



Transition Supports Project

OVERVIEW

The Transition Supports Project (TSP) co-ordinates, integrates, activates and delivers services to Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SCSA) and young asylum seeking adults (primarily 17 to 21 year olds) to enable them to participate in education, both formal and informal, with a view to preparing them for adult life, in Ireland or in their country of origin.

TARGET GROUP

Separated Children Seeking Asylum (SCSA) and young asylum seeking adults (primarily 17 to 21 year olds).

OBJECTIVES

- o To carry out a needs analysis of aged out minors in the four dedicated direct provision centres, and to consider the needs of those located elsewhere in the Dublin area;
- o To consider the needs of SCSA in the Dublin area, particularly as they relate to their move to and preparation for Direct Provision;
- o To ensure a coordinated, integrated approach to service delivery for this client group;
- o To provide educational, social and recreational activities for SCSA/young adults through established NGO's and other providers. These will nurture support mechanisms which can move with the young person as they make the transition into adult accommodation;
- o On an ongoing basis, to identify, train and support groups of young adult asylum seekers to act as peer mentors to SCSA;
- o To deliver programmes to the mentors, (accredited where possible) focused on leadership, youth work skills, communication and capacity building;
- o To provide a youth work outreach service targeting disengaged young people;
- o To provide a framework which promotes and enables integrated service planning for this client group;
- o To train and raise awareness amongst existing organisations re: needs of the client group, in order to increase their capacity to work effectively and proactively with SCSA/young adult asylum seekers;
- o To gather information on best practice and policy development nationally and internationally to inform policy formulation;
- o To evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency team approach.

PROJECT ACTIONS

The project actions fall under the major thematic areas:

- **Training of Trainers:** This element of the project engages with mainstream providers, e.g. schools, youth service, health services. A resource pack and information booklets will be developed to support this aspect of the project. Through utilising awareness raising strategies, this process will promote a proactive approach amongst service providers and facilitate the development of tailored initiatives.
- **Outreach Approaches:** Outreach/youth worker(s) visit and befriend members of the target group, and support their participation in mainstream activities. Particular focus is on those young people who have greatest difficulty accessing supports, with the initial objective being to establish trust and rapport, which will facilitate referral and linkages with other services.
- **Training/Educational Programmes:** A range of interventions for young people are delivered in an integrated and coordinated way, aimed at enhancing their educational, social and interpersonal skills. The co-ordinator establishes inter-agency meetings for each accommodation centre for aged out minors. The needs analysis will identify requirements; quantify existing services and current gaps. Programmes seek to address these gaps, will be delivered both on and off-site and may include non-formal education, recreational and social activities, such as arts, sports etc; parenting programmes; language and cultural supports, including networking for asylum seekers. Some of these initiatives will be delivered directly by the Project, non-formal education will be delivered by youth services and others will be grant aided to existing organisations.
- **Mentoring training** will be provided for an estimated 15-20 immigrants and 'aged out minors', focusing on communication skills, teamwork and confidence building. They will be equipped to provide support to 20 SCSAs, who will be identified by the HSE on the basis of identified need. The coordinator or organisation delivering the programme will identify appropriate accreditation, wherever possible.
- **Guidance Counselling:** As outlined above, the 20 SCSAs will be mentored by their trained mentors. Mentoring will be focused on befriending, supporting and developing SCSA's knowledge of local networks.

PARTNERS

- CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit
- Reception and Integration Agency
- Health Services Executive
- Southside Partnership
- Tallaght Intercultural Action
- CDVEC City of Dublin Youth Services Board
- CDVEC Separated Children Seeking Asylum Committee
- Target Group representative

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Transitional Support Project DP is part of the 'Aware-Net – working for social inclusion in Europe', transnational cooperation project and is partnered with the following DPs:

Germany: Fluchtort Hamburg - Berufliche Qualifizierung für Flüchtlinge, Hamburg;

Italy: IntegRARsi – Reti locali per l'integrazione di Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati, Roma;

Slovenia: PROGRES, Ljubljana.

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