



ANNUAL REVIEW 2013-2014

annual review 2013-2014



Youth Work Ireland
Be Part of It

18,514
club
participants

1,100
staff working
in our
services

7,000
volunteers
throughout
all our services

we worked with
109,830
young people

54,933
young people
participating on
targeted youth
programmes

109,149
youth
information
contacts

500
clubs &
project

3,756
club volunteers



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Foreword

Mairéad Cluskey, President Youth Work Ireland



It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year, but what a year it has been! For me personally as my first year as President of Youth Work Ireland it has been very exciting. 2014 has awarded me the privilege of travelling the country to the various events and more importantly visiting Youth Work Ireland Member Youth Services. On my travels I have met young people who are articulate, talented, funny and so proud to be a part of their club or project; who couldn't say enough about the value of youth work to them. I have met volunteers that just caught the 'youth work bug' and have big plans to use up any free time they have working alongside our lifelong volunteers with 25 year's experience under their belt. I have also met overworked and underpaid staff whose dedication and commitment to young people in their region both impresses and inspires me. We saw the successful roll out of our National Programmes including the Irish Youth Music Awards, the National Games and Youth Factor. We also had the formation of our National Youth Action Group who have big plans to ensure young people's participation and influence over how our work is strengthened and protected.

For the first time in the history of the Federation all of us have aligned our Strategic Planning cycles and we have participated in our most comprehensive consultation to date. This process has made very valuable information available to us. We had overwhelming and honest responses. The strengths of the Federation were commended but our weaknesses were also communicated loud and clear. This has allowed us to continue to develop what we do well, but most importantly, to tackle our weaknesses so we can be and do better for the young people we work with. Most notably our connectedness and cohesion were highlighted as areas that need considerable attention and for a Federation, as a collective we need to pay attention to this.

Looking back, initially I felt that this is a shame as the extent of the work that is carried out across the country is nothing short of phenomenal. However, looking forward, this has to be a call to action. We are the best at what we do. We need to work together a little better and figure out the best way to shout about what we do to get the recognition that is deserved. It also important for all of the 106,000+ young people, 6,000+ volunteers and 600+ staff that we know each other, that we connect with each other and that we support each other. It is an exciting time because I think the impact of this cohesion and connectivity will reap rewards beyond what we could possibly imagine.

2014 also saw another year of insufficient funding and increased demands from Government and this has placed immense pressure on Members, some of whom have felt the direct impact of this and were faced with tough decisions such as redundancies and closure of some services. These are not easy decisions to make, and they are placed on the shoulders of our Voluntary Boards of Management. Despite the challenging environment, Members have still managed to make huge impacts on young peoples' lives. This pressure however, has reinforced the need for us to better secure additional funding. We are beginning to develop skills and expertise in new income generation but it will require a collective response from all of our Members.

2014 was the Year of the Club, and we celebrated volunteer-led club work. Clubs came to our National Consensus Conference at Dublin Castle to 'fly their flag' and celebrate what is great about clubs. We welcomed our new Minister Dr. James Reilly who much-admired the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and the energy and creativity of our young people. We had singers, dancers, speakers and celebrators. Our rapporteur, Dr. John Bamber, commended the excellent standard of youth work that is ever visible among Youth Work Ireland Members and declared that we were as good as anything that he has seen internationally. I know that once Dr. Bamber spends a little more time with our volunteers, staff and young people he will begin to realise, as I have, that not only are we as good, but we are leaders in this field and we are the best!

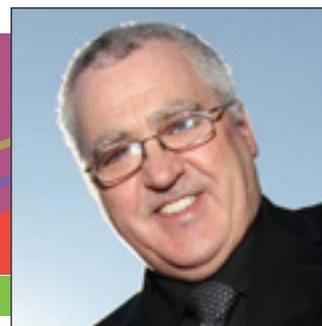
The National Office staff team led by our CEO Dr. Patrick Burke continue to impress us all and I would like to thank them for their professionalism, amazing work ethic and general fabulousness! Last but not least, I would like to thank the members of the National Board of Youth Work Ireland. It is no easy task deliberating over the work of the Federation as it is so vast, intricate and often complicated. They have taken this on with energy, respect and diligence. I sincerely thank each one of you for all of your exceptional work. I am looking forward to working with you all, and some new members in the years to come.

This was a great year so let's work together to make next year better!

Mairéad Cluskey

Introduction

Dr. Patrick Burke, CEO Youth Work Ireland



The last year has seen a lot of change but also some emerging certainty. We finally have an overarching policy framework covering work with children and young people. The new Policy Framework for Children and Young People, Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures 2014-2020 has generally been well received by the youth work sector and beyond. There is general agreement that the 5 national outcomes outlined in the Framework have captured the aspirations we have for young people in Ireland. Without doubt the intervention of youth work in the lives of young people and their communities in a general sense can be constructed as focused on achieving these outcomes. Clearly however, these outcomes are also the focus of other sectors and hence the welcome cross departmental, all of government approach which the Framework adopts. Youth work seeks to ensure that young people are active and healthy (1), are achieving their full potential in all areas of learning and developing (2), are safe and protected from harm (3), are economically secure, (4) and are connected, respected and contributing to their world (5). Work is underway to develop a new National Youth Strategy which is intended to focus specifically on how we as a society can achieve these outcomes for young people aged 10 to 24.

Over the last year or so we have continued to provide the highest level of support to young people in their communities despite extremely trying times. It now seems that we have finally turned the corner as a country and as a society. Young people are to be saluted for their resilience over the last few years and the youth work sector and Youth Work Ireland can take heart in the work we did to make this possible. We now have to think of the new chapter that is unfolding and how we continue to offer our support in a new environment. There will still be challenges but if we apply the same fortitude and determination to the recovery we have every reason to be confident.

Dr. Patrick J. Burke

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Patrick J. Burke'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.



Youth Work Ireland Week 2014



This year's Youth Work Ireland Week held in April was the biggest and best so far. Our theme was Celebrating Volunteers and all across the country young people, volunteers and workers took part in events to celebrate their youth club and the volunteers who support them. From onesies runs, hat making events, cooking nights, quizzes, talent shows, fun runs, music events, sports days and family days, we had over 200 events during the week. We used the week to highlight the great work that goes on in youth clubs and projects around the country. We brought our message to politicians, sang our hearts out at The IYMAs, appeared on TV, made the most amazing hats and shared our vision of an integrated youth service with our partners.

