervention work and to evaluation which takes account of measures of effectiveness rather than simply counting the number of children and families receiving services are to be welcomed. However, such opportunities also present challenges to those of us working in the child care field. For example, legislative commitments to provide family support services and a Health Strategy which places ``an increased emphasis on the provision of the most appropriate care'' challenges us to identify needs accurately, design and provide services which meet these needs and to demonstrate our effectiveness in doing so. This is a daunting prospect even for the most confident. A tradition of scarcity of resources has meant that too few solutions have been available to cope with the varied and complex problems which can beset children and families. This, at times, has led to inappropriate responses to families and (to complicate matters further) an obscuring of real needs which can become redefined in terms of the available solutions. On the positive side, scarce resources can also lead to rigorous rather than lazy decision-making with regard to their optimum use. Hopefully it will become increasingly possible to offer support services which are finely tuned to the needs of children and families. Thoughtful decision-making, an openness to including service users and a commitment to learning on the basis of the results of evaluation will all be required, if the potential to improve the lives of children and families is to be realised.

Madeleine Clarke
Manager - Training and Advisory Services

THE INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SERVICE

PERSONALISED SEARCHES, AT YOUR REQUEST!

The staff of the Information and Library Service are delighted to be able to provide members with this facility through our computer system. A clear listing of library resources on any child related topic will be produced and supplied, on request.

ON THE SHELF! Journals and Newsletters

The following titles are in stock in our Library:

ABILITY Irish Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING NEWS British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering
ADOPTION AND FOSTERING JOURNAL British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering
ASTHMA SOCIETY NEWS Asthma Society of Ireland
BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER Bernard Van Leer Foundation
THE BRIDGE A.P.I.C. Centre
BULLETIN Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children
CAFE Combat Poverty Agency
CHERISH NEWS Cherish
CHILDCARE IN PRACTICE - Journal of multi disciplinary child care practice in Northern Ireland
CHILDLINKS National Children's Resource Centre
CHILDREN U.K. National Children's Bureau
CONTACT Order of Malta
C.R.A. NEWS Children's Rights Alliance
COMMUNITY CARE
COMMUNITY LINK Community Mother's Programme
CO-ORDINATE Volcuf
CROSSROADS Irish Association of Social Workers
CURAM National Parents Council Primary
CURAM Irish Association of Care Workers
CYSTIC FIBROSIS NEWSLETTER Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland
DFI NEWSLETTER Disability Federation of Ireland
EDUCATION MATTERS
EPILEPSY NEWS Brainwave - The Irish Epilepsy Association
EUROCHILD European Forum for Child Welfare
EUROFORM NOW HORIZON Community Initiatives Programme, ESFC
THE EUROPEAN CITIZEN Euro-Citizen-Action-Service
EXTENSIONS High/Scope Foundation
FIRST CALL FOR CHILDREN UNICEF
FOSTER CARE National Foster Care Association
GB NEWS Gingerbread Ireland
HEALTH SERVICES NEWS Institute of Public Administration
HIGH/SCOPE U.K. NEWSLETTER High/Scope Institute U.K.
I.H.C.P.T. NEWSLETTER Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust
INSIGHT Rehabilitation Institute
I.P.P.A. NEWSLINK Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association
IRISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY Psychological Society of Ireland
THE IRISH PSYCHOLOGIST The Psychology Society of Ireland
IRISH SOCIAL WORKER Irish Association of Social Workers
IRISH SUDDEN INFANT DEATH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
IRISH YOUTH WORK SCENE National Youth Federation
JOURNAL OF CHILD CENTRED PRACTICE ISPCC
KEYSTONE National Federation of ARCH Clubs
MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL E.C. NEWSLETTER
MONTESSORI EDUCATION
M.S. NEWS The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland
NCNA NEWSLETTER National Childrens' Nurseries Assocation
NEWS The Romanian Orphanage Trust
NETWORK NEWS The European Anti Poverty Network
NEWSLETTER The Miscarriage Assocation of Ireland
NEWSDESK Catholic Youth Council
NEWSLETTER O.M.E.P. - World Organisation
NEWSLETTER Toy Library Group Ireland
NUACHTLITIR An Comhchoiste Reamhscolaiochta Teo
NURSERY WORLD
POVERTY TODAY Combat Poverty Agency
REACH IRELAND The Association for Children with Hand or Arm Deficiency
RELATE National Social Service Board
SIMON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Simon Community
S.N.C.P. NEWSLETTER Support Network for Professional in Child Abuse
STREETWISE NATIONAL COALITION NEWS SHEET Streetwise National Coalition
TAKE CARE The Carers Association
TEAMWORKS NEWS Teamworks
TRAVELLER ECONOMY
UPDATE Catholic Youth Council

