



LITRICK SERVICE CLUB
CASLEC YOUTH CLUB

YOUTH WORK IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

NORTHSIDE
SOUTHSIDE



Youth Work Ireland





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A Word From our President

It was a great honour to be President of Youth Work Ireland in 2009. Despite a challenging funding environment our volunteers and staff proved themselves once again by offering a service to be proud of to young people all around the country.

This year we have sought to give a greater visual representation of our work in our annual report hopefully communicating the life and vibrancy of the organisation and most of all the huge positive contribution young people make to this country.

Despite trying times in terms of our economy and society our work continues to show the best side of young people and provides enormous encouragement for the future of our country

Liz Dermody

President, Youth Work Ireland

The Youth Work Ireland Board:

Liz Dermody, Kevin Matthews, Noel Fitzgerald, Marie Flynn, John Gilmore, Catherine Kelly, Charlene Logue, Wayne Mackin, Nicola Moran, Gregory Sewell, Bill Thompson, Diarmuid Kearney (Secretary)



Introduction

The launch of our new Strategic Plan in May 2009 was the formal recognition of what has been a significant and important development within the federation. Not only did the extensive consultation process create a useful analysis of our 'federal health', it produced a set of shared strategic priorities that will provide a clear focus for our work over the coming years. These priorities hold true to the principles of youth work that have underpinned our practice for almost half a century. They have also developed our mandate to advocate and refine our practice in relation to children's rights and youth participation.

As a federation of Regional Youth Services we have created a comprehensive national infrastructure that is firmly rooted in communities. As independent companies our members work collaboratively to build a cohesive national organisation delivering a repertoire of quality programmes driven by the requirements of young people and supported and resourced by our 'Quality Framework' together with a range of other development tools and opportunities.

All of this is necessary because young people are facing the most challenging times in decades. The economic downturn has impacted on all of Irish society and, as ever, young people are facing the most extreme consequences of unemployment and emigration. Young people continue to be problematised by our press, politicians and public and are subjected to personal and institutional discrimination at every turn. These and many other challenges are presented at a time in their lives when they struggle with the transition to adulthood. We hope that our work in supporting young people to have their voice heard will increasingly lead to them being seen as assets to Irish society, bringing a freshness and optimism to life on this island.

Politically we have also faced some hurdles. Finding an equal place for youth work at the table of integrated services for young people is essential and 2009 has seen us continually strive to see youth work recognised as a discrete and professional discipline bringing a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to the task of supporting young lives. The rapidly changing policy environment has kept us busy and we hope our advocacy in this arena will help ensure that Ireland is a society in which young people are truly valued and involved.

None of our work would be possible however without the army of staff and volunteers throughout the country who work tirelessly with and for young people. They are the unsung heroes of our times.

Diarmuid Kearney
Chief Executive





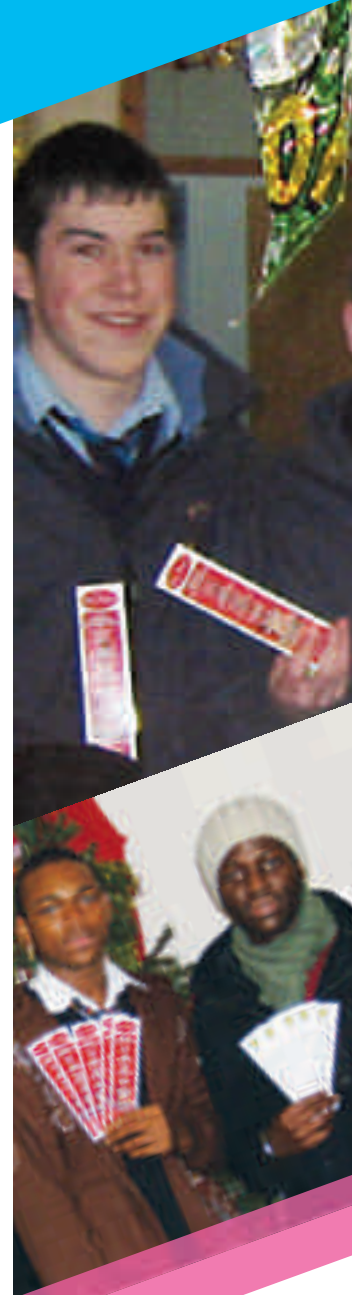
MEATH

Meath Youth Federation Developed its Meet and Eat Youth Café Bookmark for Local Students

Meath Youth Federation's Meet and Eat Youth Café continues to go from strength to strength and their latest initiative is set to push the project on even further. Before Christmas the Federation launched its Bookmark which contains information on the services provided, opening times, contact details etc. One thousand bookmarks have been distributed to students attending school in the Navan area. Printing and design of the Bookmark was sponsored by local business MG Music.

Meet and Eat Youth Café provides a lunchtime and evening service for secondary school students and has been running for over two years. It has offered many young people a space where they can relax, eat their lunch, talk with friends and enjoy activities including pool, table tennis, table football, free internet, games and music.

The Youth Café provides a hassle-free and safe environment where young people can meet whilst at all times being supervised by trained staff and volunteers. Over 4,000 students have availed of the Youth Café's services in 2009.



Meet and Eat Youth Café's Bookmark Launch



Meath Volunteer recognised by Volunteering Ireland

Patricia Ryan was instrumental in setting up Next Generation Youth Club in the Ballivor area of Meath. She saw the need for the young people to be given an opportunity to express themselves in a safe environment with their peers. She exudes confidence and determination and is meticulous in her planning of all youth club matters. Patricia is a mother and has a full time job but this does not stop her doing all she can to help the young teenagers of her local community. She takes her role as secretary very seriously and simply wants the youth club to be the best club possible. She has organised great youth club nights including pizza cooking, murder mystery nights and quiz nights, as well as often organising fundraising events with the young people to make them aware of the needs of other people in their community. She encourages other youth clubs to take part in events organised by the national office and welcomes inter-club activities within the county. Patricia is also a great time manager but knows her limitations and shows other volunteers how to pace themselves in order to sustain the fun, enthusiasm, ideas and friendships needed to keep the youth club going into the future. She glows with pride when speaking about her youth club and all the young people involved. She actively promotes Meath Youth Federation with the work she does and successfully promotes the young people of Ballivor in a very positive way.

"Last year our youth club became the most active and successful community venture in our area for youth. Without the dedicated, committed, enthusiastic and supportive group of volunteers this would not have evolved. We concentrated on the teenagers whose need was greatest and have been greatly rewarded with 60 tremendous members who continue to give and appreciate our efforts. I am one of many and am extremely proud of what we have all achieved, together."

– Patricia

Minister Noel Dempsey talks
to MYF staff at International
Volunteer Day

Volunteering Ireland Award
Trish Ryan

Tracie (MYF) & Patricia
(Next Generation YC)
receive Award

Quality Standards Framework – 2009

The implementation of the Quality Standards Framework in 2009 has continued to progress. The focus has been on supporting Local Youth Services through their preparations for assessment, through the self-assessment process, and through the peer assessment process. Four further services have successfully completed the assessment process – Limerick Youth Service, CDYS (Co. Cork), Clare Youth Service and Youth Work Ireland Galway.

There has been further progress in the preparations of a number of local youth services who are lining up for assessment in 2010. Carlow Regional Youth Service, Youth Work Ireland Roscommon/N.E. Galway, Youth Work Ireland Cork and Tipperary Regional Youth Services have all invested time and effort into their preparations and have made significant progress towards assessment in 2010. The North East Cluster group (Youth Work Ireland Monaghan, Youth Work Ireland Louth, and Meath Youth Federation) have been working collaboratively, with support from National Office, to develop and implement a shared work plan that will progress their preparations for assessment.



