



Youth Work Ireland

# TRUSTEE REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

# 20 24



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



Youth Work Ireland

# TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

20  
24

Charity Regulatory Authority Number (RCN): **20068363**  
Charity Reference Number: **CHY 18032**  
Companies Registration Office: **193547**  
Registered and Business Address: **20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1**

**Auditor:** Whelan Dowling & Associates  
Unit 1+4, Block 1  
Northwood Court  
Santry  
Dublin 9

**Bankers:** Bank of Ireland  
6, Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

**Solicitors:** Crowley Miller Solicitors LLP  
3, Exchange Place Georges Dock, IFSC Dublin 1

National Youth Federation CLG (A Company Limited by Guarantee) Trading as Youth Work Ireland

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Youth Work Ireland Staff and Board - September 2024



# TRUSTEES INFORMATION

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Deborah Fakeye (appointed Nov 2019)
<b>PRESIDENT ELECT</b>	Danielle Gayson (AGM 2024)
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	Catherine Durkin (appointed 27th July 2017)
<b>SECRETARY AND INTERIM TREASURER</b>	Michael Connolly (appointed 8th February 2020)

<b>Directors Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
President	Deborah Fakeye	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Chair (co-opted)	Catherine Durkin	AGM 2017	AGM 2026
Senior Manager MYS	Geraldine Hogarty	AGM 2021	AGM 2027
Senior Manager MYS	Donal Kelly	AGM 2023	AGM 2026
Senior Manager MYS	Berni Smyth	AGM 2023	AGM 2026
Senior Manager MYS	Caroline Flanagan	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Senior Volunteer	John Byrne	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Co-option	Eddie D'Arcy	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
National Youth Action Group	Molly Hickey	AGM 2023	AGM 2026
National Youth Action Group	Danielle Gayson	AGM 2018	AGM 2028
Senior Volunteer	Sean Roche	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
Co-opted	Michael Connolly	AGM 2018	AGM 2024
Co-opted	Pat Hayes	2024	AGM 2027
National Youth Action Group	Leo Galvin	2023	2026
In attendance + National Youth Action Group	Doireann Walsh	2023	2026
<b>Retired 2024</b>			
None			

## INTRODUCTION

The National Youth Federation (CLG) trading as [Youth Work Ireland](#) (referred to henceforth as Youth Work Ireland), is a registered charity operating within the republic of Ireland under the [Charities Act 2009](#). The vision of Youth Work Ireland is *'an Ireland of equality, access, and participation for all young people'*.

The mission is *'...to work together with our member youth services to inspire, educate and empower all young people'*. Youth Work Ireland is a federation of 20 independent youth services, coordinated by a national office. The financial statements prepared are in relation to the national office only.

Collectively, Youth Work Ireland working with the member youth services (20), supports hundreds of voluntary youth clubs, targeted youth projects, youth diversion programmes and a whole range of educational and recreational activities for youth people throughout the country.

The following accounts reflect those of the national office as each member youth service is a separate legal entity and provides their own Trustee Report and Financial Statements.



## OUR VISION



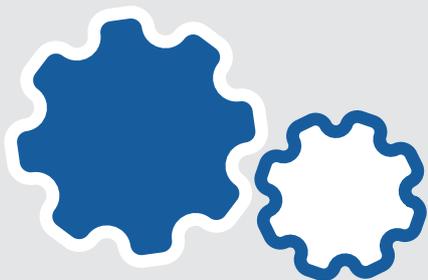
*An Ireland of equality, access, and participation for all young people*

## OUR MISSION



*To work together with our members to inspire, educate and empower all young people.*

## OUR WORK



Our work in 2024 is guided and informed by the four pillars of our [\*\*Strategic Statement 2022 - 2027\*\*](#) COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY, SUPPORT and IMPACT.

## THE FOUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

**Communication**



**Advocacy**



**Support**



**Impact**



# EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

## CONSTITUTION

Youth Work Ireland is registered as a company limited by guarantee (CLG), not having a share capital (CRO No. 193547). We have also been granted charitable status under section 207 and 208 of the [Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997](#) (CHY 18032) and registered as a charity under the Charities Act 2008. The main objective for which the company is established is:

*To benefit the community through a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and is provided by voluntary youth work organisations.*

## GOVERNANCE

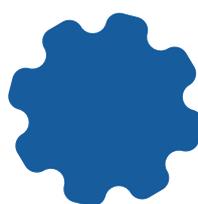
The board of Youth Work Ireland in 2024 continued to be committed to achieving high standards of governance. In 2019, the Charities Regulatory issued new [Governance Code](#) in Ireland. Youth Work Ireland regularly reviews the code at board level to ensure that the board and the whole organisation is compliant and can provide the evidence required in the compliance record mandated from 2020 onwards. In 2024 we moved our risk register and charities regulator report onto an online platform called [CalQRisk](#). Our board members and management team received training on how to operate the platform in 2024.