LOANS

A reminder that the loan period for items is 3 weeks. Renewals can be made over the phone if the items are not requested by another member.

INVITATION

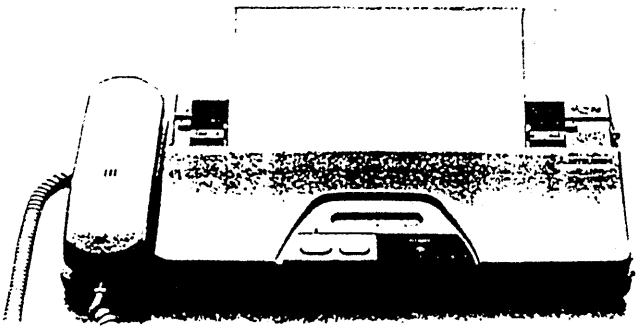
The NCRC is continually developing and providing new services.

Why not visit the centre and see what it has to offer you.

For further information or individual and group visits contact:-
Angela Canavan - Information Officer

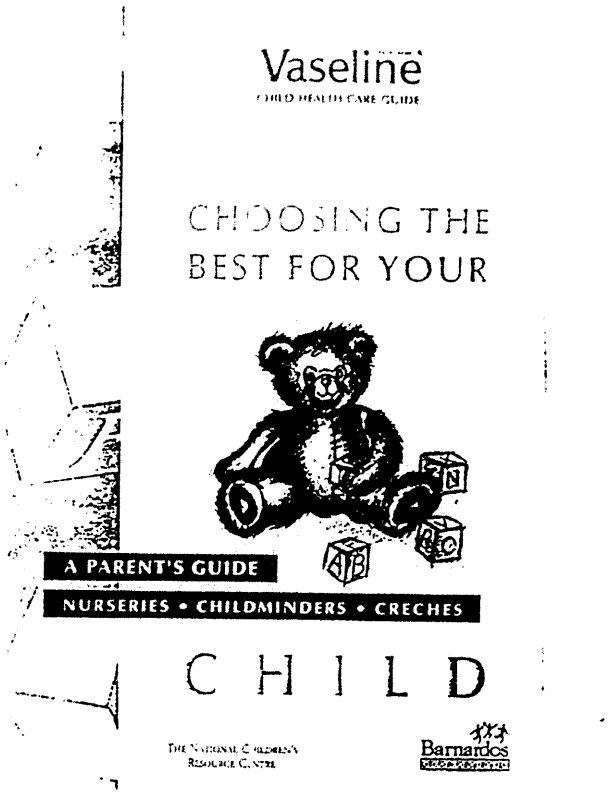
INFORMATION IN A HURRY? USE THE FAX!

The N.C.R.C. can receive enquiries and supply information by fax to our members. To help us process your enquiry as quickly as possible, it is useful if you mark the request clearly for the attention of the N.C.R.C. Information Service.



