

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthai Óige

Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DYS Board & Staff.....	4-5
Year in Numbers.....	6-7
Baile as Baile Refugee Project...	8-9
Daybreak Programme.....	10-12
CCA Project.....	13
DYS Website.....	13
BreakOut.....	14-15
Youth Information Centre.....	16-17
Community Employment.....	18-19
Young Carers.....	20-21
The Garage Project.....	22-23
CLIC.....	24-25
Detached Youth Work Project.....	26
Celebration Event.....	27-33
Volunteers.....	33
Youth Talk.....	34
European Work.....	35
Arts4Youth.....	36-37
Reactiv8/2.....	38-39
LOFT.....	40-42
You-Turn.....	43-45
Youthscape.....	46-48
Youth Outreach Project.....	49-52
Financial Summary.....	53-55

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Lorraine Thompson Regional Director



Frank Dooley Chairperson

2019 was a significant year for Donegal Youth Service in that the organisation commenced several new projects in addition to the existing work of the service. This was a result of an increase in the availability of new funding opportunities from the Special European Programmes Body (Peace IV) which is a welcome opportunity for the community and voluntary sector as whole.

Donegal Youth Service has been to the fore of Peace and Reconciliation work for **over 20 years** and is recognised as a strategic partner in the successful delivery of good relations programmes on a cross community and cross border basis.

Unfortunately the year did not start off the best in that there was a concerted effort made to purchase a building for the service that did not come to fruition and was disappointing. The service has continued to grow and space is a scarce commodity to accommodate all the new projects and this is an issue for the service. Some projects have been located in Planet Youth Project Centre in Ballybofey which has become another busy hub with **5 projects** operating in that space including their Junior & Senior youth clubs.

However we spent no time dwelling on the difficulty, as the work of supporting young people continues and this is the focus of DYS. This report outlines the work of the organisation and key to ensuring the effective delivery is good governance, quality assurance and compliance which is the role of the Board of Directors and Regional Director. 2019 is the last year of the current strategic plan and work has commenced on a **new plan from 2020-2022** based on needs assessments, feedback from the sector, analysis and evaluation.

Donegal Youth Service as a whole is a dynamic and innovative organisation, constantly looking at new opportunities and creative ways to engage and **support young people**. This is possible with the direction of a strategic board of directors made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds and a staff team with a rich skillset with an appetite to constantly do better.

2019 DYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Frank Dooley

Secretary: Ciaran Maguire

Treasurer: Brid Foley

Directors:

Marina Carlin

Brid Foley

John Byrne

Nicole Monaghan

Aoife Mc Cullough

Shaun Dorrian

Taragh Quinlivan

2019 DYS CORE STAFF MEMBERS

Lorraine Thompson

Gareth Gibson

Charlene Logue

Frankie Mc Greevy

Sinead Murray

Dominic Mc Glinchey

Lee Stephenson

Laura Doherty

Layla Kuyper

Michelle Sweeney

Maria Crossan

Louise Lynch

Katarzyna Kurzeja

Carlyn Maguire

Claire Bradley

Jimmy McKinney

Billy Banda

Jackie Ferry

Jason Doherty

Yvonne Tilley

Pauric Bell

Ciara Cronin

Siobhan O'Connor

Louise Lynch

Michelle Wylam

Helen Simms

Karen Conlon

Ineke Abbas

Eimile Lewis McGee



DYS Staff at the 2019 Celebration Event



Chairperson Frank Dooley at the Celebration Event

DYS YEAR IN NUMBERS

This year **15,170** young people engaged in our service and were supported by **29** staff and **437** Adult Volunteers. A variety of training programmes were provided to **1,458** Adults and **6,454** young People. During 2019 DYS facilitated over **900** hours of one to one listening ear support via Youth Talk. Support was also provided to **25** Youth Clubs across Donegal and we hosted **18** public events in 2019. Our work would not have been possible without our **59** Strategic Partners.



'Every Can Counts' Campaign

DYS YEAR IN NUMBERS

Youth Information

Worked with our partners in the production of booklets and flyers including Going to Court and Intimate Partner Violence flyers. Dealt with almost **5000 queries**. Delivered **Internet Safety training to Over 5800**. Hosted 11th consecutive year of EVS

Youth Outreach

Facilitated a successful Summer Programme. New provision for young people through Arts 4 Youth. Year-round training provided including **212 Adults trained in Child Protection**. **356 Garda Vetting applications** processed

Daybreak

Worked with **36 young people**, providing educational and personal development support. **Provision across 3 sites** in Donegal.

Loft

Engaged with over **3000 young people** and provided nearly **700 hours of drop-in**. Provided over **600 hours of one to one support**. Facilitated a wide range of groups and programmes including a successful Summer Programme.

BreakOut

Provided regular service and support to over **300 young people**. Training was facilitated with over **258 Adults and 320 Young People**

Youthscape

119 young people engaged. Detailed suite of training provided including OCN Personal Development, Good Relations and Citizenship

ReActiv8

Comprehensive support with CV, Interview Skills and Job Applications for **38 young people**. Provided youth club activity sessions to **almost 1400 young people**



Youth Forum won the 'Online Award'

BAILE AS BAILE PROJECT

In 2019 we developed the Baile As Baile (Home From Home) Refugee Project as we wanted to do something to **welcome** Syrian young people who have recently come to Donegal after a long and difficult journey.

Throughout the year a wide range of events took place, including a **weekly sports project**, a leaflet of our services in Arabic, and **three Syrian feasts** which brought our whole community together. The project engaged with **30 people** from the **Syrian Community**. We look forward to continuing to work with the Syrian families in 2020 and beyond.



Launch of Donegal Youth Service leaflet in Arabic

30
People

1
Arabic Leaflet

3
Syrian Feasts



Syrian Feast



Weekly Sports Project

This project was made possible due to our partnership with the DLDC Resettlement Programme. Baile as Baile was funded by The Community Foundation for Ireland.



**The Community
Foundation for Ireland**



DAYBREAK PROGRAMME

The Daybreak Programme works with young people who are early or potential school leavers aged between 12-16 years old. The programme provides intensive individually tailored support to young people both through formal and informal education processes. It follows the school year and is based in three locations in the County: **Letterkenny, Ballybofey** and **Raphoe**. The young people are supported by the programme to complete their Junior Certificate and continue in education, training or employment.

Daybreak worked with **thirty-six** young people in 2019, **thirteen** of which completed their Junior Cert. Daybreak offers personal development as part of the young people's day which is designed by the specific needs of the young person. Workshops included: resilience building, legislation & the law, internet safety, The UN rights of the child, drugs & alcohol, cookery, personal hygiene mental health awareness, body image and nutrition. Participants on the programme engaged in a 6-week nutrition workshop which included the young people working with a personal trainer on an exercise plan in the local community centre. Daybreak provided **forty** one-to-one sessions with Daybreak participants.



Daybreak Ballybofey

In the month of June, the hard-working young people doing their Junior Cert came in daily to avail of one to one study support prior to and during their exams.

In 2019 the local JLO invited the young people to visit the Garda station to have a full tour and members of the Traffic Corps met with young people to talk about Road Safety. To round off the class of 2019 the young people chose to go karting, laser tag and some football golf as recognition for all their hard work during the year.