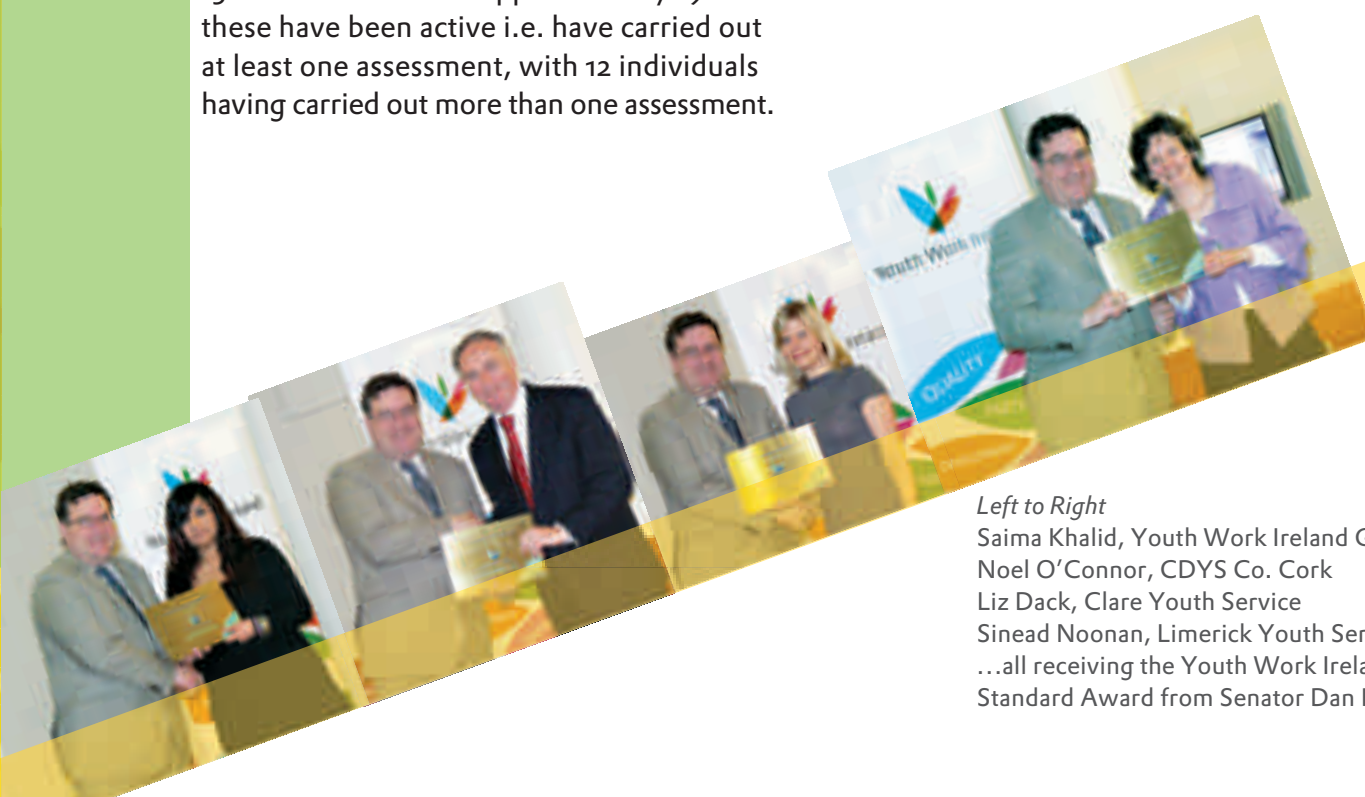
The Quality Standards Framework Core Group, made up of members from local youth services throughout the country, have been working hard over the past 2 years to progress the review and ongoing development of the framework. The individual standards have been completely reviewed and in many cases rewritten 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 Ballykisteon 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

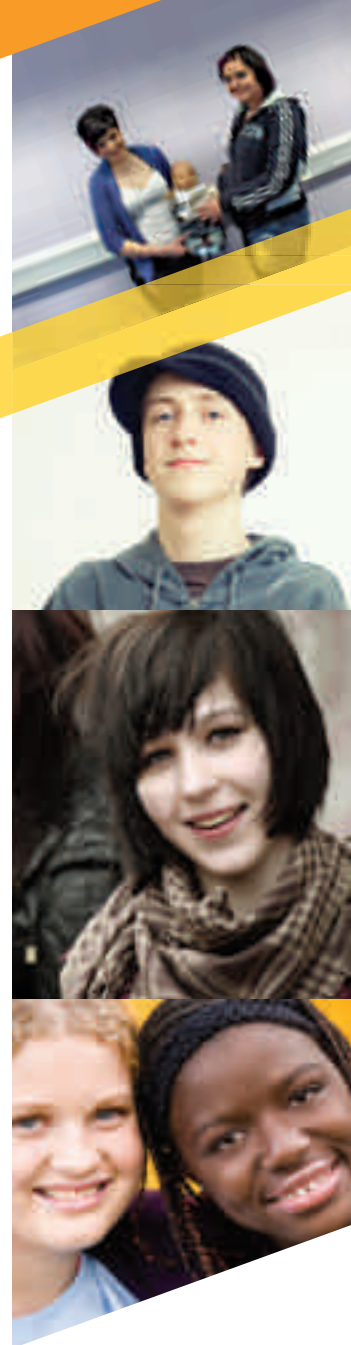
Life Choice Programme

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'.



Irish Youth Work Centre

Resources

The issue of the safe use of social networking tools and social media by young people has created much debate in recent times and Youth Work Ireland has put considerable time and effort in 2009 into developing good and safe practice resources in this area, producing four practice based resources:

- **Safe Social Networking:** *Guidelines for those working with young people*
- **Safe Surfing:** *Guidelines for safe Internet use for young people and those who work with them*
- **Social Media Networking Learning Resource Pack**
- **Appropriate Use of Social Networking Tools:** *Guidelines for Youth Work Staff and Volunteers*

Youth Work Ireland also produced revised **Dealing with Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco in Youth Work Settings:** *Guidelines for Youth Workers* and developed a **Job Planning, Supervision and Performance Review System** which is an integrated system of one-to-one structures, including Support & Supervision and Performance Review, between employee and line manager to support staff in their work and ensure that the goals of the organisation are achieved. It has been piloted in National Office and was made available to Member Youth Services to adapt to their local needs.

Irish Youth Work Centre Training

This years IYWC Training workshop programme has begun to be shaped and informed by gaps emerging from an analysis of the Quality Standards Assessments undertaken to date and these assessments will continue to inform and shape the future composition of the Training Calendar.

In 2009 workshops on **Responding to Challenging Behaviour in Young People; Effective Planning and Evaluation in Youth Work; Staff Supervision for Youth Work and Working with Minority Groups of Young People** were organised. All workshops delivered were fully subscribed and received very strong evaluations. A significant expansion of the number of workshops will take place in 2010 reflecting some of the training needs emerging from the Quality Standards Assessments.



Youth Information

Youth Work Ireland continued to participate within the **Youth Information Support Partnership** and hosted a network meeting in November 2009 as well as developing in partnership with Member Youth Services two position papers on the Future of Youth Information and on Youth Cafes which were submitted to OMCYA.

Teen Between

Work continued with the **Marriage and Relationship Counselling Service** to deliver the joint Teen Between Project established in 1998 and operating around the country, with a new service being established in Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service in 2009 making it the twelfth Member Youth Service to offer the service. There was a significant expansion in training in 2009 with two full basic **Teen Between Training Programmes** and **Listening Skills Workshops** being planned and delivered and in order to develop the local sustainability of each service further **Supervision Skills Training** was agreed which will take place early in 2010.

Newly redesigned Teen Between service brochures and large posters were also developed by MRCS and Youth Work Ireland for local Teen Between services. Both the brochure and poster have individualised local service information/profiles for each respective Member Youth Service who is providing the service. Youth Work Ireland also now has a dedicated page on the Teen Between website

www.teenbetween.ie



Counselling for teenagers
of separated parents

Research

The fourth and fifth editions of **Youth Studies Ireland** were published in 2009. The journal was also made available electronically for online subscription through the IYWC website. The IYWC continues to act as a secretariat for the Youth Studies Ireland project, its Editorial Board and Advisory Committee and the production of the journal.

Irish Youth Work Press also published the outcome of a commissioned research project **The Purposes and Outcomes of Youth Work** on behalf of the Youth Services Inter-Agency Group (comprising Ogra Chorcaí, CDYSB, CYC and Youth Work Ireland) supported by the IYF and written by Maurice Devlin and Anna Gunning. A Conference will be held in NUI Maynooth in June 2010 to present the findings of this significant report and its potential implications for both practice and for policy in the current context of youth work.