Our Fax number is
(01) 4530300

NEW PUBLICATION



Safety and health considerations; holiday/sick pay for childminders; opening hours at creches; visiting restrictions and play facilities in nurseries and rules for occasional babysitters are amongst the topics covered in the colourful booklet. The booklet was written specially with the first-time parent in mind but will also have useful tips for those who have a number of children.

The complex subject matter is dealt with in a no nonsense style and takes the reader through the process of choosing child care in a step-by-step manner.

The booklet was compiled by the N.C.R.C. in response to the large number of enquiries received, on a daily basis, from parents seeking guidance on choosing nurseries or childminders. Parents contact the centre when choosing day care for the first time or when their child care arrangements have broken down.

The Barnardo's/Vaseline guide is available, free of charge, by sending a large self-addressed stamped envelope (36p) to:

Child Care Booklet
National Children's Resource Centre
Barnardo's
Christchurch Square
Dublin 8

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The idea of dedicating a year to the Family was first discussed when a United Nations Committee of Non Governmental voluntary organisations created a working group charged with the purpose of studying and preparing declarations on the Family.

This group, encouraged by the General Assembly of the United Nations, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family with the theme *Family:- Resources and responsibilities in a changing world*.. This proclamation is a consequence of the particular appreciation for the family shown by the United Nations and a proof of its intention to give stronger support to families as the basis of society.

The aims of the International Year of the Family are two-fold:
- to celebrate the family as the smallest unit at the heart of society
- to promote dialogue and highlight issues of social, cultural and economic concern to the family

In keeping with the UN policy of observing the year at local, regional and national level we have supported almost 200 groups and organisations by way of grant assistance to fulfil these aims. As well as financial aid we are also offering marketing, promotional and organisational assistance. .This is a bottom up approach to celebrating the Year allowing the various groups and organisations to chose the topics or issues which they feel most relevant to their situation or location.

So, what is family, and why is it so important?

The UN has focused on a broad definition of the family as the basic unit of society in all its forms, whether they be traditional, biological, common law, extended or one parent.

In Ireland we have never been exclusive in the way we describe family. Irish communities have always recognised families as all-embracing. Generations of children have grown up in extended families with grandparents and elderly relatives living in a caring environment. While families are smaller today, that caring tradition continues with families increasingly taking an active part in the development of their communities.

The family today is technically defined by the UN as any combination of two or more people who are bound together by ties of mutual consent, birth, and/or adoption or placement and who together assume responsibility for, inter alia, the care and maintenance of group members, the addition of new members through procreation or adoption, the socialisation of children and the social control of members.

This is, as I am sure you will agree, a very long definition but at the same time it does encompass the essential elements of togetherness, responsibility, caring, maintenance and socialisation - in short a caring family group. The official emblem of International Year of the Family reflects the definition, depicting as it does a heart sheltered by another heart to symbolise life and love in a home where one finds warmth, caring, security, togetherness and tolerance. The open design indicates continuity with a hint of uncertainty, while the brush stroke, with its open line rook, completes and abstract symbol representing the complexity of the family viewed as building the smallest democracy at the heart of society.

In every society the family is continuously evolving and even within the family changes occur as its members pass through the different stages of their life cycle. As a small child, family consists of those who are around you, who give you warmth, nourishment and love. As you become older

that circle increases to take in uncles, aunts, cousins and an extended family whom you might not see on a daily basis. As you form you own relationships in adult life, again your family circle expands, so the term family may mean different things, even to the same person, as that person moves through their own life circle.

The family aims to provide a source of mutual love, respect, solidarity and affection and to act as a support system for the individual rights of its members.

Families are the setting where values are transmitted from one generation to another.

Families also play a fundamental role as intermediate bodies between the individual, the state and other social agents.

The family is a powerful agent for social, political, economic and cultural change and a potential vehicle for development. However the family can also be influenced by the nature and pace of change, which often exerts pressure on families. Such forces can make the family extremely vulnerable and in need of support from other institutions.

