



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

170 No Name Club members meet for health conference

Event also sees launch of Nationwide Road Safety Initiative

170 people gathered this weekend for a No Name Club health conference that focussed on key issues affecting teenagers and was described as a “great success”.

Some 135 teenagers and 35 adults from the West and North West No Name Clubs assembled in The Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar, Co Mayo on Saturday, October 2nd, for the conference that delivered a series of workshops on issues that affect teenagers’ health and wellbeing.

The event also saw the launch of an exciting initiative between the Road Safety Authority and the No Name Club, a national youth organisation.

The workshops brought the teenagers together to discuss the issues surrounding **alcohol awareness, drug awareness, mental health, offensive behaviour, road safety and healthy eating demonstration** given by an in-house chef. Representatives from the **HSE, Road Safety Authority, Western Drugs Taskforce** and **An Garda Síochána** engaged with the teenagers during the workshops.

The No Name Club and **Road Safety Authority** teamed up to launch three exciting competitions for the thousands of members of No Name Clubs across the country. The competitions are asking the young people, aged 15+, to design an item of high visibility clothing, a road safety poster and greeting cards with a road safety theme. Prizes worth €500 are on offer for winning entrants.

Con Nolan, No Name Club Chief Executive Officer says: *“The conference was a great success and we believe it really focussed the minds of the teenagers on issues that are facing them as they go about their daily lives. It allowed State agencies to talk with the teens and hear*

views, opinions and responses in an informal setting. We've received a very positive response from the teenagers and their adult committee leaders who attended. The No Name Club is keen to engage with its members and we are organising a similar event in the east of the country for November."

Noel Brett, Chief Executive Officer of the Road Safety Authority, was there to launch the initiative with the youth organisation. He says: *"The Road Safety Authority is delighted to team up with the No Name Club to deliver this exciting initiative. In 2009, 40 per cent of the deaths on Irish roads were people aged under 25. It is crucial we engage with young people on an issue that sees so many young lives being wasted needlessly. We're delighted to have formed this partnership with the No Name Club and believe it will highlight the issue in a fun and imaginative way among hundreds of teenagers around the country."*

The conference also saw the launch of the No Name Club manual, which will be made available to the 43 No Name Clubs throughout the country and provide them with valuable information related to the running of a club. 1102104 DJ Fergal Darcy finished off the conference with a DJ set for the participants.

No Name Clubs provide activities and events that promote positive lifestyle options for teenagers aged 15+ and do so in settings that are supervised and free from the influences of alcohol or other drugs. Over 40 clubs are located around the country and the organisation is very well established in the West and North West with **13 clubs in Mayo, five in Galway, two in Donegal, one in Roscommon and one in Sligo.**

Press release issued by Michael McGlynn, Communications Officer with No Name Club. For further information you can contact him at 045 435444 or 087 9082970. You can also contact Con Nolan, No Name Club CEO, at 086 3519043.

****Images of the Conference are available by contacting Michael McGlynn***

Note for the Editor

No Name Club is a National Voluntary Youth Organisation founded in 1978 and has 43 clubs throughout the country. No Name Clubs are run by and for young people aged 15 years + who come together in a safe and lively environment where there's fun, friendship and enjoyment without the pressure of alcohol or other drugs. No Name Clubs were founded to provide an alternative to pub culture for young people in Ireland. They demonstrate a lifestyle in which the use of alcohol or drugs is seen as unnecessary to the enjoyment of a happy, cheerful and fulfilling social life for young people. Over the last 30 years, thousands of young people have valued their involvement in a programme of activities that allow them to enjoy themselves socially with their peers in a safe and

friendly environment, free from the dangers and influences of alcohol and drugs. At present there are over 15,000 young people involved with No Name Clubs throughout the country.