



copping on

National Crime Awareness Initiative



Copping On is assisted
by the European Social Fund

Annual Report 2002

Acknowledgements

As always, many people have enabled Copping On to maintain its track record of innovative work and consolidate and expand existing practice during 2002. Our steering committee continues to be a great source of support and focus, despite the changes in personnel during the year. Brian Hamilton, (Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform) and Carmel Reilly (Youth Affairs Section, Department of Education and Science) joined during the year, bringing fresh insights. Thanks are also extended to all of our members who have been with us from almost the beginning for their consistency and commitment. The Southern Health board training department who facilitated a number of its staff to participate in the training.

Particular mention to Bridget Gormley, Co-ordinator of Copping On January 2002-February 2003 who headed the hard working team of Deirdre Bigley, Training Officer and Maureen Reilly, Administrator.

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Foreword

It is a pleasure to introduce the Annual Report for 2002 of the Copping On initiative. This report marks the sixth year of excellent work by the Copping On initiative. The initiative has, in Ireland, pioneered an interagency approach focused on training Gardai, teachers, youth workers, community members and others to work together with young people to give them a better understanding of crime and the criminal justice system.

This approach is premised on a strong belief in the benefits of education, communication and the sharing of experience and perceptions not only for the young themselves, but also for all of those who work with them. Many myths and misconceptions surround the law and the criminal justice system and people frequently fail to understand the central and essentially benevolent role of the system in maintaining our society and in making civilised and productive life possible. A lack of information, of balanced exposure to the everyday reality of the courts, policing and imprisonment, and of considered reflection on the difficult issues of crime and punishment creates a vacuum in which divisive attitudes, negative stereotypes and unrealistic fears can flourish. Copping On makes a very positive contribution by directly addressing these problems, by helping people of all ages understand each other, and by promoting a thoughtful awareness amongst young people, who for good or ill are at a very impressionable age and often struggling to make sense of an increasingly complex, confusing and dangerous social world.

Copping On is a vital cog in a new approach that has been strongly endorsed by government in recent years. This is a new emphasis on agencies working together to build a coherent and multi-faceted approach to serious social problems such as crime and delinquency. This new approach also sets out to strengthen and empower local communities themselves and to develop community-based responses to young people beginning to get into trouble with the law. There is a recognition that communities need to revitalise their sense of solidarity and common purpose and need to be helped towards the point where they can take more responsibility for their own quality of life. It is also now acknowledged, especially in the Children Act 2001, that prevention is far better than cure. It is absolutely crucial to prevention that the state helps communities to help themselves and that law enforcement agencies and the education and youth work systems work with communities in a sympathetic, informed and supportive way. Copping On makes a very valuable contribution to this complex process.

The economic benefits of the Celtic Tiger and the politics of social partnership undoubtedly helped promote this new approach and it is to be hoped that the early momentum that has been achieved will not be lost in the current economic downturn. There are already some negative signs with severe cuts to critically important programmes and a failure to resource, fully implement and politically support the Children Act 2001. While roads and similar infrastructural initiatives might be critical to the continued development of the economy, we should not forget that the key goal is to build a safer, more inclusive and more fulfilling society rather than simply a wealthier one.

Paul OWlahony
Criminologist
Trinity College Dublin

Introduction

2002 saw the sixth year in the life of **Copping On**. Two hundred and eighty people were trained, bringing the total number trained to 1587. As in previous years, training participants were drawn from a broad spectrum of voluntary and statutory bodies and programmes throughout the country.

The year marked many exciting new developments. In particular, **Copping On** delivered training to the Southern Health Board (SHB) as part of SHB's preparation for the implementation of the Children Act. This consisted of both our regular residential training and additional training in the area of group work skills and facilitation. Autumn '02 saw us move to new premises, go online (www.coppingon.ie) and the launch of the much-awaited under 12's junior resource pack.

This report documents all of the work **Copping On** engaged in for the year 2002.

Deirdre Bigley
Acting Co-Ordinator
September 2003

Training

During the year Copping On offered twelve residentials and an additional seven non-residential training sessions, which were run, for personnel from the Southern Health Board. Two follow up days were held, one in Dublin and the second in Athlone.

Participants came from all parts of the country, Donegal, Monaghan, Castlebar, Galway, Roscommon, Athlone, Longford, Killkenny, Tipperary, Limerick, Cobh, Carlow, Louth, and Dublin.