Therefore the family should be granted protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities as the basic unit of society, the natural environment for its members, particularly children and youth, and, in many cases, as the only support system for the ageing and disabled.

The pace of economic and social change across Europe and the world generally brings new pressures to bear on families. There is no doubt that our strong family tradition is coming under increasing economic and social pressure as the nation adjusts to a fast moving and rapidly developing society. Unemployment and social deprivation are all too common and increasing at an alarming pace. Unfortunately, those who suffer most in this new scenario are families and especially those with children. However, at the heart of the UN principles on the family are articles dealing with the rights of children to social protection, to equal opportunities to develop their full potential; to protection and assistance if they are deprived of a family environment; to security; to adequate child care facilities; to equal time with both parents; to freedom from violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation within the family.

International Year of the Family's role is essentially that of facilitator, assisting various groups and organisations concerned with family issues, including those mentioned above, to highlight those issues. Our function is to identify programmes focusing on family matters, which will highlight specific issues and problems, encourage and sensitise Government policies and, in some cases, identifying their inadequacies in relation to the family or individual members of a family. We must both provide information and make it easily accessible to families in difficulty.

We must be aware that the policies which we form today and which will lead us into the next millennium are ones which should provide adequate supports and progressive options for all families in our society without distinction.

SHEILA COLL
Director
1994 International Year of the Family

OPINION

THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

'The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They are also curious, active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and co-operation. Their lives should mature as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences.'

Thus agreed seventy seven Heads of State at the World summit for Children on 30 September 1990 at the United Nations - ten months after the United Nations unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sure you'd have to agree, wouldn't you? But what about the reality?

We still allow 35,000 children to die each day from readily preventable causes. We allow thousands more to suffer crippling disabilities - the result of poor or non-existent health care and proper nutrition. An estimated 2,000 - 3,000 children are killed every day in the forty-five conflicts that now ravage the world. The numbers who have been disabled, made orphaned and who have been severely traumatized are staggering.

What about the physical, emotional and psychological damage done to children by the sex trade, bonded labour and the streets? An estimated one million children aged six to eleven do not even attend school. Did someone say something about children's rights?

We do have a United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. It covers everything from a child's right to a name, to protection from exploitation and abuse, to the right to survival and development. This Convention pulls together provisions protecting children scattered throughout many conventions and declarations. It took ten years to reach agreement on the Convention but it was ratified in record time compared to other Conventions.

It has now been ratified by 161 governments to date including Ireland. It provides a universally accepted basis for advocacy on behalf of children everywhere.

Sometimes I think the silence is deafening.

DOROTHY ARCHER
Executive Director
Irish National Committee for UNICEF

CHILD PROTECTION
Information and Training

The N.C.R.C. Expanding Knowledge and Practice

The need for training and information on the many issues relating to Child Protection and Care is widely acknowledged particularly in the current context of the Child Care Act 1991. This has been clearly demonstrated by the success of the training events organised by the N.C.R.C. to date and the many requests for information on related topics. We continue to meet this demand by organising training events complimented by building a comprehensive collection of resources.

RESOURCES: covering topics on

ABDUCTION	*DISABILITY*
FOSTERING	*GUIDELINES*
INQUIRIES	*PLAY THERAPY*
PORNOGRAPHY	*RISK ASSESSMENT*
SEXUAL ABUSE	

The materials include: Books; Reports; Resource Packs; Journals; Articles and Newspaper Cuttings.

Forthcoming Event

Training Event Thursday 8 September 1994
"Child Sexual Abuse within the Family"
A multi-faceted approach

Venue:	Barnardo's, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8
Cost:	£45.00 (including lunch)
Time:	9.30am - 5.00pm (Registration 9.30am)
Closing date:	31 August 1994
To book:	Contact Martina Dumpleton (N.C.R.C.)

ADOPTION ADVICE SERVICE

THE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAST

Adoption is only 42 years old in Ireland. The significance of this is that most people over this age who could not be reared by their birth family were fostered or raised in residential care.

