

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige

Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

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DYS YEAR IN NUMBERS

7895 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

404 ADULT VOLUNTEERS

496 ADULTS TRAINED

4251 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED

2589 ONE TO ONE HOURS

25 YOUTH CLUBS & PROJECTS

7 EVENTS

100 PARTNERSHIPS

LOOK FOR THE LIGHTHOUSES THROUGHOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

91

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS



LORRAINE THOMPSON
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



FRANK DOOLEY
CHAIRPERSON

2020 WAS A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE...

It has widely been reported that the pandemic affected this age group more than any other and has impacted hugely on their coping skills and mental health. The lack of ability to attend school, to socialise with their peers to attend significant life events and the continuous stop start nature of restriction left many children and young people struggling with these changes.

2020 WAS A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER FOR DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE...

The year started off with great momentum but by March we were hit with a challenge, unforeseen, not documented on any risk assessment and we had to mobilise the organisation to maintain our offer to young people in a way that was safe and engaging and met the needs of young people.

For the first few months of 2020, DYS was shaping up to have the busiest year ever in that we were fully immersed in the implementation of lots of new projects resulting from successful funding applications. We had taken on new staff and we had attracted funding to provide innovative programmes for core groups such as young people in rural youth clubs, young carers and young people who identify as LGBTI. We commenced another substantial Peace Programme with new partners and an exciting opportunity to expand the mental health programme delivery of DYS. We also began working on a new three year strategy with high ambitions to continue to meet the high targets achieved in the previous plan. The realisation of the impact of a global pandemic hit home very quickly when we had to overhaul how we did our work almost overnight.

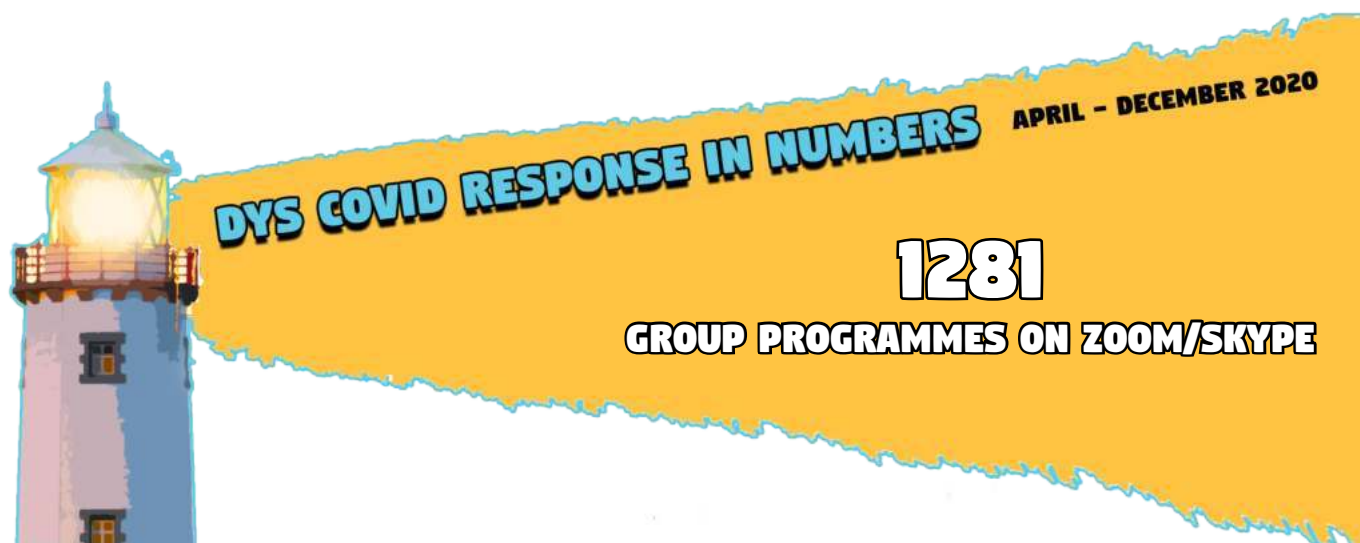
Luckily within DYS we have a staff team with a wide and diverse range of skills and we were able to mobilise these skills to redefine policies and procedures to offer our services to young people through online engagement using lots of different platforms. The staff team had to work together and work quickly to upskill themselves and terms like Zoom, Nearpod, became part of the daily offer of service.

Reflecting on the year at this stage we are proud to say that we met the challenge with our usual 'can do' attitude and made a strenuous effort to ensure there was no down time. As an organisation that had never before had remote access, all staff were supported to work from home with remote access within 1 month. Policies and procedures were written to enable staff to move their youth work sessions online. Staff upskilled themselves and each other through peer learning in new IT methods to engage young people.

We navigated through the changing lockdown restrictions taking guidance from DCEDIY and continued with work plans as best we could, engaging young people primarily on-line but where possible we had small groups indoors face to face and the essential one to one support continued face to face all year.

Concerningly we have seen a significant rise in the number of young people presenting with mental health concerns during the pandemic and as an organisation we will continue to endeavour to support as many young people as we can through our Youth Talk programme.

I invite you now to read the quantum of work carried out in DYS in such a tumultuous time and whilst we will not have achieved the targets set out pre-pandemic we are proud of the achievements.



2020 STAFF MEMBERS



Lorraine Thompson.....	Regional Director
Charlene Logue.....	Youth Outreach Manager
Ineke Abbas	Youth Outreach Worker
Maria Crossan.....	Finance Officer
Michelle Sweeney	Administrator
Gareth Gibson	Information Manager
Dominic Mc Glinchey.....	Information Development Officer
Louise Lynch.....	Information Officer
Kasia Kurzeja	Information Officer
Claire Bradley.....	Daybreak Project Worker
Carlyn Maguire.....	Daybreak Project Worker
Layla Kuyper	Daybreak Project Worker/Fundraising PR & Marketing Assistant
Sinead Murray	BreakOut and LOFT Project Worker
Karen Conlon.....	BreakOut Youth Worker
Frankie Mc Greevy.....	OUR Generation Manager
Billy Banda.....	LOFT Project Worker
Jimmy Mc Kinney.....	LOFT Youth Worker
Siobhan O Connor.....	LOFT Youth Worker
Lee Stephenson.....	CE Supervisor Based at DYS HQ
Michelle Wylam	ReActiv8 Project Worker
Helen Simms.....	ReActiv8 Project Worker
Ciara Cronin.....	Youthscape Youth Facilitator
Jackie Ferry.....	Youthscape Key Youth Worker
Yvonne Tilley.....	Youthscape Youth Facilitator
Pauric Bell	Youthscape Key Youth Worker
Mark Reader.....	Youthscape Specialist Support Mentor
Jason Doherty.....	Youthscape Key Youth Worker
Bernie Cunningham.....	Youthscape Youth Facilitator
Laura Doherty.....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Joanne Mc Cauley.....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Andrea Emmett.....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Irene Mc Loughlin.....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Eimilie Lewis Mc Gee.....	Arts4Youth Youth Worker

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Donegal Youth Service is managed by a voluntary board of directors. The board is made up of volunteers from the youth and community sector and/or interested parties with a specialist knowledge in law, management, finance, education, disadvantage, employment and youth.

Their role is to provide strategic oversight to the organisation and this is led out by the Strategic Plan compiled in conjunction with DYS staff, volunteers and young people. The Chairperson of the Board line manages the Regional Director of DYS.

The board meets monthly and is compliant with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code and has an active role in the organisation's policy development.

The board operates under a robust board handbook that sets out in detail the roles and responsibilities of board members.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson: Frank Dooley

Secretary: Ciaran Maguire

Treasurer: Brid Foley

Vice Chairperson: Paul McCusker

Marina Carlin

John Byrne

Aoife Mc Cullagh

Paul Kernan

Tara Quinlivan

Shaun Dorrian

Stephen O'Donnell

Ciaran Coyle

DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE

MISSION

To engage young people in a process of learning and developing where they are valued and supported to be the best they can be.

VISION

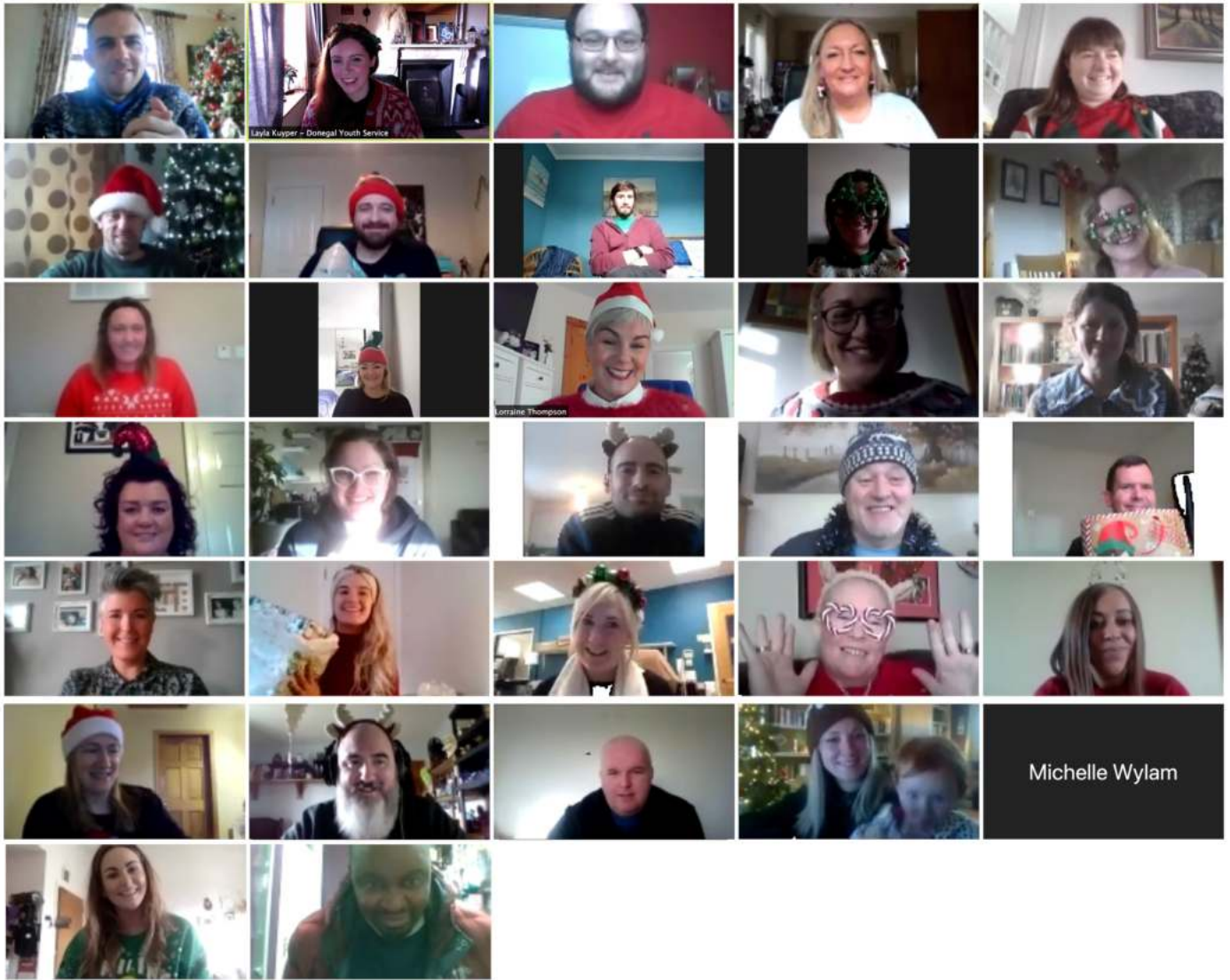
A society where every young person is safe, fulfilled and reaching their full potential.

VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Donegal Youth Service...