Work has also commenced on a jointly commissioned partnership research project between the Irish Youth Work Centre and **NUI Maynooth** which should lead to a significant piece of research being published in 2010 on documenting practice in youth work. Kildare Youth Services has been selected as the primary case site for this piece of work.

Other Publications

IYWC continued to produce **Irish Youth Work Scene**, on a quarterly basis as a vehicle for recording and disseminating good practice within the sector. The Centre also produced the 13th edition of its annual **Directory of Youth & Community Work Courses** and produced five editions of the **Current Awareness Update**, a bi-monthly information update for Local Youth Services on events of relevance in the external environment and produced five editions of its regular **Ezine** update for IYWC members.

The Centre through its publishing outlet **Irish Youth Work Press** also continued its commitment to providing a publishing outlet for other agencies and promoting their awareness to the sector.

In 2009 this included:

- **Flying The Coop: A Guide to Students Leaving Home & Going to College** by Youth Work Ireland Roscommon/ N.E. Galway
- **Young People in South Tipperary: A Demographic Profile** by South Tipperary VEC

Finally, work commenced in 2009 on a rebranding process for the Irish Youth Work Centre. This work has recently been completed and in an exciting new development for the Centre a new logo, website and web shop will be launched in 2010.



OSSORY YOUTH KILKENNY

From Carrantuohill to Tinergwet

A group of twelve young people, two volunteers and three staff from Ossory Youth in Kilkenny embarked on an epic year-long outdoor youth project that culminated in a five-day trek to the summit of Jebel Tinergwet, the most Westerly peak of the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco in October 2009. The group, originally comprising of eighteen young people from both Kilkenny city and county started preparing for their Moroccan challenge in November 2008 and since then can lay claim to trekking in the toughest of conditions and terrains in Ireland, that of the Knockmealdowns, Galty and Comeragh Mountains and of course Magillicuddy's Reeks.

However, the ultimate challenge was the trek to the summit of Jebel Tinergwet, that stands at 3,551m (Over three times higher than Ireland's highest peak). The group flew into Casablanca and made their way to Touradent, a traditional walled town in Western Morocco. From there, they hiked to the mountain village of Islan, where they were invited to stay in the houses of two local families. *"We got to sleep on the roof with just our sleeping bags, which was brilliant because when you wake up, you're just staring at the mountains and stuff"* said Eamonn Roche (15), a young participant from Hebron Park, Kilkenny. The following four days involved trekking and camping, three days to reach the summit and one day to come down. The food was basic and typically Moroccan, with bread being the staple diet for breakfast and lunch along with fruit and vegetables and pasta in the evening. *"Because of the heat, we had to drink about 2 litres of water per day, which is funny because it was completely different to trekking in Ireland, where we didn't have one dry day!"* according to Johanne Barcoe (16) from Goresbridge, Co. Carlow. The high altitude meant that more than half of the group



suffered nosebleeds and stomach upsets. Washing was done in a nearby rock pool or stream, *"which was freezing cold!"* according to Marie Power, a volunteer leader from Callan.

Ossory Youth has always valued International Youth Work as a method of providing informal learning opportunities for young people but this time raised the bar with a project that was more challenging but where the potential outcomes for young people were more rewarding. *"This project was brought about to give young people an opportunity to take on a massive challenge and to see it through to the end"* said Kevin O'Driscoll, a youth worker in Castlecomer. *"The outcomes for the young people were enormous for this project, including fitness and health awareness, building self-esteem and confidence, setting personal long-term goals, experiencing a very different and in some ways difficult cultural environment and promoting personal responsibility within a team setting. There isn't one person in the group that didn't take something away from this."* Young people in the group echoed those sentiments. *"It was very tough but I'm really glad I did it,"* said Jamie Brennan (16) from Castlecomer.

Indeed, reaching the summit of Tinergwet may have been the collective goal but the group also had to accustom themselves to a predominantly Islamic culture with different social norms, dress code, climate, language, currency, food and customs. It was enjoyable helping some of the young people to 'haggle' in the markets of Marrakech according to Kieran Scanlon, a Juvenile Liaison Officer in Kilkenny Garda Station who volunteered his time as a leader for the project. *"The price the vendors gave was only a 'first price' and haggling was all part of the process of reaching an agreement. Once the lads got the hang of it there was no stopping them"* he laughs.

This project counted on young people and parents fundraising by bag packing and table quizzes. *"We also got significant assistance from Kilkenny Youth Bank because they saw the value in what we were trying to achieve, which was very much appreciated"* says Martina Maher, Rural Youth Worker with the GB Girls Group in Goresbridge.

So what is the future for the group? *"We're not sure yet"* says Youth Worker Paul Bolger. *"We're fairly certain that some of the group might want to take on a leadership role for projects like this in the future, so we're going to sit down with them to plan our next steps. For now, we just would like to thank all those who supported the project, and in particular Kilkenny Youth Bank, Garda Kieran Scanlon and An Garda Síochána in Kilkenny, our volunteers and parents and young people who collectively pulled together to make this project happen".*

Irish Youth Music Awards

The Irish Youth Music Awards entered into their second year in 2009. The new name emphasised the importance of this event as the only youth led popular music event in Ireland north, south east and west.

This year saw significant growth in the awards with extra acts from both Northern Ireland and Dublin due to partnerships with Youth Action Northern Ireland and City of Dublin Youth Service Board. This growth also impacted on practice with more outreach and even band formation becoming part of the project.

The Village in Dublin was the venue for the 2010 IYMA's, there was honourable mention for Newry Band Last Draws and Izzy from Kerry but the final winners were MGRB from Monaghan. Again the importance of teamwork and young people was emphasised through the evaluation of MySpace pages which reflected the work of the bands and the teams of young people locally.

Industry figures again weighed in with their support and special thanks go to Dermot Lambert, Jackie Hayden of *Hot Press Magazine* and Willy Kavanagh from *EMI Records*.

One of the elements of the award for the winning region is the professional recording of an album at Ashtown Recording Studio. In 2009 given the expansion of the project and in order to promote the work as broadly as possible the albums entitled 'Pesky Kids' was a double compilation featuring local young bands from Monaghan and other participants from around the country.

As has now become commonplace the winning act featured on the RTÉ programme ICE.

'Pesky Kids' was launched simultaneously with live performances outside 12 record shops around Ireland in October to maximise sales and awareness of the project. The album reached no 13 in the compilation charts and would have gone top 10 if one or two of the stores with the highest sales had counted for chart placement.



5,000 KIDS
100 MUSICIANS
100 YOUTH CLUBS
52 GIGS
1 AWARD SHOW

MA'S
THE YOUTH MUSIC AWARDS





GALWAY

Youth Work Ireland, Galway Dressing Up for Ladies Day!

Youth Work Ireland Galway weren't in their finery at the Galway Races in July, hoping to win a prize but in their bibs and t-shirts on the streets of Galway fundraising for services for young people in Galway City and County. Young people and their services have been hit really hard in the cutbacks. In Youth Work Ireland, Galway alone funding ceased for 3 projects and most of the other projects have suffered reductions in funding of between 5 and 10%. Last year alone over 5,000 young people availed of their services. We asked for help to continue to support as many young people in Galway as need our services. All monies collected are spent in Galway.

Tommy Tiernan launched the **Flag Day** at the offices of Youth Work Ireland, Galway in Prospect Hill. Tommy took time out from his rehearsal schedule to support the local efforts. He spoke about the importance of supporting young people and why he is supporting young peoples charities in Galway. *"Galway is a great place to be young, lets keep it that way by making sure young people have safe spaces to hang out and get support when they need it"*.

Youth Work Ireland, Galway work with the general youth population and minority groups including from the Travelling Community, Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender young people, the Asylum Seeking and Refugee communities, young people out of the school system and the young people involved in the Juvenile Justice System. All young people have individual needs and we support young people to express their needs and have their needs met through what we can provide or signposting other services.

