



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Hundreds of Teenagers meet key stakeholders to discuss health issues

200 teenagers from counties throughout Ireland discussed serious health issues affecting young people at a No Name Club conference in Templemore, Co Tipperary over the weekend.

Issues surrounding drug and alcohol awareness, substance misuse, road safety, bullying and antisocial behaviour were discussed at the national youth organisation's Eastern/Southern Region Conference 2011 at The Garda College, Templemore on Saturday February 19th. Representatives from the Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority engaged with the teenage members of No Name Clubs at the event.

The Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána facilitated workshops on drug and alcohol awareness, substance misuse, unsocial behaviour and mental awareness. Matters surrounding the issues were discussed at the workshops.

Mr Noel Brett, Chief Executive Officer the Road Safety Authority spoke to the young people and urged them to think about their behaviour when using the roads. He referred to the high number of fatalities on Irish roads among people under 25 years of age,* describing the devastation each death causes and the impact it has on family and the wider community.

Dr Brendan Byrne, teacher, guidance counsellor, researcher and author of three books on the subject of bullying, spoke on the need for bullying to be confronted, saying silence allowed people to suffer.

Teenagers and their adult leaders travelled from clubs in Carlow, Clare, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Kerry, Kilkenny, Meath and Waterford.

Speaking after the event, **Con Nolan, No Name Club Chief Executive Officer** said: *“What this conference facilitated was the engagement of young people with health-related service providers. Through a series of workshops, representatives of the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána sat down with teenagers and spoke to them about health and safety related issues that are of pertinence to them: the abuse of drugs and alcohol, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour. It afforded the stakeholders the opportunity to speak with the teenagers about these matters and, perhaps more importantly, the teenagers a chance to give their thoughts and opinions on issues affecting their health and wellbeing.*

“Dr Byrne and Mr Brett spoke to the young people about two issues that are, unfortunately, causing devastation among young people and their families, friends and neighbours in communities throughout Ireland. As an organisation, we believe it is crucial to engage with teenagers on health-related issues and advise, support and listen to them.”

*In 2009, 40% of deaths on Irish roads were people aged under 25 (source, Road Safety Authority).

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.

Note for the Editor

No Name Club is a National Voluntary Youth Organisation founded in 1978 and has 40+ 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.