Our political briefing drew a record crowd of over 100 TDs and Senators to Buswells Hotel. The Irish Youth Music Awards moved to the Aviva Stadium marking the enormous progress of this event. The winning hat prize for the week went to North Suburbs CYP in Waterford.

Youth Work Ireland County Longford

Summer Camps and Art Festivals

This year as part of Youth Work Ireland County Longford's Summer Camp, the young people of County Longford were given the unique opportunity to showcase their creative talents. Engage Longford and Youth Work Ireland County Longford identified an empty space in Longford town in urgent need of some street art. At the start of each session, the young people discussed what was important to them in their lives and how they wanted it to be portrayed in their art work. The ideas came thick and fast, from dancing shoes to Facebook. The young people were then given the opportunity to sketch their ideas before painting them onto their panel.

Once the panels were completed, they were mounted on the Market Square in Longford for the Bank Holiday weekend as part of the Cruthú Arts Festival, where they were admired by art critics from as far as the USA. When the festival was over, the panels were mounted in Longford Town, where they can be enjoyed by the public for many years to come.





Advocacy and Representation

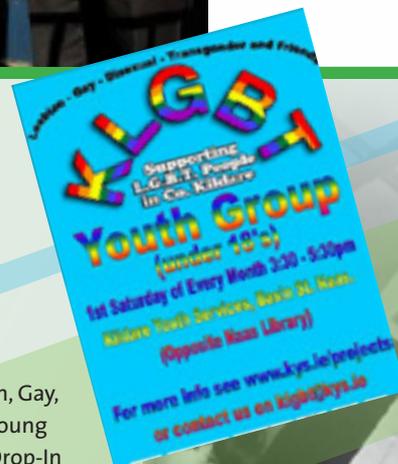
Youth Work Ireland continue to lobby and engage with decision-makers and to work in partnership with others to support our work and improve the lives of the young people we work with. We continue to be represented on the National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC), the Board of Leargas, the Board of NYCI, NSETs and National Quality Standards for Voluntary Led Youth Groups. We have continued with ongoing meetings with successive Ministers for Children and Youth Affairs and their officials. We have increased our contact in recent times with the Department of Social Protection, ETBI and the HSE. We have had long standing representatives stand down from the Boards of the EAPN and the Children's Rights Alliance.

Kildare Youth Services

Kildare Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Youth Group

Kildare Youth Services (KYS) launched a new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Drop-In Centre for young people under 18 years of age in October 2013. This Drop-In Centre is free of charge for young people from County Kildare and takes place on the first Saturday of every month from 3:30pm - 5:30pm. The Drop-In Centre is a safe place for young people to hang out with their peers in a safe environment with support from members of the KYS youth work team and trained volunteers.

Young people have the opportunity to use facilities such as X-Box, Wii, Pool, Table Tennis, Board Games, DJ Equipment and the use of computers with free Internet access. They also have the opportunity to hang out with friends and meet new young people. The LGBT Drop-In Centre takes place in the KYS building in Canal Stores, Basin Street, Naas. Friends of LGBT Young People are also welcome to attend the Drop-In.



Scene Magazine

We had 4 editions of Scene Magazine which were all followed by a youth practitioner's symposia. Each of the themes for both the Scene Magazine and Symposia were chosen as a direct response from readers of Scene Magazine, and they were Development Education and Global Justice, Volunteers in Youth Work, National Outcomes and Employment. Scene Magazine continues to profile and showcase best youth work practices around the country including practices within our Member Youth Services and externally.



Media

We continued to highlight the issue of youth unemployment in the national media particularly the lack of education and training places available to young people in light of the cuts to young people's Job Seekers payments. We featured on the front pages of the national papers and major news bulletins including RTÉ on this issue. Similarly we have drawn attention to the continuing issue of Ireland's alcohol problem and its impact on young people and particularly the failure of the Government to implement its own Substance Misuse Policy.

We have also focused on the formal education system and the overdue reforms being introduced to the Junior Cycle. The Voices of Youth event, "What Rules Rule You" focused on young people having a say in the formal education process and featured in the Irish Independent and The Right Hook with Joanna Siewierska co-chair of the event being interviewed.



Youth Work Ireland Laois

Portlaise Youth Café

Portlaise Youth Café continued to go from strength-to-strength last year. Highlights included free talks on mental health. These one-hour public talks were aimed at young people and explored the benefits of communication and positive mental health. Bag packing and fundraising supported this vital facility throughout the year. Similarly, a number of table quizzes brought young people and others together as well as raising well needed funds.

IYMAs

The Youth Café continues to be one of the key locations for music and culture in the town with regular open mic nights. With an illustrious record in the event, local nights building up to the Irish Youth Music Awards are always a big draw. The Youth Café held a Fundraising Event/Open Mic night on March 28th to showcase Youth Work Ireland's Laois heat winners 'Elephants in the Coldroom'.



In 2014 our annual conference entitled "Youth Clubs: Delivering Serious Fun" celebrated and examined the role of youth clubs in modern Irish life. Over 200 delegates made up of young people, volunteers and youth workers came to Dublin Castle to showcase what is great about their youth clubs, share the important work that is being done all over Ireland in local clubs, meet new people and learn new skills to take back to their localities.

Annual Conferences

Our 2013 National Conference was entitled "Bringing the Strands Together" and took place in Dublin Castle on November 2nd 2013. The event examined the concept of joined up government and joined up services which have long been an aspiration of policy makers. It was seen as an important concept for all those working with children and young people to understand. The day featured inputs from key experts; youth work practitioners and policy makers. The aim of the conference was to share best practice on the ground and examine the challenges faced in working across different policy areas to achieve best outcomes for children and young people. Guests included Frances Fitzgerald, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Ita Mangan, Social Policy Expert.

Speakers included; Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. James Reilly, Prof. Michael Fitzgerald, Henry Marsh, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin, Seamus Boland, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Rural Link, Liz Canavan, First Secretary General of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, Janet Gaynor, Acting Function Manager with Health Promotion and Improvement, HSE West.