Tommy Tiernan launching
Flag Day at the offices of
Youth Work Ireland, Galway



Shams and Shades, 5 a side Soccer Tournament, Treo Nua Garda Youth Diversion Project, Youth Work Ireland Galway in partnership with Tuam Gardaí

The concept for the *Shams and Shades* Soccer Tournament was born in the Treo Nua Project, *Shams* being the name for the people of Tuam Town and *Shades* the local name for the Gardaí. The aim was to create a situation where young people in the project could interact with the Tuam Gardaí in a positive setting. The idea was presented to Community Garda Hugh Gallagher, JLO Olliver King and Superintendent Marie Skehill, and with their full support, the organisation began.

It was planned to have two Garda members on each team along side three young people attending the project. This aimed to create a sense of comradary among Garda members and the young people and to illiminate, to a certain degree, the feeling of *them and us*.

Another factor that was taken into consideration was the lack of time and opportunity the young people had to spend with positive male role models in their community, again this event would address this and create a foundation for positive relationships to be built on.

The tournament was advertised in advance in the Tuam Garda Station and twenty male members volunteered their time to play, with the encouragement of Treo Nua staff, Gardaí Cormac Bane and Eoin Fox and Community Garda Hugh Gallagher. The event took place on July 15th 2009 in the Tuam Celtic Football Club grounds with the support of local club volunteers and FAI Development Officer for the West, Johnny Morris Burke.

There were three pitches on the go over the course of three hours and the event culminated in a **Shams and Shades Plate Final** and a **Shams and Shades Cup Final**. Prizes were also given to the top goal scorers, **The Fair Play Player** (voted by Garda members) and **The Super Shade Award** (voted by the young people).

Each individual was awarded a medal of participation which was provided by and presented by superintendent Marie Skehill. All participants and spectators enjoyed a BBQ together after the event.

Throughout the afternoon, Garda members who were on duty, arrived at the soccer grounds in full uniform and supported the players and



chatted with spectators. It was a wonderfully positive display of Community Policing in Tuam in partnership with the local youth organisation, Youth Work Ireland, Galway.

Its difficult to articulate the effect that this event had on both the young people and Garda members without underselling it! Throughout the event and in the days after, young people were popping in and out of the project to discuss the days events and coming out with sentences like, *"that Shade is sound enough you know..."*. It also provided the young people with the opportunity to display themselves in a positive light in a supportive environment.

Equally on visits into the station and meeting members around the town, there was an air of excitement around the event with plenty of questions from members who were not involved. It sparked a new interest in the project among local Gardaí and displayed perfectly how youth work is a valuable and effective tool to deal with young people who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

D'Club House in Ballinasloe

D'Club house is a voluntary organisation that creates opportunities through which young people can realise their full potential, and engage actively in community and societal development. It focuses on young people aged 7 – 18yrs from the Ballinasloe area, providing enjoyable educational experience through a range of various activities.

During the 2009, young people aged 9 – 12yrs from the Ballinasloe area were involved in a Multimedia/Puppetry programme. During this programme the young people had to take on the tasks of making their own puppets, writing their own scripts, followed by a puppet film premier for their family and local councillors. There was great excitement within the group during this programme. The young people showed great interest overall, this was a great achievement for the young people.

And here is even more and exciting news , we are in the process of planning for the 'West Factor' and are hoping that young people ages 14 – 18yrs from Ballinasloe district and surrounding areas will come and audition to help raise money for Crumlin Hospital. We are hoping to get 6 young people to write songs and record them onto a CD and in turn sell the CDs and raise money for Crumlin hospital. Also we hope to have 2 celebrity judges at our final auditions



**THERE IS GREAT FUN TO BE HAD AT THESE PROJECTS,
SO COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Games, Variety and Nollaig

Youth Work Ireland Games

is one of the most popular and one of the most attended of the national programmes.

Games 2009 area events were held in Gormanstown, Co Meath and in the University of Limerick, Limerick. Twelve Local Youth Services took part over the two events. Approximately 500 young people took part between both areas.

The finals were held in the University of Limerick in July with over 450 young people taking part. The following were the results from the finals:



EVENT	RUNNER UP	WINNER
DRAUGHTS U.15	Michelle Egan (Tarbert) (KDYS)	Tom Reville (Ballymitty) (FDYS)
DRAUGHTS U.18	Mark Dorian (Fanad) (DONEGAL)	Alan Spillane (Caim) (FDYS)
UNI HOC U.15	Kilnaboy (CLARE)	Oylegate (FDYS)
UNI HOC U.18	Malin Head (DONEGAL)	Oylegate (FDYS)
HIP HOP	Glenswilly (DONEGAL)	Ennis (CLARE)
BASKETBALL U.15	Ballycanew (FDYS)	Castleisland (KERRY)
BASKETBALL U.18	Criost Ri (DONEGAL)	Killeentierna (KDYS)
5 A SIDE Female U.15	Fanad (DONEGAL)	Kilfenora (CLARE)
5 A SIDE Female U.18	Killeentierna (KDYS)	Fanad (DONEGAL)
5 A SIDE Male U.15	Mullingar (MIDLANDS)	Criost Ri (DONEGAL)
5 A SIDE Male U.18	Criost Ri (DONEGAL)	Mullingar (MIDLANDS)
TABLE QUIZ U.15	Kenmare (KERRY)	St Pauls (LIMERICK)
TABLE QUIZ U.18	Glenmore (OSSORY)	Eye Tralee (KDYS)
TABLE TENNIS Female U.15	Roisin Malone (Kilnaboy) (CLARE)	Shauna Foley (Caim) (FDYS)
TABLE TENNIS Female U.18	Roisin Byrne (Caim) (FDYS)	Caron Kenny (Caim) (FDYS)
TABLE TENNIS Male U.15	Ronan McAteer (Fanad) (DONEGAL)	Colm O Dowda (Barntown) (FDYS)
TABLE TENNIS Male U.18	Kevin Theasby (Kilfenora) (CLARE)	Michael Theasby (Kilfenora) (CLARE)
CHESS U.15	Ruairi Mardell (LIMERICK)	Daniel Neville (Oylegate) (FDYS)
CHESS UNDER 18	Roisin Clark (Criost Ri) (DONEGAL)	Diarmuid Neville (Oylegate) (FDYS)





The Variety Show

is a talent programme organised by Youth Work Ireland and their affiliated local youth services.

Eleven Local Youth Services took part in 2009's programme over three areas. Area events for 2009 were held in Limerick, Tipperary and Donegal. A total of 63 acts took part over the three events with.

There were 30 acts at the National Finals in NUI Maynooth, with twenty four clubs represented. The results were:

GROUP SINGING
SOLO SINGING
GROUP INSTRUMENTAL
SOLO INSTRUMENTAL
COMEDY SKETCH
DRAMA PIECE
SPOTLIGHT
DUAIS NA GAEILGE
SHOW DANCE
CREATIVE DANCE
BANNER COMPETITION

GLENGAD Youth Club
SLIEVERUE Youth Club
BALLYLONGFORD Youth Club
ST SENANS Youth Club
CAIM Youth Club
PORTMAGEE Youth Club
DOOHAMLET Youth Club
PORTMAGEE Youth Club
KILMACOW Youth Club
CAPPAMORE Youth Club
1) BREE Youth Club
2) KILMACOW Youth Club
3) BALLYLONGFORD Youth Club

DONEGAL Youth Service
OSSORY Youth
KERRY Diocesan Youth Service
KERRY Diocesan Youth Service
FDYS Youth Work Ireland
KERRY Diocesan Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland MONAGHAN
KERRY Diocesan Youth Service
OSSORY Youth
TIPPERARY Regional Youth Service
FDYS Youth Work Ireland
OSSORY Youth
KERRY Diocesan Youth Service



Nollaig

– Design a Christmas Card Competition

is an annual competition for youth club/youth groups affiliated to the local youth services of Youth Work Ireland.

There were over 400 entries into Nollaig 2009. Nine local youth services took part. The results are as follows:

7 – 11 YEARS: Ciara Eichholz
12 – 15 YEARS: Breege Gallagher
16 – 18 YEARS: Lauren Harrigan

CAPPAWHITE Youth Club
MALIN HEAD Youth Club
MUFF Youth Club
TIPPERARY Regional Youth Service
DONEGAL Youth Service
DONEGAL Youth Service

SUNNY DAYS IN TIPPERARY

Fun in the Sun!