1. Works to the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Creates youth friendly services, keeping voluntary engagement at the core of what we do
3. Keeps young people and the adult volunteers that support them central to the work that we do
4. Treats young people with respect, dignity, empathy and unconditional positive regard
5. Builds and maintains partnerships that address the needs of young people
6. Provides an accessible, inclusive and integrated service
7. Continues to develop supportive relationships that nurture meaningful engagements and outcomes for young people
8. Values flexibility, innovation, creativity and supportive learning environments
9. Advocates on issues that impact on the lives of young people
10. Adopts best practice, gathering data, and critically reflecting on our work

DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE CHRISTMAS STAFF MEETING



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

1800
QUERIES ANSWERED

DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

BREAKOUT

BreakOut is funded by HSE, BelongTo, Healthy Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



THE DAYBREAK PROGRAMME

Daybreak is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



THE LETTERKENNY YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE

The Letterkenny Youth Information Centre is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

THE YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

The Youth Outreach Project is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

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



REACTIV8/2

Reactiv8/2 is funded by the International Fund for Ireland



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

ARTS4YOUTH

Arts4Youth is funded through the EU's PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie



CLIC

This project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme managed on behalf of the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council.



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



etb
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Dhún na nGall
Donegal Education and
Training Board

OUR GENERATION

The Our Generation project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match-funding for the project has been provided by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Northern Ireland
Executive

YOUTHSCAPE

This project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Peace4Youth



THE LOFT

The LOFT project is managed by Donegal Youth Service and Foróige and is funded by Tusla.



WORLD WIDE VOICES

This project operates as part of The Loft.



YOUNG CARERS

Young Carers operates as part of The Loft and is funded by Healthy Ireland through Donegal CYPSC.

REACTIV8/2

REACTIV8/2: IS A CROSS-COMMUNITY, CROSS BORDER PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROJECT TARGETED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14-24 IN NEED OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT. THE PROGRAMME OFFERS ONE TO ONE SUPPORT, TRAINING, GROUPWORK, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. FUNDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND UNTIL DECEMBER 2020.

The Reactiv8/2 programme is a programme for young people aged 16-25 years and works with young people to promote their personal, social & community development abilities and develop and grow their employability options through a suite of training programmes, specifically targeting employability and the world of work. It works to help young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable. The programme is based on a youth work approach rather than a formal education / training model.

The Reactiv8/2 project is managed by Donegal Youth Service and the staff are tasked with delivering the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) funded by the International Fund for Ireland. Two staff members (Youth Support Workers) work 25hrs per week to actively target 16-25-year olds not currently in education, training or employment who are vulnerable to polarisation and come from complex backgrounds. Areas include Lifford, Strabane, Buncrana, Letterkenny, Ballybofey, Stranorlar, and the hinterlands of these main towns. Work carried out in 2020 in the Personal Youth Development Programme delivered by the Reactiv8/2 Project is listed below.

I. GOOD RELATIONS WORK

Staff liaised with Fountain Street Community Development Association on recruiting a new group to work with. Unfortunately, we had to subsequently postpone the start date due to Covid 19. However, we quickly moved to online contact and delivered an Open College NI Level II in Youth Work Practice and 9 participants completed this training.

Participants explored films during lockdown (mostly regarding the troubles of Northern Ireland, pre-Irish Independence & Civil rights/Diversity). 'Bloody Sunday', 'Wind that Shook the Barley', 'Michael Collins', 'In the Name of the Father', 'Hunger', 'Some Mother's Son', 'The Boxer', 'Omagh', 'The Crying Game', 'MILK', 'The Butler', 'Mississippi Burning', 'Loving & Selma' so we could discuss the issues further on our zoom calls.

We had to cancel plans to visit Kilmainham Gaol, Battle of the Boyne site and a visit to the Apprentice Boys Museum in Derry. We did have a virtual workshop on The Troubles in Northern Ireland.



2. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

69 Group Work Sessions (Jan – March & Sept – Dec 2020) in various areas with an average of 30 participants taking part on a weekly basis.

These sessions involved: Good Relations & Diversity, Communication & Active Listening Skills, Setting Goals / Future Plans, Time Management, Budgeting, Managing Social Gatherings, Self Esteem & Confidence, Moving debates / Topic debates, Question & Answer Sessions, Problem Solving & Resilience, Encouraging Hobbies & interests.

We continued to work 1-1 on a daily basis to support each individual.

3. FURTHER EDUCATION/EMPLOYABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Participants undertook various training programmes including: Manual Handling x 11, Safe Pass x 6, First Aid x 13, Forward Dumper Truck ticket x 10, ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence x 1, OCN Level II in Community Development x 6 participants, OCN Level II Award in Youth Work Practice x 9, Level 2 & 3 Music Production x 1

Employability Development

We helped and supported participants by assisting in the creating and updating of CV's & Cover Letters, prepared participants for work by holding interview preparation sessions, helped and supported with job searches, job applications assistance and with finding suitable courses & training for each individual participant.

REACTIV8/2

4. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Members of our Focus Group had a meeting with Bernard Grooster (Head of Tusla) in the Finn Valley Family Resource Centre. He had personally invited them to come along to an event the Finn Valley Family Resource Centre was hosting as he wanted to get their feedback and opinions on the impact of FRC's on a community. Plans for a Community Project for 2020 in Ballybofey with the local Men's Shed was cancelled due to Covid 19. We had sent away to The National Spring Clean group for a pack to carry out a Spring Clean in April 2020.



COMMUNICATION

Communication was vital as project staff worked to protect the relationships that they had built with young people and keep engagement ongoing in a positive manner. Communication with young people has always been to the forefront of our work and project staff responded quickly to the 'new normal' where we could no longer meet the young people face to face or in groups.

We did this via various methods such as:

Zoom Calls for checking in, support for OCN work and fun games, WhatsApp calls & WhatsApp texts, One to One phone calls, Queries & or Emergency Responses, Support for job applications and interview preparation, Weekly activities and exercises Journals that could be maintained over the lockdown, Try to normalise things, Continue with Personal Development work, Continue with Good Relations work.

As restrictions began to ease in the summer time it finally became possible to meet with young people again while maintaining social distancing and strict hygiene protocols in line with Government recommendations and DYS policies.



152
QUERIES
DEALT WITH

169
SUPPORT
SESSIONS

ONE TO ONE WORK

One to one listening ear work has always been a big part of Reactiv8/2 and the need for this increased exponentially since lock down. Young people's issues increased and became more intense as the period of uncertainty commenced including: Not being able to see friends or family, not being able to see other members of Reactiv8/2 in person, getting the virus, a family member getting it or dying, a fear of the unknown and the uncertainty of the situation, what about my summer job, lack of income, what about my course in September, living at home 24/7 with family, others not taking it seriously, fear of going out to shops, lack of internet access, access to a computer, laptop or printer, isolation, loneliness, depression & anxiety, abuse of alcohol & drugs, lack of interaction with others, no routine, boredom, Lack of stability, Trust issues regarding the government e.g. are they telling us the truth?, Sleeping and eating a lot, staying up all night gaming. Reactiv8/2 project staff continued to support the young people in terms of their emotional, physical, social and mental well-being. Strong relationships had been built before lockdown and this was evidenced in the fact that all the young people remained engaged with project staff.

17 people benefited from food parcels from the Reactiv8-2 Project. Reactiv8-2 staff members have been printing and photocopying items for families, especially those with younger siblings who have homework to complete. We have also posted things out to families.

OF THE 35 PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN THE PROGRAMME:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Young people progressing to education and training | 18 |
| • Young people securing employment | 16 |
| • young people securing apprenticeships | 1 |
| • young people completing accredited training | 19 |

OCN Level I in Community Development delivered by the Reactiv8/2 project to 6 participants.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT PROVIDES A SUPPORT SERVICE TO AFFILIATED YOUTH CLUBS AND PROJECTS LOCATED ACROSS THE COUNTY. MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE IN EXCESS OF 2,000 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 5YRS-25YRS IN THE YOUTH CLUBS AND PROJECTS AND SUPPORTED BY ALMOST 400 ADULT VOLUNTEERS. FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, EDUCATION, DISABILITY, INCLUSION & YOUTH AND RENEWED ANNUALLY.

2020 saw lots of changes for the Youth Outreach Project. The new name for the former Department of Children & Youth Affairs changed to the Department for Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion & Youth (DCEDIY), and a new funding stream UBU (Your Place, Your Space). We were allocated new areas of work and targets to engage with. We almost lost the work of supporting our Youth Clubs as it wasn't initially included in our Service Level Agreement but thankfully we engaged in discussions and successfully reinstated Youth Club support in our work. We said goodbye to Laura our Youth Worker as she went to work in 'Our Generation' another Project within DYS and welcomed Ineke our new Youth Worker to the Project.

In the first quarter of 2020 there was no Youth Worker in place but we carried out Youth Club support – Membership & Affiliation including Survey Monkey and NQSFVLYG work and Youth Club visits and held a Quiz for Youth Clubs at DYS Headquarters.

Friday 13th (ominous!) was the last day we were able to work at DYS and across the membership as COVID and its associated restrictions became a reality. We all had to swiftly learn how to move to online engagements, support staff who were struggling with isolation and fear and also remain upbeat with our support for our Clubs and Members. We were fortunate to have highly skilled and adaptable staff who we had engaged to carry out some work that we had received funding for under Peace IV (Donegal County Council & ETB) and they quickly adapted to new ways of delivering the programmes.

In March lockdown stopped us engaging with the young people directly. The weekly sessions moved online with all groups taking part in this new way of working. We created Art Packs which we sent out to the young people so that everyone had the same materials at home and we could create work on screen together.

With the weather picking up we took to some gardening online. We demonstrated how to make a grass head with a Competition for the best Grass head to follow. Many creative and colourful entries were posted on the Youth Outreach Facebook post and the winner got a LK Shop Voucher which was kindly sponsored by Shop LK.



For Easter we demonstrated how to decorate your own Easter Egg online and held a week-long challenge where we gave a theme each day and 24 hours for young people to upload a picture. We saw photos coming in from all over the country and had a Great Prize of a LK Shop Voucher for the winner who completed all 7 days.

Towards the summer as restrictions began to ease somewhat, we were able to do some work inside and outside bearing in mind all Govt restrictions and guidelines and this enabled programmes to have a sense of normality, with participants fully engaging in the programmes.

In Summer a slight lift in restrictions meant we could once again work face to face albeit with social distancing in place. We ran a week-long summer camp for Club Oige Chriost Ri and Ray Community Centre. Club Oige Chriost Ri re-decorated their Youth Club with funky new designs. Ray Community Centre had a week-long of Arts Workshops, from T-Shirt and Cup decorating to mask making and canvas painting.

Dance classes were facilitated in Ray Community Centre and Scoil Mhuire Buncrana through the Arts4Youth Programme. The young people enjoyed learning a blend of musical and street style dances. Club Oige Chriost Ri developed a routine from the Musical Hair Spray and learned theatre techniques.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

11 young people started the OCN Leadership Training through the CLIC programme. The course started face to face but had to move online after only 1 session. The 11 young people diligently stuck with the course and completed their OCN Level 1. And three of these participants went on to secure employment.

CLIC ran a Summer Camp with Project Orange in Newtowncunningham. The young people created arts with the theme 'Our Community'. Fantastic pieces of work showing coming together and cross community collaboration was created in the 5 days. The young people created mugs, masks, t-shirts and individual and group art works on canvas.



Two young people from Project Orange in Newtowncunningham showing off their artwork depicting the importance of friendships across various border communities titled **"The same rainbow falls in both our skies."**





As we moved into the Autumn, we had Ineke design and deliver various new programmes. In September participants from SONAS Youth Club started the Arts4Youth Project by experimenting with clay. The young people made small tiles with wood patterns and leaves shaped as hands to represent each young person in the youth club. They learned how to glaze the clay and then the pieces were sent off to a local potter to be fired. All the pieces were placed together to make a tree Mural which is now part of SONAS Sensory Garden.