For the first time Copping On worked with the Southern Health Board who in recognition and preparation for the new responsibilities under the Children Act 2001 contracted the programme to run seven, two-day sessions in a number of its regions from Mallow, to Cork City, West Cork to Killarney. In addition, we ran three, two-day sessions on group work skills and facilitation. The Southern Health Board opened the training to other agencies / organisations with responsibility for working with young people at risk in the Health Board region. This multi-agency approach is a corner stone of Copping On's ethos and was considered very beneficial, insightful if not challenging at times for all. In some cases communication occurred for the first time and no doubt the inter agency collaboration will continue.

Evaluations and feedback from training participants ensures that we continue to provide relevant invaluable training experiences for people.

"/ thought the structure was very good. Plenty of movement throughout. Everyone had a opportunity to express opinions etc. The presentations done by us gave an ideal opportunity to discuss issues, undertake facilitation and receive feedback.! Youthworker, March '02

" Good to share opinions with other professionals an excellent programme, that can be used in the workplace " Youthreach Worker December'02

"I've come away with a lot of new ideas and look forward to putting them into practice, a very intense workload with a lot of learning, held my attention (not like me at all!) " Garda Diversion Project November '02

"Presentations were a great idea as it has been a while - cob webs were becoming more prominent". Health Board Worker, March '02

"I thoroughly enjoyed the holistic approach to crime prevention, not throwing facts and stats at us but provoking us to consider the young person in relation to their emotional self their relationships with their families /peers etc" Residential child care worker, April '02

"These two days have given me more confidence working with 13-16yr olds. Selecting participants from the area, for the training is a great idea. I have learnt more about the group over the last two day than I knew". Community Development Project, May '03

"Very informative, reinforced my belief that this is a programme that has to be promoted, the friends / contacts I made and hearing other peoples problems re young people was a wonderful bonus " Community Garda Sergeant, April '02

"Educational and a great way to gain different perspectives to many issues, gave an opportunity to liaise with different people and agencies ". School Completion Programme May '02

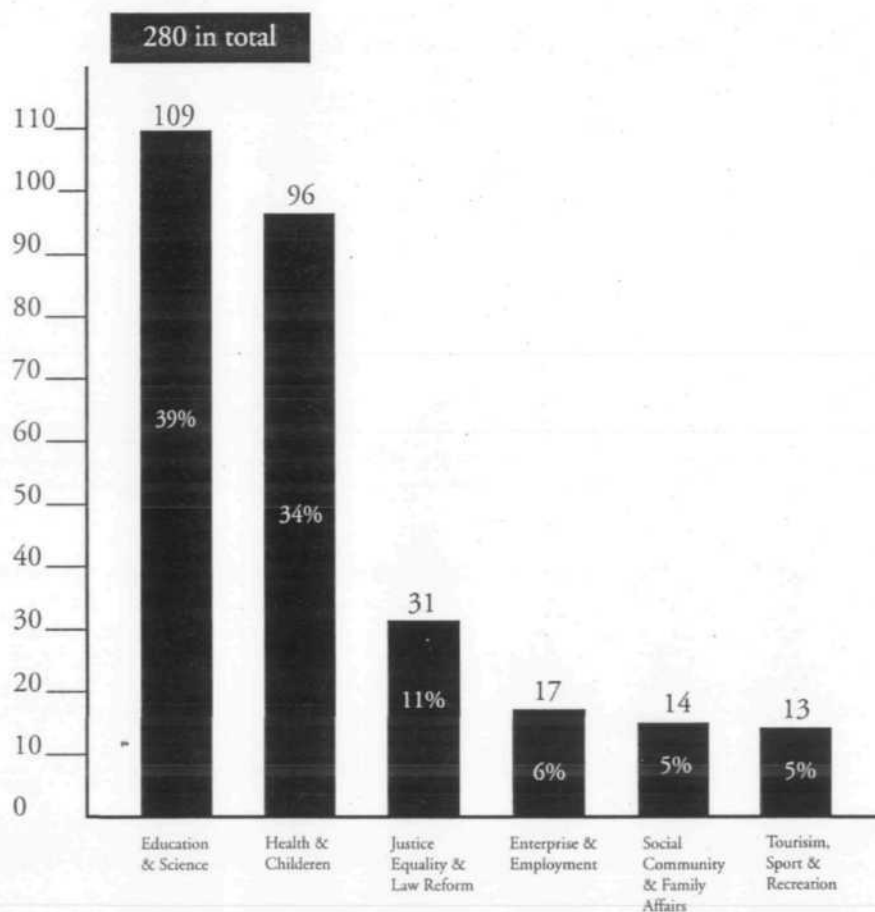
"The training was excellent and well worth attending. New learning areas included Methods of presentation, Importance of group contract, Need to keep to schedules, icebreakers and the comprehensive nature of the information , exercises in both the junior and senior pack" Assistant director of youth service, November '02

