

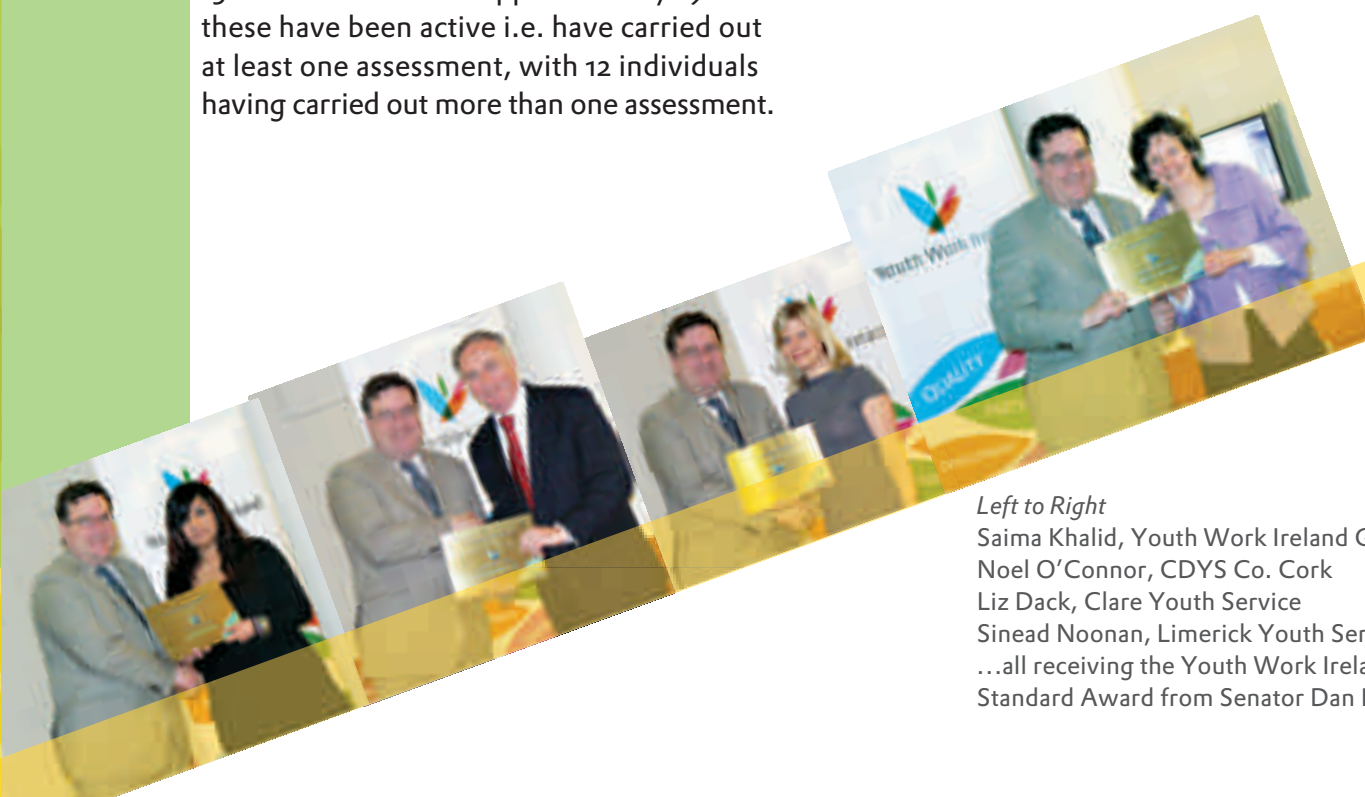
The Quality Standards Framework Core Group, made up of members from local youth services throughout the country, have been working hard over the past 2 years to progress the review and ongoing development of the framework. The individual standards have been completely reviewed and in many cases rewritten or reorganised. The assessment process has been clarified and outlined clearly. The draft document that has resulted from this process will be circulated to the broader membership for consultation in early 2010. The aim is for the new document to form the basis around which the membership of YWI recommit to the whole QSF process at the AGM in May 2010.