36
Young People

13
Junior Certs
Completed



Letterkenny Garda Station



Planet Youth, Ballybofey

40
1-1 Sessions


Daybreak
Programme

DAYBREAK CONTINUED...

The staff in Daybreak enjoy the variety of working with different groups of young people every day and we get to know their parents/guardians also.



Girls Group made & donated Christmas wreaths to Hillcrest Nursing Home

"Without Daybreak I would have left school with nothing."

- Young Person

"I don't know how I would have coped if he wasn't referred into Daybreak, school wasn't working for him."

- Parent



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

Daybreak is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

CREATIVE COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

CCCA PROJECT

The Creative Community alternatives represented a new direction for Donegal Youth Service in 2019.

This project provides wrap around care for young people with complex needs who have been placed in Foster care. The aim of the project is to support the emotional resilience of young people and help the young people to thrive in their foster placement. Donegal Youth Service CCA Workers supported 8 young people in 2019.

The CCA Project is funded by TUSLA the Child and Family Agency

8

Young People

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE WEBSITE

WWW.DONEGALYOUTHSERVICE.IE

25,741

Pageviews

9604

Users

53

Posts



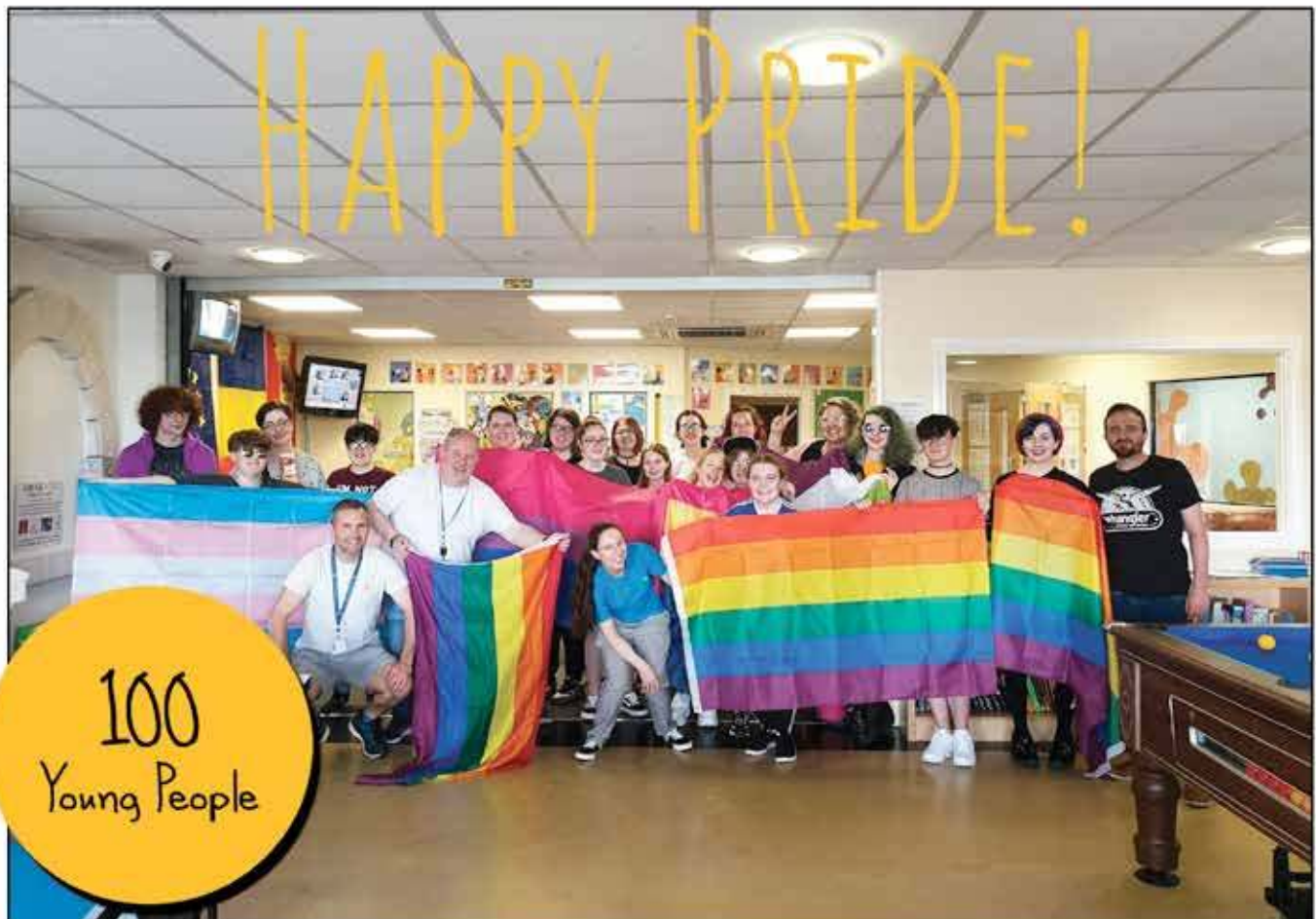
WEBSITE VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BREAKOUT

BreakOut is a project for LGBTI+ young people aged 12-30 and their allies. Our mission is 'to work towards an Ireland where LGBTI+ young people are treated on equal terms as all other young people'. To help achieve this aim, workers delivered various awareness workshops with the young people such as Mental Health, Sexual Health and Consent, Positive Relationships & Internet Safety. We had groups operating weekly in **Glenties**, **Moville** and **Letterkenny** with approximately 100 young people being supported during the year.

The BreakOut worker delivered LGBTI+ training sessions nationwide to various School staff & students, Youth Organisations, Corporate businesses and the Community & Voluntary sector in relation to best practice supporting young people, students & co-workers.

This year the project celebrated its **10th birthday**. We had a fantastic party attended by new and old members. Young people spoke at the event saying, "BreakOut is a safe space for people to express their individuality".



In DYS just before travelling to Dublin Pride



10th Birthday Party



"BreakOut is a safe space for people to express their individuality"

- Young Person

The annual trip to Dublin Pride was amazing. The young people look forward to this day all year quoting it as "an experience of a lifetime, where you can fly your flag and be yourself in an atmosphere of love, pride and acceptance of one another".

One of the BreakOut members wrote an article for the **national GCN magazine**. She helped highlight the many issues faced by young LGBTI+ young people in Donegal. Many young people attended the **Belong To 'Leadership Training'**, developing their skills to become future leaders in their groups and wider community.

BreakOut celebrated Christmas by going for a meal together and to see 'Snow White' in Pantomime. It was a great opportunity for all the groups to get together and celebrate the extraordinary work they had achieved throughout the year.



Leadership Training



BreakOut received funding from BelongTo, HSE and Healthy Ireland in 2019.

YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE (YIC)

Letterkenny Youth Information Centre provides a free, **confidential information service** to young people aged 12-25yrs and those who work with them. The centre, managed by Donegal Youth Service is the only one of its kind in Donegal and it operates a one stop shop approach where all the information is available under the one roof. YIC Letterkenny is a multiplier of **Eurodesk** and part of **ERYICA** (**European Youth Information and Counselling Agency**).

In 2019 we answered **6132 queries**, with two leading topics of accommodation and employment. 92 out of the total number were individual sessions on CV preparation, mock interviews and filling various application forms.

