

# Annual Report

## 2021



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

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## Regional Director and Chairperson's Address



Lorraine Thompson  
Regional Director

2021 commenced with a degree of cautious optimism in the hope that the Covid19 pandemic would come to an end, but unfortunately that did not materialise. The year was marred by periods of restrictions and lock downs as well as a glimmer of hope with the roll out of a national vaccine programme to help alleviate the impact of the virus.

The effect on normal life from children and young people continued to intensify, it has widely been reported that the pandemic affected this age group more than any other and we have seen first-hand the huge impact 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 restrictions has left many children and young people struggling with these changes. Donegal Youth Service continued to navigate our service through the varying levels of restrictions, taking our lead from the HSE and DCEDIY (Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) guidance. The staff team worked with small groups of young people indoors where possible, outdoor work featured heavily and working through on-line platforms such as Zoom, Nearpod, which continued to be part of the daily offer of service.

A major casualty of the pandemic has been



Frank Dooley  
Chairperson

volunteer led Youth Clubs who have unanimously stated that Covid19 has impacted on their ability to provide services to young people, it has financially impacted on their ability to reopen when restrictions ease and they are very concerned about their ability to re-engage volunteers. To this end Donegal Youth Service spearheaded a national campaign in 2021 to lobby the government for additional resources and supports to help youth clubs to re-open. This campaign was supported nationally by Youth Work Ireland and locally by Donegal ETB. Reflecting on 2021 at this stage we are pleased to say that we met these challenges head on with our usual problem-solving approach and made a determined effort to ensure that the service continued to be delivered to young people as much as possible.

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

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

## DYS Year in Numbers

11418 Young People Engaged  
338 Adult Volunteers  
493 Adults Trained  
4280 Young People Trained  
954 One to One Hours  
25 Youth Clubs & Projects  
20 Events  
53 Strategic Partnerships

## DYS Staff



## 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 Regulators 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

## 2021 Board of Directors

Chairperson: Frank Dooley

Vice Chairperson: Marina Carlin

Company Secretary: Ciaran Maguire

Treasurer: Paul Mc Cusker

Treasurer: Aoife Louise McCullough

John Byrne

Stephen O Donnell

Ciaran Coyle

Paul Kernan

Seán Ó Longáin

Bebhinn Mullins

## DYS Mission & Guiding Principles

### Mission

To engage young people in a process of learning and development 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. Work 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 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

## 2021 Staff Members



Lorraine Thompson .....	Regional Director
Charlene Logue .....	Youth Outreach Manager
Ineke Abbas .....	Youth Outreach Worker
Pearl Johnston .....	Youth Outreach Worker
Maria Crossan .....	Office & Finance Manager
Michelle Sweeney .....	Administrator
Gareth Gibson .....	Youth Information Manager
Dominic Mc Glinchey .....	Youth Worker
Kasia Kurzeja .....	Youth Information Officer
Louise Lynch .....	Youth Information Officer
Derek Callaghan .....	Youth Worker/PR
Claire Bradley .....	Daybreak Project Worker
Layla Kuyper .....	Daybreak Project Worker/PR
Sinead Murray .....	Youth Worker
Karen Conlon .....	BreakOut Youth Worker
Frankie Mc Greevy .....	Our Generation Manager
Billy Banda .....	Loft Project Worker
Siobhan O'Connor .....	Loft Project Worker
Lee Stephenson .....	CE Supervisor
Michelle Wylam .....	Reactiv8 Project Worker
Helen Simms .....	Reactiv8 Project Worker
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 McCauley .....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Fadl Mustapha .....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Eve King .....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Avril Hunt .....	Our Generation Youth Worker
Adrian Begley .....	Future Innovator's Development Officer



## Aspire

Funded by DCEDIY under UBU, Aspire is an amalgamation of the former Daybreak (Strand A) and Youth Outreach Project (Strand C) with specific target groups including: LGBTQI+. Young Travellers, Early School Leavers and Youth Club supports.

Aspire will bring together key elements of both programmes, as well as a range of new and innovative options and will work to the 5 National Outcomes for young people and the 7 Proximal Outcomes; Communication, Confidence, Planning & Problem Solving, Relationships, Creativity, Resilience & Emotional Intelligence. We will work to design programmes that allow the full potential of each participant to be realised.

## Day to Day Work

2021 saw the full implementation of the ASPIRE Project (the former Youth Outreach Project & Daybreak Programme). With the country slowly opening up and the ASPIRE team getting out and about across the county delivering programmes to young people and adult volunteers, we were

able to provide additional programmes relevant to young people's needs.

We held 3 Volunteer Forum meetings (blended), where we worked with Volunteers to design and deliver programmes, keep up to date with guidance and prepare for activities.



Creelough YC Claymation

51 sets of workshops

We were not able to have our Annual Street Collection Flag Day due to continued COVID restrictions but Youth Clubs were assisted to apply for various grants including COVID grants and the ETB Youth Club Grant.

Programmes designed and delivered included: 'Claymation' with 4 Clubs: Ceolan School of Music YC, Creelough YC, Malin Head YC, Oige Le Cheile & St. Brigid's YC to a total of 71 participants.

'Ukulele lessons' at Castlefinn YC with 6 participants engaging, Donegal Travellers Project took part in a Girls Wellness group.

A very successful 'On Yer Bike' programme took place with over 27 young people enjoying all aspects of cycling, cycle repair and road safety awareness.

