



## Youth Work Ireland

Press Release  
Youth Work Ireland  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

### **Monday's Reopening to be Led by Outdoor Youth Work Celebration**

Youth Work Ireland will be contributing to the gradual reopening of the country promised by the Government with its annual "Youth Work Ireland Week" which has as its theme this year Outdoor Youth Work. Youth Work Ireland Week, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, is a chance for the organisation to celebrate and promote the work local youth services do every week in communities around Ireland. Throughout the week services will take part in events and activities that promote, evidence and celebrate youth work and young people throughout Youth Work Ireland's Member Youth Services

"Due to COVID-19 we have been spending too much time indoors, on screens, separated from each other and generally interacting online. Getting back outdoors and reconnecting with each other in a safe physical way is hugely important for young people's sense of connectedness and mental / physical health. The hard work and passion of youth workers in supporting young people over the last year has been evident and acknowledged. With the reopening envisaged by the Government yesterday we see a huge role for youth services who have maintained contact with young people during lockdown. The Government's emphasis on outdoor activity rhymes nicely with our focus this year in Youth Work Ireland Week on outdoor youth work." said Michael Mc Loughlin Head of Advocacy with Youth Work Ireland

"Youth workers across our Member Youth Services have been innovative in their practice during the pandemic and have developed new exciting ways to bring traditional youth work activities and events into an outdoors setting. This has enabled them to continue to interact, connect and support young people in a safe and socially distant way. This year we would like you to focus on activities and event which can be run out of doors. For this we are asking people to think about how tradition programmes and activities they have done in their youth centres can be adapted so they can run outside. We have developed a pack and the suggestions in it are based on sound history and research on youth work in an outdoors setting" added Gina Halpin Head of Information and Inclusion with the organisation

ENDS

Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499

[A schedule of events taking place can be found here>>](#)

Youth Workers Available

Ineke Abbas	Donegal Youth Service	074 91 29630
Dermot Troy	Limerick Youth Service	083 172 6898
Ann Sheeran	YWI Midlands	086 7955357
Adrian Nolan	CDYS (Cork)	086 8031200