"I liked the practical hands on experience and the way people were encouraged to mix and share- good to get back to basics " Probation Officer, November '02

Profile of Participants

Of the 280 individuals who participated in the **Copping On** training during the year 2002, 39% were from initiatives funded by the Department of Education and Science. This figure is broken down further below. The Department, of Health and Children accounted for 34%, whilst 11% was drawn from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. (See Appendix I and II respectively). The remainder represented initiatives funded by the Departments of Enterprise and Employment; Social, Community and Family Affairs; Tourism, Sport and Recreation, and other projects.

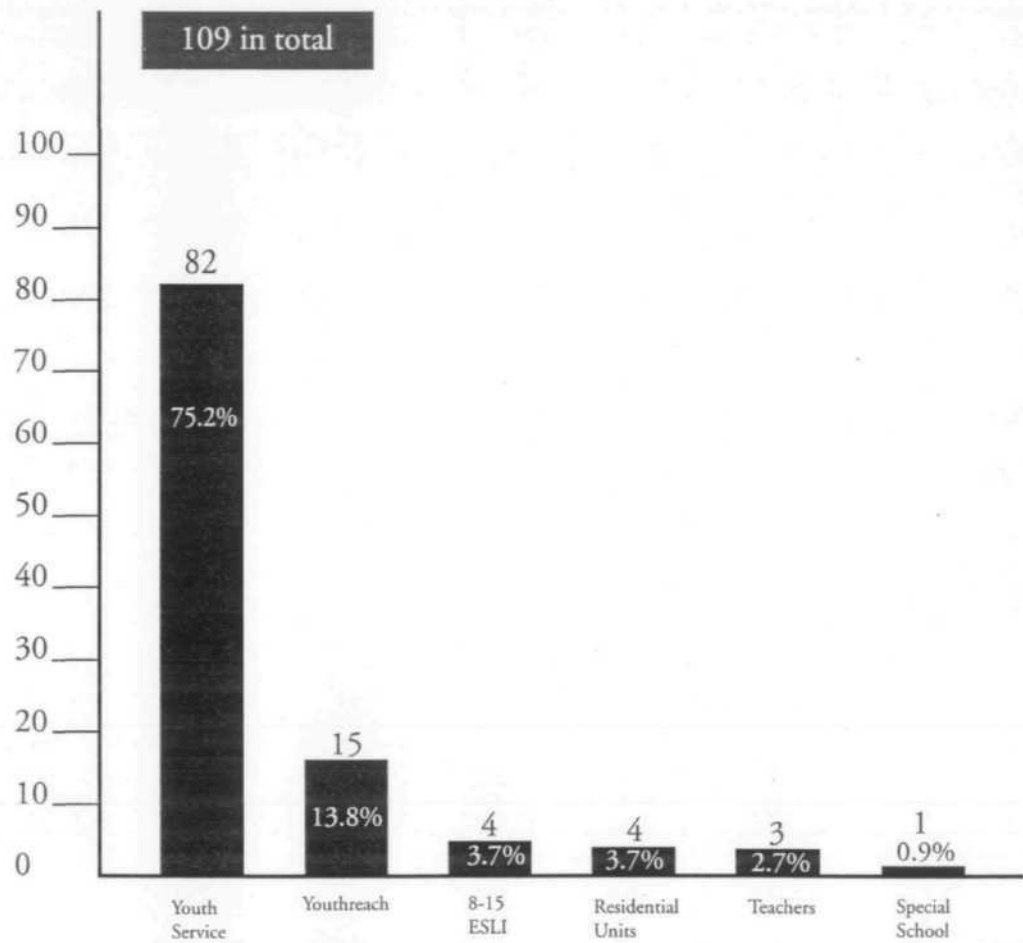
Table 1: Breakdown of Participants in 2002, by Department



Participants

This Table demonstrates that the majority of participants in the year 2002 were drawn from the education sector. This pattern mirrors previous years, although the participation from initiatives funded by the Department of Health and Children has increased significantly this was due to the contract with the Southern Health Board.