The board reported on its performance in relation to both finance and governance to the [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth](#) (DCEDIY) twice in 2024. The organisation reports on its finances in accordance with the [Charity SORP \(FRS102\)](#) - Statement of Recommended Practice. Our organisation also adheres to the [Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising](#).

The board delegates day-to-day management of the organization to the CEO who is supported by the Assistant CEO, management team and all staff, volunteer and young people. The board approves annual budgets, operational plans and statutory audit outcomes.

# THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN 2024:

<b>Directors Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
President	Deborah Fakeye	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Chair (co-opted)	Catherine Durkin	AGM 2017	AGM 2026
Senior Manager	Geraldine Hogarty	AGM 2021	AGM 2024
Senior Manager MYS	Donal Kelly	AGM 2023	AGM 2026
Senior Manager MYS	Berni Smyth	AGM 2023	AGM 2026
Senior Manager MYS	Caroline Flanagan	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Senior Volunteer	John Byrne	AGM 2019	AGM 2025
Co-option	Eddie D'Arcy	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
National Youth Action Group	Molly Hickey	AGM 2023	AGM 2024
National Youth Action Group	Danielle Gayson	AGM 2018	AGM 2028
Senior Volunteer	Sean Roche	AGM 2022	AGM 2025
Co-opted	Michael Connolly	Sept 2018	AGM 2024
National Youth Action Group	Leo Galvin	2023	2026
National Youth Action Group	Doireann Walsh	2023	2026



The composition of the board is regularly reviewed but most especially directly after the AGM each year when a skills audit takes place. At the start of each board meeting, conflicts of loyalties and conflicts of interest are assessed and minuted to ensure fairness and transparency in decision making. If board members express either a conflict of interest or a conflict of loyalty in relation to an agenda item, they are required (under their signed Code of Behavior for Youth Work Ireland board members), to leave the room when that agenda item is being discussed. All board members are required to sign the Code of Conduct for board members and a declaration of interest. The board meets regularly throughout the year.

The board met 6 times during 2024 for formal board meetings. There were also 2 separate board training sessions and 3 joint meetings between the Board and Staff.

## BOARD REGISTRATION RECORD 2023-2024

12 current members: Quorum is 50% +1 which is 7 members present

Name	Code of Conduct Signed	Trustee Register of Interest	Tablet Policy	25 Oct 2023 Res/ial	1 Nov 2023 Indu	9 Dec 2023	10 Feb 2024	11 Apr 2024	18/19 May 2024 Res/ial	29 May 2024	13 Jul 2024	28 Sept 2024	12 Dec 2024
John Byrne	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y
Michael Connolly	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Catherine Durkin	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Deborah Fakeye	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y	Apol.	Y			Y
Caroline Flanagan	Y	Y	Y	Y		Apol.	Apol.	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Y
Danielle Gayson	Y	Y	Y	Apol.		Y	Y	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Y
Geraldine Hogarty	Y	Y	Y	Y		Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Apol.	Apol.	Y
Eddie D'Arcy			Y	Y		Y	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Apol.	Apol.	Y	Y
Sean Roche			n/a	Y		Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Berni Smyth	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Y
Donal Kelly		Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Apol.	Apol.	Apol.	Y
Molly Hickey					Y	Y	Apol.	Apol.	Y	Apol.	Y	Y	Y
Leo Galvin	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apol.	Y
Pat Hayes					Y						Appt.	Y	Y
Doireann Walsh	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

# SUBGROUPS OF THE BOARD

There are 4 Subgroups of the Board of Trustees each of which have their own agreed Terms of Reference and work plan. The chair of each subgroup is a member of the board of trustees. The following are the 4 current subgroups of the board of trustees set up to oversee the implementation of specific aspect of our Strategic Statement (2022-2027)

1. Governance Subgroup
2. National Youth Action Group
3. Advocacy Subgroup
4. Membership Support and Practice Subgroup

**This following are the attendance records for the above subgroups in 2024.**

## Governance Sub-Group Meetings 2024

The Governance sub-group met 6 times during 2024

Member	9 Feb 2023	31 Jan 2024	10 Apr 2024	7 May 2024	4 July 2024	14 Nov 2024
Deborah Fakeye (President)	Apol.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Catherine Durkin (Chair)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apol.	Y
Michael Connolly (Company Secretary & Acting Chair of the Subgroup)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Apol.
Donal Kelly		Y	Y	Y	Apol.	Apol.
Danielle Gayson			Y	Y	Y	Y