16 young people engaged with our new 'Green Gardening' Project, while 5 young people undertook 'Life Skill' training.

Our 'Art Project' proved very popular with over 60 young people creating beautiful murals, canvases, paintings or sculptures.

Our newly established Transition programme 'Moving On' aimed at 6th class was successfully delivered across 7 schools & 1 FRC and with 139 pupils getting prepared for life at Secondary School.

"The Transition Programme was so practical and well thought out and both Helen and Michelle delivered it with such ease every week. The pupils looked forward to them coming each week and they said that they felt relaxed and able to ask questions that they may be afraid to ask at a school open day for fear of being laughed at. The opportunity to discuss their hopes and fears about secondary school was very beneficial to the pupils. Having the opportunity to discuss timetables and look through a journal has given the pupils more confidence about the move."

"When I come to Daybreak (Aspire) it helps me to attend school the next day"

The ever popular 'Summer Programme' took place in 17 Youth Clubs across the county, with 315 young people having fun in the sun across July & August.



Aspire launch at DYS headquarters



The 'Christmas Card Competition' had 51 entries and we even had a 'Nollaig', Youth Work Ireland, All- Ireland winner!



A Christmas Card Competition entrant

Our 'Early School Leavers Project' worked with 11 young people from 1st year to Junior Cert and actively targeted a return to school for these participants. An end of year activity took place at Letterkenny Activity Centre as a reward for everyone's hard work through the year.

129 pupils over 9 schools took part in the Transition Programme

'Child Protection Awareness Programme' training was delivered to 93 adult volunteers and 197 'NVB1 Garda Vetting' Forms were processed.



Planet Youth Summer Arts Camp

"I learned to read a secondary school timetable and how to use a homework diary. At the start the timetable was very confusing but by the end of the day it was easy. I enjoyed doing the ice breaker games and having fun with my friends. Helen and Michelle were fun and easy to talk to. We had a chance to ask them anything we wanted about going to secondary school and they always answered us. We chatted about our hopes and fears and I realised that my fears were nearly the same as everybody else's and then I didn't feel as bad about mine. I am glad they came to our school to deliver the programme.  
Thanks for the sweets !!!"

Daybreak (Aspire) helps me with my Behaviour

799 Participants engaged

ASPIRE



Club Oige Chríost Rí Life Skills

## Youth Information Centre

The Letterkenny Youth Information Centre provides a free, confidential information service to young people 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. We also support parents/guardians seeking information and support for their young people.

### Day to Day Work

In 2021 we answered 6,141 queries and provided 74 hours on the Youth Information Chat service, having 169 conversations.

We continued to support 3 young people in their European Solidarity Corps (ESC) mobility opportunities abroad. As a Eurodesk Info-Point we delivered quality information on volunteering, studying and working in the EU, as well as successfully cooperated with the national network of Eurodesk and our colleagues from other European countries during the 'Time to Move' campaign. In 2021 over 100 young people participated in our local events.

A pilot group of 8 young people based in Ireland- the Eurodesk Ambassadors Panel- operated mainly online, creating brand new space for information exchange between past participants and young people interested in joining the ESC. The Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying sessions were put on hiatus during the lockdown but



Media group experimenting with video

returned when restrictions were relaxed with even more demand from the local schools. As a team we managed to deliver 107 sessions, mostly within a three-month period, providing crucial information on online safety to around 4,000 pupils, their parents and teachers.

The Mental Health group that was started in 2020 continued with a mix of online sessions and meet ups in the local town park to maintain

"Visiting the Youth Information Centre was a great opportunity to learn about the European Mobility Programme. I hope to go abroad next year!"

6,141 queries



4,874 copies of accommodation  
and employment lists sent

social distancing, allowing young people to find a safe place to talk about pandemic-related issues affecting their mental health, such as loneliness, online schooling, uncertainty what the future brings, and lack of face-to-face contact with family and friends.

In the second half of the year, when we were allowed to switch back to face-to-face work, a long running staple of the Youth Information Centre- the Media Group returned. The participants made the most of getting hands on with cameras, video editing and photography amongst other things.

In 2021 we welcomed a new group called Healthy Hacks. This group concentrated on health and



Time to move event

fitness with a mix of talks and discussions on topics relating to healthy eating habits, gym safety and importance of the motivation to achieve goals. The sessions were kindly supported by one of the local gyms- KO Fitness.

To mark Internet Safety Day, we had a one-off online session with Youthreach in Letterkenny. We were involved with the 'Eye on the Edge' event in conjunction with Galway 2020 and the Eurodesk Ambassadors Panel. Our centre participated in the European Youth Week- 'Our



Gareth Gibson providing the internet safety talk to a parents group

Future in our Hands', which promoted active citizenship. As one of the international partners we worked with Germany, Tunisia and France on the 'Melting Potes' summer camp which was an online youth exchange with 26 young people from 4 countries.

169 Ylchat  
conversations, 74 hours  
provision on LiveChat

"The Youth Information team have helped me  
with CV preparation and have boosted my  
confidence before a job interview."



The Healthy Hacks group at the gym

# Community Employment Project

The DYS Community Employment Project (CE) funds 18 participants and 1 Supervisor. It is funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. It provides support to young people in the community and then in turn through training and development it assists the CE participants into employment or further education.