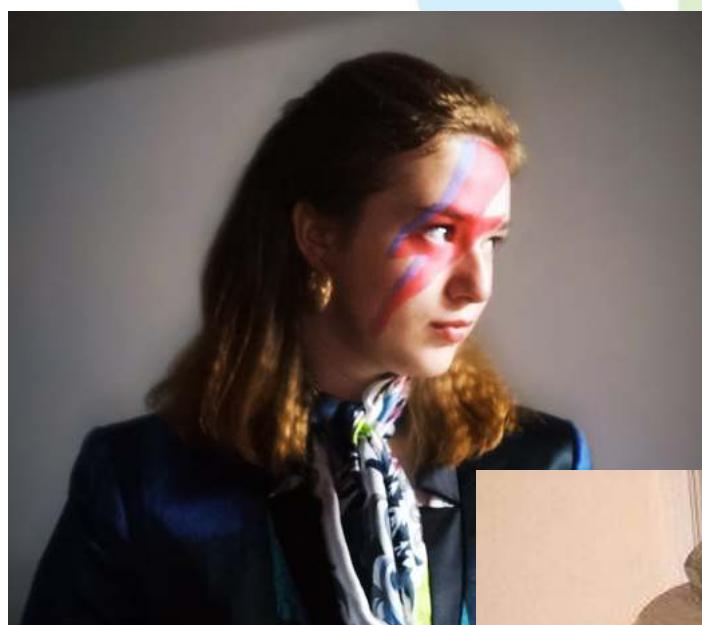
Castlefinn Heroes Youth Club also joined the project in the Autumn and learned how to make paper lanterns from willow for Halloween and learned to play 3 songs on the ukulele. 10 young people from the World-Wide Voices group in Letterkenny tried their hand at various artforms and mixed media.



YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

10 young people from the CLIC Youth Leadership course went on to Level II and completed the course with blended learning. Restrictions lifted in the early Autumn meant that the celebration for completion could be held and the group got to go to Oakfire Adventure Centre for the day to celebrate the half year long dedication to the course and completion of their OCN's.

With restrictions tightening again in Donegal mid- Autumn we decided to not let this get us down and run a **Halloween Fancy Dress Competition Online**. We had a great response with over 50 entries ranging from age 3-18. The judges had a hard time choosing but 3 finalists were picked and all received a Halloween Hamper. Given the difficult year young people had we decided to award all entrants a token price which went down really well!



We managed to keep our Christmas Card Competition going as well as engaging in YWI Nollaig Competition. We had over 40 entries with unbelievable talent and skill shown again this year.

Our Christmas Card winners were;

5-9 category; 1st Meave Ward, 2nd Leah Harkin, 3rd Ryan McDaid.

10-14 category; 1st Eimear Gamble, 2nd Maisey Simpson, 3rd Ava Douglas

15-18 category; 1st Matthew Clifford, 2nd Kerri McDaid, 3rd Matthew Fitzpatrick

And we had a National Youth Work Ireland Winner 2020, Jesse Simpson from Castlefinn Heroes YC.



YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

Club members that participated in our programmes received packages of materials to enable them to engage in the online programmes for Arts and Crafts, Dance, Photography and Circus Skills. All classes were well attended and ran successfully till the end of the year.

We processed 107 Garda Vetting forms and delivered Child Protection Awareness Programme Training to 53 adult volunteers (1 outdoors & 4 indoors) and reworked the delivery to enable it to be delivered online for 2021.

We held two Volunteer Forum meetings to check in with our Volunteers and keep them up to date with information, Govt restrictions and working in partnership to ensure delivery of programmes continued. We even managed to go to Arranmore Island to begin the process of setting up a Youth Club there!

It has been a tough year for everyone and we would like to thank our Membership Volunteers in local Youth Clubs as you have been a lifeline for many young people and without you we would not be as successful a project.



20

107
GARDA
VETTINGS
PROCESSED

50+
HALLOWEEN
FANCY DRESS
ENTRIES

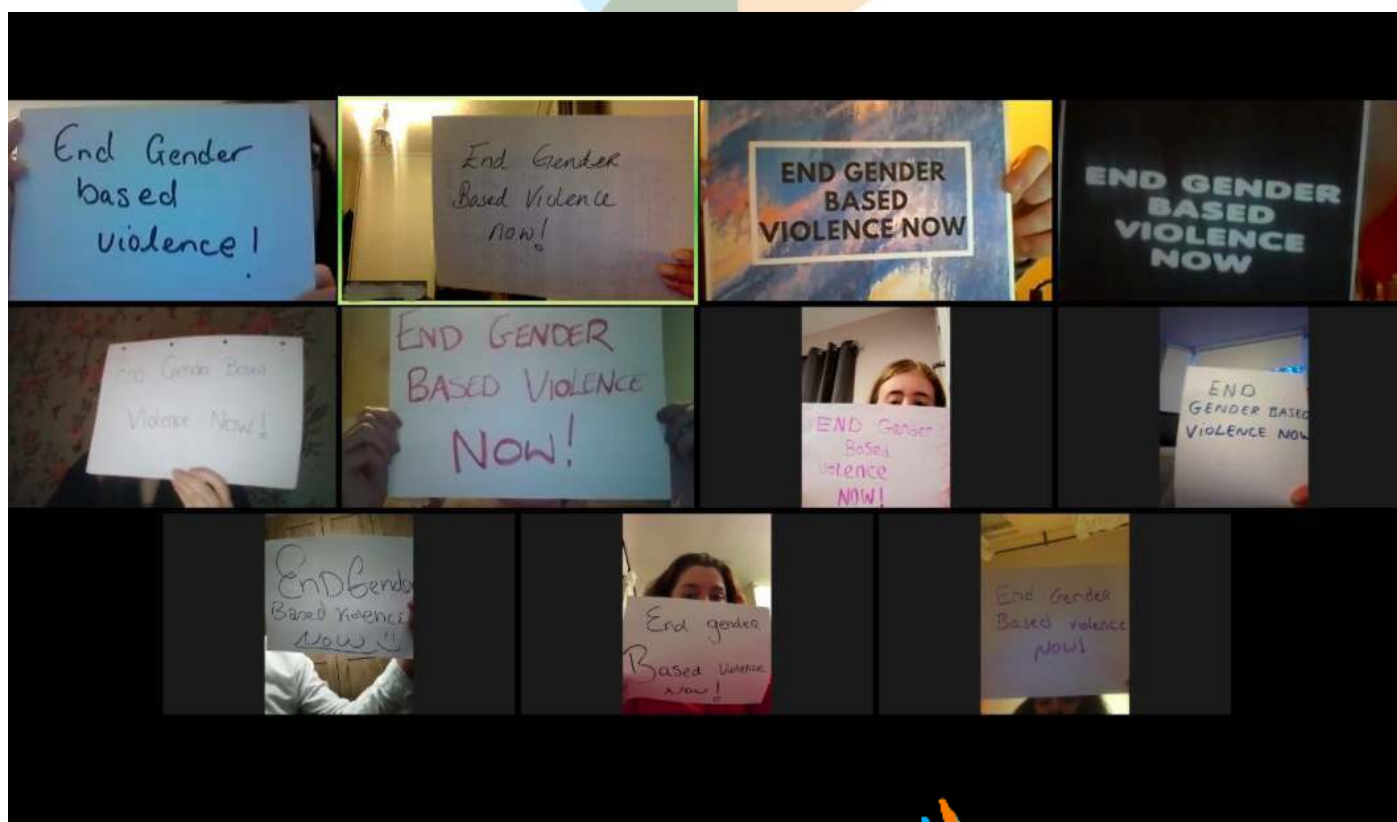
40+
CHRISTMAS
CARD
ENTRIES



YOUTHSCAPE

YOUTHSCAPE IS A PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14-24YRS WHO ARE NOT IN FULL TIME EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING. EACH PROGRAMME IS OF 38 WEEKS DURATION WITH CHECK IN AND FOLLOW UP AT 1-YEAR POST COMPLETION. FUNDED BY SEUPB PEACE IV UNTIL DECEMBER 2021.

Staff use a young person-centred approach to create a tailor-made plan which is then put into 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 might have. The staff also assists 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 NI training at Level 1 in Good Relations, Interpersonal Skills and Understanding Food Nutrition and Healthy Living are undertaken during the programme. All Cohorts (Groups) take part in cross border trips but during this period we squeezed in a trip to Croke Park just before lockdown then we had a virtual Trip to Doagh Famine Village. They had a virtual discussion on Muslim beliefs and culture, and live Q&A with a previous Youthscape participant who is a Muslim.



Our Cohort 6 started in November 2019 with 58 registered to take part. During the first 13 weeks we delivered face to face then the Global Pandemic happened and Youthscape went virtual. The young people from Cohort 6 took part in a number of workshops such as Time Management, Interview Prep and MultiMedia. Out of the 58 that registered 32 returned to education, 11 to other courses, 7 to employment, 3 to further education and 5 to higher education. Participants completed two Social Impact Projects by gathering and donating second hand clothes to Club Oige Chriost Ri, Magheraarty to help them raise funds for a new playground & they also made and sold Christmas Decorations with all proceeds going to Down Syndrome Ireland.

Our Cohort 7 went online in April with 39 registered to take part. These young people took part in a number of virtual workshops such as Internet Safety, Drug and Alcohol Awareness & Money Management. We also had a lot of fun with quizzes, games, baking & Make up Tutorials. This group also completed their Social Impact Project by having an Odd Sock Day and raising funds for Northwest Stop and they also completed a video called Our Lockdown Voices (having their voices heard about issues relating to Covid 19). Out of the 39 registered 20 returned to education, 9 to other courses, 3 to employment, 5 to further education and 2 to higher education.



YOUTHSCAPE

Our Cohort 7 went online in April with 39 registered to take part. These young people took part in a number of virtual workshops such as Internet Safety, Drug and Alcohol Awareness & Money Management. We also had a lot of fun with quizzes, games, baking & Make up Tutorials. This group also completed their Social Impact Project by having an Odd Sock Day and raising funds for Northwest Stop and they also completed a video called Our Lockdown Voices (having their voices heard about issues relating to Covid 19). Out of the 39 registered 20 returned to education, 9 to other courses, 3 to employment, 5 to further education and 2 to higher education.

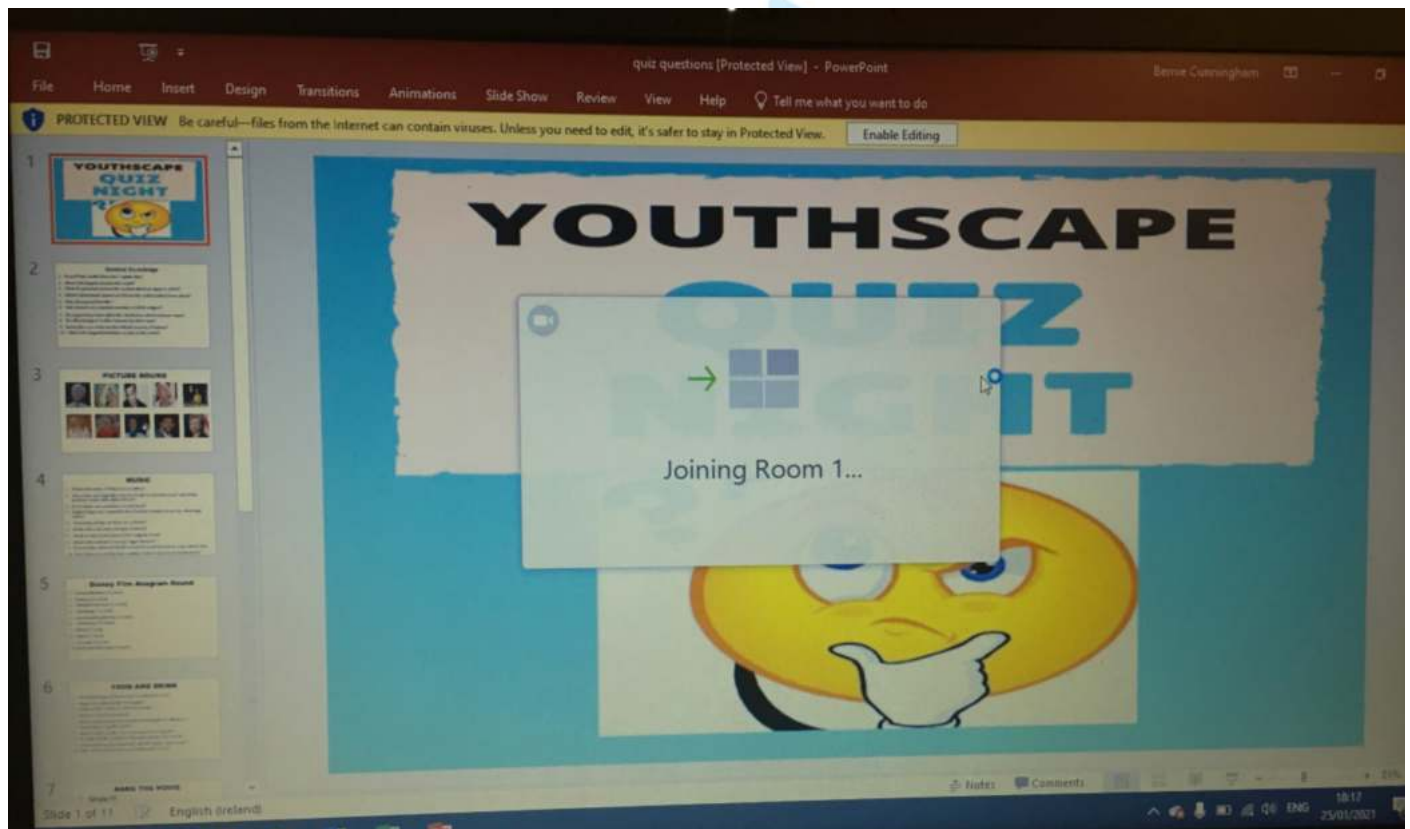
Cohort 8 started in August with 39 registered to take part and the first 16 weeks work was carried out in small groups, face to face and keeping to Govt guidelines, then it was back to virtual work as restrictions once again tightened. Participants took part in a number of workshops such as Anger Management, Internet Awareness and Drug & Alcohol Awareness. They completed their Social Impact project by having a raffle for a Christmas hamper with all proceeds going to We Care Letterkenny Food Bank.