Workers, leaders and young people all looked towards this fun day with anticipation and trepidation! Would we be wearing wellies or suncream? By worshipping the Sun Gods we managed to get them to shine on us and this year's annual junior fun day was a blazing success. We provided fun in the sun for over 200 young people. There was young people from Newport, Scallagheen, Templetouhy, New Inn, Oola and Borrisoleigh Youth Clubs not to mention the young people from the Tipperary, Templemore and Thurles youth projects.

There was plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy: novelty races, soccer skills, novelty games and for the more competitive there was the 100m sprint, long jump, long kick and long puc. Winners of these events progressed to a final and the overall winners were presented with prizes.

For those not interested in sports there was a treasure hunt, novelty stalls where you could win a huge teddy by guessing his name. There were two bouncy castles and other novelty stalls. The face painters too were inundated with young blank faces to be painted.

A huge amount of thanks must go to the junior leaders from Templemore Youth project who were involved in the organising and running of the fun day.

Thanks too to the TRYS staff and volunteers who contributed their time and energy to the successful event.

And of course thanks to the young people who were brilliant and we hope ye all enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing ye all again next year for another day packed with sun and fun!



Members of local youth clubs and some of our junior leaders who volunteered on the day.

Members of our Thurles LGBT Group – TRYS Brigay'd who attended the Marriage Equality Rally in Dublin in June 09. They produced their own banner for the event.

Templetouhy Youth Club members who participated in the fun day in Templemore



YIIPPE Festival 2009

A collection of photos of young people who took part in our YIIPPE Festival 2009 in Tipperary Town



The skies over Tipperary Town lit up in September last as Tipperary Regional Youth Services (TRYS) were announcing that the second annual YIIPPE Festival was well and truly underway. The weather and festivities were just what the doctor ordered especially for everyone who had just gone back to school.

The YIIPPE Festival kicked off with a production by the Youth Services, Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre. The group put on two one act plays, one very serious lesson about the dangers of drugs and the other made sure people went home laughing. The group treated the audience to a comedy called Easy Stages. Well done the young Manic Fantastic performers and we look forward to forthcoming productions.



Friday night's festival guests were treated to wonderful array of talent in the Market Yard. Thanks to the C.J. Kickham band who led the street spectacle into the Market Yard where they entertained a growing audience. As the night wore on the Wobbly Circus and Marion Hula Hoopla left the young audience and their families gasping as they performed amazing tricks with fire. As if this wasn't enough entertainment the Armani Acrobats, who performed like elastic bands, wowed the crowds with their acrobatics, skipping and limbo dancing.



Friday night ended with a big bang, literally. The incredible fireworks display was even better than last years, if that's at all possible. Saturday was a fun filled day for everyone with a craft fair in the Plan in the morning and early afternoon. Saturday evening's proceedings took place in the Abbey field where families took part in fun and sports events.



TRYS would like to thank the Abbey School for giving us the use of their field and also to our volunteers who helped out on the day; Aaron Hickey, Sliotar and Nicola Twomey. Sunday, the last day of the festivities kicked off with storytelling time for the young children. They were treated to a puppet show telling the story of T.S. Elliots Cats. Sunday evening ended the festival with a barbeque and disco in Kiely's Baker Place. Thanks to Jerome Kiely for hosting this party for us. Tipperary Regional Youth Service would like to thank everyone for helping and supporting them on this venture. It was a mammoth task but thanks to the community and business support it all became a reality. Thanks to Tipperary Co-Op for the Gig Rig! Thank you to RAPID, An Garda Síochána, The Civil Defence, the Town Council and everyone who made this festival the success it was.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

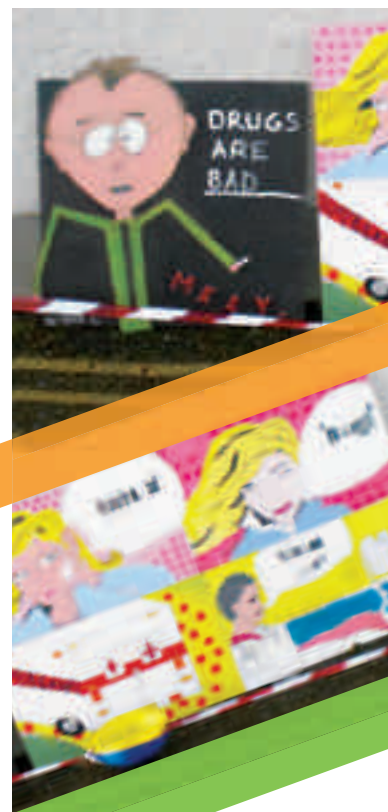
TRYS Road Safety Programme

Hard hitting messages regarding deaths on our Irish roads are not uncommon on our T.V.s, radio and in our newspapers. Tipperary Regional Youth Service wanted to make sure young people were exposed to these messages in real time. They also wanted to hit home the dangers of driving while under the influence of drink and/or drugs.

Just recently approximately 180 young people from St Ailbes, St Annes, Youthreach and the Abbey secondary school attended a drug awareness road safety day in Tipperary Town. The day was organised by the Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative and the TAR – Tipperary Diversion Project with the support of Youthreach, Cappawhite. The main aim of the day was to raise awareness around the issue of drug misuse and road safety and to positively influence young drivers as they begin on what is hoped a long and safe driving career. According to Cora Horgan, Chief Executive of Tipperary Regional Youth Service, the event was an enjoyable and informative way to get the message across about drink/drug driving. *“Our project workers have been working with young people from Youthreach, the Tipperary Youth Project and TAR project for the last number of months getting ready for this – planning and painting billboards, working through substance misuse programmes and learning as well as enjoying themselves. This couldn’t have happened without support from the Gardaí, the Schools, Youthreach, the South East Regional Drugs Task Force, HSE Substance Misuse in Peter St., Clonmel, and volunteers such as Peter O’Brien who has been a huge support to us”.*

The day consisted of various workshops centring on the core theme of substance misuse and road safety. The first workshop was facilitated by the Traffic Corps of An Garda Síochána and included aspects such as the effects of drug and alcohol use while driving as well as general road safety components. Outside, billboards created by the participants of Youthreach with the support of the MTDI Project and TAR Project, as well as by the TAR project itself and also Tipperary Youth Project created a racing track where young people were allowed to race remote control cars. The billboards depicted some of the issues of substance misuse and also promoted a healthier active lifestyle. The day also provided an opportunity for the young people to practice the Driving Theory Test.

Peter O’Brien, Car and Motor Sport Activities, held a workshop demonstrating the safety features of an on site rally Mini as compared to cars designed for everyday driving. The Corbett Motor Village, Thurles kindly provided a Hyundai i20 and i30 for the workshop.

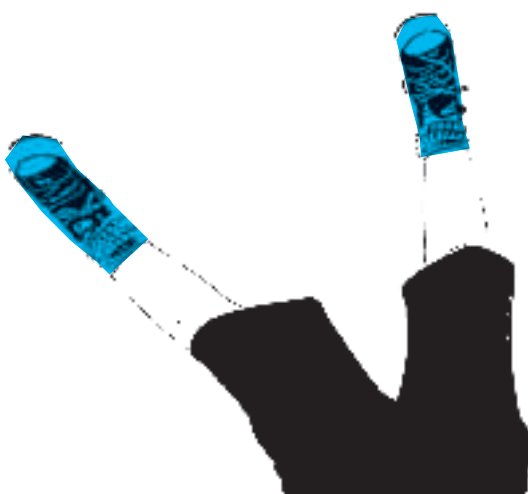


The MTDI, TAR and TRYS would especially like to thank The Abbey school for providing the venue for the day as well as Youthreach, St Anne's and St Ailbe's for participating. We would also like to extend our thanks to John Corbett and staff from Corbett Motor Village for the loan of the new Hyundai i20 and i30, as well Peter O'Brien, Car and Motor Sport Activities and An Garda Síochána for their help and support in delivering the workshops.