## Day to Day Work

The CE participants provide support to the various DYS projects including Youth Information Centre, The Loft, Aspire 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 2021 CE participants completed 49 training courses with 4 of these Major awards and 4 participants progressing into employment or education, representing a 66% progression rate and one of these participants is now employed at the DYS.

"Having been a young person and then a volunteer within the DYS organisation for years, progressing onto the CE programme when it became available felt like the natural choice. The allowance for additional training, as well as the nurturing of existing skills has equipped me for the many nuanced challenges and complexities that youth work regularly presents. These complexities have helped me to develop and hone my skills in the work, which are an invaluable asset in this field. Through working on the CE Scheme, I have started working additional hours within the organisation which has been of massive benefit and has given me more experience which I hope will lead to a full time youth work position."



"I joined the DYS CE Project which gave me the opportunity to return to work and pursue a career in office work. I started off in reception and after learning various office skills through the work experience. I am now currently employed as the CE Administrator. My duties include Payroll and all of the accounts. The training I have attended on the CE Project includes QQI L5 Payroll, Bookkeeping, Reception skills, QQI L6 Information Provision. I am also currently studying QQI L5 medical terminology and I am currently looking for employment to work in administration."



CE worker Derek Callaghan discussing Internet Safety with the Media group.

## The LOFT

The LOFT Youth Project & Health 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.

## Day to Day Work

2021 as a year started as 2020 ended with restrictions being in place and our work being carried out online. Although not the ideal environment to operate in it allowed us to still reach the young people that had been accessing the service. During this period of time we carried out a number of successful groups via zoom such as gaming nights, quiz nights, art workshops as well as a very enjoyable bake-off event.

May seen restrictions ease and a return to in person sessions for all our groups. This brought the service back to a sense of normality and let the young people begin to socialise in person again. This meant the return for our boy's group, girl's group and the lads lab. The garage project returned with a cohort of 10 young people completing the project having learned basic skills such as how to change a tyre to more advanced skills like respraying a vehicle and essential car safety skills. All of this was carried out in a safe environment that allowed the young people reach their full potential.

"The workers are easy to chat to and the after school groups are lovely. It's literally like a second home."

64 Young People Awaiting  
of One- to- One Support across 938  
sessions

The summer seen the return of our ever-popular summer programme's. This year's schedule consisted of a cookery week, a cycling camp, fit for life camps, multi activity week, a transition programme for young people starting secondary school and a street art camp. The demand for these camps was high with a total of 80 young people taking part. Some of these camps were a first for us with the street art camp been a great addition to our summer programme.



The LOFT Summer Programme Mural

## 1193 Drop-In Engagements

This group seen the young people work alongside a graffiti artist from the peaball studio to learn the basic skills of graffiti art which they then used to create a piece of art at the end of the week. The multi activity week seen young people getting out and about travelling to different parts of Donegal to take part in a number of activities such as swimming at Ards, biking in Glenveagh, a team building day and the week cumulated in a visit to Wild Ireland and on the way home a stop to visit the Grianan of Aileach fort.

"It's a place where you can escape the real world, have the craic, and relax!"

In the final months of the year our groups returned in full swing with the return of the boys groups, girls groups, lads lab, fir for life etc. We also seen some new groups begin in these months with the introduction of an international girls group and a song writing group into our weekly schedule. These groups help attract new members to the project and ran very successfully to the end of the year.

The young carers group returned to in person group meetings also which was a much-needed boost to these young people as they had missed the in-person interaction they previously had gotten from this group. The group helped plan a

"The staff and free wi-fi are really good, it's a cozy place with a nice atmosphere."

## 104 Engagements with Summer Programmes

fun end of year Christmas party which was well attended. Throughout the year the one to one work provided by the loft continued and was in high demand as the country became accustomed to the new way of life during and post pandemic. The help young people received from these sessions was invaluable as for some it was the only interaction they had with people outside of home during lockdown.

## 346 Engagements in Group Work



The International Girls Group



# Youthscape

Youthscape is a programme for young people aged 14 - 24 years who are not in full time education, employment or training. Each programme is of 38 weeks duration with check-in and follow up at 1 year post completion.

## Day to Day Work

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 training at Level 1 in Good Relations, Interpersonal Skills are undertaken during the programme.

All Cohorts (Groups) take part in trips but because of covid we were unable to do cross border work. So, in Donegal during this period we still enjoyed trips to Rathmullan beach, Arena 7 and Oakfire Adventures.

Our Cohort 9 started in January 2021. We delivered our sessions online until after the Easter break in April when we returned to in-person sessions. We delivered in the Loft, Scoil Mhuire Buncrana and St Eunan's College, Letterkenny.



When we came out of Lockdown we enjoyed trips like this one to Oakfire Adventures

The young people from Cohort 9 took part in a number of workshops such as Time Management, Interview Prep and Multi Media and Digitize Enterprise.

Out of the 44 registered 36 returned to further education with the remainder going onto different courses.

Our Cohort 9 participants took part in our Step challenge and we raised funds for Pieta house and raised an amazing £2604.

Cohort 9 had their Celebration Event in August 2021 and it was held online.

Our cohort 10 started in March 2021 and over both sites we recruited 18 participants. The young people took part in workshops such as Internet Safety, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Money Management and a lot more. We also had a lot of fun with quizzes, games, baking & Make up Tutorials.