Youth Games

This programme offers young people a wide range of activities in which to take part. It is a one day, annual event which sees young people travelling from all corners of Ireland to participate in various events. Youth Games 2014 was hosted by Kerry Diocesan Youth Service. The event saw over 450 young people take part in soccer, basketball, table tennis, quiz, chess and draughts. This year also saw the Youth Games Fair Play award being awarded to Criost Ri Youth Club from Donegal Youth Service.



North Connaught Youth & Community Service

The Base Youth Café

The final inter club event of 2013 took place in December in The Base Youth Café, Drumshanbo and 110 young people from 5 clubs/cafes throughout Leitrim participated in a quiz and disco on the night. The Base Youth Café Drumshanbo organised this event and set the questions and Shauna was quiz master on the night, while Sinead, Megan, Skye, Emma and adult volunteers ensured it ran smoothly. Well done to all teams who won on the night and to DJ Keith Healy for the music.



Nollaig

The Youth Work Ireland official Christmas card is designed by one of our very talented budding artists in our Member Youth Services. We have a number of age categories and each year we choose one to use as Youth Work Ireland's e-card that is sent out to all our supporters and friends. Over 500 entries were received from our Member Youth Services. This year's winner was Samantha Kreivaityte from The Cape Project in Youth Work Ireland Galway.



Youth Factor

This national variety programme creates real opportunities for young people, whatever their ability, to gain confidence through performance and creativity. The Youth Factor 2014 was hosted by Kerry Diocesan Youth Service. The event saw over 150 young people taking to the stage in various categories such as music, song, dance, performance and the new category of Band. The event proved to be hugely successful and extremely entertaining and saw a huge amount of talent coming from our clubs. This year we saw a number of new clubs take part for the first time amongst clubs that have been taking part for years. The Youth Factor Fair Play award was presented to Cooley Youth Club in Youth Work Ireland Louth.



Carlow Regional Youth Service

25th Year Anniversary Celebrations

Carlow Regional Youth Service celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2013. An artist in residence was sourced to work with young people across the service to develop an arts project to commemorate the 25 years of youth work in Carlow. A 5k Fun Run/Walk and Family Day was held in April, with medals for all finishers.

Carlow Camp, one of the oldest running community summer camps in Ireland, was also 25 years old in 2013. All participants who got involved with this received a special memento to mark this occasion. Over 370 children participated in Carlow Camp across 5 venues and were supported by 76 Volunteers. Carlow Regional Youth Service's 25th Celebration Party was held on Friday 21st June in the Talbot Hotel, Carlow, with past and present staff, volunteers and Board Members all invited to this event.

Policy Submissions

Over the last year we have maintained our level of interest on behalf of young people in the public policy areas that impact on their lives. In our Budget submission for 2015 we called for a reversal of cuts to youth services and a greater emphasis on youth employment measures. We have called in a submission for the abolition of section 37 of the Employment Equality Act allowing discrimination in employment in the education and health sectors.

We strongly supported the concept of a Youth Guarantee to provide a guarantee of a quality job, education or training offer to all young people unemployed for four months and have expressed

disappointment at the shortcomings of this approach in Ireland. We backed up this call in submissions on the Structural Funds in Ireland and the Dept. of Social Protection. We also inputted to the National Youth Strategy being developed under the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures National Policy Framework recently.



Constitutional Convention

Our youth led advocacy group, Voices of Youth held a very successful Children's and Young Peoples Constitutional Convention in 2013. Following on from this, and particularly the involvement of Tom Arnold (Chair) and Art O'Leary (Secretary), the group were invited to present at the final meeting of the Convention in Malahide in November 2013. The group of Robert O'Donnell, Joanna Siewierska, Erin Brightwood and Bertie Nesirky presented to the full plenary and received an award from the Convention. The issues highlighted in the presentation were; the place of religion in society; the need to involve young people in constitutional change and the need to make abortion more widely available.



WSTCYS

Dungarvan CYP

During the month of December a number of young people from the project organised and participated in the second annual Christmas Trolley Dash in association with St. Vincent de Paul. Over four nights the young people took to the local estates with their festively decorated trolleys, to collect non-perishable food items from each household. The response received was overwhelming as the young people managed to fill both trolleys every night! The young people dressed as Christmas characters such as Santa Claus himself, Mrs Clause, Santa's Elves and giant presents!!! This, along with their enthusiasm caused great excitement as they called to the doors in the community for donations. All the food collected was distributed locally to those in need.

We would like to thank the residents of Childers Estate, Congress Villas, Lismore Avenue, Byrneville, Cathal Brugha Place, Silversprings, Western Bay, Murphy Place, Kyne Park and McCarthy Ville for their generous donations to our trolleys and to everyone who dropped items directly to the Dungarvan Youth Centre.



Volunteer Achievement Awards

This Award ceremony celebrates volunteering within our Federation. We are very lucky to have over 7000 dedicated volunteers who help out in our youth clubs and services every week. The contribution made by them is immense and makes a positive impact on youth work and young people.

The 2013 Recipients were:

Leading the Way Award Recipient

Andrew Murphy, Navan Youth Together, Meath Youth Federation.

Stepping Up Award Recipient

Nicholas Hogan, Keep the Beat Youth Klub, Youth Work Ireland Galway.

Making a Difference Award Recipient

Sandie Murphy, ShOUT LGBT Youth Club, Youth Work Ireland Galway.

Behind the Scenes Award Recipient

Sean O'Meara, Board Member, Limerick Youth Service.

The Extra Mile Award Recipient

Jerry O'Donovan, Newcastle West Youth Club, Limerick Youth Service.