As a result of strong and reliable partnerships with organisations in Spain, Poland and Portugal, we managed to **send 3 European Solidarity Corps participants abroad** and hosted another 3 participants in Donegal Youth Service.

6132

Queries
Answered

201

Internet Safety
Sessions

600

Social Media
Posts



Drop-in users pictured with ESC participants & students from France

The demand for our interactive sessions on Internet Safety for both young people and parents continued during 2019. Throughout the year we worked with all school going age groups as well as their parents which saw us facilitate **201 sessions** with nearly **1000 Parents** and almost **6000 young people**.

The YIC team facilitated a number of groups during the year, including **30+ Media Group sessions**, developing the idea of the European project for young people along with French, Tunisian and German partners. The Weekly Legal Hub was available to young people **46 times** last year, which gave **92 working hours** exclusively dedicated to focus on legal queries.

The Successful '**Time to Move**' **Eurodesk event** gathered **50+ participants** in October and led us to the Eurodesk Award competition. This time our drop-in centre became the departure hall at the European Solidarity Corps airport. Young people received invitations in a form of the boarding passes, on arrival they were greeted by security check, then check-in stand assistant. Sessions focused on interactive exploration of the European youth mobility activities available to **young people aged 18-30**. At 4 gates participants had a chance to find out more about studying abroad, working in EU countries, taking part in volunteering projects and talking with European Solidarity Corps volunteers. Additionally, the vibrant atmosphere with real airport sounds, live flight information board and "duty-free" shopping area helped young people experience this event at many different levels.



Time to Move Participants & ESC Volunteers



ESC Volunteers Ismael, Claudia & Lucia

The Centre continued to disseminate youth information across multiple online platforms with almost **600 posts** on such sites as Facebook and Instagram.

The Letterkenny Youth Information Centre is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

The Donegal Youth Service Community Employment Project (CE) comprises **18 participants** and **1 Supervisor**. It is funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection through the provision of youth support workers to work with young people in the community, and provides training and development programmes to progress the participants into employment or further education.

The CE participants provide support to the various DYS projects including Daybreak, Youth Information Centre, The Loft, The Young Carers Project and locally affiliated Youth Clubs across the county. It also supports the DYS office through reception duties, administration and media assistance. The participants gain valuable work experience and related training in their field of employment ie Youth Work, Facilitation skills, Information provision, Office skills and Media training. In 2019 CE participants completed **55 training courses** and **2 major awards** with **5 participants** progressing into employment.

18

Participants

55

Courses

5

Employed

"The DYS CE Project gave me the opportunity to return to work. Through the work experience and training provided whilst on the CE Project, I upskilled and I am currently employed by the DYS as an administrator."

- Michelle





CE Participants Teresa and Josephine

"I had volunteered in the DYS Young Carers group which I really enjoyed and I knew I wanted a career in Youth Work. I joined the DYS CE Project and gained further experience and training and now I am employed in my dream job as a Youth Worker in the DYS."

- Jimmy



The CE Project is funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection



An Roinn
Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of
Employment Affairs and Social Protection



YOUNG CARERS

The project was set up to respond to locally identified needs of young people in our communities that were identifying as Young Carers. The project offers 1 - 1 support and group support to all of its members. The project took part in many team building activity day trips, art workshops, training sessions and the Young Carers Ireland Annual respite activity break in **Carlingford Adventure Centre** in June 2019. This gave great opportunities for the young carers to come together and take part in lots of fun activities, giving them a much-needed break away from their caring roles.

The project held regular meetings and had over **50 members** engaged with the programme in 2019.

Two young carers accompanied by their youth workers travelled to the **EU Parliament in Brussels** for the EU informal Young Carers meeting in September 2019.



Trip to the EU Parliament in Brussels

Young Carers is funded by TUSLA, Children and Young People's Services Committees and Healthy Ireland

YOUNG CARERS FIT4LIFE

The Donegal Young Carers Healthy Ireland Loft Fit-4-Life project ran weekly with the group taking part in physical activity and developing healthy eating habits and lifestyles. The group had a steady footfall of approximately **20 young people** each week. The group had the pleasure of a training session with Finn Harps player BJ Banda in December.



Training session with BJ Banda from Finn Harps



Carlingford Adventure Centre

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Donegal

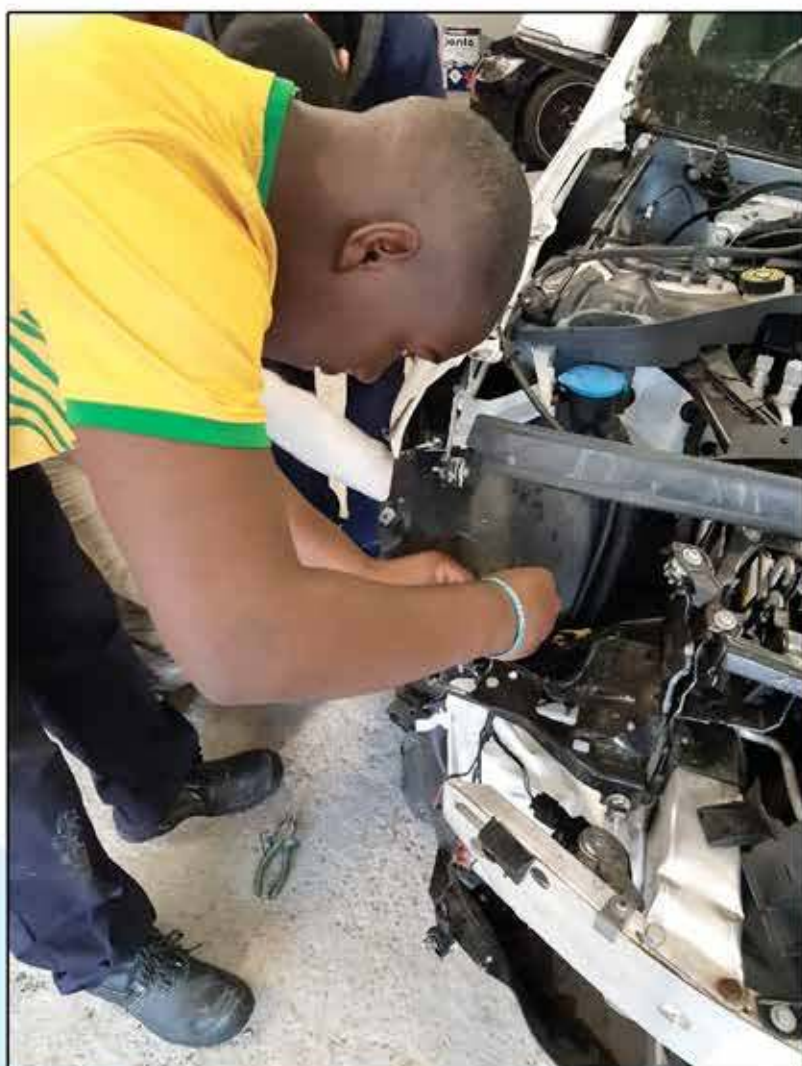
THE GARAGE PROJECT

The Garage Project is an exciting initiative launched in 2019 in partnership with **Pro-Social driving** that aims to provide young people with a greater understanding and respect for Donegal roads. This project engages young people who are passionate about cars, learning basic mechanics in a real garage environment. The project is practical but also places emphasis on safe driving and personal development. Those targeted as trainees for the project are teenagers who have an interest in cars and who may or may not be at risk as a result of their behaviour on the road.