Youth Service Slam Dunk in Rockwell College

Rockwell College, Cashel played host to this year's Tipperary Regional Youth Service Basketball Blitz. Clubs and projects from all over Tipperary and East Limerick took part on the day. There were plenty of budding Magic Johnsons on the courts. Basketball Ireland supplied the referees and officials on the day so a sense of fair play was evident from the start. The junior competition was very exciting with a final play off between Scallagheen Youth Club based in Tipperary Town and Oola Youth Club. The anticipation was palpable with a very close game until the final quarter of the game. Then Scallagheen raced to a good win. The score finished 12-4.

The senior competition was won by Templemore Neighbourhood Youth Project who beat Cappamore Youth Club. Slam dunks and three pointers were in abundance on the day. It was obvious that some of these teams had plenty of experience on the courts.



Voices of Youth

Youth Work Ireland seeks to speak out on the rights of young people and the issues that affect them. However down the years people rightly ask why young people can't speak out for themselves. This call led us to establish a national youth media group which has called itself 'Voices of Youth'. Members are drawn from Youth Work Ireland services and other youth activities.

A considerable amount of work has gone into ensuring this group is participative and is supported by national office. The group has issued many press releases on relevant topics and members have appeared on the *RTÉ News*, *The Last Word*, *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent*, *Spin 103*, *4FM* and other media outlets.

Group members have also been very proactive in the online space particularly in developing a extremely active blog www.voicesofyouth.wordpress.com. This is one of the top search results for Voices of Youth and has had over 2,000 visitors. Topics covered on the blog and

by the group have included The Mosquito Device, Head Shops, Religion in school, The Children's Referendum and much more. The blog was nominated for The Irish Blog Awards.

The group has really pushed out the boat in terms of youth led campaigning and advocacy for example in setting up the 'Spot and Swot' The Mosquito Device. This has led to a robust campaign aiming to ensure the end of this ultra sonic so called 'teen deterrent'.

In 2009 Voices of Youth were

Niall Thompson, John Delaney, James Hooper, Alice Kinsella, Rosie O'Dowd, Jennifer Hegarty, Emer Clancy, Fiona Madden, Sinead Dolan, Conor hooper, Lydia Sheehan, Orla Sheehan, Jennifer Leahy, Jason Pearson, Bryan Byrne, Darren Snoddy, Ashiling Callan, Tony Reilly, Gemma Gaughan, Tanya Wrightson, Michael James, Kate Higgins-Jackson, Isaac Hardesty



www.voicesofyouth.wordpress.com

A Resource for Exploring Mental Health Issues with Young People

The **Mind Your Head** programme originated from a need recognised by Youth Work Ireland Cork (YWIC) in the Gurrabraher Youth Development Project. An increase in the incidents of young people committing suicide in the area and other incidents around the country highlighted in the media, gave rise to concern for the well being of young people in the service. Through discussions with young people the issues around self-harm, mental health and suicide were again brought to the attention of the youth workers, young people expressed their concern about their own coping levels. As a result of this process the **Mind Your Head** programme was written and compiled by Youth Worker Diane Mackin (YWIC) and Community Health Worker, Stephen Murphy (HSE).

This is a resource for exploring mental health issues with young people. It is designed specifically for youth workers, youth leaders, peer educators and others working with young people. It is produced in an accessible format that is hoped to make it easy to use.

The programme is very much about giving the young people space and time to explore and talk about their concerns and opinions on mental health. It also highlights tools and supports to help them cope and deal with issues that can have a negative affect on their mental health.

It was created with a moderate to low budget and it allows others to follow the programme sessions by session without the need of funding to do so. The information, activities and exercises used come from a variety of sources and participation in various mental health training days. Session plans and style make it easy to use and keep young people interested.

The content of this resource has been largely informed and influenced by the young people that attend the youth service and participated in the **Mind Your Head** programme.

Youth Work Ireland Cork will soon launch this resource. The **Mind Your Head** programme will be available free of charge to anyone who wishes to run the programme in their youth service.

Policy and Advocacy

Youth Work Ireland continued to work to advocate on behalf of young people and youth services. Some of this work however now involves supporting young people to speak for themselves in our youth media group.

Highlights here included;

- A submission to the White Paper on Crime
- Highlighting the issue of Headshops
- The need for enhanced child protection legislation
- The Mosquito Device
- Continuing inaction on Ireland's alcohol issues
- A concerted drive to highlight the issue of youth unemployment including offering a 10 point plan on youth employment (below)

10 POINT PLAN ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

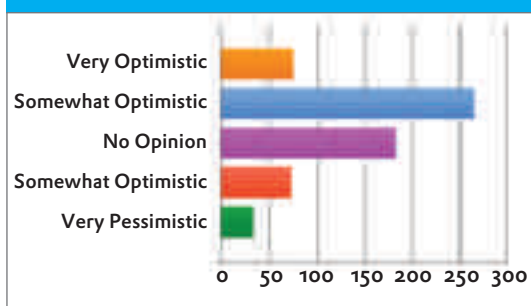
- 1 Remove age restrictions to open up all labour market schemes to all those over 18
- 2 Revive the Student Summer Jobs Scheme which gives valuable labour market experience to young people and helps the voluntary and community sector
- 3 Reverse the PLC places freeze
- 4 Maintain apprenticeship numbers as was done with the ESB scheme,
- 5 Foster and support young entrepreneurs – Facebook, the multi million dollar site, was started by young people
- 6 Establish a process to commercialise young peoples' ideas e.g. transition year & young scientist entries
- 7 Work with young people on new areas of economic potential in music, arts and technology
- 8 Capitalise elements of the pension reserve fund on a commercial basis to support job creation for young people – after all it's their future pension!
- 9 Ensure every young person has an offer of work, education, training or quality work experience to prevent the drift into a culture of long term unemployment
- 10 Develop work placements and public works for the most hard to reach

2009 Youth Poll

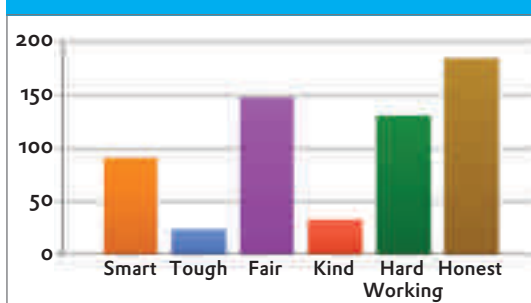
2009 saw Youth Work Ireland return to the idea of a regular Youth Poll. This was run as a joint initiative of the Voices of Youth media group and Youth Work Ireland National Office. We aimed to survey over 1,000 young people and when it came to selecting a topic there was only one possibility... the economy.

The Voices of Youth Group did much of the selection and preparatory work on the poll before it was rolled out to member services, other youth groups and schools. One of the core aims of the poll was to assess how much young people felt their views were being heard in the current economic climate. The final results of the survey of 1,029 showed young people had little faith in the current leadership of the country to resolve the economic crisis.

In general do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about the future?



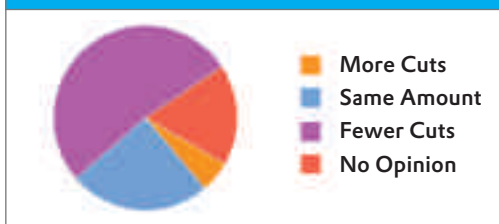
Do you want Ireland to have leaders who are?



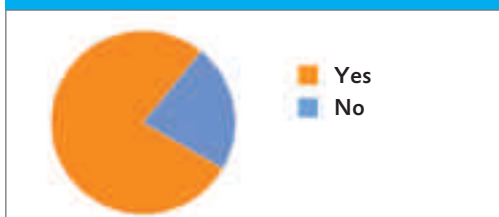
The major findings were;

- 53% were confident about the future
- However nearly 60% expect unemployment after education
- 86% did not trust politicians with their future
- 73% did not believe the Government cared about young people and their future
- 80% felt there were fewer opportunities for young people in terms of education and training (87% less apprenticeships)
- The overwhelming majority cited the leadership skills of Barack Obama as what they were looking for (69%) as opposed to 4.5% and 5.8% for Brian Cowen and Enda Kenny respectively
- Over 79% feel more young politicians would mean more understanding of their issues
- Health was the most important issue to young people
- Young people feel the Banks and the Trade Unions have a high degree of influence in society while voluntary groups and young people have little influence

Do you think that there should be more, less or the same amount of cuts for young people?