The 2014 Recipients were:

Leading the Way Award Recipient

Seamus O'Fearraigh, Club Oige Criost Ri, Donegal Youth Service

Stepping Up Award Recipient

Éamonn O'Briain, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg, Limerick Youth Service

Making a Difference Award Recipient

Lisa Mannion O'Reilly, Tuam Youth Club, Youth Work Ireland Galway

Behind the Scenes Award Recipient

Seamus Hanlon, Cooley Youth Club, Youth Work Ireland Louth

The Extra Mile Award Recipient

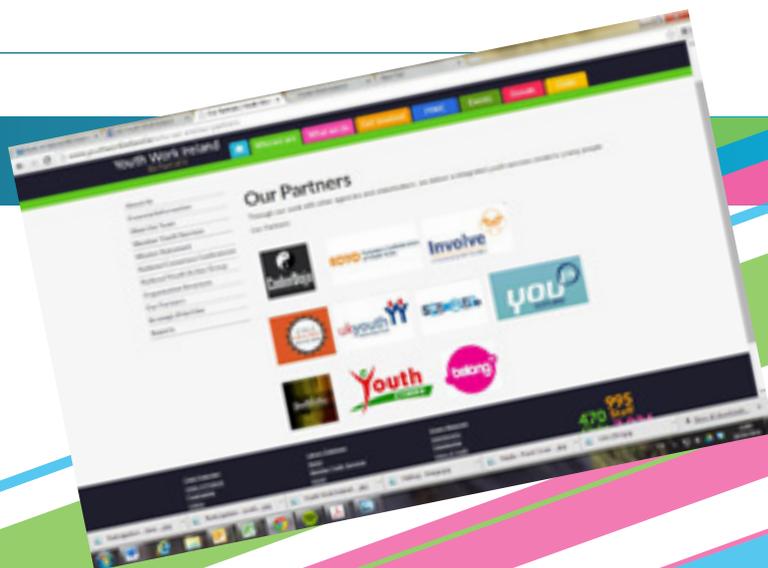
Kevin Toomey, Sixmilebridge Youth Club, Clare Youth Service



Partnerships

Youth Work Ireland delivers an integrated youth service model. To do this we need the support of others and have operated a variety of partnerships down the years. We have recently taken the opportunity to formalise these arrangements and be clearer on who does what. We have made formal partnership arrangements with SpunOut.ie, Coder Dojo, Involve and BelongTo Youth Service and worked extensively over the last year with Cycle Against Suicide. We also work in the delivery of Comhairle na nÓg with Foróige and in our sports work with the FAI.

We have an ongoing and long lasting partnership with Youth Action Northern Ireland. Internationally we are part of a very active Five Nations Alliance with UK Youth, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Young Scotland and Youth Cymru. At European level we continue to work as an active member of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs.



CDYS Youth Work Ireland

The First Cut Youth Film Project

The First Cut Youth Film Project took place at The Big Blue Cube, Gouldshill, Mallow. 21 young people from the area got to write, direct, act, film and edit their own movie! Wow! Well done guys and we can't wait to see the final production at the gala screening and celebrations at Cork County Hall on November 28th. Looking forward to 2 great short films from Mallow Young Filmmakers and CDYS Midleton.

'Electrofast' Fundraiser for My Place

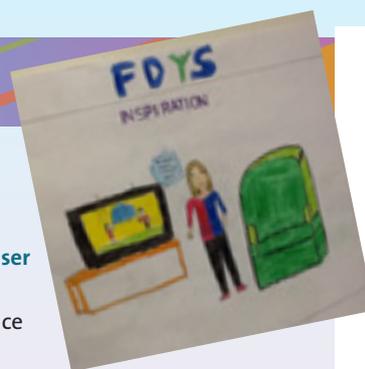
Young people from CDYS Youth Work Ireland, along with staff and volunteers held a 12hr 'Electrofast' fundraiser. Everyone spent 12hrs together with no access to phones, tablets, laptops or electronic music or gaming devices. It was a sponsored event with all funds raised going to the 'My Place' project. The day began at 11am at the CDYS Youth Work Ireland office on Church Lane, with a day trip to Fota Wildlife Park and then back to the office for a pizza dinner. The rest of the evening was spent playing board games, group activities and our young musicians brought along their acoustic guitars for a sing song. Well done to everyone who participated and good luck catching up on all those voicemails and texts! Although I heard one girl say she didn't even want her phone back! Maybe we should all do an electrofast every now and then...

FDYS

FDYS MusicBox Twelve Hour Fun Time Spectacular Fundraiser

FDYS MusicBox had been trying to open a dedicated practice space in the FDYS for a number of months, but needed to raise more funds to renovate the space. They came up with a brilliant idea to raise funds for this project by organising The FDYS MusicBox Twelve Hour Fun Time Spectacular!! This was a brilliant 12 hours of music that took place in August and included performances from Sub Motion, Trina Ryan, Cadence, Lightsandover, The Folly, Tiberium, Cammino, The Analog Society, Sector Seven, The Gentlemen Callers and Red Rio. This great initiative was followed up with the release of a CD of the music from the event Live at the FDYS 2014 and again all funds from this will go back into FDYS Musicbox. Well done and congratulations to everyone involved this was a truly spectacular event

During the summer FDYS also ran an extensive county wide summer programme for young people. Events included Treasure Hunts, Discos, Zombie Film Street Parties, Samba Drums, Graffiti Gardens, BBQ to name but a few...



Youth Work Ireland Meath

25 Years and Counting!!!

On the 18th September Youth Work Ireland Meath had something to celebrate! Not only had we just celebrated our 25th year anniversary, but we were about to re-launch our newly refurbished Youth Café and a variety of new programmes for our youth groups. Staff, volunteers and young people had worked long and hard to re-decorate and re-furbish our Youth Café on the grounds of St. Mary's Church, Navan, Co. Meath. The Youth Café has been providing a safe space and essential support to young people in Navan since 2006.

Additionally, our re-launch was an opportunity to highlight our cooperation with UNICEF Ireland by participating in their International Youth Summit in September, in developing a project promoting equality, inclusion and diversity for young people #It'saboutus. Through this our LGBT group created a mural inside our Youth Café. This mural celebrates the diversity and inclusion promoted by Youth Work Ireland Meath, City of Dublin Youth Services Board and UNICEF Ireland.



Canal Communities Regional Youth Service

Film Premiers and TV Appearances

This year the young people of Canal Communities Regional Youth Service (CCRYs) shot to stardom when a short film they scripted and shot was featured in the Reel Youth Film Fest in September. The film was among 14 films made by youth services across Dublin and premiered. In April some of the younger members were featured on RTÉ News2Day programme making hats to celebrate volunteers during Youth Work Ireland Week.