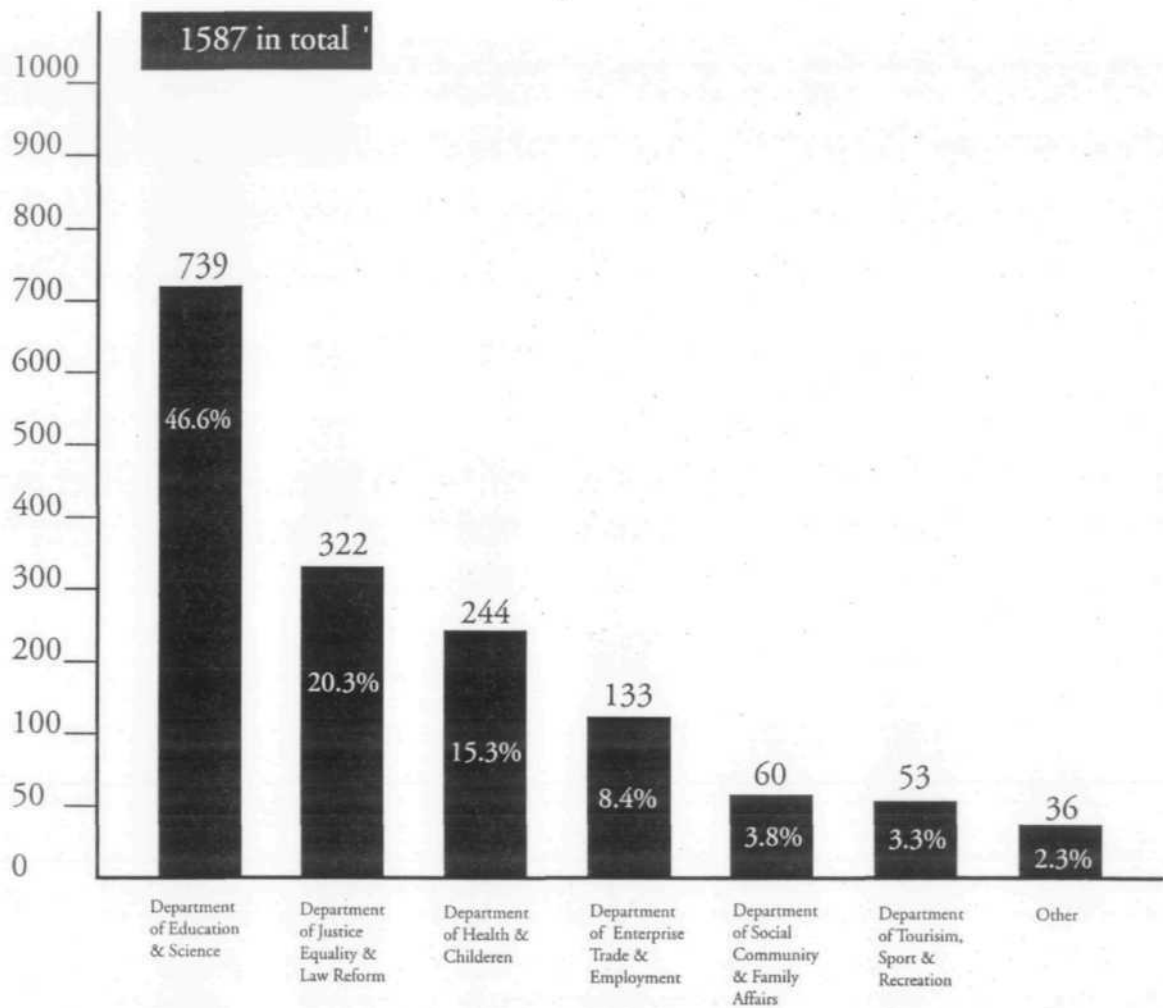
Table 2: Breakdown of Participants in 2002, from initiatives funded by the Department of Education & Science



Participants

Table 2 illustrates of the 109 participants from the education sector, 75.2% were salaried youth workers. This reflects the increasing resources provided to this sector.