144 young people engaged

"The Youthscape programme was first introduced into our TY curriculum in 2020-2021. Our TYs enjoyed and valued this excellent programme so much so that we invited the team back for a second year, thus embedding Youthscape firmly into our TY curriculum. The Youthscape team quickly connects with teenagers and develops a strong rapport with students. They deliver a relevant, interactive and highly engaging programme which is tailored to students' interests and needs. End of year evaluations from my TY cohort echoes this testimony. We look forward to working with Team Youthscape again in the autumn."



Pizza making at youthscape



We all walked together for Pieta House

Out of the 18 participants 15 returned to education, 1 to employment and 2 went onto other courses.

Our Cohort 11 started in August 2021 and we recruited 54 participants and deliver in The Loft, Scoil Mhuire Buncrana, Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada Arranmore and with an International Group from Letterkenny. The young people took part in various workshops such as drugs and alcohol, anger management, stress management and many more. The cohort also enjoyed trips to Arena 7, Rathmullan Beach and Oakfire Adventures. All the young people recruited returned to education.

305 sessions were delivered



Participants of Cohort 11

"My name is Jasmine McGovern, I am 19 years old and I attended the Youthscape program in 2021 in Cohort 8. When I first went into the program I was a very shy, anxious and passive person and knew that I wanted to work on those weaknesses. As I got to know the youth workers and the other young people taking part in the program I began to feel more comfortable while also pushing myself to do things outside of my comfort zone. I took part in activities in the program that I wouldn't have usually done such as write a piece in the newspaper what it was like as a young person living in the lockdown (thanks a lot covid!) and I even went on highland radio to talk about a situation that had occurred in Ireland and I shared my thoughts on it and although I was very nervous, I was very proud of myself once I had done it. I spent a lot of time with my One to One worker talking about my strengths and weaknesses and what I'd like to improve on, along with my goals for the future and was given the chance to be heard without any judgement. I can truly say that attending the Youthscape program was one of the best things I've ever done and I've become such an outgoing, confident and positive person since. I am now coming to the end of studying Health Care Assisting which is all I've ever wanted to do and wouldn't have had the courage to do it without my youth workers pushing me to achieve what I want to do in life so I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who worked with me and helped me get this far. I am very sad to hear that this program is coming to an end but I will take all the memories and everything I've learned while attending with me throughout the rest of my life. Thank you so much."





## Our Generation

The Our Generation project offers a suite of mental Health Resilience programs to young people between the ages of 5 and 25 and to the key contacts in the education and Health sector who directly engage with young people. We are a Peace IV program operating with six other partners on a cross border basis. We offer programs such as Safe Talk to key contacts and the Healthy Me, Peer Mentoring and Provoking thought to children and young people. Our scope of delivery includes Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo and Leitrim

### Day to Day Work



Avril Hunt delivering Little healthy me

The Our Generation Programme delivered a suite of programmes throughout 2021. A total of 460 programmes were delivered in all 4 quarters of the year and across the 5 counties of Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo and Leitrim. These programmes include Healthy Me which is designed to teach children about the importance of staying healthy – both physically and mentally, Provoking Thought is a mental health awareness and resilience programme, Mental Health ambassador Programme aims to establish a network of volunteer ambassadors within education, youth and community settings to

support people who are experiencing mental health problems. The Accredited suicide intervention programme (SafeTALK) equips existing support staff & key contacts of young people with the skills to have conversations about suicide.



Circus skills at the Town Park

"A very nice environment was created by the facilitator."

1500 young people participated in Provoking thought

680 young people  
participated in Peer mentoring

Better Together Peer listeners programme helps children become better listeners with a view to supporting each other. It helps young people to respect difference and recognise that kindness empathy and friendship can be pivotal in developing an overall good level of wellbeing.



cross border shared learning event



cross border shared learning event

"I found the training very helpful with any  
future problems I could have."

1200 young people  
participated in Healthy Me



## Reactiv/8 2



The 'Reactiv-8/2 Programme', funded through the International Fund for Ireland Personal Youth Development Project and operated by Donegal Youth Service is a free youth employability programme on offer to young people aged 16-25yrs. Staff delivered the OCNNI Level II to adult volunteer participants from both sides of the border and the training took place at Fountain Street Community Development Association in Strabane. Unfortunately, during COVID the training had to continue online for a period.

The award of certificates took place face to face in Fountain Street CDA, with Stephen Barrett, IFI in attendance to present the certificate to the participants.

Staff worked closely with participants to ensure the young person's needs were met, the aims of the Project were met and the objectives set down by the International Fund for Ireland were fulfilled

Participants undertook various work experience opportunities and some moved onto employment/education/training.

### Day to Day Work

Staff engaged on the project had a specifically targeted programme to deliver which included One to One work, Queries, Peer Mentoring Programme, Personal Development Programme, Youth Leadership Programme and Youth Work Practice (OCN NI Level II). The Reactiv/8 programme came to an end on 30th of June 2021.

60 One to Ones

38 Queries

86 WhatsApp Support Texts



## UP (Unlock Your Potential)

The UP project commenced in september 2021 following on from the successful conclusion of REACTIV8/2. Funded by the International Fund for Ireland, this programme focused on intensive 1 - 1 support for young people aged 17-24 who may be struggling with life's issues - access to housing, poor mental health, poor physical health, lack of education or employment opportunities, anxiety or depression.