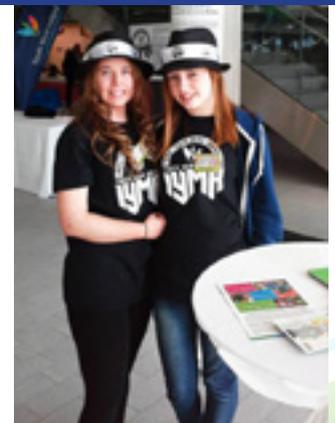
This year we were also successful in securing a partnership with Davy and Business in The Community which saw the funding of our "Life Skills Through the Arts Music Programme". This brilliant programme involves a mix of guitar lessons, song writing and individual and group performance skills for 30 young people. The year will conclude with a fantastic performance for the community which showcases the skills learned by the young people who participated in the programme. We can't wait! A huge thank you to both Davy and Business in The Community for the fantastic support.



Irish Youth Music Awards

The IYMAs bring bands and musicians together from all over Ireland to perform their own music creations. The overall aim of this programme is to give young musicians access to industry experts to benefit from their advice and knowledge.

The judging is based on the entire project which incorporates band, crew, promotion and approach. This year's Irish Youth Music Awards took place in the Aviva Stadium on the 12 April. Over 500 young people attended this day which was made up of a market place, a busking stage, a leader recommended stage, a drumming workshop, a photography workshop, a djing area, mentoring session, panel question and answer sessions along with CD reviews. The 2014 IYMAs recipients were The Left Backs. This day was the culmination of numerous Local Live Selection Nights taking place across Ireland.



Ossory Youth

Flash Mob

Three Kilkenny youth clubs came together and secretly rehearsed for six weeks to perform a flash mob at the Youth Work Ireland National Conference in Dublin Castle on Saturday 11th October. With the theme of the conference being the importance of volunteerism in youth clubs, the dance reflected the value of volunteering and the initial interest and fear of getting involved as a volunteer. A flash mob is about courage, trust, relationship, teamwork and commitment; it is very much like what happens in a youth club, it exudes energy, fun and creativity. Dr. James Reilly, the new Minister for Children and Youth Affairs will remember them for a while!

Taizé Visit

Early on Sunday morning 17th August, 18 young people in Transition Year to Leaving Cert from the Diocese of Ossory accompanied by leaders, Joseph Mguni, Treasa Forristal, Niamh Cusack and Patrick Bookle set out from Ossory Youth in Kilkenny on a long journey to Taizé in eastern France. Amazingly, at the same time about 3,000 other young people

from countries in Europe ranging from Estonia to Portugal and Ireland to the Czech Republic were also travelling to Taizé, and all about to spend the next week together. The group came home saying that the Taizé experience was indescribable as no words adequately captured the essence of the place. The conclusion was that it had been a never-to-be-forgotten experience and they have now joined the ranks of over 100,000 young people from around the world who make a pilgrimage to Taizé each year.



Youth Work Ireland Roscommon / N.E. Galway

Self-esteem Booklet

Our psychologist Liam Moroney states that 'Self Esteem is the best psychological armor that children can have to help them flourish in the good times and be resilient and cope when faced with challenges and difficulties.' To this end Youth Work Ireland Roscommon / N.E. Galway have produced a six page A5 sized brochure outlining to parents and guardians and those who work with young people, tips on how to cultivate positive self-esteem in children and adolescents.



Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg recently held their AGM and Annual Conference for 2014 in the Phoenix Youth Centre, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. Comhairle na nÓg are youth councils in the 34 local authorities of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. In light of the fact that Comhairle na nÓg is for young people under the age of 18 and who have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard, Comhairle na nÓg is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area. This year delegates at the AGM attended workshops in Young People's Mental Health, Young People's Rights and Youth Information. We are also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Tipperary Regional Youth Service

Disability Training

Tipperary Regional Youth Service ran a Disability Awareness Training Workshop and an Autism Awareness Workshop in October 2014. The facilitator was a person with a disability who had the qualifications and personal experience to facilitate the workshop. The facilitator ensured that participants focused on the social model of disability instead of the medical model. The social model will help participants understand how they can provide practical assistance to existing and new members of their club with a disability. The social model allows for the breaking down of social barriers which are created by society rather than the medical condition of the person with a disability. The training will help staff and volunteers identify barriers which might be off putting to potential new members with disabilities and their families.



Alton Towers 2014

The final trip of the summer was in August to Alton Towers Theme Park in England. 20 members of Thurles Youth Project joined 19 members from Cashel and 8 young people from Templemore for this venture which was a reward for their participation throughout the year. The bus collected each group at their respective youth projects and brought them to Dublin Port. They got the ferry to Holyhead before making the journey to the theme park where the group spent the afternoon. On route to the hostel in Manchester where they were staying, the bus dropped off at Old Trafford for a photo op! The next day was spent once again in Alton Towers. When the theme park closed the young people went for food and to the cinema before making the journey back home, 52 hours later! An amazing time was had by all and plans for next year's trip are already being made!



Youth Work Ireland Cork

Murals and Bracelets

The young people and staff of Youth Work Ireland Cork raised over €300 by buying Amnesty International's friendship bracelets. We have been wearing a rainbow of colors on our arms this month to support human rights. Check out our Facebook page for photos and comments on friendship.

Some of our teenagers worked really hard on a fabulous mural on the wall of the Before 5 Family Centre in Churchfield. It looks brilliant and has received amazing responses from people in the community. It certainly brightens up this area. Well done to everyone involved.

In February Youth Work Ireland Cork, in partnership with Health Action Zone for Gurrabraher & Churchfield (HAZ/HSE), hosted a training day on our 'Mind Your Head' programme: a resource for exploring mental health issues with young people. This training was aimed at those working with young people who are interested in implementing the 'Mind Your Head' programme.