Do you think that if we had younger politicians that young people would be treated better?





The Youth & Children's Sector

Youth Work Ireland takes seriously its responsibility to the sector as the largest youth work organisation in the country. We are pleased to have taken a leading role in a number of national, cross sectoral initiatives supporting development. The publication of significant research on the purpose and outcomes of youth work by Maurice Devlin and Anna Gunning was a timely achievement of the Youth Services Interagency Group and Youth Work Ireland are now building on this work by commissioning more focused and in-depth research on youth work practice.

Our support and contribution to OMCYA Youth Affairs Quality Framework has achieved an important practice development tool for the sector and we are proud to have modelled the importance and value of the 'quality process' through the application of our own model over the last four years. Achieving consistently high standards for youth work training across the country and developing a more professional service is also important.

We have worked to support this through our active engagement in NSETS the North/South education and training standards body for youth work and we are pleased that with our partner organisation in the North (YANI) we have supported the expansion of that bodies focus to include the development of a framework for pre-professional training.

Most importantly our advocacy efforts at a sectoral level have focused on positioning youth work as a key component of an integrated 'Children and Youth Strategy' and on the impact of any actual or quasi implementation of the Youth Work Act 2001.

Youth work's discrete remit for the delivery of non-formal educational programmes exclusively by the voluntary sector is under significant threat. Unity and resolve to preserve and build on what we believe is an essential service for young people have and continue to be of primary concern.

HIP HOP & UNITING AGAINST RACISM IN CLARE

The Year in Pictures (Clockwise)

Young people from the **Ennis Youth Club** take Gold in the Freestyle Hip Hop Dancing Competition at the Youth Work Ireland National Finals.

Calendar committee members looking over the final proofs for the **Clare Youth Services' Calendar** which was produced as part of the LCA Enterprise Programme

Photo courtesy of Clare Champion/John Kelly

Launch of the Clare Youth Service event organised as part of the **Soccer Against Racism** campaign

Photo courtesy of Clare Champion/John Kelly

Kilfenora U15 Girls Soccer team winning Gold at the Youth Work Ireland National Games.

Volunteers from **Ennis Youth Club** make a presentation to Minister Barry Andrews of a handcrafted mirror produced by young people in the Ennis Youth Centre. The presentation followed a visit by the Minister to Clare Youth Service.

Young people participating in the '**Survival Programme**'. This is a new programme which is being developed by **Clare Youth Service** (in conjunction with the Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre) as part of its Drugs Education and Prevention Project.



Youth Work Ireland Volunteer Achievement Awards Presentation 2009

The Youth Work Ireland Volunteer Achievement Awards were introduced in 1999 to recognise the contribution made to the organisation by volunteers. During the past decade this programme has gone from strength to strength. The annual awards event is now firmly established as one of the highlights of our calendar of activities.

A number of changes were made this year. For the first time the Awards Presentation was a day-time event. Youth Work Ireland is committed to encouraging and supporting young people to consider making the transition to volunteer roles. To advance this a new category, Inspirational Young Volunteers was introduced. It consists of four awards: *Give it a Go!; Young Motivator; Planet Earth and Leading the Way.*

On Saturday 16 January volunteers, their guests and youth work staff representing 10 Member Youth Services converged on Dublin for the Awards Presentation. A total of 120 people joined in the celebration of the outstanding work of volunteers involved in delivering a wide range of services and activities for young people.

Those volunteers who attended had come through an intensive nomination and selection process which began last autumn. The calibre of the individuals nominated by Member Youth Services and the high standard of their contributions to youth work made the task of the National Selection Committee a challenging one.

Diarmuid Kearney, Chief Executive and Elizabeth Dermody, President of Youth Work Ireland, officiated and the MC for the event was Colm O'Mongáin, of RTÉ. Senator Dan Boyle of the Green Party presented the Category Awards. Each volunteer nominated by their Local Youth Service was presented with a crystal ware memento together with a volunteer service recognition pin recently commissioned by Youth Work Ireland.

Winner of the Sióbhán Cotter Distinguished Service Award
– Fr Seán Sexton, formerly
Clare Youth Service



Award Recipients

- **Quality in Service Delivery Award**

Tracey Moore
– Youth Work Ireland Galway

- **Making a Difference Award**

Thomas O'Reilly
– Youth Work Ireland Monaghan

- **Inspirational Young Volunteers Award**

Bobby Lee Murphy
– FDYS Youth Work Ireland

- **Behind the Scenes Award**

Stuart Garland
– Canal Communities Regional Youth Service

- **The Extra Mile**

John Howlin
– FDYS Youth Work Ireland

- **The Siobhán Cotter Distinguished Service Award**

Fr. Seán Sexton
– formerly Clare Youth Service

Volunteers Recognised for their Contributions

Noelle Tierney (*Clare Youth Service*)
Carmel Tierney (*Clare Youth Service*)
Tim O'Callaghan (*CDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Tracey Moore (*Youth Work Ireland Galway*)
Nora O'Regan (*Limerick Youth Service*)
Bridget Cunningham (*Limerick Youth Service*)
Mairead Larkin (*Youth Work Ireland Louth*)
Trish Ryan (*Meath Youth Federation*)
Carol Curley Murray (*Meath Youth Federation*)
Pauline Gilsenan (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Ciara Elliott (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Mary Daly (*FDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Noreen Ronaldson (*Youth Work Ireland Galway*)
Noel Mulligan (*Midlands Regional Youth Service*)
Celia Brady (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Thomas O'Reilly (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Laura Farnan (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Stephen Harrison (*Youth Work Ireland Louth*)
Aoife Hassett (*Limerick Youth Service*)
Bryan McMahon (*Clare Youth Service*)
Caolan O'Neill Forde (*Clare Youth Service*)
Ayman Scuffins (*CDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Bobby Lee Murphy (*FDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Stuart Garland (*Canal Communities Youth Service*)
Mary Cashin (*Clare Youth Service*)
Josephine O'Driscoll (*CDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Michael O'Neill (*FDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Gina Casey (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Peter McAleer (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Briege Martin (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Mildred Clarke (*Youth Work Ireland Monaghan*)
Marian Farrell (*Carlow Regional Youth Service*)
Sean Roche (*Clare Youth Service*)
John Howlin (*FDYS Youth Work Ireland*)
Frank Costello (*Youth Work Ireland Galway*)
Sheila Thompson (*Meath Youth Federation*)

Top to Bottom:

Tracey Moore, Thomas O'Reilly, Bobby Lee Murphy, Stuart Garland, John Howlin
...all receiving Volunteer Achievement Awards from Senator Dan Boyle

DYS LEADING THE WAY IN DONEGAL

In 2009 Donegal Youth Service, the leading Youth Work Agency in Donegal worked with 34 youth clubs and projects across the county and over 4,500 young people and 600 adult volunteers. DYS employed 11 full time staff, 15 CE employees and 5 fixed term project staff. DYS received the Youth Work Ireland Quality Standards Awarded in 2008.

During the year DYS offered a comprehensive range of opportunities for young people aged 5 – 25yrs in local affiliated youth units across the county including

- Games, Variety, Events, Training, Exchanges, Information, Support, Informal Education, Irish Youth Music Awards
- Providing full liability insurance cover for youth clubs
- Arranging an Annual Flag Day for all youth clubs
- Making funding applications for youth club training
- Assisting local youth units with training, information, advice, programmes and support

Donegal Youth Information Centre continues to offer a comprehensive service involving, CV Preparation, Interview Preparation, Teen Between support service, Eurodesk, an information service providing young people and those who work with them with information on EU funding and mobility opportunities, Qualifax – information on 3rd level course/careers in Ireland, Driver Theory Test CD Rom, Drop In Service, Outreach Work, Intercultural Awareness, Peer Mentoring training, Diversity training, Radio documentary training, Youth Achievement Awards, ASPIRE – Alternative Sports Programme Introducing Regular Exercise, School Visits – Maintaining information notice boards, Seminars etc, Peer Mentoring Training in 2nd level schools, Training for School Youth Councils.