In total 9 services have now completed the assessment process. A further 5 services have seriously engaged in the assessment process, with 5 more at the early stages of their preparations. The remaining 3 services are not engaged in the process at this point for various reasons.

The peer assessor panel has 42 members who have registered and completed induction training. These individuals are drawn from 15 of the 22 services. Approximately 19 of these have been active i.e. have carried out at least one assessment, with 12 individuals having carried out more than one assessment.

We feel that after 3 years of implementation we can say that there has been considerable engagement by youth services in the Framework. Anecdotal evidence shows us that due to engagement in the framework, many services have experienced a change in the culture of their organisations with the concept of continuous improvement becoming more central to their work. Evidence from assessors, combined with feedback from services who have undergone assessment shows improved practice regarding planning & evaluation; documenting and evidencing the work; the development and implementation of Policies & Procedures; and, the sharing of resources.

However, there is still work to be done to ensure full engagement of all youth services and to ensure our aim of a 3 year cycle of assessment can be delivered upon.



Left to Right
 Saima Khalid, Youth Work Ireland Galway
 Noel O'Connor, CDYS Co. Cork
 Liz Dack, Clare Youth Service
 Sinead Noonan, Limerick Youth Service
 ...all receiving the Youth Work Ireland Quality
 Standard Award from Senator Dan Boyle

CDYS COUNTY CORK

Counselling, Recognition & Boxing in County Cork

Mallow Community Youth Facility continues to serve numerous youth, community and sporting needs. In 2009 over 60,000 people passed through the doors of the centre and with seating for 700 it is one of the biggest venues in the area.

1,129 young people accessed CDYS clubs, projects and services in 2009.

2009 continued to be a vibrant year for young people and the arts with CDYS. In 2009 a series of projects and groups were organised to build confidence and establish relationships. These respond to issues or needs identified by young people themselves or by those working with them and there is a strong focus on young people managing and directing the project. At any time there can be over twenty individual youth projects running in different parts of the county.

Over 230 young people made use of drugs projects in 2009 in Mallow, Macroom and Fermoy. These projects are supported by the Southern Regional Drugs Task Force to support individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol abuse. Services include; One to One support, Referral to counselling or primary treatment, Drug and Alcohol Education and Advice and Information Services.

There were two Garda Youth Diversion Projects run by CDYS in 2009, the Mallow GYDP and the Feabhas GYDP in Cobh. Participation on the projects is by referral –

Feabhas

Feabhas Youth Diversion Project in Cobh hosted a recognition night on 15th December 2009 for the work undertaken by the young people during the past year. The recognition night took place in the Parish



Office in Cobh and representatives of the local Gardaí and the local council were there together with parents and family members of the young people.

Certificates were awarded to the young people taking part in programmes such as the school support programme, health promotion, beauty and make up, car mechanics, IT, film making etc. The evening also included a photography exhibition with two of the young people from the project and the launch of the short film "*Wheeler Dealers*".

The night gave Feabhas an opportunity to thank the volunteers and partners for their support and effort.

Mallow GYDP

CDYS Mallow Garda Youth Diversion project proudly announced the opening of Mallow Amateur Boxing Club in 2009. The boxing club was initially started to occupy a number of teenagers who were persistently hanging around in the youth centre whilst other centre users were coming and going. It has now grown into the Mallow Amateur Boxing Club (MABC), with a register of almost 80 members.

If you thought the training to be a boxer was difficult, then the volume of admin work involved for the club to obtain its official license was almost a knockout blow. We cannot stress strongly enough how thankful and proud we are in the Diversion Project for everyone who has been involved in bringing the club so far along in such a short time, from the trainers and all the admin staff involved on every level who give their time for free, to the young people who have shown a mature and dedicated approach to assisting the growth of the club and Mallow Youth Centre. The Mallow Garda Youth Diversion Project and its committee who have supported this project from day one are proud to sponsor the club and have supplied the kits for these fine young men and women to represent the Town of Mallow.