## Advocacy Sub-Group Meetings 2024

The Advocacy sub-group met twice during 2024

Member	5th July 2023	12th Sept 2024
Michael McLoughlin	Y	Y
Leo Galvin	Y	Apol
Eddie D'Arcy	Y	Y
Christina Fogarty	Y	Y
Patrick Burke		Y

## National Youth Action Group (NYAG)

The National Youth Action Group met 9 times during 2024

Member	11th Jan 2024	22 Feb 2024	12 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	27 May 2024	16 Sept 2024	26 Sept 2024	16 Nov 2024	3 Dec 2024
Aisling Maloney	Y		Y	Y				Y	Y
Katie O'Sullivan	Y		Y		Y				Y
Aoife Moloney	Y		Y			Y			Y
Sienna Keane	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		
Mairin Harding	Y	Y	Y						Y
Bel Nabule	Y								
Eoin Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Jessica Moffitt	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	
Anna MacWey	Y	Y		Y		Y			Y
Leo Galvin	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Jamie Mac Giolla Bhain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Caoimhe Lalor	Y								
Doireann Walsh		Y	Y		Y			Y	Y
Radia O'Gorman		Y				Y	Y	Y	Y
Emma Cox		Y	Y						Y
Ryan Dolan				Y					
Conor Flaherty				Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Steven Sheridan					Y			Y	
Cian Gleeson					Y				
Molly Hickey									Y
Joseph Burke			Y						
Lorcan Cullen								Y	
Conor Lorcan							Y		

## Support and Practice Sub-Group Meetings 2024

In 2024 the Support and Practice Sub Group met three times and focused on reviewing and updating its terms of reference and worked on developing new relationships with agencies such as Tusla.

Member	15 May 2024	11 July 2024	20 Nov 2024
Berni Smyth (Chair)	Y	Y	
Kathryn Wall	Y	Y	
Tom Dunne	Y	Y	Y
Deirdre Birmingham	Y	Y	
Donal Kelly	Y		
Fiona O'Grady	Y		Y
Clive Davis	Y		Y
Geraldine Lacey	Y	Y	

# REGIONAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS 2024

Our regional directors Network met on 9 occasions including a residential in 2024

NAME	REGION	6 Feb 2024	12 Mar 2024	9 Apr 2024	15 May 2024	11 June 2024	16 July 2024	17 Sept 2024	14/15 Oct 2024	26 Nov 2024
		Online	In person	Online	Online	In Person	Online	Online	Res/ial	Online
Caolan Faux	YWI Cavan / Monaghan	X	X	Y	X	X	X	Y	Y	X
Kathryn Wall	CRYS	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Margaret Slattery	Clare YS	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y
Lorraine O'Donovan	CDYS YWI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kieran Donohoe	FDYS	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X
Berni Smyth Gareth Harteveld	KDYS	X Y	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -
Donal Kelly	YWI Tipperary	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y
Clive Davis	YWI Laois	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y
SaraJane McNaboe Nicola Fagan	Co Longford YS	Y -	Y -	X -	X -	X -	- Y	- Y	- X	- X
Christina Fogarty	WSTCYS	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lorraine Thompson	Donegal YS	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X
Geraldine Lacey	YWI Midlands	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X
Ger Hogarty	YWI Meath	X	X	X	X	Y	X	Y	Y	Y
Ger Lovatt Pat Forde	YWI North Connaught	X -	Y -	Y -	Y -	Y -	- X	- X	- X	- X
Fiona O'Grady	Limerick YS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y
Caroline Flanagan	YWI Louth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X
Irene Murphy Deirdre Bermingham	YWI Galway	X Y	X Y	X X	X X	X Y	Y -	X Y	Y Y	Y Y
Mary Mescal	Ossory Youth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Alison Finn	CCRYS	X	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y
Tom Dunne	IN SYNC	Y	Y	X	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y
<b>National Office Staff Attendance</b>										
Patrick Burke	YWI NO	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	X
Matthew Seebach	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Geraldine Moore	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	X	Y
Michael McLoughlin	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X
Breege Kiernan	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gina Halpin	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul Gralton	YWI NO	X	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mary Horgan	YWI NO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Niamh Codd	YWI NO				Y	Y	X	X	X	X

# STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATION THAT IS YOUTH WORK IRELAND



Youth Work Ireland is a federation of 20 independent and autonomous member youth services throughout the Republic of Ireland. Our collective, federal activities are coordinated by a national office.