### Day to Day Work

Staff deliver Youth Talk and UP one to ones, Mentoring & Support, Relationship building, CBT if required, Individual & group work, Educational Trips, Signposting & referring to specialised agencies, Assisting practically with grocery shopping, laundry, attending hospital/medical appointments, securing living accomodation, making/organising medical appointments and liaising with other agencies on their behalf.

One to One Sessions continued with relationship building, mentoring & support, Positive role modelling, provided CBT where appropriate, Individual and group work, signposting to other services where appropriate and assisted with independent living skills

171 Youth Talk and One to One Sessions



Presentation of certificates OCN NI Level 2 in Youth Work Practice

"I feel that this programme is helping me with my social skills and communication skills and I also feel like it is helping me to make plans for my future with working etc."



"I feel that this project has allowed me the opportunity to sort a lot of unresolved stuff from my past and also helped me with stuff like applying for an Irish passport, getting started on my driver theory and I feel that it provides a safe space to help with anxiety issues that can arise in certain situations".

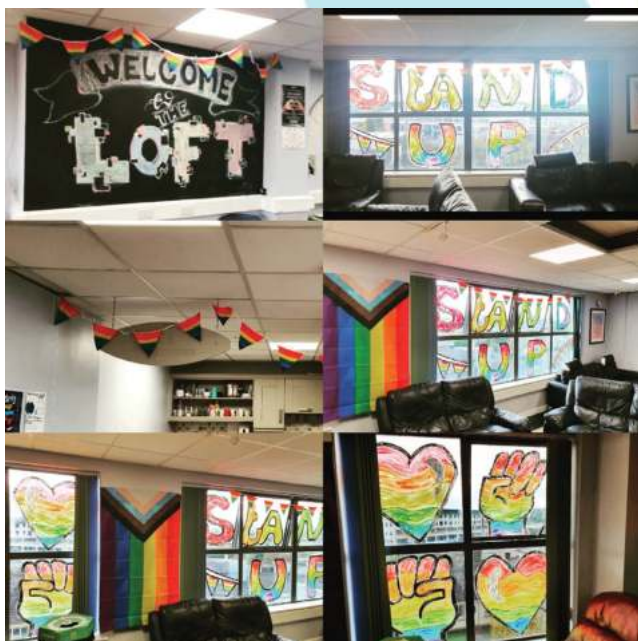
## BreakOut

The aim of BreakOut is to 'work for an Ireland where LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) young people are empowered to embrace their development and growth confidently and to participate as agents of positive social change in their own environment.'

### Day to Day Work

'BreakOut' our LGBT+ Project operated across various locations, including Dunfanaghy, Glenties, Moville & Raphoe with Saturday sessions in Letterkenny. Various activities as well as a residential in Carlingford were undertaken and we saw the membership increase to over 70 under 18's and over 20 over 18's. Stand Up, the National Campaign to promote LGBT+ inclusion

took place virtually and face to face. We also held 2 x 2 day Conferences facilitated by TENI and BreakOuT staff to inform and raise awareness of LGBT+. 1-1 listening ear for parents/supporters & young people is a very important part of the work we do and has been very successful.



Stand Up in the Loft

82 Group Sessions, both online and face to face



Pride on the plaza Chalk it up



Stand up chalk it up





Transgender Equality Network Ireland event

We also participated in Pride on the Plaza and Stand Up Chalk It Up events to raise awareness of LGBT+ rights and we finished up the year by making Sustainable Fashion Christmas jumpers.

"I would just like to thank you, on my own behalf and also on behalf of my daughter for the party yesterday. They had a great time, loves karaoke so that was an immediate plus and frankly she appreciates what is being done there every week (as do myself and my husband) and so she was delighted that she went."



Sustainable fashion Christmas Jumpers



## YouthTalk

Our Youth Talk programme is the umbrella organisation that oversees the delivery of one to one youth work across all the projects that Donegal Youth Service offers. These projects include Creative Community Alternatives (CCA). CCA is an intensive one to one support service that helps young people to maintain their foster care placements. YouthTalk also offers one to one listening ear support. YouthTalk staff work with young people to deliver Youth Work on a one to one basis. Young people are often referred to this project from Tusla Social Work and from CAMHS. We also get referrals from schools, parents and directly from young people themselves.

The YouthTalk programme offers monthly external group supervision to Donegal Youth Service staff to help them to process the impact of hearing the often traumatic stories of individual young people.

### Day to Day Work

In 2021 We worked with 192 young people on a one 2 one basis, this Included 1464 one hour sessions. In these sessions we dealt with a wide range of issues including Family and relationship breakdown as well as Bullying, mental Health issues and moving out of home for college for example.

205 young people on a one 2 one basis

1,464 one hour sessions

346 intensive one 2 one sessions

**YOUTH  
TALK  
DONEGAL**

## Future Innovators

Future Innovators is a new SEUPB funded project being delivered in County Donegal by Donegal Youth Service. A cross border initiative in partnership with several organisations including Co-operation Ireland, Belfast Interface Project, University of Essex and Animorph Co-operative, the Future Innovators project aims to strengthen and secure the future of communities by empowering community organisations and individuals, through direct engagement and training, to use social innovation and enterprise as a vehicle for positive change and improve the social economy. A key element of the process will involve the creation of a digital toolkit in co-operation with each of the communities for use by their residents and organisations to envision and plan projects in their local area.