We are looking forward to competing in The Olympics in a few years time. You may laugh at such a claim but here in the diversion Project it is our aim to make people realise their full potential. Great things are beckoning for both the Boxing Club and the Community of Mallow. From small acorns grow large Oaks!

Mallow Amateur Boxing Club is open to new members of both sexes and of all ages



New CDYS Counselling Service

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service Ltd. has expanded its youth services to now include a youth friendly counselling service which began in September 2009. This service has been introduced to the 5 areas from which CDYS operates – Mallow, Middleton, Fermoy, Cobh, Macroom.

Recently, €5,200 funds were given towards the Counselling Service from the Sisters of Mercy Solidarity Trust Fund. This help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The service has been developed in a response to the expressed needs of young people who regularly access the projects and groups offered by the youth workers in the aforementioned areas. Based on some of the issues disclosed by young people, it was deemed that a youth friendly counselling service would compliment the work which youth workers were doing with young people. It is hoped that this additional service will help young people cope with issues which they are currently struggling with.

Primarily the service is offered to existing members of CDYS and their parents. With the assistance of the local youth worker, young people will be supported to make an appointment with the counsellor, as well as going along to the initial session. The uniqueness of this counselling service is that the young person is heavily supported by a youth worker that they trust, to access an additional service that they may otherwise not have availed of.

All CDYS counsellors are qualified counsellors who are working towards their accreditation with a professional counselling body. All counsellors are volunteers and have committed to give of their professional services for free for 1 year. Counsellors carry their own insurance and attend supervision once a month.

This service is completely free to young people.

This new and additional service in CDYS could not have been possible without generous funding for the St. Vincent de Paul and Macroom Parish.



Participation

2009 was a year for planning and development of youth participation in YWI National Office.

The year began with an opportunity to develop the theoretical and conceptual basis for the work of supporting youth participation in Youth Work Ireland, which was provided by the UCD/Egalitarian World Initiative Scholarship. The scholarship offered a period of supported study and research which was employed to develop several products which now assist to inform the work of the Youth Work Ireland National Office including youth participation and equality.

As equality is the basis for participation, the first product was a paper that was jointly prepared with the NYCI Intercultural Project

Officer to support the development and promotion of Diversity Toolkit for Youth Work. The paper, entitled *Diversity Toolkit for Youth Work: Increasing Participation and Inclusion for all Young People*, provides the theoretical and conceptual basis of the toolkit. In order to win support for the Toolkit, this joint piece of work was presented to the Irish Youth Work Sector at the 'All Change for Young People' International youth studies conference, which took place in July of 2009 at NUI Maynooth. The purpose of supporting the toolkit was to assist in providing a tool that would help youth workers and youth services to expand participation at the most basic level.



The other product of this research was a second paper. *Youth Participation and Youth Work: A Conceptual Review*, published in 'Youth Studies Ireland – Autumn/Winter 2008 Vol .3 No 2'. This paper serves as the conceptual basis for the Draft Youth Work Ireland Youth Participation Policy, and the Framework of Youth actions to support the policy.

The Draft Youth Work Ireland Youth Participation Policy was Board approved in October of 2009 and will go to AGM in 2010. Upon ratification of the policy, both the policy and the Framework of actions will be available on the Youth Work Ireland website.

Other work to support youth participation in Youth Work Ireland and in the sector included launching a pilot Virtual Community of Practice to support networking and sharing of practice with a focus on practice

in the area of youth participation. A great deal of learning emerged from this pilot, which will be employed in a re-launch of the forum on an enhanced basis in 2010.

Additionally, ongoing support was provided directly to ensure that young people had their voice heard at the national level through support to *Voices of Youth* and through a National Youth Poll.

The majority of Youth Work Ireland's participation programme involves supporting the work of the Office of the Minister for Children's Participation Team. Assistance provided in 2009 included developmental support to Comhairle na nÓg on a regional basis, support for the implementation of Dáil na nÓg and assistance with the programme of children's consultations for the new National Paediatric Hospital.