30 young people worked under the instruction and benefitted from the expertise of two professional mechanics weekly on Wednesday nights throughout 2019.

The young people were recruited from various agencies and groups including the probation services.





The Garage Project is funded under SEUPB Peace IV via Donegal County Council

CLIC CITIZENSHIP & LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITIES

'CLIC' Citizenship and Leadership in Communities, this programme was designed to offer young people aged **14-24yrs** the opportunity to explore **peace and reconciliation** by learning about active citizenship within and across communities.

The project engaged **3 groups with the project**. A Young Women's group, a group of young people from our Daybreak project and young people from the International Mentors group participated in the programme.

CLIC was designed and prepared for each of the groups individually, assessing the needs of each of the groups independently in terms of citizenship and leadership. The participants learned about mutual respect, gained a greater understanding of community life and structure as well as the importance of community and leadership within the community. They learned through a mix of interactive sessions and group work, as well as hands-on activities.

All three groups also enjoyed trips to Derry and Belfast exploring the history and culture of the young people throughout the troubles and how it has impacted the community over the years, which was eye-opening for many of the participants.

Overall **31 of 33 participants completed the programme** and everyone agreed that they took something positive away with them from the project.

3
Groups

31
Participants



Belfast in December



Recording a Jingle for Radio Fáilte in Belfast



Radio Fáilte



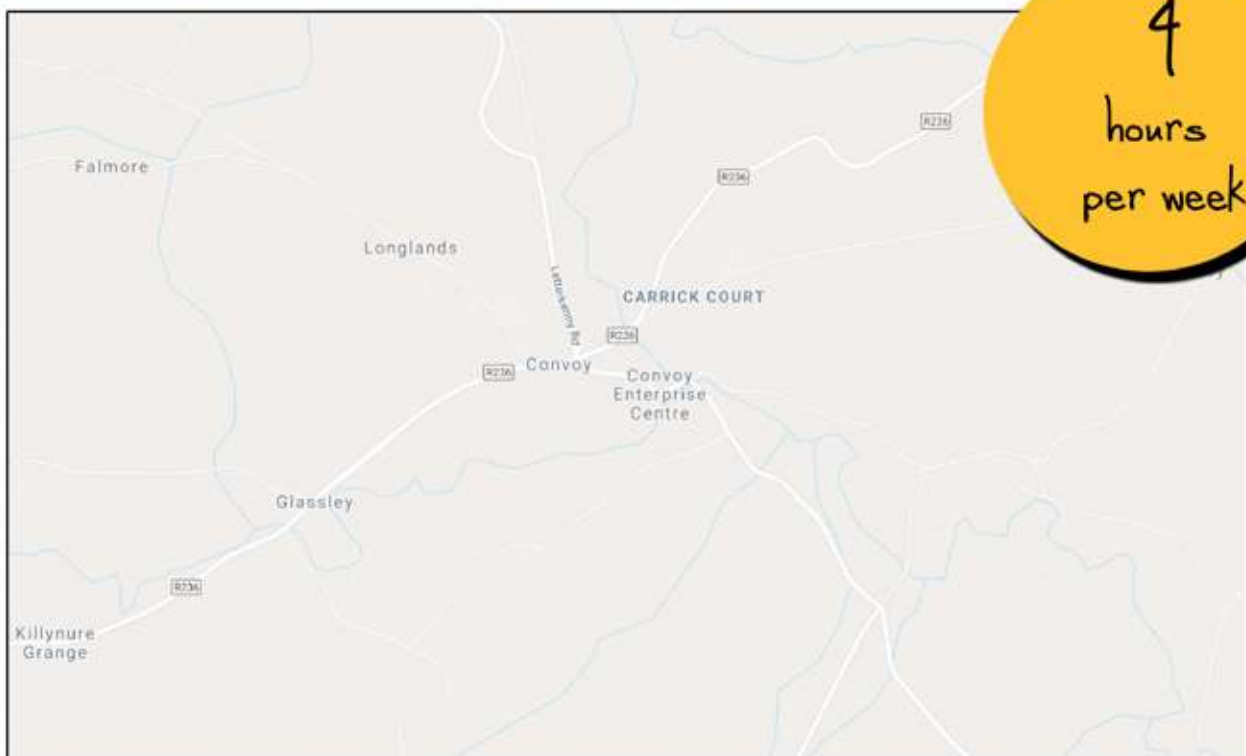
This project was funded under SEUPB Peace IV via Donegal Education & Training Board

DETACHED YOUTH WORK PROGRAMME

The Detached Youth Work Programme is an outreach programme that engages with vulnerable and socially excluded young people and helps them connect with supports that will aid them in addressing their needs and achieves successful outcomes.

Otherwise known as the '**Convoy Streetz Project**' it is an initiative provided in partnership with Youth Work Ireland. 2019 saw a number of the team work on the streets of the local village of **Convoy**. Each week staff would be there for 4 hours to develop and establish new relationships with the young people in the community of Convoy. Through engaging in the informal setting of their village, young people who have been struggling to engage in school or local services benefited from a youth work service they otherwise would not have access to.

Through active engagement we have been advocating for and motivating young people to; access opportunities, signposting vital and relevant services, and overcoming barriers. We provided a listening ear and discussed issues affecting their day to day lives. The project is such a worthwhile service and its value is visibly seen in the young people's trust whilst confiding in the Youth Workers and progressing in school, on to work experience, or jobs in their chosen field.



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN



CELEBRATION EVENT



11th April 2019 - An Grianan Theatre

CELEBRATION EVENT

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Donegal Youth Service's annual 'Celebration Event' took place this year on Thursday the **11th of April in An Grianán Theatre**. The annual event aims to highlight the achievements of young people, volunteers, youth clubs and Donegal Youth Service Projects from the past year.



Host Kai McHugh & Pinehill Dance Studios

As well as giving out awards, the event is a great opportunity for young people from all over Donegal to showcase their talents. Performances on the night were from Neptune M, Moyne Highland Dancers, Club Óige Dhobhair, Junior, Salem, World Wide Voices group, Sean Meehan and Jamie, who closed the show with his rendition of 'This Is Me' that had the audience singing along.

This year the theme was 'The Greatest Showman', with **host Kai McHugh** kicking off the show with a dance performance with **Pinehill Dance Studios**. The theme was chosen because the message of the film is something that is very close to our hearts. **It is about being unique, about not being afraid to be yourself and that society should be able to accept everyone as they are.**

"Our annual event was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of young people and volunteers from all over Donegal in their youth clubs and youth projects, and to showcase the wonderful contribution that youth work makes to the lives of young people in their communities."

Lorraine Thompson,
DYS Regional Director



The awards were an opportunity to highlight the young people and volunteers who go above and beyond, who have overcome great challenges, and who **'light up the room as soon as they enter'**. These young people and volunteers are what make Donegal Youth Service so special, and it is an honour to give them the recognition they so deserve.

And the winners are...