Table 3: Breakdown of all Copping On Participants (1996 - 2002)



Participants

At the end of the year 2002, a total of 1587 individuals had participated in the **Copping On** overall. The Department of Education and Science continues to constitute the largest proportion of participants.

Key Issues Identified

Now in its sixth year, **Copping On** has evolved and developed in response to the issues raised by participants. Whilst each group is unique and individual, bringing its own local issues to the training a number of recurring themes have emerged, including:

- That inter-agency cooperation requires time and support, as well as both personal and agency commitment;
- That working with troubled and troublesome young people is extremely difficult, and staff support systems are vital to effective practice;
- That challenging young people's attitudes to authority requires that practitioners are open to questioning and rethinking their own assumptions;
- That involving parents is an important aspect of intervention but requires safe, gentle methods of engagement.

Copping On comprises both training and resources and these are intended to enhance the work of a skilled and committed workforce. It also contributes significantly to the development of more holistic approaches to the delivery of services and programmes for young people.

Supports Offered

Newsletter

The **Copping On** newsletter is principally a means of keeping in contact with people trained. It not only promotes the programme but provides an opportunity for projects / programmes to showcase their work. Due to a very packed timetable in '02 we produced only one newsletter with articles outlining the work of two projects, Ruhama a Dublin based project working with women involved in prostitution and the Aislinn Adolescence Addiction Treatment Centre. Feedback was so positive that it has been decided that future newsletters will be theme-based, outlining best practice and practical advice on issues relevant to young people and those that work with them.

Follow up days

Two follow up days for participants were offered this year. The first was based in Dublin for those working in surrounding areas and the second in Athlone for midlands / west based participants. Despite low numbers the follow up training was deemed "*very worthwhile and valuable*" for those who attended. The focus on the two days was making **Copping On** work for you. Solutions were identified for running successful crime prevention/ awareness programmes in different work settings.

A panel of previously trained people in **Copping On** attended and gave their insight into their experiences of the programme. Kevin Deering Juvenile Liaison Officer Clontarf, and Aaron Fowler Youthreach Ashbourne presented to those attending the Dublin Follow up with Karina Curley Education Co-ordinator, Oak Partnership Edenderry and Dick O' Donovan, Neighborhood Youth Project Roscommon in Athlone. They offered their successes and failures regarding the programme as well

as sharing the benefit of their expertise in their particular field. Their input made for two very practical days, offering creative approaches to running the programme, feedback from success stories and looking at lifting the barriers to future successes.

Website

Having recognised that the Internet is fast becoming an important means of communication we launched our website in autumn '02. While it was very much a work in progress we were delighted to add yet another medium of support to those with an interest in / working with young people at risk. We hope that in the future people will be able to apply on line and by tapping into the database see the number of organisations already trained by us.

Site Visits

Visiting the projects / centres and different work settings where the programme is implemented is integral to the work, ensuring that it remains current, relevant and appropriate. It is considered one of the key elements in supporting those trained. We are provided, not only an opportunity to meet practitioners but also we get to meet the ultimate beneficiary of the programme, young people and receive feedback from them. Due to resource constraints it is not possible to visit every participating site, but the following were visited in 2002:

YOUTHREACH

- > *YOUTHREACH* Kilkenny;
- > *YOUTHREACH* Edenderry;
- > *YOUTHREACH* Arklow;

Garda Special Projects

- > EYE Project Mullingar;
- > Block Project, Portlaoise;
- > Bris Justice Youth Project, Galway;
- > Acorn Project; Edenderry;

Senior Travelling Training Centres

- > St. Josephs, Carrick on Shannon;

FAS and Justice Funded Projects

- > Community Training Workshop, Newbridge;
- > Dochas don Oige, Probation Centre, Galway;

Other Projects

- > Cherry Orchard Community Centre;
- > Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative;
- > NYP, Carrick on Shannon

- > S Joseph's Ferry house
- > St. Mary's Secondary School, Edenderry;
- > Loughmahon Residential House for Girls, Douglas, Cork
- > Westside Resource Centre, Galway
- > Westside Programme, Belfast

Informal Contact

Responding to the many calls for support is a considerable part of the work of **Copping On**. These include requests for information regarding the programme, help in accessing information regarding related programmes, a need for a sounding board as to whether a group should visit a prison or not, debriefing from a difficult session or support for an idea to management.

Where contact by phone is relatively brief it is an important tool for programme staff and those who contact us. It reminds us of the issues facing practitioners, ensures that we maintain our relevance and provides the opportunity to refocus and re-energise.