It is not surprising then that over 30% of the people who contact us annually to find out about their 'roots' were not adopted at all. Our service has become known as one of the few places such people can go to for help. Their past is often like a jigsaw with pieces of very important information scattered all over the country, which we endeavour to put together with them.

One of the main problems seems to be that the information about their past got stuck somewhere and was not forwarded to the next institution the child was being sent to; three or four moves not being uncommon in 16 years. Added to this the attitude they encountered during their growing years if they did pluck up the courage to ask a question was one of 'leave well enough alone'. Others were told stories of a more final nature (such as a car crash) as to their parents fate, presumably to stop any further questions.

The birth family were equally discouraged from finding out anything about the child's well-being and visits were thought to be too 'upsetting' for the child.

They are often very unclear as adults as to why it was they were moved around, and often view it as being because they were 'wild' rather than the fact that the homes only catered for a particular age and therefore had to be 'moved on'.

Among the major difficulties that many raised in residential care appear to encounter are a sense of isolation - they have lost their families; a sense of being different; feeling unimportant; difficulty in sustaining relationships; their story not being valued by our society.

It would be very valuable for those who grew up in residential care to meet in groups to discuss their situation.

The AAS have had some participants in our group for adoptees but whilst they saw themselves as having some similar needs and issues to adoptees, they also felt the group highlighted many differences. Barnardo's have identified the setting up of such a group as an urgent need.

Over the years the AAS has built up an extensive range of contacts around the country and in general find those now in charge of the records (often previously 'lost' or 'burnt') very forthcoming. No doubt this is partly to do with more open attitudes but also with the knowledge that the information is being passed to the person with counselling through our service.

It is overwhelming for most of us to imagine life without anecdotes of our childhood; photos, favourite doll or teddy and other mementos. As a society we owe it to children raised in residential care that help is available so that their past experiences can be understood and the AAS tries to retrieve what we can.

Few children's homes offered the aftercare service that some offer today. The Health Boards (replacing Health Authorities and County Councils) who were responsible for children in residential care do not offer them any particular service.

Re-unions between the person searching and his/her family need some preparation and counselling; there are similar issues involved as for adopted people. However, the needs of people raised in residential care are put to the bottom of the pile in terms of service provision. This is a position sadly familiar to many of them.

PATRICIA WHITE
Social Worker

ADOPTION ADVICE SERVICE

Confidential Phone-In Service

Tuesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Thursday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Tel: (01) 4546388

REVIEW

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

6+ Age Group

Anthony Browne. **Changes.** Walker Pbk. 0744530342. £4.99 A chance remark by his father that ``things are going to change'' causes Joseph profound anxiety, conveyed in the illustrations by a series of nightmarish transformations in the everyday world around him. It is not until his parents arrive home with a new baby that his fears are allayed. This book stresses the importance of open communication with children at such stressful times and graphically illustrates the deep nameless fears to which thoughtless adults may subject them.

Cole, Babette. **Hurrah for Ethelyn.** Little Mammoth Pbk. 0749710136 £3.99 Ethelyn wins a scholarship to 'Cheddar Gables College for Richer Ratlettes', where she is bullied by Tina Toerat and her gang. Ethelyn, however, outwits the bullies. The lively text and hilarious illustrations provide an ideal starting point for a discussion on bullying.

Varley, Susan. **Badger's Parting Gifts.** Anderson Press hbk, 1984. 0862640628. £6.95. When an old badger dies, all his animal friends are very sad and gather to remember him and remember also the many things he taught them. An analogy could perhaps be drawn between badger's death and the death of a grandparent.