- 1. Youth Club Young Person of the Year:** Denis Ó Colla (Club Óige Chríost Rí)
- 2. Youth Club Volunteer of the Year:** Shaun Dorrian Fanad Youth Club
- 3. Youth Club of the Year:** Club Óige Chríost Rí
- 4. Young Carer of The Year:** Fatima Majid
- 5. Project Young Person of the Year:** Ryan Cunningham
- 6. Project Volunteer of The Year:** Lee Russell
- 7. Orla O'Reilly Special Recognition Awards:**
Philip Dodo and Malcolm Boyd

CELEBRATION EVENT

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The show also included interviews with **Regional Director Lorraine Thompson**, **Chairperson Frank Dooley** and the 3 **European Solidarity Corps Volunteers Maria C, Maria G and Marta** who were surprised with the gift of a Donegal GAA jersey each that they can take back to their home countries of Spain and Romania.



ESC Volunteers Marta, Maria G, Maria C



Lee Russell



Denis Ó Colla



Club Óige Chríost Rí

The event is an opportunity to look back at some of the many highlights from the previous year. Just a few of the many highlights from 2018 were: The Daybreak Project making it to the final of the **National Lottery Good Causes Awards**, a new project Youthscape was launched, and BreakOut attended the launch of the **world's first ever LGBTI+ Youth Strategy**.



Philip Dodo & Malcolm Boyd



CELEBRATION EVENT



Fatima Majid



Shaun Dorrian

Donegal Youth Service would also like to thank the following businesses for donating spot prizes for the young people on the night: Pat's Pizza, Century Cinemas, Burrito Loco, Arena 7, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, G&G, Michael Murphy Sports, Honeypot Café, Café Davitts and Donegal Stationery.

CELEBRATION EVENT

WHAT DID YOUNG
PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY?

"I loved getting to see all of the different young people performing, I won a voucher as a spot prize and I got an Easter egg when I was going home...I will definitely come back again next year!"

"I got to sing on stage tonight and I've never done that before. My whole family came out to watch me and I can't wait to do it again!"

VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU!

Donegal Youth Service could not exist without the volunteers who help us and guide us with our work. From the volunteer youth leaders in local clubs & drop ins, the Adult and Young Volunteer Forum who help shape our work, the placement students who come to learn with us and of course the work of the Board of Directors. You are all invaluable to us and we thank you.

YOUTH TALK

Youth Talk, is a one-2-one youth work service that specialises in offering young people a **listening ear**. Youth Talk helps young people between the ages of **12 and 25** to cope with issues such as **family breakdown, anxiety, anger and low mood**. Youth Talk workers are based across all the projects at Donegal Youth Service offering a wide range of experience and expertise to young people availing of Youth Talk sessions.

Young people are referred to the service from agencies such as Child and Family Mental Health services, Tusla Social Work, Jigsaw and others. Parents can refer their child directly to Youth Talk and young people can self-refer also.

Youth Talk is an out of hours service that meets the needs of young people within a **non-clinical community setting** and supports them. 135 young people availed of the service in 2019 with **950 individual one hour sessions** delivered.

135
Young People

YOUTH
TALK
DONEGAL

950
Sessions

Feel like nobody cares?

We do.

Digitize Enterprise is a project which is **co-funded by Erasmus + programme** and brings together a consortium of 5 partner organisations (Lead partner Southwest College, Drambllys, IED, Citizens in Power, DYS) from throughout **Europe**. The aim of the project is to provide a series of **virtual learning tools and platforms** for Practitioners and participants of Youth Programmes throughout Europe with the target of increasing Enterprise awareness and skills of youth members. Donegal Youth Service attended **2 transnational meetings** in 2019, in Fermanagh and Greece. Work was started on a series of digital learning nuggets as part of the first phase of the project which are due for completion in early 2020. This project will run until **October 2021**.



Gareth & Layla attend partner meeting in Larissa, Greece



Get It Right is an exciting new European Project between Romanian Youth Movement for Democracy (RYMD), Donegal Youth Service (DYS) and Inter Alia. The Project focus is on **media literacy** and providing an opportunity for young people to examine the concept of **Fake News**. In August a group of 6 youth leaders and a coordinator travelled to Bacau, Romania for a week of 'Train The Trainer' training, who then returned home to deliver Media Literacy workshops to young people in schools, and to youth groups in Donegal.

Get It Right is funded through Erasmus+ KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.

ARTS 4 YOUTH

This project was designed to encourage **cross community and cross border work**, exploring the impact of the troubles using the medium of the Arts. Specifically designed for participants aged **13-17yrs** and commencing in July, groups of participants from **Planet Youth, Glengad YC, and The Forge YC** worked on the theme of '**Peace**' and took photographs of interesting locations or artefacts in their locality. The finished photographs were then transferred onto canvas and will form the backdrop at the end of the programme in 2020.

Groups from **Carndonagh Community School** and the **Royal & Prior School Raphoe** used the medium of **dance and song** to explore our **shared history and culture**. The young people had the honour of performing alongside many other established arts groups and organisations in the renowned **Derry Halloween parade**. They practiced a choreographed piece put together by **Andrea Emmett at Triumph Performing Arts** and performed it brilliantly on the night.



Arts 4 Youth Launch in July

Back row: Charlene Logue, Laura Doherty and Claire Bradley, Regional Director
Lorraine Thompson, Programme Coordinator Peace IV Donegal County Council
Caroline McCleary, Assistant Programme Coordinator
Loretta Devenney
Front row: Cllr. Paul Canning, Cathaoirleach Nicholas Crossan, Programme Administrator Shaun Canny

83

Participants

arts
4
youth

Here come the Zombie Brides!



Raphoe Group



Hairspray time!

To conclude their experience on the programme the young people went to The Alley Theatre in Strabane to see the musical **Hairspray**. The production highlighted themes of **peace and reconciliation** which were core themes within the Arts4Youth project. A wonderful evening was had by all getting to see a local production and how arts can help bring people together. In total **83 young people** benefitted from participating in this programme.

Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
A European Partnership Programme for 2014-2020

LCDC 
Local Community Development Council
Supporting Local Communities to Thrive

 **Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

This project was funded by SEUPB Peace IV via Donegal County Council

REACTIV8/2

Groups from the **Reactiv8/2** project had an extremely busy 2019. At the start of the year, there were 38 participants from **Letterkenny, Buncrana, Ballybofey and Strabane**.

Participants from the Ballybofey group came together as a youth focus group called **SMILE** to assist with the new Finn Valley Family Resource Centre. Four participants took part in an IFI Women in Business event in Lough Rynn Castle.

The Ballybofey and Letterkenny groups arranged a community event to **St. Shanaghan's** Day care facility in Ardara where they socialised and danced with the older people as part of their social impact project. Various activities included a team building day in **Brunswick entertainment centre** & a field trip to **Omagh Folk Park** to explore the history of emigration out of Ireland during and after the famine. They also went on a trip to **Doagh Island Famine Village** to see how things were for rural Irish communities who had to flee hunger. The groups also enjoyed a team building residential to **Todds Leap**.



Orange Hall Newtowncunningham

We continued to work on Good Relations and had a visit to **Newtowncunningham Orange Hall** to see how the Orange Order in Donegal works and to dispel myths around 'the other'. We visited the **Bloody Sunday Museum** and took a tour of the walls of Derry as well as a tour of the **Crumlin Road Gaol**.

Accredited training included safe pass, manual handling and forklift tickets. Participants all received support with social skills, personal development, communication skills, interview preparation, CVs and one to one targeted support. By the end of 2019 project staff worked with a total of **54 young people**.