Copping On sees the support we offer pre and post training as essential to those trained and despite the ever-increasing numbers and resource implications intend to continue to offer this support.

Developing Links

During 2002 a number of events were attended with a view to developing links, promoting the programme and gaining a greater understanding of the issues impacting on the various sectors with whom we work. This was especially relevant given the arrival of the new Co-ordinator, Bridget Gormley. Given the multi-agency nature of the training and the focus on this way of working, it is important that the **Copping On** team be familiar with the practice issues and legislative/policy context of the key agencies with whom we work.

Conferences and seminars attended:

- > Breaking Through Annual Conference, Westport;
- > Barnardos Cross Border Conference on the protection of children in the Island of Ireland, Dundalk;
- > Irish Association of Suicidology Annual Conference in Belfast, "Youth and Suicide";
- > Irish Association for the Study of Delinquency (IASD) Annual Conference, Killiney;
- > Aontas Conference, Dublin;
- > NALA event for International Literacy Day;
- > Launch of the Moving On Consortium, Dublin;
- > Youthreach Co-ordinators Conference, Blarney;
- > Breaking Through Europe, Malmo, Sweden;
- > Breaking Through Regional Events;
- > UK and Ireland Biennial Youth Justice Conference, Liverpool.

Other events attended:

- > Irish Youth Work Centre Inter-agency Advisory Group;
- > St. Patrick's Juvenile Detention Centre;
- > Oberstown and Trinity House, Lusk, Co. Dublin;
- > National Plan for Women, Dun Laoghaire;
- > The Village Project, Finglas with IASD;
- > Launch of the Read Write Now3 programme;

Publicity

Raising awareness regarding the **Copping On** initiative, the methodology it promotes and the needs of young people is central to the work of **Copping On**. In order to continue this work the Co-ordinator and Training Officer made presentations and gave inputs at conferences and seminars during 2002.

- > Workshop/presentation to Foroige National Conference;
- > Presentation to Education Co-ordinators Network, Partnerships, Tullamore;
- > Presentation/workshop at the Juveniles Liaison Officers conference in Templemore, Co. Tipperary;
- > Presentation to NUI Maynooth Certificate Students in Rural Development;
- > Presentation at Ballymun Axis Centre to Certificate in Community Housing Group.

An interview was given to Martin Foran freelance journalist for IP A (International Police Association) which resulted in an article on **Copping On** being published in the Christmas issue of the IPA Journal - the Lifestyle and Leisure Magazine for an Garda Siochana.

New Developments

New Premises

A major development during the year was the move from Maynooth to Leixlip. The programme is now located at Unit 1 Westside Centre, 51 Main Street, Leixlip, Co Kildare.

Launch of the Junior Resource Pack

Monday the 11th November 2002 saw the official launch of the under 12's pack in the Clock Tower in Dublin by Sile de Valera, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science. A number of agencies and organisations from both the

voluntary and statutory sector attended. Feedback has been very positive. Some users' comments:

"We have found the new Junior Copping On pack more user friendly Some of our young people have an educational disadvantage so the more simplified content and use of pictures is better suited to their needs. " Probation Officers, St. Joseph's Special School, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

The pack came as a nice surprise in terms of layout, up to date information and the amount of activities included in each module. We also felt that many of the activities would be useful with an older age group especially those that have difficulty with discussion based sessions, The layout is impressive as there is less written material on each page and the use of cartoon pictures breaks the intensity making the whole pack less academic and technical in appearance. We found that by supplementing the senior pack with materials from the junior pack the young people were more actively involved. The junior pack provides an abundance of ready made materials that can be applied directly to the age group 14-16 years. Castlereagh Neighbourhood Youth Project.

Academic Calendar

The programme engaged with YOUTHREACH Leixlip in the creation and production of a **Copping On** Calendar for the Academic year '03-'04. It is hoped that it will become an annual event and an important addition to every office!

Prison Links

The prison visit, as an element of the **Copping On** initiative remains a focus of interest to participants. It is a useful opportunity to find out about the reality of prison, and to dispel the myths often associated with life in prison. It is used by many practitioners dealing with young people at risk as a mechanism to help these young people understand that the ultimate consequences of criminal activity is a period of detention or imprisonment.

In 2002 **Copping On** in conjunction with the Prison Service has facilitated a total number of 577 prison visits for both Adults and young people:.