8 - 12 Age Group

Ginger Spike. **Findlater,** Evelyn. Illustrated by John Milington. Viking hbk. 0670838381 £5.50 Ginger Spike! All right! Findlater, Evelyn. Illustrated by John Millington. Viking hardback. £5.50 067083839X Ginger Spike is a city kid. When his Aunt Elsie is no longer able to look after him he is fostered by the family at Sunflower Hive Farm. He experiences changes in both family circumstances and environment but gradually adapts and makes friends. The sequel deals with his first day at a new school and his total happy absorption into the rural community.

Forward, Toby. **Travelling Backwards.** Illustrated by Piers Sanford. Puffin pbk, 1994. 0140349022. £3.50 Fanny's grandfather is dying. She gives him a potion to prolong his life but instead he slowly regresses to toddlerhood. Fanny and her grandfather realise they must find an antidote and that there comes a right time to die. A humorous and perceptive book.

Wilson Jacqueline **The suitcase kid.** Illustrated by Nick Sharratt. Yearling pbk. 0440863112. £2.99 stg. Andrea's parents have divorced and are in the process of forming new families. All Andrea wants is to live with both her parents in Mulberrt Cottage. The very real heartache of family break-up is sensitively conveyed, the end is both positive and hopeful. Andrea realises 'some dreams never can come true' and forges bonds with her new families. A memorable and readable book on a important topic.

12+ Age Group

Needle, Jan. **The Bully.** Hamish Hamilton hbk, 1993. 0241133815. £8.99 It would appear that 'clumsy' Simon is a bully, or could he possibly be the victim of covert bullying by the 'lovely' Anna? The unusual aspect of this book is that it examines the role of teachers vis a vis bullying and considers to what degree the attitudes of teachers can colour children's perceptions of fellow pupils.

McGuirk-Walsh, Maria. **Searching for a friend.** Attic Press pbk, 1993. 1855940884. £4.99 When Aine, Christina's best friend, moves to the west of Ireland, Siobhan and Helen appear to offer friendship to Christina, but in reality play 'cruel trick after cruel trick' on her. She becomes increasingly isolated and miserable and makes a desperate journey with almost life threatening consequences. A sensitive exploration of the subtle, insidious effects of bullying.

Reviewed by Dublin Corporations School and Children's Library Section.

UK AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

The UK Agenda for Children, published by the Children's Rights Development Unit is a 'systematic analysis of the extent to which law, policy and practice in the UK complies with the principles and standards contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.' Perhaps not the sort of thing you might plan to bring on holiday with you, especially as the sheer size of this publication will put you into the excess weight category before you've even packed your togs. However, to their enormous credit the Children's Rights Development Unit have produced a book which is very clearly laid out and well organised, easy to read, and in fact, quite engaging. It is divided into an introduction and fourteen reports. The introduction deals with the Convention itself, and, giving clear examples of appauling circumstances under which many children live in the UK, warns against complacency (a point which applies in Ireland as much as anywhere) and how the report was put together - interestingly in association with children as young as six, among others.

Each report then covers a particular theme of the Convention (such as personal freedom, health, education, etc.) listing the relevant articles, analysing them, and ends with a summary of action required for compliance with the Convention. One of the strongest points which emerges from this excellent publication is that the Convention applies to all children and that by children's rights we mean according all children an influential status in society. By taking them as seriously as we take ourselves we could go a long way to alleviating child abuse, poverty, discrimination etc..... Anyone with any interest in children will find the UK Agenda an informative and inspiring read, well worth overcoming any prejudices you may have developed regarding large, daunting 'documents'.

JACKIE BOURKE - P.R.O. - O.M.E.P.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Focus on Children is an organisation which has been formed by voluntary organisations in Ireland, North and South, determined to use their combined experience to influence and support policy makers in challenging the high levels of poverty, alienation and social exclusion to be found throughout Ireland. The island of Ireland has Objective 1 status as a disadvantaged region. Within this context Focus on Children has received European funding to support its development in considering the need for coherent and effective programmes for children as members of a developing European Union.