During Covid 19 the young people started Youthscape Radio with great success. There was a different theme each week, for example 'Black Lives Matter' and a festival week called 'Velocity Festival'. There were a total of 42 shows aired in 2020 and we had an amazing 3577 listeners tuning in.

42
LIVE
RADIO
SHOWS

3577
RADIO SHOW
LISTENERS





The young people also started their own Youthscape Podcast in October 2020 when we started telling local ghost stories, since then we have talked about many things focusing on Good Relations and Self-care and Love. There have been 230 listeners from Ireland, USA, Netherlands and Norway. The listeners were 58% female and 41% Male.

During their time on the programme young people have been involved with 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.

The Youthscape Youth Forum continued. It comprises representatives from all 5 areas of the overall programme. 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.

Our 'Celebration of Success' event has continued to get bigger and better over the last year and has gone virtual. 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 acting in the role of MC during the event.

BREAKOUT

BREAKOUT IS A YOUTH PROJECT FOCUSED ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 30 YEARS. THE PROJECT OPERATES A WEEKLY DROP-IN PROVISION IN LETTERKENNY AND GLENTIES AS WELL AS TRAINING, INFORMATION AND ONE TO ONE SUPPORT.

From January until the lockdown in March there were weekly BreakOut Groups in Letterkenny on Saturdays for two separate groups (U18 & O18). Young people from Moville began attending the Letterkenny group coming into the YIC drop-in area of DYS from 12pm on a Saturday. Healthy Ireland monies provided funding for travel for these young people as the Moville group ceased to operate in St. Eugene's Hall. The Youth Worker travelled to meet the Glenties group on Tuesdays. An Annual Programme plan was in place for all groups. 2 young people did their placement within BreakOut during this time.

From lockdown in March, group work moved to online meetings over Skype with the Saturday groups under 18s 2-4pm over 18s 4-6pm (LK groups) and Tuesdays 5pm-6:30pm (Glenties group). For a short while in the Summer we were able to meet outdoors and even managed to go on a Residential to Carlingford Activity Centre.

Group work included: Anxiety management, homework sessions, badge design for LGBTI+ young people, LGBTI+ role models, team building activities, group members music playlist, LGBTI+ quiz and the 'Let's Talk Gender Identity' project (in conjunction with the Rainbow project which went online). Stay Awake event, Pen-pal project in conjunction with Out Northwest, Movie day, a newly created 'Pride' video, discussions around 'coming out at home'.

The Covid-19 pandemic saw an increase in demand for one to one support. Initially young people were struggling with the pressures of schoolwork and the unpredictability of the future in relation to exams etc. As the lockdown continued the demand increased to issues such as 'coming out' and/or supporting the young people living in homes that are not LGBTI+ positive environments. Discussions around "coming out" at home became a focus as a number of young people have done so.





63
MEMBERS

493
YOUNG PEOPLE
RECEIVED
TRAINING

40
ADULTS
RECEIVED
TRAINING

We designed LGBT+ friendly window stickers, celebrated International Friendship Day by creating bracelets. We held a fantastic Halloween Party and Christmas party which took place at DYS on Saturday 19th December to close the year and just in advance of yet another closure due to enhanced restrictions.

- BeLonGTo Accreditation received for BreakOut took place in February
- Due to the Covid 19 restrictions the planned Annual Pride Parade in Dublin could not take place. The Breakout group did however participate in the Pride on-line activities including a series of videos for social media for which they created their own video and shared this on various social media platforms.

BREAKOUT

- National Network meetings were attended online during lockdown.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the BreakOut Steering Group was revisited and redrafted.
- BreakOut steering group meetings took place during lockdown over Zoom.
- BreakOut was promoted via DYS social media platforms during 2020.



- Stand Up Awareness Week 2020 took place from November 16th-20th. Stand Up training took place remotely and was delivered by 'BeLongTo' at a National level, but was promoted locally to schools. St. Catherine's School, Killybegs and Carndonagh Community School took part.
- LGBTI+ Awareness training delivered to Extern youth workers, 4 classes in Gweedore, Information Awareness Raising Sessions in YouthReach Ballyshannon, YouthReach Buncrana and with SATU volunteers.



DAYBREAK

DAYBREAK IS AN EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME, WHICH ENCOURAGES THE RELEASE OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EACH OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PROJECT. THE PROJECT IS TARGETED AT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE EARLY OR POTENTIAL EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THOSE WHO ARE OCCASIONAL ATTENDEES AGED 12-15 YEARS. FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND RENEWED ANNUALLY



Daybreak operates in Letterkenny 4 days per week, and 1 day per week for a set number of days in Raphoe and Ballybofey each year.

January started like any other year for Daybreak with young people returning after the winter break, and new referrals starting too. Young people were busy preparing for Junior Certs, end of year exams, and CBA work with no idea what was to come. Cooking and baking, and afternoon sessions also continued as normal.

When lockdown was announced in March it meant the doors of Daybreak had to close while everyone stayed home to protect each other. Daybreak staff delivered care packages to the young people across Donegal with food, treats and some activities to help keep them entertained.





September saw young people returning to schools, and also to Daybreak for the new term. Daybreak was able to work with 4 young people per day throughout Level 5, as youth work was considered essential. Young people and staff were delighted to be able to return to face to face work alongside school, with a significant part of the personal development work focusing on the impact Covid-19 had on their lives.

In December young people from Daybreak were invited to bring some festive cheer to the windows of the Volkswagen Garage in Letterkenny. The young people spent a week painting winter scenes and Christmas wishes for the public to enjoy. Young people also decorated the windows of each of the Daybreak locations.

Creative work done over the year includes Painting, Mask making, Learning guitar, Origami, Christmas windows in car showroom, Cookery and Baking

Personal Development work included various workshops such as Impact of Covid 19, Stress management, Resilience, Healthy relationships, Managing Anxiety, Risky Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol awareness, Time Management, and Road Safety.



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

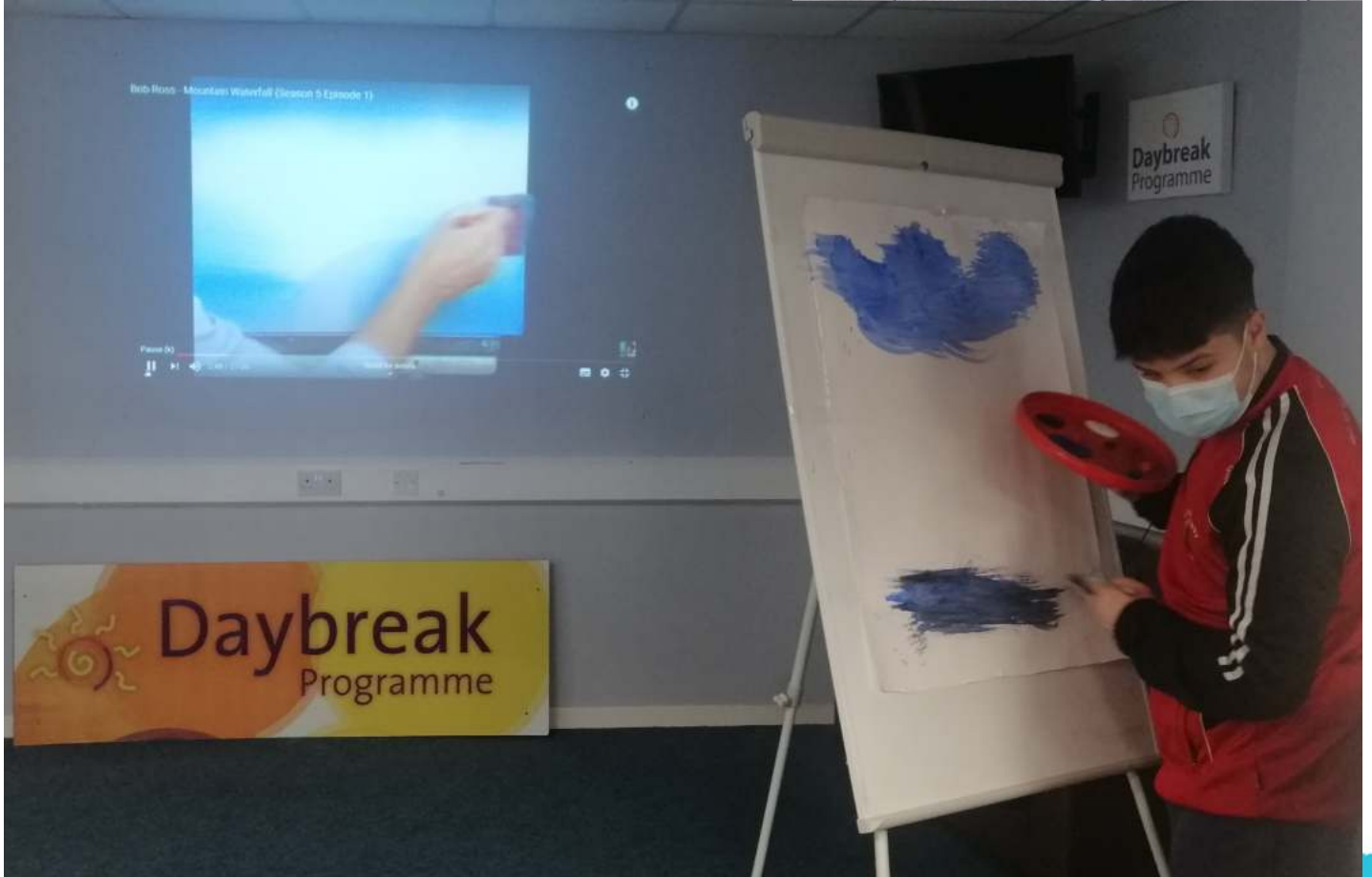
**551
WORKSHOPS**

DAYBREAK






Daybreak
Programme



YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE

YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE PROVIDES A FREE, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SERVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-30 AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH THEM. THE CENTRE OPERATES A ONE STOP SHOP APPROACH WHERE ALL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE UNDER ONE ROOF. FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS AND RENEWED ANNUALLY.

The year started off as usual with a new media group on Monday and a Tuesday late drop-in session, which had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, which saw us move all of our services online overnight.