St. Shanaghan's Ardara



Doagh Island Famine Village



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Reactiv8/2 was funded by the International Fund for Ireland

THE LOFT

The Learning Opportunities for Teens LOFT drop in service was, as usual, open 6 days per week across this year, seeing **2160 young people aged 10-18yrs** through our doors to use the service.

On a weekly basis the LOFT provided a **range of groups**: Fit 4 Life, Art Group, Tea & Tunes, World Wide Voices, Girls Group & Math Grinds and not forgetting our monthly International Mentors group.

We hosted a range of events and activities across the year, **Gig Nights, Movie Nights, Halloween Party, Makeup Masterclass, Culture Night** and our **Christmas Party** to name a few.

Before the schools finished for summer, we rolled out our transition programme to various primary schools across the county, **helping** 6th class students make the daunting transition from **primary to secondary school**. Helping them gain the confidence and coping skills they need.

2160
Young people

5
Summer
Camps



International Mentors in drop-in

Our ever popular summer programme schedule this year consisted of **Rock School**, **AMP Camp**, **Ready-Steady-Cook**, **Multi Activity Camp**, **The Real You Girls Camp** and had over **60 young people** taking part. From this we had some proud first time musicians that graduated Rock School and performed on our Party in the Park stage. Our junior master chefs from cookery camp learned how to make creative dishes for their families at home. Our Multi

Activity camp took part in a bit of everything from swimming to biking and team building to surfing during four outings across the county. And our AMP Art camp went on to have their art proudly displayed at the **new TUSLA offices**.



Ready-Steady-Cook Camp



Learning Opportunities For Teens



Art with Multi-Activity Camp

THE LOFT

The International Mentors had their most successful year this year, as they had **3 young people on the Donegal Youth Council**, 2 went on to the School Representative Council and 2 students were accepted into **University in Dublin**. Most started off as shy young mentors, some with very little English, so to have achieved this, really was a 2019 highlight for all concerned.

"The LOFT Mentors programme was really good as it taught us a lot about communication & working with and helping younger students in our school. It taught us how to deal with tough situations on our own and we've definitely matured from that. It also opened up a lot of links for us with teachers, Loft staff, colleges, Syrian communities and other programmes that we could get involved with locally."

- Baseer & Naseer,
International Mentors Group

"I can't thank the staff at the LOFT enough, I don't know where my family would have turned to without them. My daughter has really gained so much from her experience there."

-Parent



TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



The Loft is funded by TUSLA and jointly managed by
Donegal Youth Service and Foróige

Funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs as a one off initiative for young people aged **14-17yrs**, YouTurn commenced in September 2019 and saw Eimile come on board our DYS team to join Siobhan and Laura - all about **employability!**

They worked together to roll out an employability programme with **three different LCA classes** in Donegal, two groups in Carndonagh Community School and one in PCC Falcarragh with a total of **60 young people** involved.

There were a total of **18 sessions** across the two schools with the groups covering, communication skills, team building, social skills, confidence building, interview skills and CV development. In between group work sessions the young people all got together on three different trips away. First up we visited **Facebook headquarters** in Dublin in October, where we attended a talk on job opportunities with the tech industry and took part in a guided tour of their fascinating building!



Facebook HQ in Dublin

YOU-TURN

In November we held our **YoU-Turn Summit** in Letterkenny RCC, which involved three different facilitators running workshops across a day of hands-on learning with interactive sessions. They ranged from the marketing industry, what it's like to work for the Irish Army, life coaching and ways it can change the way you think.

The third trip out was to hear Irish **motivational speaker, Pat Divily**. He taught the young people a lot about recognising how their own mental health is and various coping strategies.

In December, for the final day with the group, we went back to the RCC for our Celebration event! **Guest Speaker Jason Black** inspired everyone with a talk on what life was like for him in school, growing up, **overcoming difficulties and climbing Mt. Everest!** YoU-Turn participants all received their certificates and three of the young people came on stage to tell us what they thought about their experience. We were sad to see the project finish up at the end of the year.



Final day of yoU-Turn - Celebration Event



yoU-Turn Summit in the RCC

60
Young People

"I can't thank the three girls enough for this programme; we really loved seeing them come into our school every week. They helped us so much with exploring what we might want to do after we finish school this year and pathways to get there. I feel much more confident in myself now too!"

Alysha,
Carndonagh Community School

18
Sessions



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

This project was funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

YOUTHSCAPE

Youthscape is a programme for young people aged **14-24yrs** who are **not in full time education/employment/training**. Each programme is of **36 week's duration** with check in and follow up at 1yr post completion.

Staff use a **young person centred approach** to create a tailor made plan which is then put in place for each young person. One to one mentoring helps to do this as each young person works with their key youth worker to help identify and signpost any issues the young person may have. The staff also assist the young person in identifying **future pathways** for when they complete the programme. Participants are supported with travel costs, daily lunches and all activities provided are free of charge. **Open College Network training** at Level 1 in **Good Relations, Personal Development and Citizenship** are undertaken during the programme. All cohorts (groups) take part in cross-border trips such as a visit to the Bogside area of **Derry** and to Belfast to visit the **Shankill** area, visit the Peace Walls and listen to talks about reconciliation as part of their Good Relations training



Day trips

122
Participants

3
Cohorts

Cohort 4 began in January 2019 with **41 young people** registered and completing the Programme. During their time on Youthscape these young people took part in a number of cross border trips which included a trip to visit Stormont in Belfast. They also took part in a number of workshops that focused on improving their health & wellbeing and life skills. Of the 41 that enrolled on the programme **26 returned to secondary education, 3 transferred to another funded project, 2 went onto third level education and 2 gained employment.**

Cohort 5 began in June and **23 young people** registered to take part in it. These young people took part in a number of workshops such as Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Internet Safety, LGBT awareness. They also completed Social Impact Projects that helped raise money for Autism Ireland and Breast Cancer Ireland. Of the 23 registered **7 returned to school, 1 went onto third level education, 1 gained employment** and **7 were employed onto another funded project.**

Cohort 6 began in October with a total of **58 young people** enrolled on the programme. We have seen young people who have presented with anxiety issues when in small groups or who were unable to travel at the start actually attend trips with large numbers whilst on the programme. During their time on the programme young people became involved in other groups within DYS and they have admitted they wouldn't have done so before joining Youthscape. All cohorts have been very successful and the 'distance travelled' by the young people has been phenomenal.



Celebration Event



Youthscape Letterkenny



Day trip to Belfast



YOUTHSCAPE YOUTH FORUM

The Youthscape Youth Forum has been established. The Youth Forum representatives voice their opinions and ideas about the topics covered throughout the 16 weeks of delivery as well as contribute positively to the overall programme. They also undertake committee roles and responsibilities training, which will enable them to take up roles on other committees of their choosing later in life.

The Youthscape '**Celebration of Success**' event has continued to get bigger and better. Our young people are now taking a leading role in the event sharing their own experiences and personal journey whilst on Youthscape, creating art pieces that are on display on the day and have artistic control over the event.