One of the most significant events in the history of children's welfare in Ireland will occur at Dublin Castle on Thursday 22 September and at Stormont, Belfast on Friday 23 September 1994.

People concerned with the welfare of children from all parts of Ireland will attend a Summit, where a Blueprint for the development of strategies to address the needs of children will be presented to policy makers and officials of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Blueprint has been prepared with the participation of over forty voluntary organisations throughout Ireland and with the support of national and international specialists in the field of children's welfare. The Summit and Blueprint are part of an action programme to radically improve the life chances of young people on the island of Ireland. Focus On Children is a very good illustration of the benefits of inter-agency co-operation.

The Blueprint is presented at a time of considerable change in children's services throughout Ireland. These changes will have a significant effect on policy and service provision in the areas of health, social welfare, education and social justice. The Blueprint will focus on the real needs of children and offer a structure within which children's services can be planned and developed in a co-ordinated and coherent manner.

REACHING OUT

The Midland and Mid-Western Health Boards have requested Barnardo's to develop child and family support services in Edenderry and Limerick respectively. Work is currently underway with a view to opening these services within the current year. Barnardo's will be working closely with these health boards in meeting agreed aims.

In addition to Dublin based courses the National Children's Resource Centre has been requested to offer training on a variety of child care and adoption related topics in the Midlands, Galway, Waterford and Cork. These requests have come from health boards, the Department of Education and voluntary and community groups.

Norah Gibbons, Team Leader with the NCRC, is currently involved with the Bridge Childcare Consultancy Service in providing consultancy to the Humberside Social Services in the UK.

The European elections provided an opportunity to raise the issue of children's needs within a European context. Barnardo's were pleased to get a positive response from Euro-candidates in Ireland who were canvassed with a view to giving support for the inclusion of a reference to children in the revision of the Maastricht Treaty and for the development of a European Action Programme for Children.

The European Forum for Child Welfare held its AGM in April in Athens. Owen Keenan was re-elected as Treasurer at this meeting.

FROM EUROPE

EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK DIRECTORY (EAPN)

The first edition of the EAPN directory has been published. It is based on a questionnaire that was sent to all the members of the EAPN and other agencies working in the area of poverty and social exclusion in Europe.

One of the functions of the EAPN is to create a focus for an exchange of experience between those working on the ground to eradicate poverty and social exclusion throughout Europe. In keeping with this function the aim of this directory is to provide a working tool for organisations and to encourage them to make contact with each other, to learn about experiences and to develop possible partnerships.

The directory, which is presented in both English and French, lists organisations in country order and subject index. An update of this publication is planned during 1994. This directory will, no doubt, help to develop national and transnational exchanges.

For further information contact:

Marie Francoise Wilkinson
Director
EAPN
205 Rue Belhard Bte 13

The Europeans and the Family Eurobarometer: Results of an Opinion Survey

This report was prepared by Nicole Malpas and Pierre-Yves Lambert in conjunction with the European Commission of the European Communities. 1994 is International Year of the Family and it was against this background that the European Community conducted a Eurobarometer survey on Europeans and their views on the family, the forming and severance of marital ties, the role of the father and mother and family policies. It is vital for information on demographic trends, the situation of families and the measures taken on behalf to be collected and analysed regularly. In order to define the aims and approaches to be adopted. This survey is part of this process. The report is available from The Commission.

Both of the above publications are available in the National Children's Resource Centre.

DIARY

Sept. - May Association of Hospice and Allied Bereavement Groups in Ireland, workshops and seminars on `Training Programmes for Working with Bereaved Children'. Contact: Irish Hospice Foundation. Tel: 6603111.

1 - 4 Sept. An annual conference of the European Regional Council World Federation for Mental Health. Cost: £200 (Members) £230 (Non-Members). Venue: Queen's University, Belfast.

8 Sept. National Children's Resource Centre - ``Child Sexual Abuse within the family - a multifaceted approach''. Cost: £45 (including lunch). Venue: National Children's Resource Centre.