2020 saw the YIC secure funding for a new mental health project, designed at using the drop-in space for building positive relationships, relaxing, offloading as well as cooking and learning new skills. Unfortunately due to COVID we had to change our plans and relocate our meetings to the park, where we went for walks and got some take-aways, as well as doing a tour of St. Conals and reflecting on mental health over history. six young people took part and we also completed a leaflet on helping support young people with grief.

The YIC provided much support to young people with COVID and employment as this new challenge meant that all recruitment was happening online. Despite this many young people secured employment over 2020 and we worked on CV preparation, interview skills, and communication skills. To assist young people with YIC moving online we also created videos with information on employment to European opportunities.

May, 2020 saw the launch of YIChat, which is an online youth information service manned by officers from all over Ireland. The centre provided 23 shifts and supported many young people all over Ireland with queries.

This year saw the publication of two large issues of ECHO newsletter which showcased the work of the whole organisation. The YIC team also created a booklet called 'Options' which provided in-depth information on all the 2 different things you can do once you have finished your Leaving Cert.

Alongside this work we did many one to one support calls with young people for mental health. This was a challenging year and young people did fantastic to adjust to learning online, and being at home full time, with no much access to their hobbies and sports practices. We provided listening ear support and information throughout the year.



TIME TO MOVE

2020 was a very extraordinary and challenging year but the mobility spirit among young people remained strong. Working together with our partners across Europe is all about taking the best care of the volunteers. Don't stop dreaming, start planning! 'Time to Move 2020' event managed by the Eurodesk took place during the month of October and took place online. We worked closely with local young people who were interested in opportunities, and the European Solidarity Corps volunteers created amazing online content. This content included an on-line article prepared by Niamh, a very intercultural podcast with Nastazja, and a video promoting mobilities with Naseer.



YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE

EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS PANEL

Along with the Eurodesk network, we closed the first phase of the pilot project of the Eurodesk Ambassadors Panel, kindly coordinated and facilitated by our Youth Information Officer Katarzyna Kurzeja. All ambassadors are young people nominated by the Eurodesk Ireland multipliers and highly engaged in the European Union work. Among them we can find the activists, ex- EVS or ESC volunteers, or young people who were involved in the Erasmus+ projects. This year they took part in many workshops delivered by our colleagues from Eurodesk network and external trainers. In October, as part of the Time to Move event, a panel prepared a very interactive online session on European mobility opportunities available to young people in Ireland. If you are interested in European Ambassadors Panel work, follow them on social media. Twitter: @EurodeskYouthIE, Facebook @EurodeskAmbassadors, and Instagram: @IrishEurodeskAmbassadors



YICHAT

Need a hand getting an answer to a question you have? Looking for a support service in your area? Get answers to your questions through our Youth Information Chat service. The chat puts you in contact with a Youth Information Officer who can give you the answers you need and point you in the right direction. The chat service is available between 4pm and 8pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). If you leave a message outside of these hours, we will get back to you by email as soon as we come back online.

To start the chat visit www.donegalyouthservice.ie/chat



EUCLASSES WORKSHOP FOR TY STUDENTS IN COLAISTE AILIGH, LETTERKENNY

As a part of Transition Year, we had an opportunity to deliver an amazing session on Interculturalism and the ESC Opportunities to 52 Donegal students. This innovative workshop is based on the Euroclasses format created by one of the Eurodesk multipliers in Poland. Students had a chance to learn about mobility options waiting for them once they turn 18. They explored their skills and what projects are most suitable to them. During the session students discussed topics of Cross Community work, Diversity, Interculturalism, Inclusivity, and Cultural exchange.

23
YICHAT
SHIFTS



3448
YOUNG PEOPLE
TRAINED

THE LOFT

LOFT YOUTH PROJECT & HEALTH ADVICE CAFÉ IS A SUPPORT SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-18 TO ENGAGE THEMSELVES IN ACTIVITIES AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR LIVES. WITHIN THE LOFT, YOUNG PEOPLE MAY PARTICIPATE IN GROUP WORK PROGRAMMES, ONE-TO-ONE YOUTH WORK, ADVOCACY SERVICES, YOUTH DROP-IN SPACE AND SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES. FUNDED BY TUSLA AND RENEWED ANNUALLY.

The 2 x day transition programme workshop that we embedded in the summer programmes in 2020 was a real highlight. We were used to delivering the programme in a school setting, but having the young people attend the Loft space for the workshop gave it new life!

After introductions and team building activities on the first morning, the young people, through use of interactive mediums, art activities, music and much group discussion and peer to peer learning began their engagement and learning about how to best handle and understand the process of making the transition from primary school to secondary school. Some of the topics that were covered were Hopes & Fears, Bullying, Making Friends, Confidence building. Throughout the sessions, it became clear that as the young people grew more comfortable in the setting and with each other they became more involved in every activity presented to them, which helped them to benefit from it more. Our main aim was that they were provided with a toolkit of how to best deal with worries and fears that come up and help them to know what to expect when they do start school in September. Without a doubt they were all more confident leaving on the last day, than they were on the first day coming in!

“

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS:

“My son couldn’t wait to get back into the Loft after the first day and has been asking if there are other activities he can get involved in. And as a parent, I feel more confident that he won’t be as nervous starting school in September.”

“My son had a brilliant time, loved every minute of it, thank you.”

“Listening to my daughter come home from the workshop and now watching her come home from school, I definitely think it was a great help to her, thank you so much.”

”

Another highlight, year on year, is the individual work that we do with young people. The young people can come into the service looking for one to one support or be referred by another agency, school, parent etc. And the reasons why they are seeking this support can be of a huge range of individual challenges, worries etc. Anything from issues rising at home, school, or in their social lives. These could range from relationships, bereavements, online safety, family, mental health, sexuality or bullying, to name a few. This year was different, in that a lot of young people were facing new challenges around loneliness, lack of social interaction and anxiety from the fear of the unknown that the pandemic brought upon us. By attending the individual support sessions it gives the young people a safe space to voice their concerns, views, worries and off load this with a youth worker, who is there to listen, empathise and support them, in a youth friendly setting. Seeing how much the young people look forward to their sessions and how much they grow across the time we work with them, makes this a definite annual highlight.



LOFT MURDER MYSTERY

Everyone's a suspect
Can you figure out who did it?

6th of November
1st slot 5-6:50pm
2nd slot 7-9pm

booking essential

WHAT'S ON(LINE) AT THE LOFT?

Monday 5pm - Girls Group
Tuesday 5pm - Fit 4 Life
Wednesday 4pm - Wednesday Workshop
Thursday 3pm - Tea & Tunes
Friday 4pm - Drop in!

All groups via Zoom video calls
Just send us a message on Facebook or Instagram to sign up!

LOFT AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2020

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
5pm-6pm Fit 4 Life ages: 12-24	6pm-8pm World Wide Voices	6pm-8pm: 7.30pm-8.30pm Tea & Tunes Leadership ages: 12-24 for Life via zoom
Fridays	Saturdays	
3.30pm-4.30pm Boys Group ages: 12-15	5pm-9pm Drop In Events Night!	2pm-6pm: Drop In! Young Carers Group 12pm-2pm Bi-weekly

The LOFT also offers a one-to-one youth work service, providing young people with an opportunity to talk through any issues they might have with a professional youth worker.

Follow us on social media for upcoming groups, workshops and special events!



OCTOBER FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE LOFT

2nd: Retro Gaming Night
9th: Quiz Night
16th: Art Workshop
23rd: Feel Good Friday
30th: Halloween Party

Just send us a message to get involved!



MAY Wednesday Workshops:

6th: Positive Art Workshop
13th: Youth Wellbeing...making time for you.
20th: Friends & Relationships, staying connected
27th: Singing in Harmony

Free to all 12-18 year olds
Send us a message to sign up to any workshop!

THE LOFT

In relation to the one to ones the main thrust of the sessions was dealing with loneliness and feelings of isolation. For many of the young people the idea of not being able to continue with their routine was very frustrating and affected their lives in a negative way.

The idea of restrictions on their movements was also very negative as it felt that they were being sanctioned for something they had no control over. The one to one sessions gave them somewhere to express their feelings and views.

Within the groups the younger boys group and older boys group (albeit small numbers) again it was feelings of isolation and frustration at life being put on hold. Schooling by zoom also was something that the young people felt was at times a bit overwhelming. When the schools were back the young people were glad of the routine. Most of the time the young people just wanted to have some fun and have a chat amongst themselves.

The International Mentors Group are keen to get back to meeting in person and doing a field trip or group activities. The mentors have undergone the training and the first cohort have built up a rapport with the mentees; these relationships have been supportive and the young people have taken ownership of many of the facets of the programme. It is hoped to develop and facilitate cooperation between the School and DYS.

The summer camps gave a sense of normality i.e. the multi activity camp in the park.

Whilst technology is no substitute for the social interaction of youth work it enabled us to reach out to those young people most vulnerable and parents and referrers were able to avail of support for the young people.

The stats provided indicators of this as it reflected a steady decline in the numbers feeling low or having suicidal thoughts. The programmes provide support for both young people and their parents and carers in what has been very trying times for all concerned.



Learning Opportunities For Teens

With regards to the last number of months of 2020, one of the most interesting elements of the service was seeing the adaptations made to the Drop-In service in order to make it as accessible to young people as possible. It was so good to be able to work with young people face- to- face again, albeit with safety precautions in place. The way the project adapted to the challenges of the pandemic, in terms of the events offered and numbers to whom it could be offered, and in particular the way the young people responded to these changes, was really excellent to see.

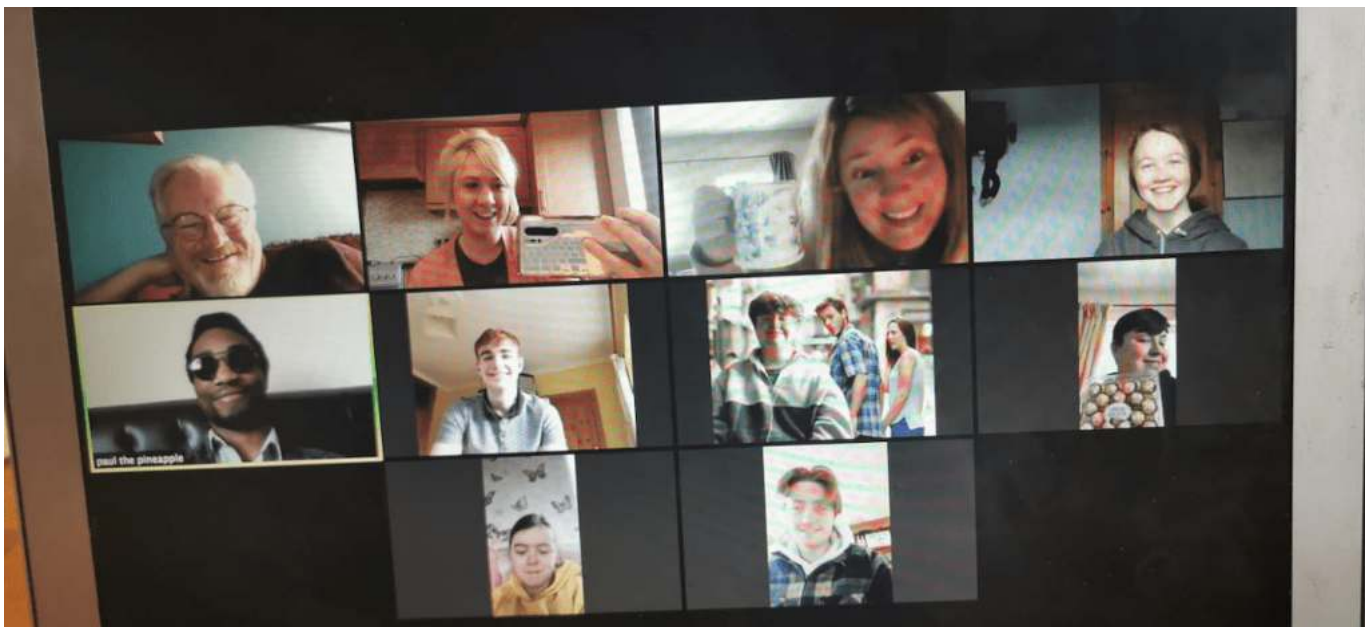
The Garage Project that was offered throughout November and early December was a definite highlight. Leslie and Dennis were fantastic to work with, and their enthusiasm and knowledge, and their eagerness to pass on what they know, had a strong and wholly positive impact on the group. The young people learned basic skills, like changing a tyre, to more involved tasks, such as respraying cars, and learned car safety skills as well, all in a safe and enjoyable environment. As the project progressed, it was plain to see that the young people were becoming more comfortable both with the information covered, and with the other members of the group, and they seemed to really enjoy and benefit from the whole experience. The young people's eagerness to get involved in every element of the project was a great testament to the quality of what was being offered!