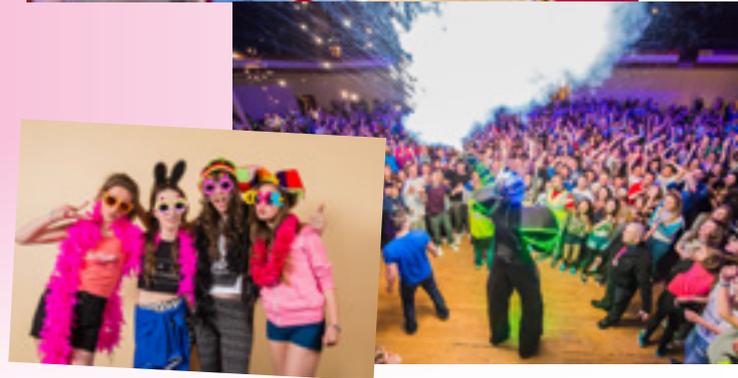


KDYS

Just Cooking Cookery School

As part of a career progression and life-long learning course in the KDYS An-tOileán Garda Youth Diversion Project, 9 young people took part in a 3 session 'Introduction to Cookery' programme, funded by the European Social Fund. The aim of the course was to facilitate personal development, enhance the young people's CVs, enable them to have the opportunity to engage in training courses that were of interest to them and identify possible future career paths.

The young people attended the 'Just Cooking Cookery School' in Firies, facilitated by Mark and Bernie Doe. In the sessions, young people gained knowledge on basic food hygiene, including guidelines on cooking, reheating and food storage. They learned knife skills and kitchen safety rules. Through a range of dishes, young people have learned various cookery techniques and gained insight into basic nutrition, leading to a healthier lifestyle.



Training

During 2014 the IYWC ran a series of very successful and well received workshops and training events, which supported youth workers in their practice. We partnered with other organisations in the youth work sector to deliver these sessions, which were both thematic and issue related, such as BeLonG To, Spunout.ie, NUIM Maynooth, Centre for Effective Services, EPIC and CDYSB. Our training events included Positive Mental Health and LGBT Youth, Social Media's Role in Youth Work and Youth Information, Good Practice in Assessing Needs, Staff Supervision in Youth Work Settings, Promoting and Sharing Youth Work Practice, Strengthening the Links between Theory and Practice in Youth Work, Tuning In: Connecting to Local and Global Issues through Creative Process and In Hiding: Young People in Care in Ireland

Limerick Youth Service

Bands on the Run

It was a busy weekend for Limerick Youth Service when it hosted “Bands on the Run” followed by a YouthFest in October at the famous Milk Market from 1-4pm. Friday evening’s Bands on the Run saw several of Limerick’s up and coming young musical acts perform in 3 city centre venues. Bands Weekend Away and Little Tea were joined by solo star Aaron Hackett as they kicked things off at Stormy Tea Cup Café, Foxes Bow, Limerick. The event then moved to Cobblestone Joes at 5pm before finishing off at Lava Javas Youth Café at 6:30pm.

The Bands on the Run project is the third of 5 projects set up by Samhains Like Us in Spring 2014. This intrepid group have already performed a flash mob during Riverfest and created an award winning urban garden. After Bands on the Run the group will turn their attention to their fourth task, YouthFest, a collaborative effort with Limerick Comhairle na nÓg.

The Lanes of Limerick

Two of Limerick’s famous lanes have undergone a renaissance and been turned into a contemporary urban garden thanks



to a street art project by young people from Limerick Youth Service.

Post Office and Theatre Lanes are now awash with hanging baskets and spectacular street art thanks to an intrepid group of young people who wanted to showcase the best of Limerick’s youth culture. Explaining the inspiration behind the urban garden, Limerick Youth Service’s John Real said ‘sadly the lanes had become dilapidated and some young people expressed an interest in brightening them up as part of a youth cultural project that would include entry into the Going for Gold Initiative.’ The young people, who hail from across Limerick, painted the side wall of Limerick Youth Service (Post Office Lane) and added a Parisian feel to it with some hanging floral baskets-made from empty plastic bottles! The young people also wrote messages of what they like about Limerick, what they would like to see in the city and what they wanted to be when they grow old with one young person writing ‘respected.’ Across Lower Glentworth Street the entrance to Theatre Lane is now home to an amazing piece of street art while the back of the building formerly known as Smyths, has a distinctly Limerick take of ‘hands across the world.’



Clare Youth Service

Switch

The Church of Ireland on Bindon Street, Ennis, is the venue for a new live music experience in Clare. Switch – a Clare Youth Service initiative aims to showcase old and new musical talent from all over Ireland in unexpected locations around Clare. The group of volunteers involved has promised a “unique live music experience” aimed at 18 – 25 year olds in the Clare area. Switch aims to give you a concert experience with a professional atmosphere, and introduce you to your new favorite Irish artists. It is supported by Shane Killowry, volunteer with Ennis Music Project.

Local alternative rock band “39 Shots” have been a big draw. The group have been writing and performing together for over 6 years and have achieved a honed, unique and utterly fantastic original sound. They have been joined by Ennis rap veteran Clerk 5 who has been showcasing his EP which he recently recorded with music producer Deviant and Naive Ted. Switch is an alcohol and drug free event and offers an alternative Friday night experience for young people around Clare, donations are welcome!





Youth Work Ireland Galway

Youth workers from Youth Work Ireland Galway took part in planning days and “think-ins” in Ballinasloe, while a new senior club started in Barna Furbo Youth Venue for young people aged between 15-18. The first session included a samba drumming workshop.

In September Minister James Reilly came to visit Youth Work Ireland Ballinasloe and met with young people, youth workers and volunteers. It was a great opportunity for us to share our practice with the new Minister. Young people from Youth Work Ireland Galway were also very well represented at Galway City Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2014. It was a great day and thanks from all in Youth Work Ireland Westside.

A LGBT Intergenerational Creative Writing Project took place in September, organised by Youth Work Ireland Galway, shOUT Galway & IPD Insurance and was for young people between the ages of 14-21 who identify as LGBT. These tailor made workshops focused on helping young people reflect on their own life experiences through the imaginative use of creative writing. Participants were introduced to a variety of types of creative poetry and fictional writing. There were also group readings and feedback on the young people’s own work.