### Day to Day Work

This project started with a recruitment drive on the Donegal Youth Service website and social media. We recruited a Future Innovators development officer in Adrian Begley. After meetings with our partners on the project to decide on how Future Innovators should develop in Donegal we were able to meet with local community groups in west Donegal, specifically Arranmore Island, to discuss where they wanted the project to go.

We met with the secondary school principal and staff to look at how the Future Innovators programme might be delivered to students.

16 young people engaged



Adrian explaining the Future Innovators project to interested parties from Arranmore Island



Lorraine Thompson, Frankie McGreevy and Kevin Brassel with the Animorph team from Future Innovators heading to Arranmore Island

This also opened the door to more programme delivery through the Our Generation project. There were a number of project team meetings attended in Belfast as well as regular meetings held online with other Future Innovators partner organisations.

After a period of (Social innovation workshops and discussions we were ready to officially launch.

The launch of Future Innovators programme took place at The Marrowbone Community Hub in Belfast. It was attended by DYS staff, Lorraine Thompson, Frankie McGreevy and Adrian Begley along with our partner groups and reps from NI Executive, SEUPB and Department of Rural and Community Development.



Lorraine Thompson, Frankie McGreevy and Adrian Begley at The Marrowbone Community Hub in Belfast for the Future Innovators Launch in Belfast

100+ people engaged within Donegal

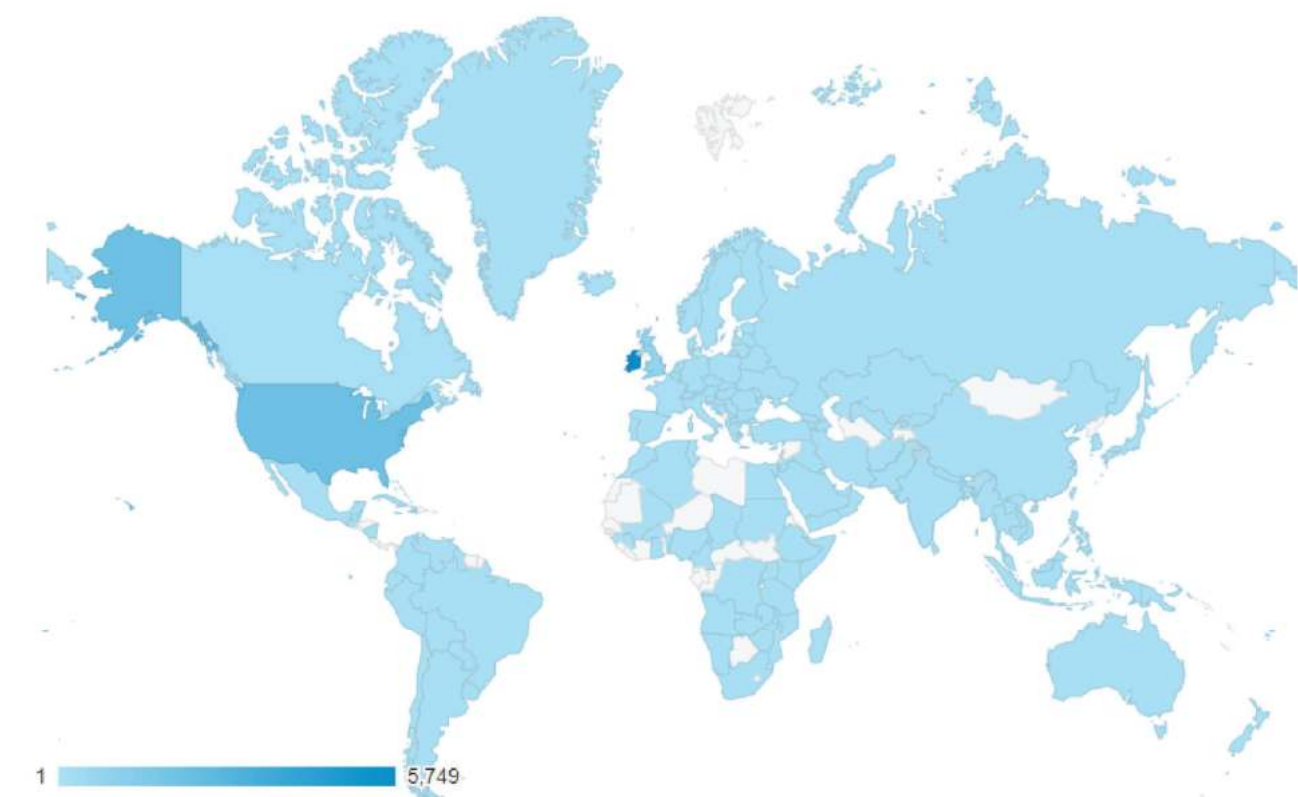


# Future Innovators



# DYS Website

Where in the world



Country	Users	% Users
1.  Ireland	5,749	56.51%
2.  United States	2,089	20.53%
3.  United Kingdom	783	7.70%
4. (not set)	108	1.06%
5.  Philippines	101	0.99%
6.  Germany	88	0.87%
7.  India	74	0.73%
8.  Spain	68	0.67%
9.  Canada	64	0.63%
10.  France	62	0.61%



## Donegal Youth Service Projects

### Thank you to our funders

Aspire Donegal is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, UBU, ETB Donegal and the National Lottery