Loft staff also delivered food packages throughout the pandemic.

“ WORLD WIDE VOICES GROUP - FEEDBACK FROM A PARENT: ”

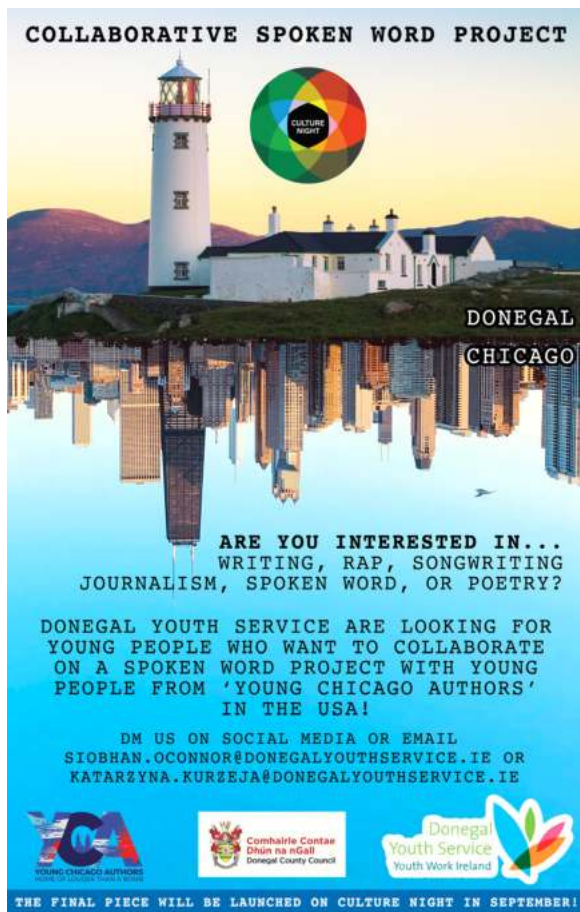
“”Mr Billy thank you for helping my son. He is the first in my family to get an education. He has never been to school himself until we came to Ireland so you can see how important it is for us to make sure he learns something and make it.”

”



CULTURE NIGHT

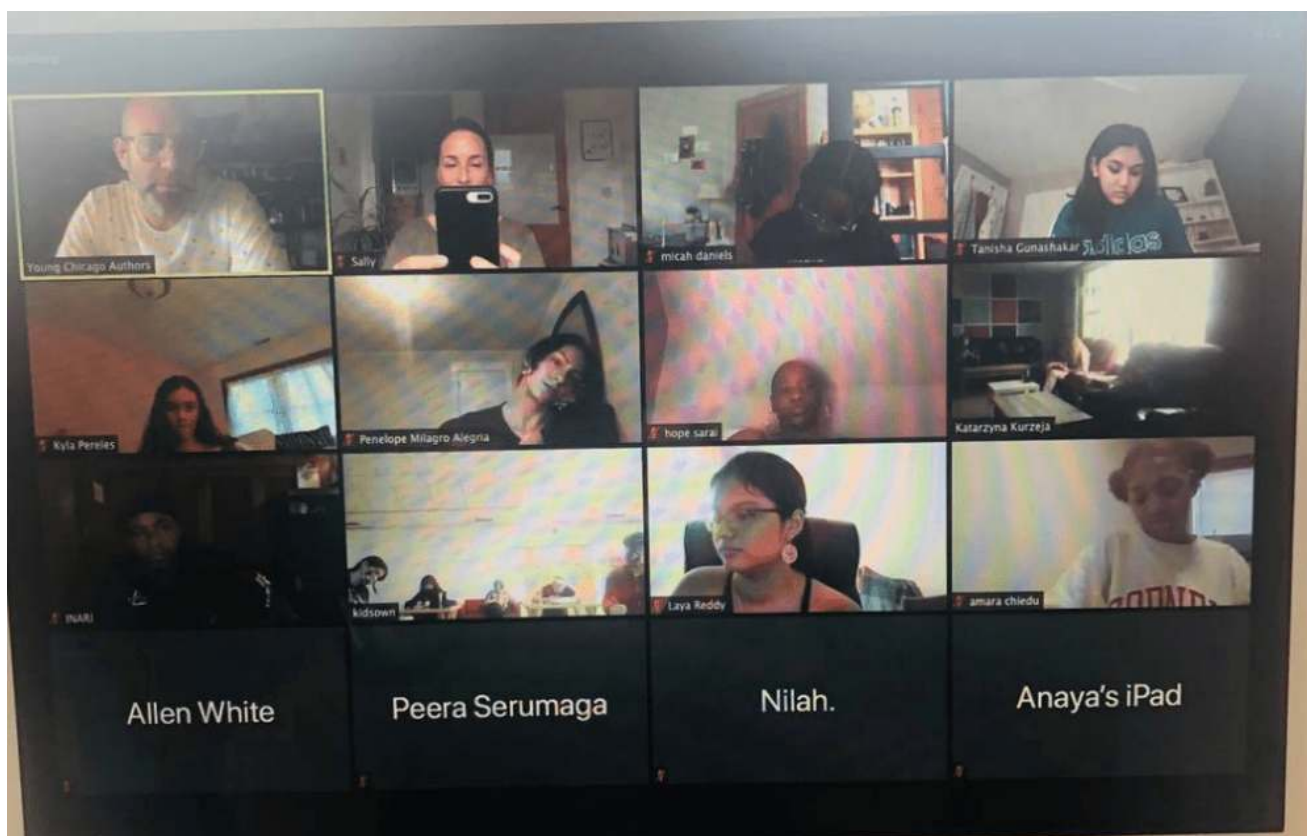
A TRANSATLANTIC YOUTH WRITERS WORKSHOP



As part of Culture Night Donegal 2020 young people from Donegal Youth Service (YIC & The Loft), Kids Own and Young Chicago Authors participated in a special young writers workshop over Zoom with Kevin Coval, poet and Artistic Director of Young Chicago Authors.

The 90 minute exchange session incorporated a poetry writing prompt centred on themes of identity and home, and explored the youth experience and culture of growing up in Chicago, USA and Donegal, Ireland.

The workshop was developed into a short film which premiered for Culture Night Donegal. It celebrates the creativity of our young people on both sides of the Atlantic.



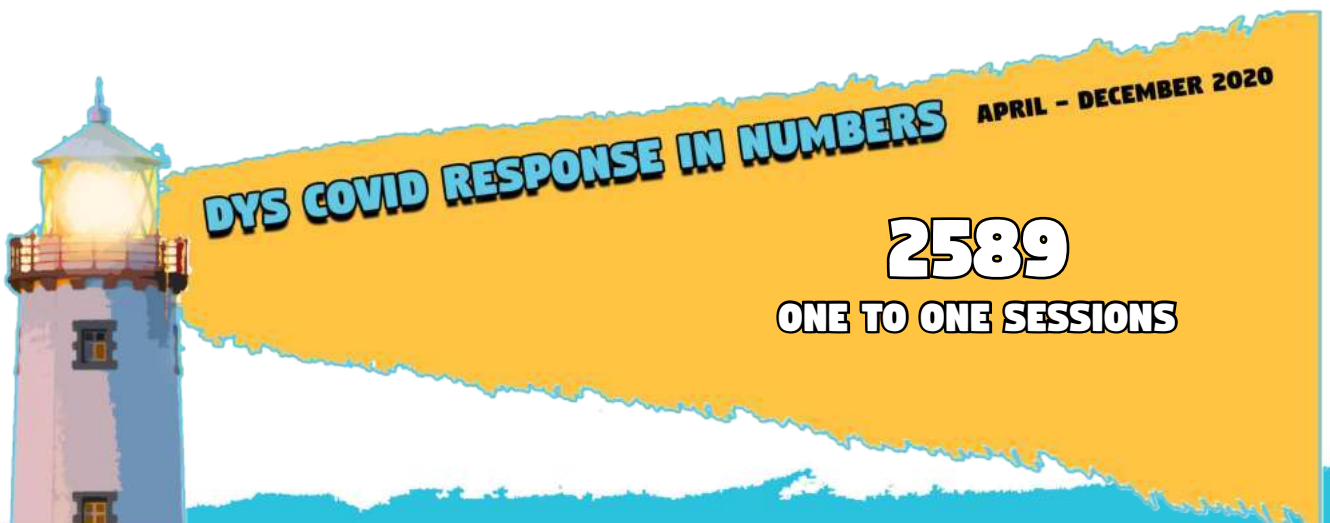
NEW MURAL



TAKE PRIDE IN ALL YOU DO...

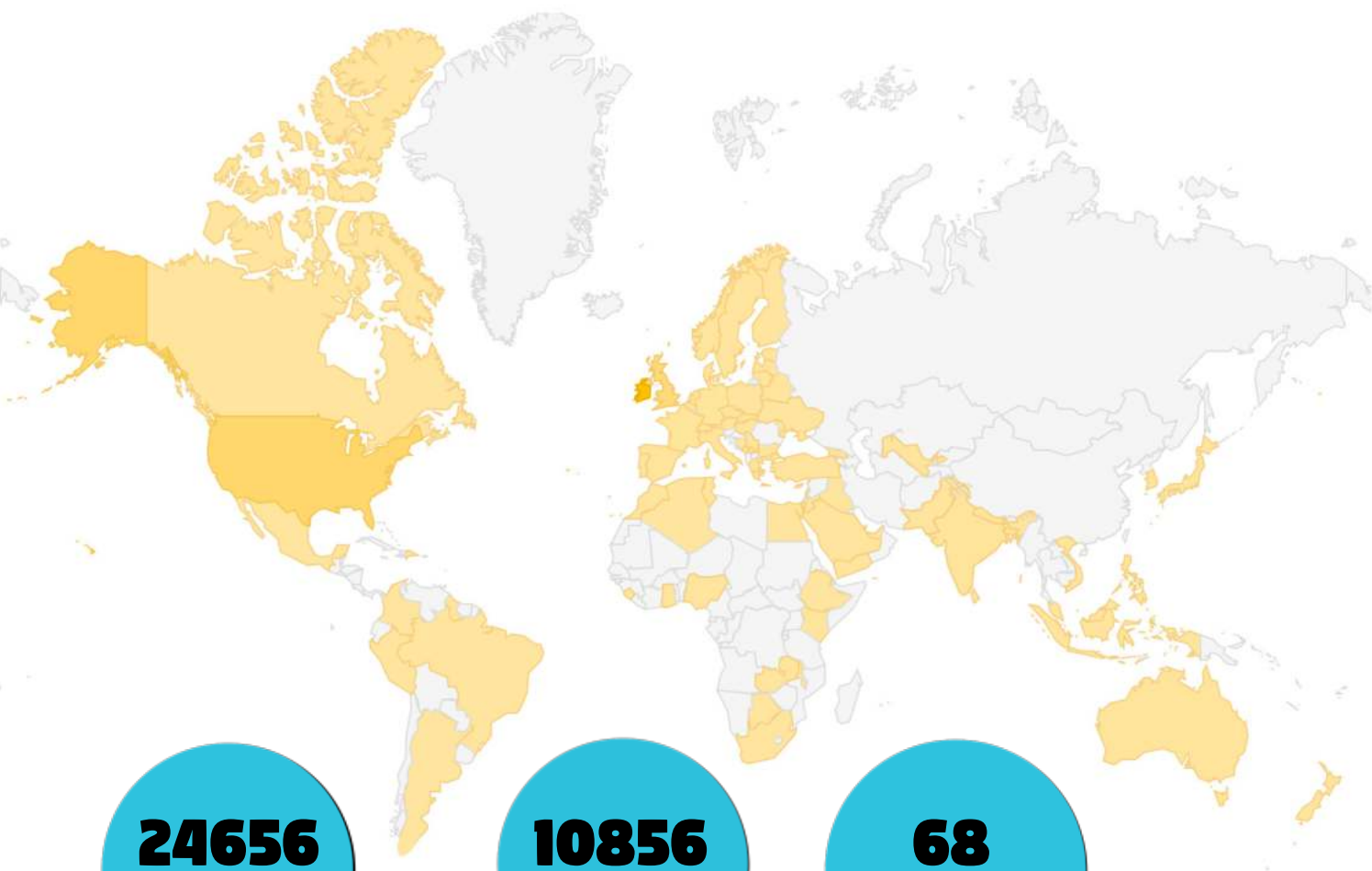
The DYS halls got a makeover in 2020 with a new mural created by Donal O'Doherty from Peaball Visual Arts. The original design was created by young person Karina McGettigan.