Participation

Youth Work Ireland, its Board, staff and members have collectively established an organisational Mission, Vision and Beliefs. These outline an ambitious agenda in relation to youth participation which not only seeks to involve young people in making decisions within our organisation, but which works towards young people participating more fully in decisions in their own lives, the Irish Youth Work Sector, their communities and in Irish society. We believe that this view of our duty to advocate for young people and their rights distinguishes our model and approach to youth work.

We continued the work of our Voices of Youth advocacy group over the last year and developed the National Youth Action Group to assist nationally in our governance. We continue to support a number of Comhairle na nÓg around the country. Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in local authorities around the country. They were set up to give children and young people (under the voting age of 18) a voice in the development of local services and policies. All local authorities have regular meetings of Comhairle na nÓg, which link with adult decision-making bodies.

Midlands Regional Youth Service

Edenderry Youth Action Group

Edenderry Youth Action Group was formed in 2008 when Kevin Farrell (The Acorn Project) and Gerry Collins (School Completion Project) saw that there was a total lack of facilities in the town for young people. Instead of creating these facilities themselves both Kevin and Gerry thought it would be best to have the input from the young people in the area.

YAG FM is a temporary radio station based in Edenderry County Offaly. The station has entered into a contract with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to provide a temporary youth radio service for the town and surrounding areas of Edenderry. The Edenderry Youth Action Group will continue to provide facilities for the whole of the community. YAG FM is just another example of what can be achieved when the community comes together and works together.



Youth Work Ireland in Numbers

Youth Work Ireland has a total of 342 Clubs, 3,756 Volunteers and 18,514 Participants in these clubs. Kerry has the most clubs, with 46 clubs. However, Donegal has the most participants, with 2,708 participants. Our clubs collectively raised €887,300 themselves for their work in 2013. There were 54,933 young people participating on targeted youth programmes during the review period. We also had 109,149 youth information contacts which we assume to represent 36,383 individuals. In total then Youth Work Ireland members worked with 109,830 participants in this period.

We officially record 6,021 volunteers in our services but this may well be closer to 7,000 if we allow for various local and national once off events. There are 630 staff working across the organisation and another 458 on employment programmes. In total there are nearly 1,100 staff working in our services for young people around the country



National Youth Action Group

Youth Work Ireland has been committed for some time to promoting participation at all levels of the organisation including Board level. In 2013 the National Youth Action Group was established to ensure this commitment was reflected at the national level of the organisation. The National Youth Action Group (NYAG) is made up of young people from various Member Youth Services in Youth Work Ireland. The aims of NYAG are; becoming a sub group of the national



Board to 'youth proof' Youth Work Ireland activities, ensuring youth membership of the national Board, ensuring voting rights for young people at Youth Work Ireland's Annual General Meeting and connecting with young people all over Ireland so that they are listened to and their voices are heard!



Donegal Youth Service

SPARKS Mental Health Roadshow

Donegal Youth Council are to receive a major European Award in recognition for one of their major projects from last year. The 2013 SPARKS Mental Health Roadshow was selected as the 2014 winner of the Assembly of European Regions "Most Youth Friendly European Region" Special Award. The Assembly of European Regions is made up of 230 regions from across 35 European countries and present this award every consecutive year to a particular project, as a means of acknowledging best practice in youth participation and involving young people in democratic life. The award jury met in Brussels recently, where they selected the Donegal group's project as the overall winner. Donegal Youth Council's chairperson Shane Hegarty

says the group were excited and delighted to have been selected as winners of this prestigious award.

Teen Talk

Donegal Youth Service launched 'Teen Talk' in June in Donegal Youth Service Headquarters, Port Road, Letterkenny. The exciting morning consisted of informative presentations about Teen Talk by Frankie Mc Greevy (Donegal Youth Service Staff member), an opportunity for questions and answers and of course tasty breakfast refreshments. Teen Talk is a one-to-one youth work service providing young people with an opportunity to talk through any issue they may have with a professional youth worker. Teen Talk is a confidential universal service suitable for all young people aged between 12 and 25 years who would like extra support with any issue they are experiencing and Donegal Youth Service have a dedicated drop in service for this. As part of the Teen Talk service we offer a specialised listening, advice and information service for young people who have been affected by separation or divorce within their family. This service is provided in conjunction with the Relationships Ireland Teen Between Service. Teen Between is supported by the Family Support Agency.



Youth Work Ireland Monaghan

LGBT Drop In

In March, Youth Work Ireland Monaghan started an LGBT Youth Drop-in Support Service for young people aged 16-25 years old in the Monaghan area, with funding obtained through the Community Foundation of Ireland. We have called the service "Mouty" (Monaghan Out Youth) and we hope to support young LGBT people, whether they are openly gay or not or just questioning their sexuality. The Drop-in Support Service operates on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7pm in Castleblayney Youth Café. The support service is staffed by two youth workers and the young people are free to hang out, chat and get support. We are online at the same time on our Facebook and Twitter pages for those who cannot or do not want to attend the Drop-In but do want to get support.



SafeTalk

SafeTalk Training was held in The Castleblayney Youth Café in November 2013.

In only a few hours people learnt how to provide practical help to persons who are having thoughts of suicide. SafeTalk prepares people to be suicide helpers as most people with thoughts of suicide invite help. Often these opportunities to help are missed, dismissed or avoided – leaving people more alone and at greater risk. SafeTalk training prepares people to help by using the steps of Talk (Tell, Ask, Listen and Keep Safe) to identify and engage with people who are contemplating suicide and to connect them with further help and care. This training was open to anyone over 18.



Voices of Youth

Uniforms, piercings, suspensions, CSPE, expression, lunch times... school is often defined by lots of rules around lots of different things. On the 19th of February 2014 over 60 young people from all over Ireland came together as part of Youth Work Ireland's Voices of Youth group to explore questions about rules in school.

The general motivation behind this event was; A lack of knowledge around the source and origin of many school rules combined with a view that many are somewhat anachronistic; A desire to see more participation and influence by young people in the running of schools; The need to look at broader issues relating to the role of the school in young peoples' lives now and in the future and a desire to produce in a constructive and collaborative way a resource to assist young people in these areas. The event was supported by the Youth in Action Programme via Leargas and a resource is being produced based on the days proceedings.