The **Cross Border Connections project** is a PEACE III funded project (Oct '09 – Oct '10). It features;

- Cross Border Project based in Lifford but with a remit of all of Donegal & Border areas
- Aimed at young people aged 5-25 & the adult volunteers who support them
- The Project will focus on delivering programmes and activities that will explore issues around prejudice, sectarianism, diversity and racism
- Recruitment phase – currently working with 90 young people delivering personal development programmes which introduce elements of diversity
- We have already worked with groups in Cockhill (Buncrana), Fanad, Downings, Pettigo, Killybegs, Ballintra, Dunfanaghey, Malin Head

The **LOFT** is a Youth Project & Health Cafe managed in partnership with Donegal Youth Service and Foróige. Funding for the project is provided by the Health Service Executive. The LOFT is a place where young people avail of a wide range of facilities such as;

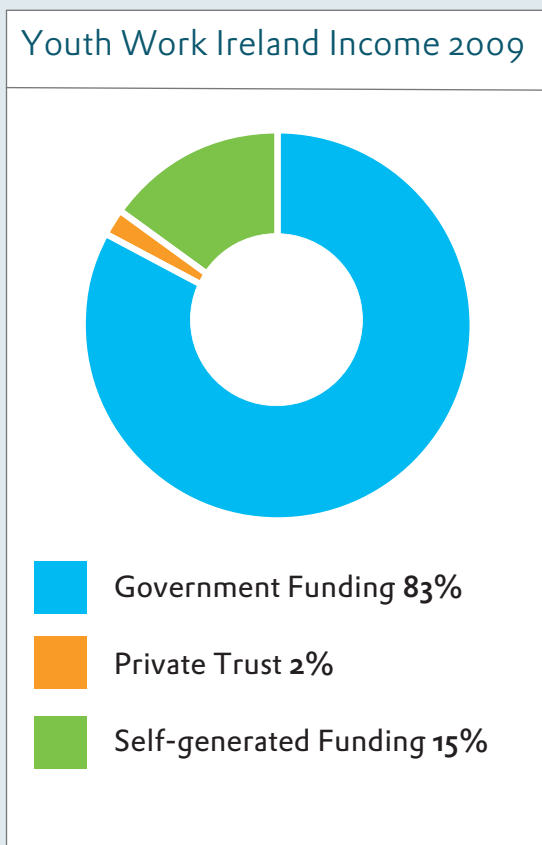
- Group work programmes
- Drop-in centre
- Entertainment events
- Listening ear service
- Learn new skills
- Meet with friends
- The LOFT is open to all young people aged between 12 and 18



Financial Report 2009

2009 was in many ways a challenging year for Youth Work Ireland with a reduction in Government grants from between 5.5% – 9% and a loss of one private donor. It was a year in which we began to increase our concentration on professionalising our fundraising strategy to find new ways to continue to help us deliver our objectives.

Our total company income for 2009 was just under €9.5m. Of this the income specific to the running of Youth Work Ireland National Office was €1.5 million and this can be analysed as follows:



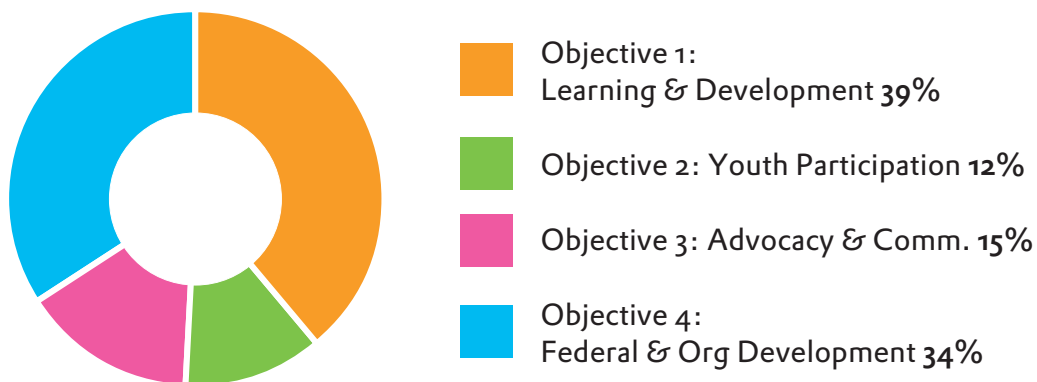
Government funding is received in the main from Office for the Minister of Children.

2009 was also the year of new beginnings with a new Strategic plan in place. In order to track our developments as we worked through the objectives we aligned these objectives to our expenditure to see what areas our financial resources were concentrated. This move is a significant one and as we work our way through the new strategic plan it will continue to be implicit that we can produce for our members and our funders a clear picture of how we spend our funds. The chart below represents our National Office income expenditure opposite.

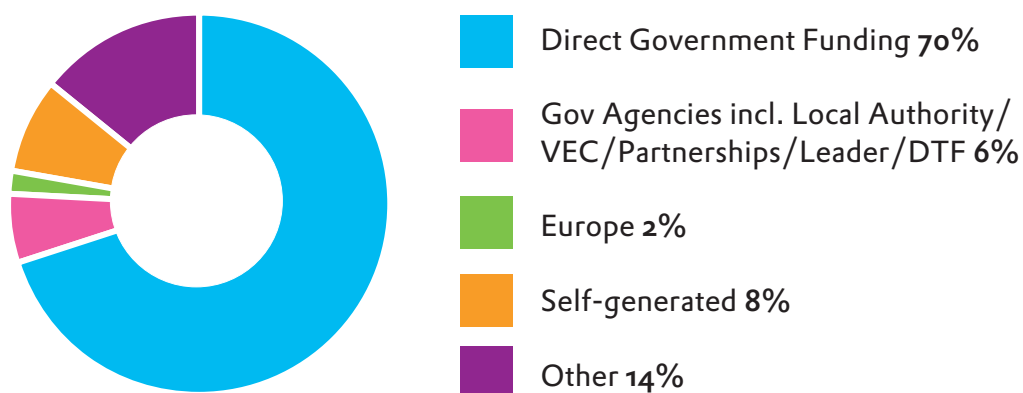
The balance of the company income as mentioned above, approximately €8m, is distributed or awarded to our Member Youth Services in different ways; A portion of our Youth Services Grant granted to us through the OMCYA is awarded by us to our Member Youth Services, in 2009 we awarded €1.4m in grants under this scheme. Youth Work Ireland also acts as agent for the OMCYA for the distribution of the Special Projects for Youth Grant and the Youth Information Grant. In 2009 just under €5.2m was distributed in SPY grants and just under €1m in Youth Information grants.

Income and expenditure figures for the Federation for 2009 will be available toward the end of the summer, however in 2008 the total for the entire Federation was just under €35m.

Company Objective Expenditure 2009



Federal Income 2008



Fundraising

Ever conscious of the need to provide better quality opportunities for member services and young people around Ireland, Youth Work Ireland is acutely aware of the need to diversify it's funding base away from being dominated by state funding.

In 2009 we began in earnest work on becoming an organisation that is capable and able to raise independent monies from a variety of diverse sources. We hope to further this in 2010 and realise some of this potential income despite trying economic circumstances.

Youth Work Ireland Members

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Carlow Regional Youth Service

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www.clareyouthservice.org

CDYS Youth Work Ireland

Mallow Community Youth Centre

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Donegal Youth Service

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yicletterkenny@eircom.net

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FDYS Youth Work Ireland

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www.youthworkgalway.ie

Kildare Youth Services

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Kerry Diocesan Youth Service

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F: 090 647 7076

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Enterprise Centre,

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T: 071 914 5578 / 914 4150

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Regional Office,

Croke Street, Thurles, Tipperary

T: 0504 234 26

F: 0504 238 54

E: trysmanager@eircom.netwww.trys.ie**Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service**

Edmund Rice Youth & Community Centre

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F: 051 355 715

E: wrys@iol.ie**Youth Work Ireland Cork**

Gurrabraher Youth and Community

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Transforming Ireland

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