Thanks to Finnian O'Donnell from the Long Lane Area Residents Association for facilitating this and bringing the mural to the Donegal Youth Service building.



DYS WEBSITE

DYS WEBSITE VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



24656
PAGEVIEWS

10856
USERS

68
POSTS



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

4734
ONLINE POSTS

FUNDRAISING

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO MADE A DONATION
TO DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE IN 2020**



Over 100 meals and treats were delivered to young people and their families all over Donegal thanks to **Chef Martin Anderson from Sonder**, and the local community who donated to the fundraiser for meals for different groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We would also like to thank Martin Anderson for choosing Youth Talk Donegal as the beneficiary of Sonder's Halloween drive through trick or treat fundraiser that raised €220!

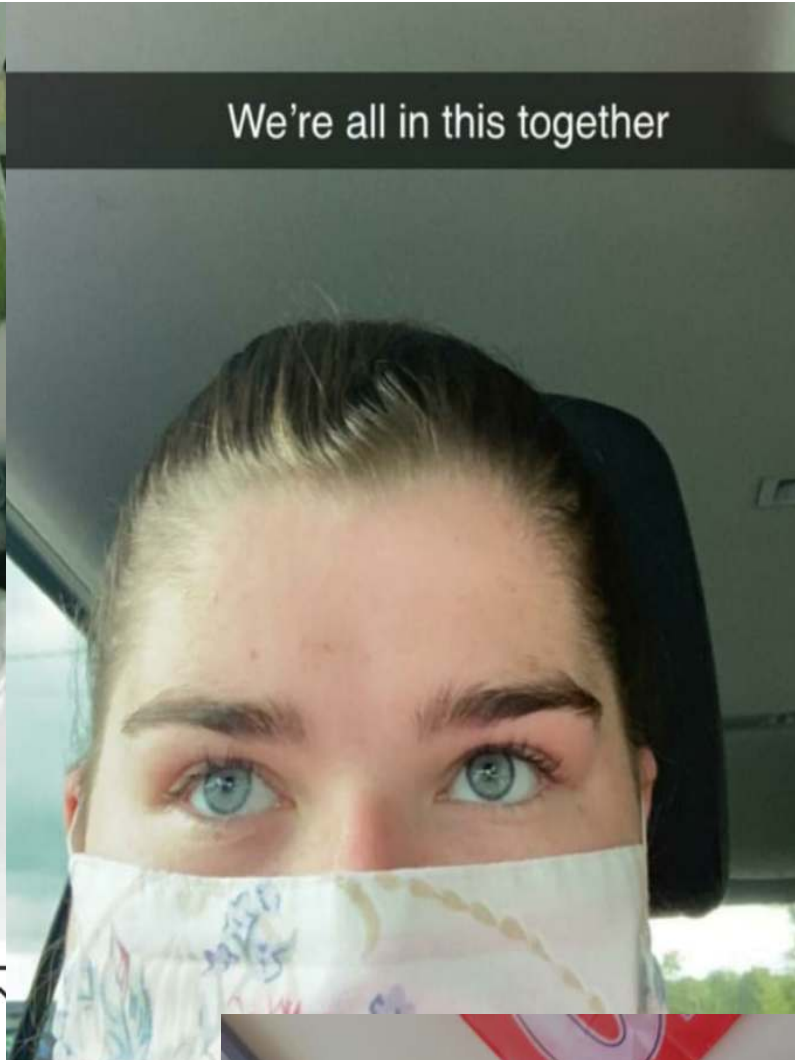


AIB Letterkenny donated €500 to Donegal Youth Service as part of the 'AIB Together' initiative, supporting groups who are helping communities cope with the Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We would like to thank Branch Manager Jim McLaughlin and all of the staff at AIB Letterkenny for choosing our Youth Talk Donegal service to receive the funds.

#DYSMASKCHALLENGE

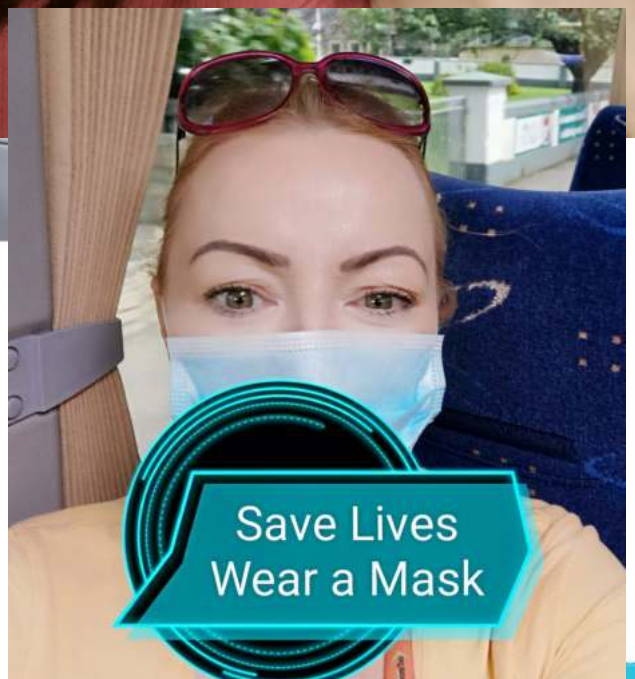
IN SUMMER WE LAUNCHED A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE MASK WEARING
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE



Liked by johndruddy and others

donegalyouthservice Young people from BreakOut say they wear their face coverings to keep themselves, family and friends safe. And also so they can safely attend BreakOut. ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️





Liked by **donegalproperty** and **others**

donegalyouthservice Mairéad shares why she wears a face mask: "So I don't bring the virus back to my granny and granda."

Well done! 🍌 Who do you wear a face mask for?! 🤔

We all have a part to play to protect our communities from Covid-19 🌍❤️

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

THE DYS COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT HAS 18 PARTICIPANTS AND 1 SUPERVISOR FUNDED BY THE DEASP TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY AND THROUGH TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT TO PROGRESS THE PARTICIPANTS INTO EMPLOYMENT OR FURTHER EDUCATION.

The CE participants provide support to the various DYS projects Daybreak, YIC, Loft, Young Carers and affiliated Youth Clubs and also the DYS office through reception, admin 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.

As the CE project participants provide support to most of the DYS projects and some Affiliated Youth Clubs they have been affected the same with some projects fully closed or periodically opening in line with Covid regulations. Some participants worked online and provided support to staff and young people.

Even though 2020 saw a very high unemployment rate **4 CE participants progressed into employment = 66% progression rate.**

Although a number of course were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic 59 Training Courses were undertaken by the CE participants mainly online – there possibly would have been more but restrictions included lack of IT skills/equipment.

“

The DYS CE Project has given me the opportunity to work and further my education/training. The CE Project has given me the opportunity to attend training/courses which have been of great benefit to me. I have really enjoyed my time on CE. Due to COvID-19 restrictions I have been working remotely and completing a course online. Working remotely has had its benefits, as I have been given opportunities that I may not have been given if we were working normally. Completing a course online was quite beneficial as it meant you could work at your own pace.

KATIE MCCOURT, CE ADMINISTRATOR

”

“

The DYS CE Project provided me the opportunity to gain extensive experience in a busy youth work environment. I completed numerous training courses allowing me to develop knowledge in a diverse range of areas whilst increasing my confidence and social awareness. My time spent with DYS and all the challenges of Covid-19 has made me use these new skills, requiring me to be resourceful and develop new ways of working, which in turn has contributed to the overall learning and experience for me.

PEARL JOHNSTON - CE YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER

”



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

3781

SUPPORT SESSIONS



DYS COVID RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

APRIL - DECEMBER 2020

551

WORKSHOPS

OUR GENERATION

THE OUR GENERATION PROJECT STARTED IN FEBRUARY 2020 IT IS A 3 YEAR CROSS-BORDER AND CROSS-COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDED BY SEUPB UNTIL DECEMBER 2020. THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE WORK OF DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE AS WE ARE NOW DELIVERING PROGRAMS IN SLIGO, LEITRIM, CAVAN AND MONAGHAN.

We have five members of staff on the OUR Generation team including project manager Frankie McGreevy, administrator Maria Crossan and x 3 youth workers Laura Doherty, Joanne McCauley and Andrea Emmett.

The project aims to build positive relations by developing emotional resilience, empathy and understanding. The project works with young people aged 5 to 25 years old as well as the key contacts in their lives including teachers, youth workers, family support workers and their parents.

There are six partnerships involved in the project these include Cooperation Ireland, Youth Work Ireland, Playboard, the University of Ulster, Youth Action Northern Ireland and the Lead partners Action Mental Health. It will reach 35,000 children, young people and adults who support them during the life of the project.





The OUR Generation project like all services was significantly impacted by the Covid emergency this year. The team however, adapted quickly to the need for remote working. We immediately organised a series of collaborative working groups on zoom with our lead partners Action Mental Health. At these workshops we co-designed our suite of programs working together with our partners at the University of Ulster. We created and delivered presentations informed by community scoping to key stakeholders in Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal, in order to raise awareness of the work of the Our Generation Project.

We strengthened our relationships with schools, FE colleges and youth groups in the Donegal area and worked on scoping in partnership with cooperation Ireland in Cavan, Monaghan Sligo and Leitrim. We adopted our programs in consultation with our partners and developed a delivery plan. We worked on ways to bring meaningful contact between people from different communities during the Covid emergency.



OUR GENERATION

Unfortunately when lockdown hit, our hopes for face to face delivery were put on hold and we had to adjust to transferring our programme to online platforms. The Peer Mentoring element of our programme delivery was developed first. The Peer Mentoring programme is delivered over 6 sessions and was adopted to be delivered online. Peer mentoring highlights the importance of listening and communication skills, along with mental health awareness and empathy. Participants take part in this programme in order to prepare for their role as a mentor in their school environment. We then worked to adopt Action Mental Health's Healthy Me and Provoking Thought program for 5 to 11 year olds and 11 to 16 year olds respectively.

In September 2020 project delivery with young people commenced. We were met with enthusiasm for our programs from schools and community groups across the border counties despite the challenges that were presented by the Covid 19 emergency. Provoking thought proved to be the most popular of our suite of programs with 516 participants taking part in that particular program. Our programmes commenced in 4 out of the 5 counties in the border area with the project directly working with 700 participants by the end of 2020.