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



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



National  
Lottery

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



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



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

The LOFT Youth Project & Health Café is managed by DYS and Foróige and funded by Tusla



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



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

The Our Generation Project is funded by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme



The Reactiv8/2 Project is funded by the International Fund for Ireland



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

The UP (Unlock your Potential) Programme is funded by the International Fund for Ireland



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

The Youthscape Project is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, Peace4Youth, the Northern Ireland Executive, Tides and South West College



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



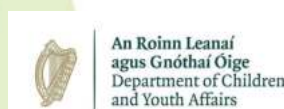
Peace4Youth



Northern Ireland  
Executive  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



The BreakOut Project is funded by the HSE, BelongTo, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs Children & Young People's Services Committees



Intensive One to One work is funded by Tusla



The Future Innovators project is funded by Special EU Programmes Body and PEACE IV



Donegal  
Youth Service  
Youth Work Ireland





# Financial Summary

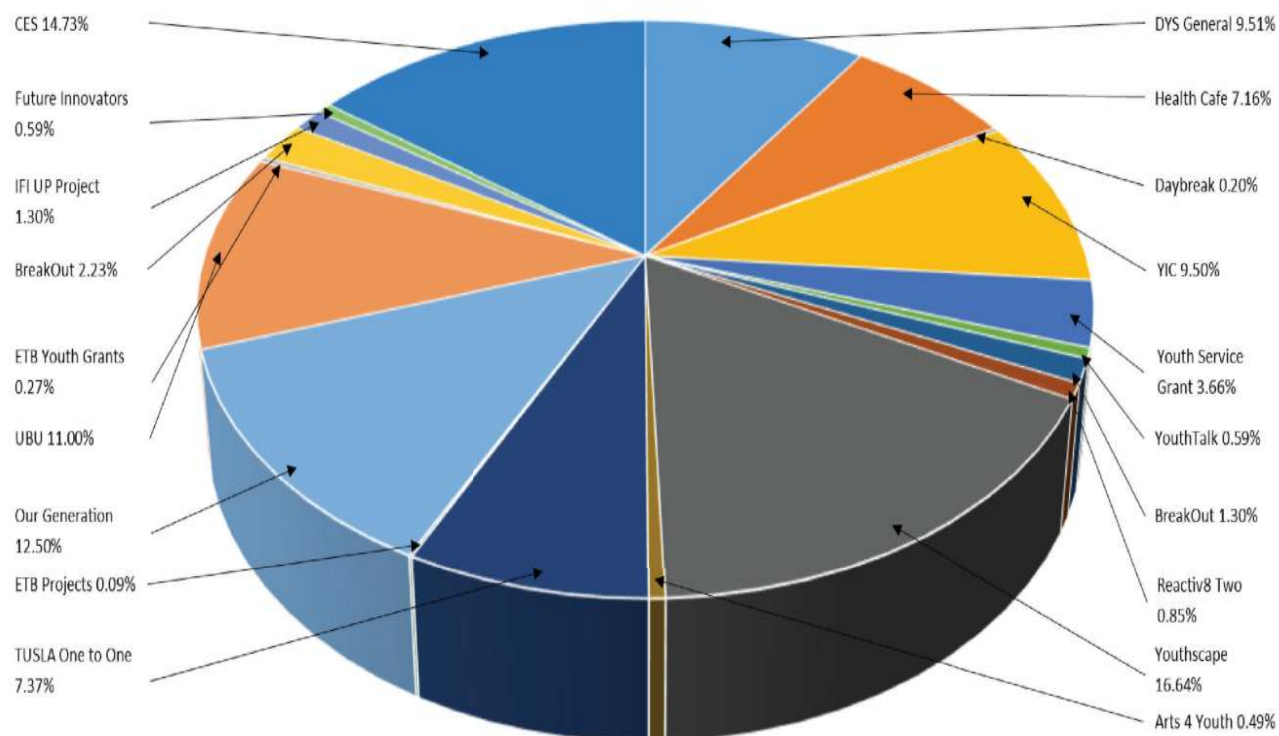
Y/E 31/12/2021  
Summary for year

	Income €	Expenditure €	Surplus	Income %	Expenditure %
DYS General	154,817	137,078	17,739	9.51%	8.55%
Health Café	116,609	116,612	- 3	7.16%	7.27%
Daybreak	3,322	3,322	-	0.20%	0.21%
YIC	154,700	154,727	- 27	9.50%	9.65%
Youth Service Grant	59,594	69,270	- 9,676	3.66%	4.32%
Youth Talk	9,602	9,621	- 19	0.59%	0.60%
Breakout	21,186	21,345	- 159	1.30%	1.33%
ReActiv8 Two	13,923	13,832	91	0.85%	0.86%
Youthscape	271,054	252,610	18,444	16.64%	15.76%
Arts 4YOUth	8,046	8,483	- 437	0.49%	0.53%
Tusla: One to One	120,011	120,011	-	7.37%	7.49%
ETB Projects	1,507	1,507	-	0.09%	0.09%
Our Generation	203,570	203,569	1	12.50%	12.70%
UBU	179,174	179,570	- 396	11.00%	11.20%
ETB Youth Grants	4,387	4,387	-	0.27%	0.27%
Breakout - Dept of Justice	36,282	36,282	-	2.23%	2.26%
IFI - UP Project	21,244	21,283	- 39	1.30%	1.33%
Future Innovators	9,616	9,615	1	0.59%	0.60%
CES	239,929	239,918	11	14.73%	14.97%
	<b>1,628,573</b>	<b>1,603,042</b>	<b>25,531</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