Mountjoy

Adults 27

Young people 74

St. Patrick's Institution
Adults 128
Young people 200

Limerick
Adults 51
Young people 61

Midlands
Adults 4

Wheatfield
Adults 9

Spike Island
Adults 23

Monitoring and Support

The role of the steering committee continues to be a vital one. During the year, four meetings took place and additional day for review and evaluation chaired by an external facilitator. The latter provided us with an opportunity to take stock and lend some clarity and focus as to where the programme is heading in the future. Several meetings were also held with individual members of the committee, who lent their expertise and experience when requested, supporting the staff when ever necessary.

Staff Training and Supervision

Staff training continues to be of importance to ensure a skilled resource to **Copping On's** users. The Co-ordinator completed a weeks' training in Reality Therapy at the William Glasser Institute Ireland in August which was part of the training schedule for Youthreach co-ordinators. The Training Officer successfully completed the NUI Maynooth Certificate in Training and Continuing Education.

Staff supervision is ongoing on a termly basis both jointly and individually for the Co-ordinator and Training Officer with an external supervisor. This space provides an important opportunity for examination and resolution of any difficulties that may arise as well as sustaining clarity regarding roles and the purpose of our work.

Administration

The overall administration and financial accountability continues to be provided by the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

A **part-time** administrator is also employed, based in the **Copping On** office.

Finance

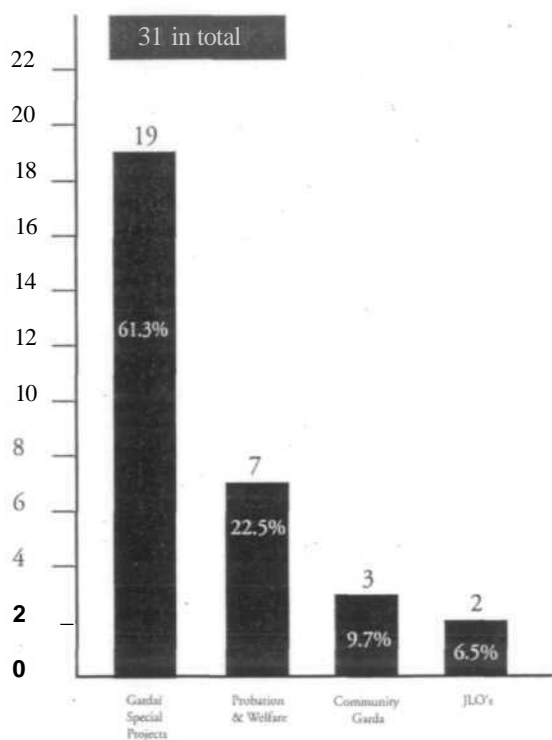
The commitment to the **Copping On** initiative is evidenced by the continuous funding on an annual basis from the Department of Education & Science, Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform and FÁS.

A once off payment from the Department of Education & Science of €5000 was received in 2002 to help cover re-location costs. The contribution made by participants to the training costs is also crucial.

The **Copping On** accounts are audited annually under the auspices of the City of Dublin VEC. A report of the audit is circulated to the steering committee and our flinders.