Youth Work Ireland Louth

M.A.D. Youth Theatre

M.A.D (Making Alternative Drama) Youth Theatre had a great year in 2013 participating in the National Festivals of Youth Theatres, Louth Youth Theatre day, raising teen suicide awareness with their youth initiative project and their first gripping and engaging production of Chatroom by Enda Walsh. This year they are doing it all over again working towards an even bigger and better year.

M.A.D Youth Theatre wants to give the young people of Dundalk and surrounding areas an opportunity to take part in their drama programmes and other exciting events. Drama workshops are running every Tuesday at 5pm at the Dun Dealgan Athletic Club in Seatown, Dundalk. Youth theatre is a great way for young people to **not only** develop their interest in drama but it is **also** proven to enhance the lives of the young people **personally** and **socially**. The club explores various **theatre** techniques with some **commitment** to physical theatre.



Development & Fundraising

The challenge of establishing a Development function which helps to create sustainability for the entire organisation is at an early stage; however 2014 has seen progress across a number of headings and areas. Primarily our aims are to develop and provide a range of supports to all our Member Youth Services, and over time, to our clubs as well. Additionally we aim to begin to diversify the sources of our income, and to begin to develop income generation at a national level, which benefits all our members.

This year we saw corporate partnerships begin with Davy, Oracle, Deloitte and KPMG. We have continued to develop our relationship with other organisations such as the FAI, National Office for Suicide Prevention, Leargas, Irish Youth Foundation, Business in The Community and YouthAction Northern Ireland.

We continue to develop our offer to potential investors and supporters, and create a range of engaging ways and levels through which people, companies and partners can support Youth Work Ireland.



Youth Work Ireland Member Youth Services

Canal Communities Regional Youth Service

Bluebell Youth Centre, Bluebell Road, Bluebell, Dublin 12

T: 01 473 8439

www.ccrys.org

Carlow Regional Youth Service

Montgomery House, Athy Road, Carlow

T: 059 913 0476

www.carlowys.ie

Clare Youth Service

Carmody Street, Ennis, Co. Clare

T: 065 684 5350

www.clareyouthservice.org

CDYS Youth Work Ireland

Mallow Community Youth Centre, New Road, Mallow, Cork

T: 022 535 26

www.cdys.ie

Donegal Youth Service Youth Work Ireland

16-18 Port Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal

T: 074 912 9630

www.donegalyouthservice.ie

FDYS Ltd

Francis Street, Wexford

T: 053 912 3262

www.fdys.ie

Kildare Youth Services

Canal Stores, Basin Street, Naas, Co. Kildare

T: 045 897 893

www.kys.ie

KDYS

Fairhill, Killarney, Co. Kerry

T: 064 663 1748

www.kdys.ie

Limerick Youth Service

5 Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick

T: 061 412 444

www.limerickyouthservice.com

Midlands Regional Youth Service

Regional Office, Pump Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

T: 090 647 7075

www.mrys.org

North Connaught Youth & Community Service

Rockwood Parade, Sligo

T: 071 914 4150

www.ncycs.ie

Ossory Youth

Desart Hall, New Street, Kilkenny

T: 056 776 1200

www.ossoryyouth.com

Tipperary Regional Youth Service

Croke Street, Thurles, Tipperary

T: 0504 234 26

www.trys.ie

Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service

Edmund Rice Youth & Community Centre

Manor Street, Waterford

T: 051 309 364

www.wstcys.ie

Youth Work Ireland County Longford

6 Earl Street, Longford

T: 043 334 0907





Youth Work Ireland Cork

Gurranabraher Youth and Community Resource Centre
11b Gurranabraher Road, Cork City
T: 021 439 9862 /
www.ywicork.com

Youth Work Ireland Galway

41-43 Prospect Hill, Galway
T: 091 561 637
www.youthworkgalway.ie

Youth Work Ireland Laois

Unit 9, James Fintan Lawlor House,
James Fintan Lawlor Avenue, Portlaoise, Co Laois
T: 057 866 5010
www.ywilaois.ie

Youth Work Ireland Louth

2 Courthouse Square, Dundalk, Co Louth
T: 042 933 8323

Youth Work Ireland Meath

7 Market Square, Navan, Co Meath
T: 046 902 2707
www.meathyouthfederation.ie

Youth Work Ireland Monaghan

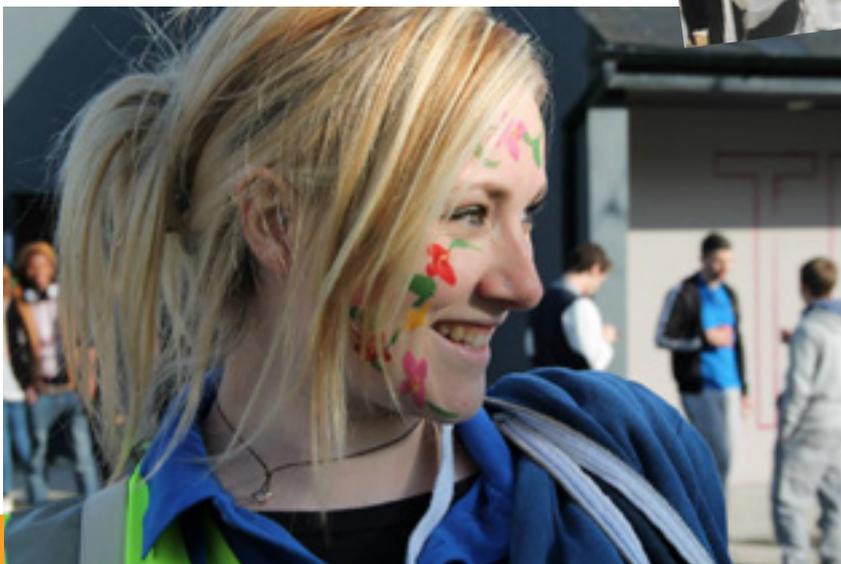
Youth Information Centre, York Street,
Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
T: 042 975 1979
www.youthworkireland.ie/monaghan

Youth Work Ireland Roscommon N.E. Galway

Castle Street, Roscommon
T: 090 662 5395
www.roscommonyouth.ie

Youth Work Ireland Head Office,

20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1
T: 01 8584500
www.youthworkireland.ie





www.youthworkireland.ie



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