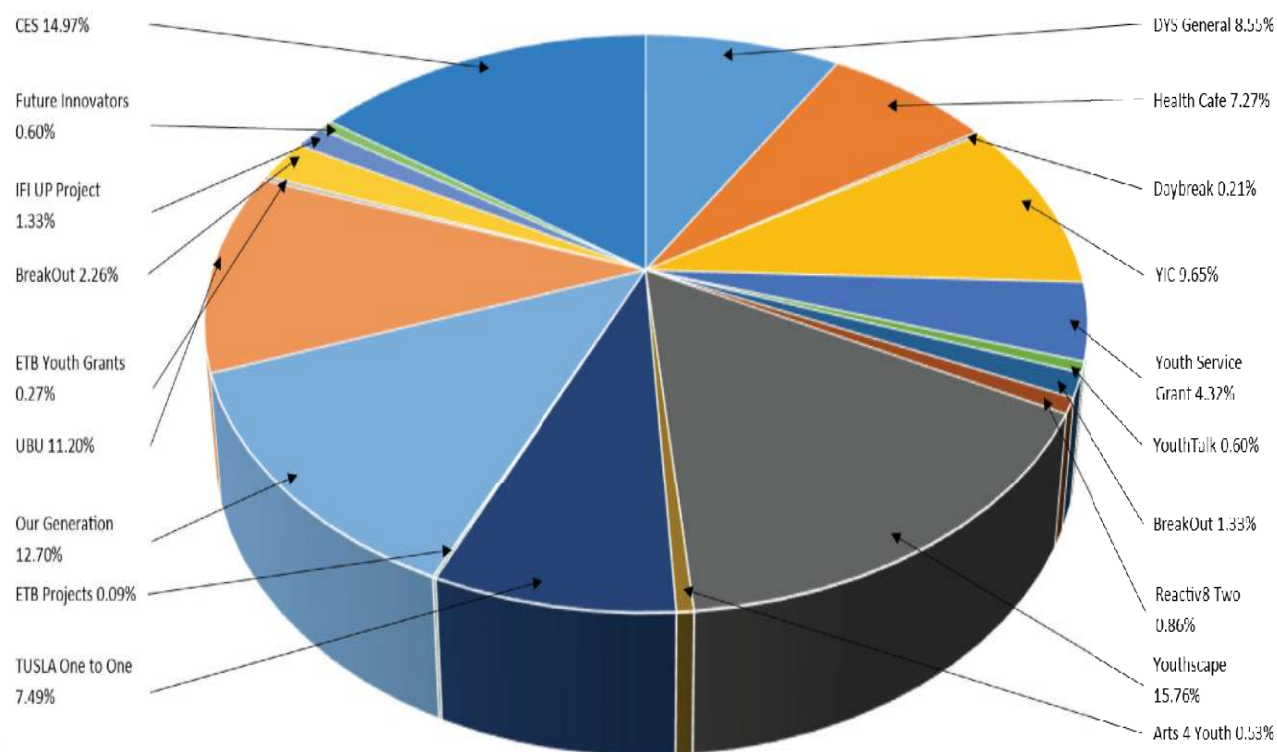
	Expenditure €
DYS General	137,078
Health Café	116,612
Daybreak	3,322
YIC	154,727
Youth Service Grant	69,270
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Our Generation	203,569
UBU	179,570
ETB Youth Grants	4,387
Breakout - Dept of Justice	36,282
IFI - UP Project	21,283
Future Innovators	9,615
CES	239,918

Donegal Youth Service CLG  
Charity Number:  
CHY15027  
Charity Registration Number:  
20050696  
Company Number:  
349076

## Income €



## Expenditure €



# Financial Summary

## Donegal Youth Services CLG (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

### Balance sheet As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 €	€	As restated 2020 €	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8	<u>65,102</u>		<u>49,503</u>	
			65,102		49,503
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	386,664		434,757	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>375,120</u>		<u>385,381</u>	
		761,784		820,138	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	<u>(509,482)</u>		<u>(594,151)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			252,302		225,987
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>317,404</u>		<u>275,490</u>
<b>Capital Grants</b>	11		(61,996)		(45,613)
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>255,408</u>		<u>229,877</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Income and Expenditure account			<u>255,408</u>		<u>229,877</u>
<b>Members funds</b>			<u>255,408</u>		<u>229,877</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 Section 1A of FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 23 August 2022 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Ciaran Maguire  
Director

Frank Dooley  
Director



**2021**

**11418 Young People Engaged**

**338 Adult Volunteers**

**493 Adults Trained**

**4280 Young People Trained**

**954 One to One Hours**

**25 Youth Clubs & Projects**

**20 Events**

**53 Partnerships**

**Donegal Youth Service**

**16–18 Port Road**

**Letterkenny**

**074 91 29630**

**[Www.donegalyouthservice.ie](http://www.donegalyouthservice.ie)**

**[admin@donegalyouthservice.ie](mailto:admin@donegalyouthservice.ie)**

**Donegal Youth Service is a registered Irish charity**

**Registered Charity No. 20050696**