Dáil na nÓg – Reflection

by *Luke Corcoran* – Tipperary Town delegate



When I first joined South Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg I had only a vague idea of what the organisation was all about. Most of what I knew I had learnt during that day i.e. the annual local Comhairle Day held in Ballykissteen Hotel. At my very first meeting I was asked did I want to put myself forward for election to Dáil na nÓg – which is the national day for local Comhairle's its an organisation to facilitate a voice for the young people of Ireland. I jumped at the opportunity and I was delighted when my fellow youth council members elected me forward to Dáil na nÓg. I was honoured to represent the young people of Tipperary.

My first step was to go to the South East Comhairle's training day. I travelled to Kilkenny with the other four nominees: Kenny Adebayo, Laura Rice, Alice Davern-Murphy and Ian Lonergan. This is to help us understand what we are a part of and to help us prepare for the day. It also allowed us to choose the topic, relating to youth affairs, that we would discuss that day. I chose Bullying. I found the day vital in order to prepare me for the actual day. It gave me the chance to do some research on bullying services in my local area.

When the actual day I arrived I boarded a train with the others at Limerick Junction. We arrived at Houston and got the bus that would take us to Croke Park where Dáil na nÓg is held. We arrived and took our seats along with over a 100 other youth representatives. We were divided up into groups, based on which topic we had chosen to discuss that day, and got down to business.

We discussed the problems and possible solutions of each topic which ranged from Bullying to Sexual Health. We came up with a suggestion of what we would do if we were in the government and when had finished discussing we voted on which suggestion we found the most plausible and important.

We then took a break and had a Questions and answers session with several Government officials including: Barry Andrews Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (who I didn't think much of), Geoff Day head of the Suicide Prevention Office and Sharon McGrath head of the S.P.H.E. curriculum. We then found out which suggestions would be discussed by this years national council. The national council is made up of one representative from each Comhairle. Kenny Adebayo is our representative from the South Tipperary Youth council.

Overall my experience of Dáil na nÓg was very interesting. I made loads of friends, discussed issues which are important to young people and hopefully influenced Government policy. If anyone wants to find out more information about anything I talked about just log on to our Bebo site 'southtippy3'. While the national Dáil na nÓg day is once a year, the local Youth Council (Comhairle na nÓg) is all year around and is open to young people to get involved. We are getting ready to organise this years day in South Tipperary which will be held in November 2009 so keep your eyes on local promotions on how to get involved. Thanks,
Luke Corcoran.

NORTH CONNAUGHT

Life Choice Programme

Over the last two years, North Connaught Youth & Community Services Ltd have been running a very successful teenage parenting programme in the local post primary schools and youth clubs/groups. The **Life Choice Programme**, which is facilitated by staff of the Youth Information Centre comprises of eight modules including:

- Introduction and induction
- Media influence and peer pressure
- Relationships and contraception
- STI's
- The affects of drugs and alcohol in pregnancy
- The financial, aspirational and emotional consequences of having a baby
- The practical experience of caring for a baby
- Evaluation and review

Over 150 students (mostly transition year and fourth years) have participated on the Life Choice Programme. The main aim of the programme is to provide an opportunity for the young people to explore their choices in life, help them make responsible informed choices about their lives and about parenthood, and to give them an insight into the life changing demands and commitments of parenthood. As part of the programme the young people have the opportunity to take home and look after a *RealCare* baby for a night. It is the responsibility of the students to attend to the Baby's every need, which included feeding, rocking, burping and nappy changing. Each time the baby cries, the student must respond within a certain time to the babies needs. This opportunity is designed to inform the young people on the realities of parenting, babies demands are unpredictable and must be met promptly, babies require a great deal of time and attention and to explore the physical, emotional, aspirational and social consequences of parenthood.

The feedback from this programme has been very positive. All the young people who participated on the programme really enjoyed the experience and there was a great 'buzz' in the schools, with teachers and other students 'dying' to find out how the young people got on caring for 'their babies'.