Celebration Event theme was 'Love Diversity'

Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

All-Party Alliance
Agreeing to
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



TIDES

**South West
College**

Peace4Youth



Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



Funded by SEUPB (Peace IV), Youthscape is a tri-partnership programme in conjunction with Tides Training, Belfast and South West College, NI. Bases for the Donegal programme are Ballybofey & Letterkenny

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT (YOP)

The Youth Outreach Project coordinates and supports youth clubs with programmes, activities, training, information & support as well as ensuring compliance with **Children First legislation**. 2019 saw many changes in the Youth Outreach Project; whilst the funding remained the same and under the auspices of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA), we moved from 'Special Projects for Youth (SPY) to 'Targeted Youth Funding Scheme' (TYFS) and in late 2019 the funding stream was rebranded to UBU (You Be You). This began a change for the YOP as we concentrated our work towards an aged 10yrs - 18yrs only service.

We said a sad **goodbye to Laura Doherty** who moved to take up two new positions, one with SEUPB funding on the 'Arts4Youth' Programme and on 'YoUTurn' a Department of Children & Youth Affairs initiative. We said **hello to Ineke Abbas** the new Youth Outreach Worker.

We welcomed **four new clubs in 2019 - Castlefinn Hero's Youth Club, J117 Youth Club, Manorcunningham, Moyne Ulster Scots Youth Club, Donegal Town and SONAS Youth Club, Buncrana**. We are delighted to have had a range of new special interest Youth Clubs coming on board.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to MERAKI YC who had to close due to a fire in the Plaza building in Buncrana.

We had **25 youth clubs affiliated to DYS** and to enable them to join/remain with us we assisted in the completion and processing of the Youth Work Ireland 'survey monkey'. This survey monkey captures statistical data required for insurance, compliance, membership and programme planning. It is also a vital tool for us to use to undertake the National Quality Standards Framework for Voluntary Led Youth Groups (NQSFLYG). Affiliation, NQSFLYG, the DCYA/ETB Youth Club Grants and Children First all now dovetail to ensure quality and compliance across our membership.

To keep in line with legislation under 'Children First' we undertook various measures to ensure the organisation and all the youth clubs' were fully compliant. **We processed 356 Garda Vetting NVB1 forms, delivered Child Protection Awareness Programme (CPAP) to 219 adult volunteers and staff, carried out over 40 youth club visits and trained local volunteers to receive and ensure all Garda Vetting NVB1 forms were accurately completed.**

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT (YOP)

The **DCYA/ETB Youth Club Grant** and Equipment Grants were successfully applied for and granted, enabling youth clubs and projects to access much needed funding for **activities, events, training, trips and for vital youth club equipment** to enable youth clubs to deliver quality programmes and services.

The Volunteer Forum, the platform for our youth club volunteers to have a voice and contribute to the overall organising and delivery of youth work programmes met 3 times in 2019 as planned.

The Young Volunteer Forum entered the **Irish Cancer Society's 'XHale Competition'** where they created a video to emphasise the danger of smoking from a young age. They then attended the XHale Youth Awards in May where they won the **Social Media Award for getting the most views on YouTube**. They beat over 30 other youth forums in Ireland for this award. A young volunteer forum participant also got special recognition for their performance in the video.



Castlefinn Heroes Youth Club

The Young Volunteer Forum met in November to have their input in the next Donegal Youth Service **Strategic Plan 2020-2023**. Up for discussion was the direction of the programmes in Youth Clubs, Youth services and DYS as a whole. Our young people came up with great ideas and new strategies to tackle the barriers some young people are facing in accessing services. Great things happen when great minds come together! **DYS would hereby like to thank our Young Volunteer Forum for their valuable contribution to our ever-growing organisation.**

'Let's Do It!' **Summer Programme** took place across the county in July in 7 youth clubs: **Glengad, Planet Youth Ballybofey, Club Óige Chríost Rí in Magheroarty, Cockhill YC, Muff YC, Moville YC and The Forge in Pettigo**. A team of 4 DYS staff worked with **145 young people** over the space of the month doing fun activities on sport, arts & crafts, creativity and personal development.

5 Personal Development sessions took place with 2 BreakOut groups - Moville & Glenties.

3 Sexual Health Training sessions took place in Malin Head YC with **22 participants**. A Mental Health programme was delivered in **Planet Youth to 14 participants** and covered relaxation, de-stress and coping tools so that young people could help mind their mental health in those shorter winter days.

Internet Safety training was delivered through the medium of Irish to **21 participants in Club Óige Chríost Rí** which was filmed by **TG4 for their programme 'An Focal Scoir'**. They wanted to highlight internet safety talks in rural Gaeltacht areas.

The **DYS Flag Day weekend** took place in May and over **€9,000** was raised by local youth clubs. All of this money remains in the local clubs and goes towards much needed equipment, running costs and programmes.



Christmas Quiz

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT (YOP)

Competitions and events were less than in previous years due to Youth Work Ireland changing the formula for youth games and activities. The main focus for physical competitions changed this year with a new emphasis on **Youth Wave** but we ran a very successful **Christmas Card Competition & NOLLAIG Competition**. The overall YWI National Winner was **Matthew Clifford from Cockhill YC** (this is the third win in succession for Matthew!)

Club Óige Chríost Rí attended YWI Youth Wave 2019. Youth Wave replaced the annual Youth Games and is a day of workshops and interactive games for young people. Young people learned how to use video apps to create and edit their own videos, got to know other youth clubs through football and basketball.

Spooktacular times were at large at the **DYS Halloween Disco** hosted by Doneyloop YC. 4 local youth clubs came to boogie to DJ Stephen killer-thriller tunes. A night full of apple bobbing and ghoulish games ended in a disco dance off competition and the crowning of the King and Queen of Halloween!

Donegal Youth Service kicked off the Christmas spirit early on the 12th of December with the **Youth Club Christmas Quiz**. The phones were put aside, heads were being scratched and you could almost hear the cogs turning! Eight rounds ended in a **sudden death Sing-Off** between the two top groups. By popular vote the Four Amigo's came out on top with the high score, taking home the Gold Medals for 2019.



Matthew Clifford 1st Place



Halloween Disco

25
Youth Clubs

€9000
Raised

DYS 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Donegal Youth Services Ltd.

Y/E 31/12/19

Summary for year

	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	
DYS	138,793	104,272	9.3%	7.1%	34,521
Tusla CCA	29,634	29,634	2.0%	2.0%	-
Health Café	122,913	123,995	8.3%	8.5%	- 1,082
Daybreak	84,126	84,349	5.7%	5.8%	- 223
Breakout / LGBT	22,386	23,330	1.5%	1.6%	- 944
CES	253,284	253,345	17.0%	17.3%	- 61
YIC Leargas	26,240	26,240	1.8%	1.8%	-
YIC	200,438	194,270	13.5%	13.3%	6,168
Youth Talk	18,501	19,702	1.2%	1.3%	- 1,201
SPY	89,202	89,795	6.0%	6.1%	- 593
YSG	59,249	65,750	4.0%	4.5%	- 6,501
Peace IV Arts	27,435	27,435	1.8%	1.9%	-
Youth Scape	230,406	236,493	15.5%	16.2%	- 6,087
ETB Projects	47,612	47,613	3.2%	3.3%	- 1
Re Activ8 Two	137,013	137,013	9.2%	9.4%	-
	<u>1,487,232</u>	<u>1,463,236</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	
	1,487,232	1463236			