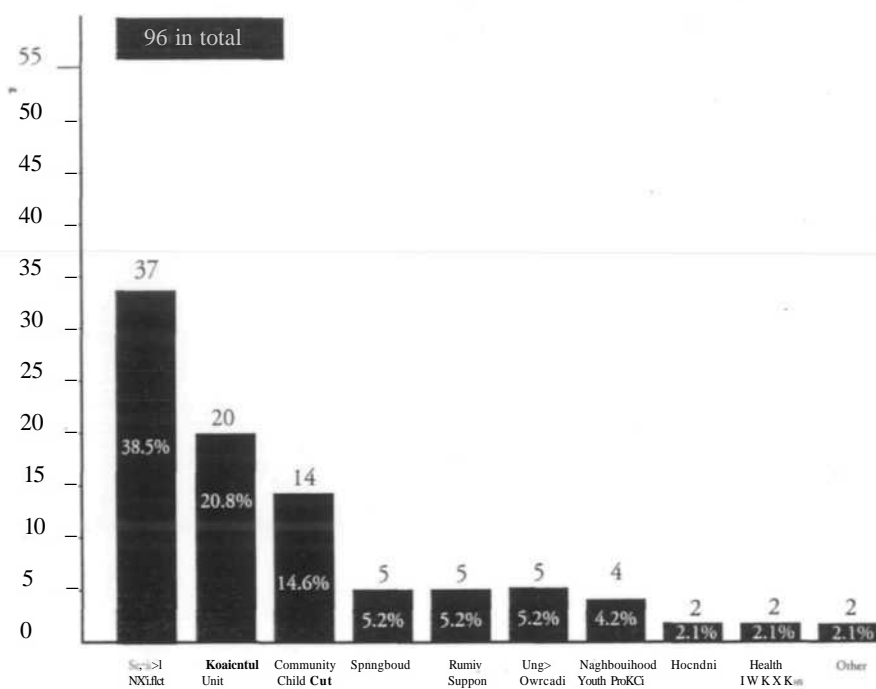
Appendix I

Breakdown of participants from initiatives funded by the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform in 2002



Appendix II



Breakdown of participants from initiatives funded by the Department of Health & Children in 2002

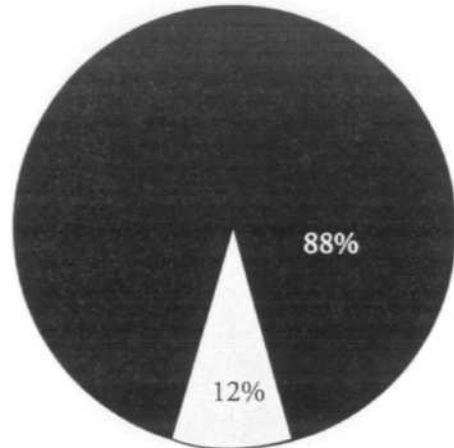


Appendix III

Breakdown of participants 2002 by Government Department

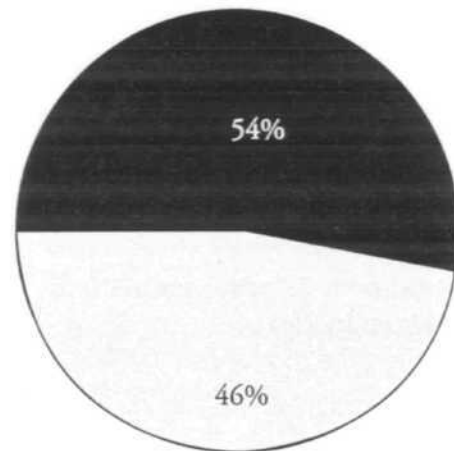
Enterprise & Employment: 17

	FAS	15	88%
	CTW	2	12%






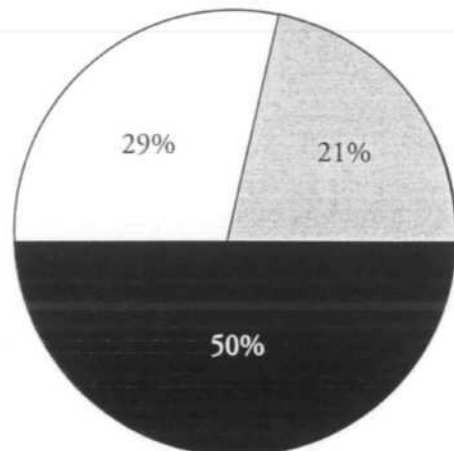
Tourism Sport & Recreation: 13

	Partnership	7	54%
	Drugs Task Force	6	46%



Social, Community and Family Affairs: 14

	ADM	7	50%
	CDP	3	21%
	Family Resource Ctr.	4	29%



Steering Committee and staff of Copping On '02

Steering Committee.

Department of Education

- Dermot Stokes, National Youthreach Coordinator
- Peter Kelly, Further Education Section
- Austin Vaughan, Psychological Services
- Carmel Reilly Youth Affairs Section

Other Government Departments:

- Superintendent Vincent McGuire, Garda National Juvenile Office
- Inspector Mick Jackson, Garda National Juvenile Office;
- Brian Hamilton, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
- Gus O'Connell, National Youthreach Coordinator, FAS
- Bernadette Reilly, City of Dublin VEC
- Noel Dalton, Kildare VEC
- Eddie D'Arcy, Ronanstown Youth Service.

Staff

Bridget Gormley
Co -ordinator

Deirdre Bigley
Training Officer

Maureen Reilly
Administrator

YOUTHREACH



AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