9 - 10 Sept. 3rd Regional Conference, Irish Region, British Association for Sexual and Marital Therapy, ``Psycho-Sexual Therapy - working with individuals''. Cost: Venue: Gort Mhuire, Dundrum.

16 - 20 Sept. International Forum for Child Welfare World Forum 1994. ``Child and Family Community: A holistic approach''. Cost $ 175 Venue: Anna University, Madras.

21 Sept. Support Network for Professionals in Child Protection (SNPCA) `Therapy with Abused Children and Their Families'. Venue: Conference Centre, St John of God, Stillorgan. Contact: Pauline Kelly. Tel: 4558220.

22 - 23 Sept. Focus on Children Summit Conference. Venue: Dublin Castle Conference Centre.

22 - 23 Sept. Children in Scotland - a 2 day conference on ``Father Figures - fathers in the families of the 1990's''. Cost: £160 (Residential Rate) Venue: Central Hotel, Glasgow.

23 Sept. Psycho-therapeutic Interventions in Infancy: clinical presentations in relation to theory. Contact: Inger Nolan. Tel/Fax: (01) 2809313

27 Sept. NCB ``Confidential Parents, Confident Children Policy and Practice in Parent Education.'' Cost: £111 (Members) £141 (Non-Members). Venue: Church House Conference Centre.

8 Sept. and 19 Oct.
"Child Sexual Abuse within the Family":
A Multi-Faceted Approach.
An opportunity to develop skills and practice.
For further information and booking forms please contact: Martina Dumpleton (National Children's Resource Centre)

29 Sept. ``Evaluating the first three year Reviews of Childminding and Day Care''. Cost: £94 Venue: Exeter

6 Oct. Choices in Childcare - Marketing and Income Generation. Cost: £70.00 statutory, £50.00 voluntary. Venue: Molineaux Conference Centre. Contact: Clare, Tel: 0742 766881.

15 Oct. "PreSchool Education - An essential step?". Cost: £10.00/£5.00 (unwaged) Venue: Marino Institute of Education. Contact: 4973417/ 8216476. Limited number of places available.

15 Oct. OMEP Conference - Preschool Education - An Essential Step? Cost: £10.00 £5.00 (unwaged - limited no. available). Venue: Marino Institute. Contact: 4973417/8216476

20 Oct. Caring for Our Children: Implementing the European Child Care Recommendations. Contact: John Quinliven. Tel: 0232 234499.

INTERNATIONAL

9 Sept. 'Childcare Information in Scotland' Venue: Aberdeen, Scotland. Cost: £50.00 Stg. Contact: Alison Wilson 0224 890300

14 Sept. Homelessness in the U.K.: A Multi-Media Approach. Contact: Chritine Toft. Tel: 0044 274 383512

10-13 Sept. International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) 70th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect `Creating a Caring Society for Children: A World Wide Challenge'. Venue: Shangrila Hotel, Hotel, Malaysia. Contact: 0044 603 9850308.

19-20 Sept. NSPCC - Assessement and Work with Families of Young Sexual Abusers. Cost: £175.00 Stg. for two days. Venue: NSPCC National Training Centre. Contact: Gill Dale 0533 340 804.

26-27 Sept. NSPCC `Working with Neglectful Families'. Cost: £175.00 Stg. for 2 days. Venue: NSPCC National Training Centre. Contact: Gill Dale 0533 340 804.

3-5 Oct. NSPCC Prejudicial Blocks to Good Practice. Cost £315.00 Stg. (for three days). Venue: NSPCC National Training Centre. Contact: Gill Dale 0533 340 804.

10 Oct. `Evaluating the First Three Years: Reviews of Childminding and Day Care: Cost £94.00 Stg. Venue: London.

11 Oct. National Children's Bureau (NCB) `Tackling Bullying and Exclusion from School'. Contact: NCB. Tel: 071 2789447.