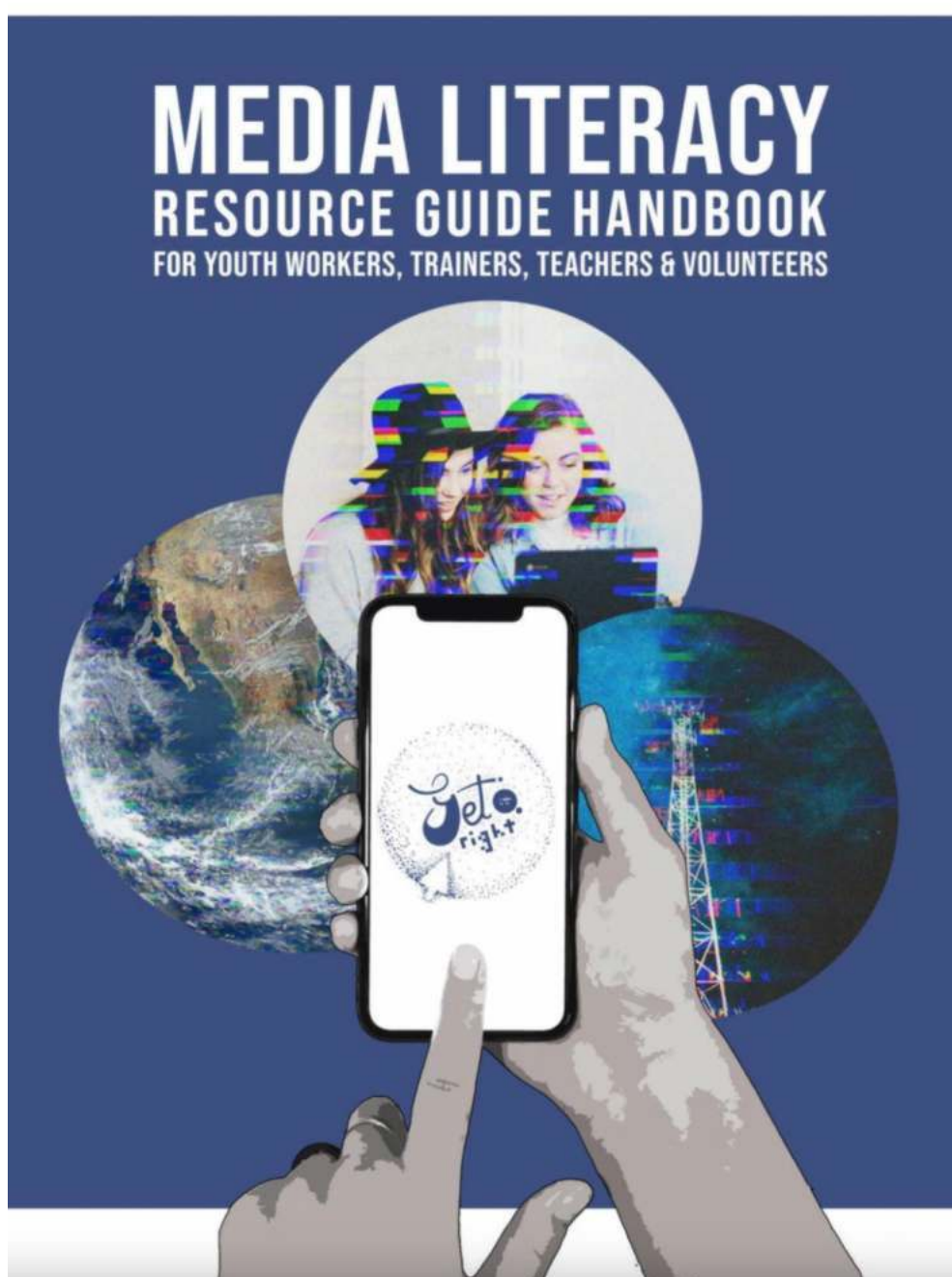
GET IT RIGHT

GET IT RIGHT IS A EUROPEAN PROJECT BETWEEN ROMANIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY (RYMD), DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE (DYS) AND INTER ALIA GREECE. THE PROJECT FOCUS IS ON MEDIA LITERACY AND PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXAMINE THE CONCEPT OF FAKE NEWS.

2020 saw the Get It Right project come to an end, with a completed resource the 'Media Literacy Resource Guide Handbook' available to youth workers, teachers, trainers, and volunteers. The guide is available in three languages - English, Romanian and Greek.



Erasmus+



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Y/E 31/12/2020
SUMMARY FOR YEAR

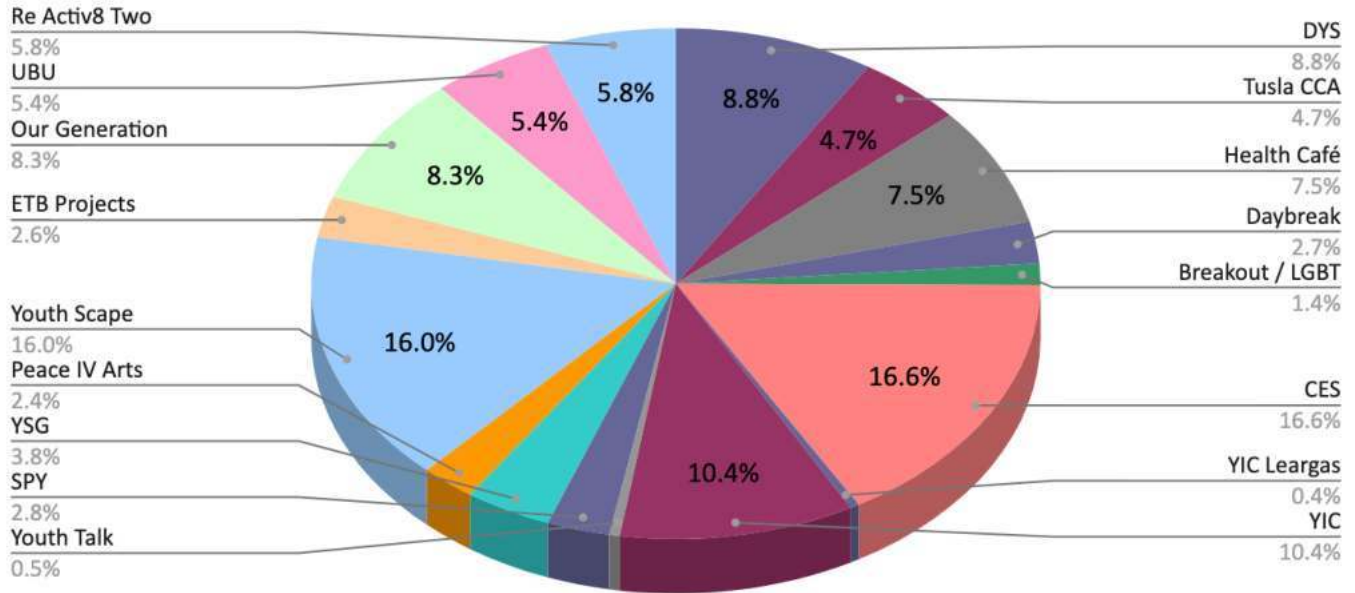
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	
DYS	143,445	122,106	8.8%	7.6%	21,339
Tusla CCA	76,014	76,014	4.7%	4.7%	-
Health Café	122,376	122,631	7.5%	7.7%	- 255
Daybreak	42,997	42,873	2.7%	2.7%	124
Breakout / LGBT	21,886	22,856	1.4%	1.4%	- 970
CES	268,391	268,402	16.6%	16.8%	- 11
YIC Leargas	6,425	6,425	0.4%	0.4%	-
YIC	168,966	169,450	10.4%	10.6%	- 484
Youth Talk	7,551	7,549	0.5%	0.5%	2
SPY	45,048	44,766	2.8%	2.8%	282
YSG	62,273	66,942	3.8%	4.2%	- 4,669
Peace IV Arts	39,138	40,595	2.4%	2.5%	- 1,457
Youth Scape	258,625	252,678	16.0%	15.8%	5,947
ETB Projects	42,344	42,344	2.6%	2.6%	-
Our Generation	134,780	134,780	8.3%	8.4%	-
UBU	86,833	87,422	5.4%	5.5%	- 589
Re Activ8 Two	94,055	94,055	5.8%	5.9%	-
	<u>1,621,147</u>	<u>1,601,888</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	
	1,621,147	1601888			

Expenditure

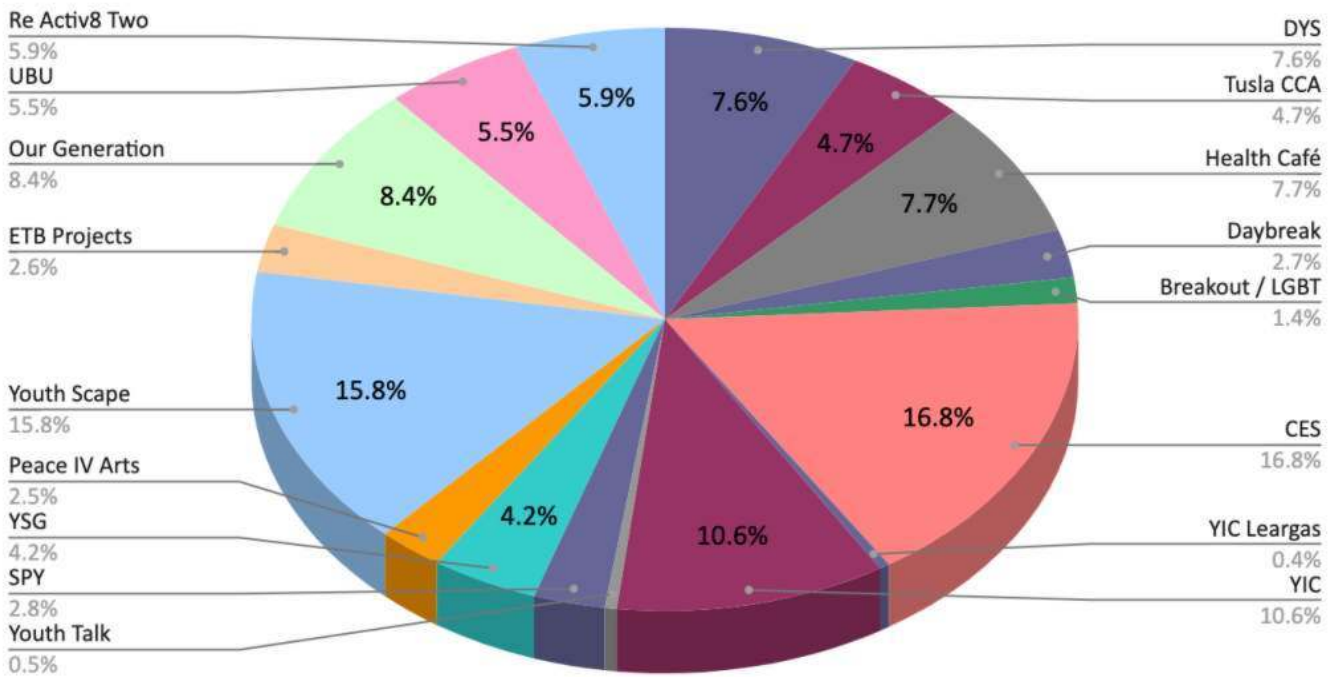
DYS	122,106
Tusla CCA	76,014
Health Café	122,631
Daybreak	42,873
Breakout / LGBT	22,856
CES	268,402
YIC Leargas	6,425
YIC	169,450
Youth Talk	7,549
SPY	44,766
YSG	66,942
Peace IV Arts	40,595
Youth Scape	252,678
ETB Projects	42,344
Our Generation	134,780
UBU	87,422
Re Activ8 Two	94,055
	<u>1,601,888</u>

DONEGAL YOUTH SERVICE CLG
CHARITY NUMBER CHY15027
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 20050696
COMPANY NUMBER 349076

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 €	€	2019 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7	49,503		30,316	
			49,503		30,316
Current assets					
Debtors	8	434,757		194,235	
Cash at bank and in hand		385,381		386,830	
		820,138		581,065	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(784,382)		(566,259)	
Net current assets			35,756		14,806
Total assets less current liabilities			85,259		45,122
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		(45,613)		(24,735)
Net assets			39,646		20,387
Capital and reserves					
Income and Expenditure account			39,646		20,387
Charity Reserve funds			39,646		20,387

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 30 June 2021 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Frank Dooley
Director

Ciaran Maguire
Director

2020



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Donegal
Youth Service
Youth Work Ireland



2020

7895 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

404 ADULT VOLUNTEERS

496 ADULTS TRAINED

4251 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED

2589 ONE TO ONE HOURS

25 YOUTH CLUBS & PROJECTS

7 EVENTS

100 PARTNERSHIPS

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