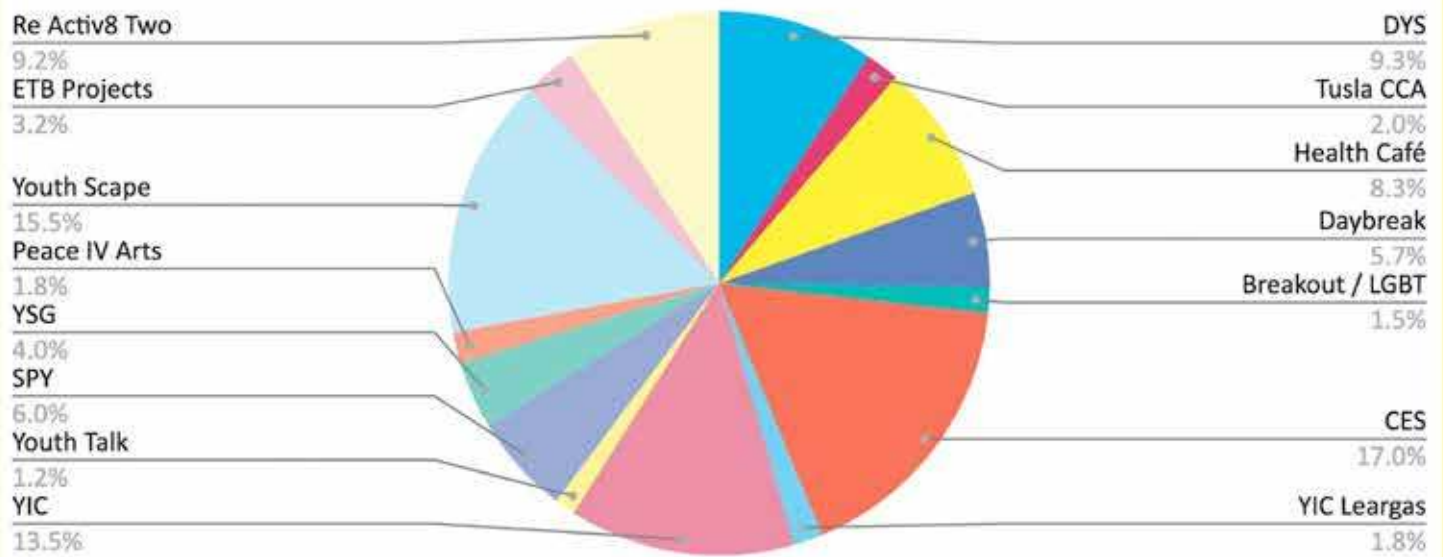
Expenditure

DYS	104,272
Tusla CCA	29,634
Health Café	123,995
Daybreak	84,349
Breakout / LGBT	23,330
CES	253,345
YIC Leargas	26,240
YIC	194,270
Youth Talk	19,702
SPY	89,795
YSG	65,750
Peace IV Arts	27,435
Youth Scape	236,493
ETB Projects	47,613
Re Activ8 Two	<u>137,013</u>
	<u>1,463,236</u>

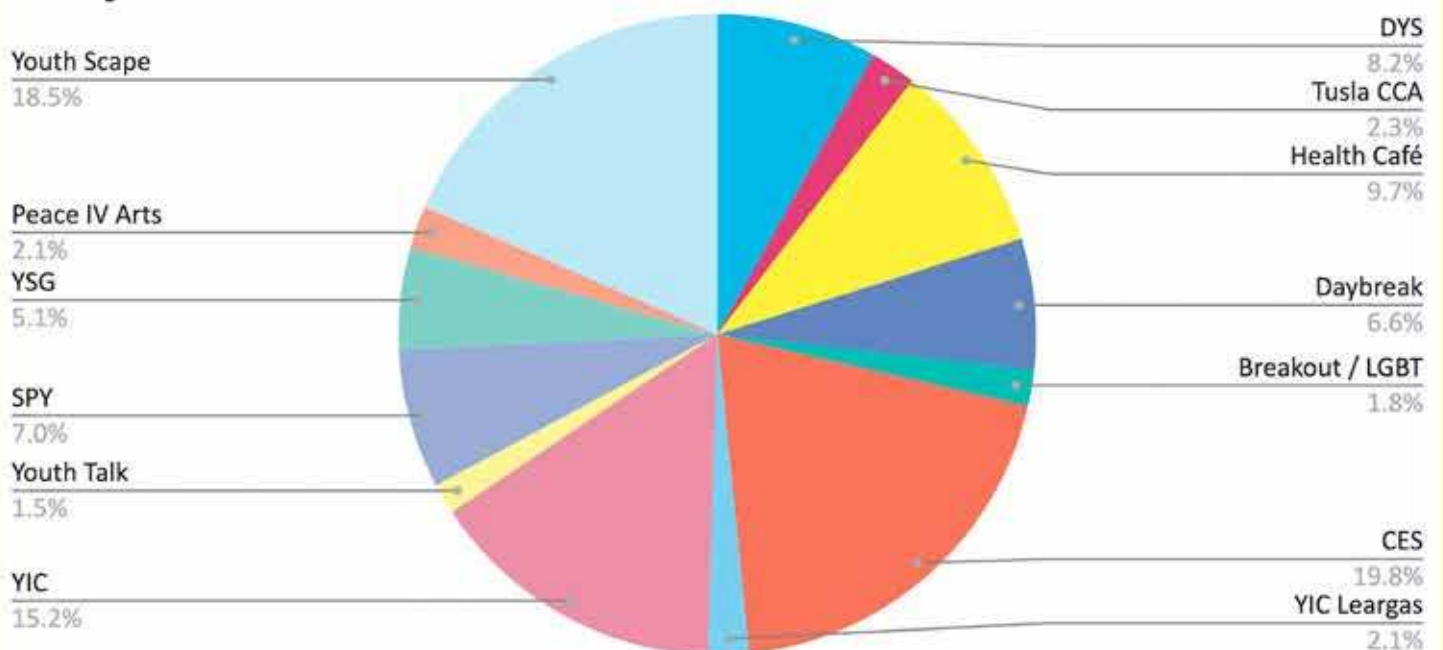
Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland

DYS 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income



Expenditure



DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having
Share Capital)

Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 €	€	2018 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	<u>30,316</u>		<u>32,585</u>	
			30,316		32,585
Current assets					
Debtors	8	194,235		218,368	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>386,830</u>		<u>240,985</u>	
		581,065		459,353	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>(566,259)</u>		<u>(469,947)</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			14,806		(10,594)
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>45,122</u>		<u>21,991</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		(24,735)		(25,600)
Net assets/(liabilities)			<u>20,387</u>		<u>(3,609)</u>
Capital and reserves					
Income and Expenditure account			20,387		(3,609)
Charity Reserve funds/(deficit)			<u>20,387</u>		<u>(3,609)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 25 May 2020 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Frank Dooley
Director

Ciaran Maguire
Director



2019

15,170 young people engaged

29 Staff

437 Adult Volunteers

1,458 Adults trained

6,454 Young People trained

900 hours of one to one support

25 Youth Clubs

18 Public events

59 Strategic Partners

Donegal Youth Service

16-18 Port Road

Letterkenny

074 91 29630

www.donegalyouthservice.ie

admin@donegalyouthservice.ie

Donegal Youth Service is a registered Irish charity.
Registered Charity No. 20050696

Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