The 20 member youth services are in most cases constituted as independent companies limited by guarantee (19) and one is constituted as a Trust ([Limerick Youth Services](#)). Our one associate member is a department of the local Leader company ([County Longford Youth Services](#)). For the majority of the members, the affiliated youth clubs are the members of member youth services (which is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a charity), and have a vote at the AGM (Annual General Meeting). Sometimes volunteers from projects also have votes at regional AGMs. In this way young people and volunteers direct the activities of their local youth services. A full list of our members can be found in Appendix 1.

Voluntary youth clubs affiliated to our member youth services reaffiliate every year to one of our member youth services. A large number of our clubs have been in existence for many years. Clubs are only considered to be a part of Youth Work Ireland when they are formally affiliated on a yearly basis with our member youth service

## Risk Management

Youth Work Ireland has a set of internal controls in place and these are reviewed regularly. There is a comprehensive set of financial and other policies in place, and these are available on our [website](#) for review. Management accounts, cashflow, balance sheet, and reserves position are shared with the Board at every meeting.

A risk register managed by CalQRisk application is in place and is reviewed by the board regularly. The board considers 4 areas of risk: Strategic, Operational, Financial and Reputational. CalQRisk also assists us in ensuring that we are compliant with our obligations under charity legislation. Actions to mitigate these risks are identified by the board and implemented by staff.

## Staff and Volunteers

Youth Work Ireland depends on a team of highly committed, professional staff and volunteers. Our work would not be possible without these people. The organisation is committed to ensuring the well-being of staff and have a number of policies to protect staff in the staff handbook:

- Dignity at Work Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Protected Disclosures Policy
- Working remotely policy

A sub-group of staff was also established in 2020 to ensure that actions are in place to support staff wellbeing. The work of this subgroup continued in 2024 and a number of wellness and team building initiatives were delivered to all staff throughout the year. Youth Work Ireland, as an equal opportunities' employer, fully subscribes to the principle of equal pay as defined in the [Employment Equality Act 1998](#). In 2023 the board decided that our salary scales would be linked to public pay scales and national pay agreements. This policy was maintained and fully implemented in 2024. There are a number of policies relating to conduct, which all staff and volunteers must adhere to. These are set out in our Staff Manual (updated in 2022), volunteering supports, and our Safeguarding (Policies and Guidelines), [also updated in 2022].

# STRATEGIC STATEMENT 2022-2027

## STRATEGIC PILLARS

The collective efforts of Youth Work Ireland's national office are organised into four distinct yet interconnected pillars. These pillars provide a structured framework that guide our work, ensuring continuity and shaping of our annual work plans.



### COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

Under this pillar we promote and communicate our work, as a national office, in service to our member youth services and to confirm our role as an organisation for our organisations within Youth Work Ireland.



### ADVOCACY PILLAR

Under this pillar we advocate, as a national office on matters relating to youth work and young people as identified by our membership. We are and will continue to be the collective voice for our member youth services and young people.



### SUPPORT PILLAR

Under this pillar we work to strengthen our organisational structure and the full range of supports we offer in response to needs articulated by our membership. We work to maximise the power and potential of our federal model.



### IMPACT PILLAR

Under this pillar we reinforce our work, with and through our membership to achieve optimal outcomes for young people. We continue to monitor, evaluate and research our work in order to evidence our impact.



# YOUTH WORK FOR ALL



On November 4th, 2024, Youth Work Ireland unveiled its "Youth Work for All" campaign during the [National Consensus Conference](#) in The Gibson Hotel, Dublin. The event was attended by 200+ youth workers, young people, volunteers, and policymakers. The campaign advocates for universal access to youth services, emphasising that every young person, irrespective of location, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or ability, should have access to youth supports in their communities.

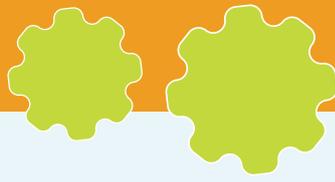
## Key Highlights of the Campaign:

- **Youth Work as an Enabler of Rights:** The campaign underscores youth work's role in informing young people about their rights and equipping them to assert these rights.
- **Support for Volunteers and Voluntary Services:** Recognising the essential contributions of volunteers, the campaign calls for adequate funding and support for voluntary youth services.
- **Integrated and Holistic Approach:** There is an emphasis on policies and funding that support a comprehensive approach to youth service provision in Ireland.
- **Universal Engagement:** The campaign promotes youth work that engages all young people universally, without being confined to targeted or universal categories.

The purpose of the day was to allow participants to reach a consensus on what needs to be done to support and realise Youth Work for All. Participants included those from the [Taoiseach's office](#), [DCEDIY](#), [TUSLA](#), [Department of Justice](#), [Youth Justice](#), [Council of Europe](#) – Head of Youth, [ETBI](#), and [Ombudsman for Children](#). During the morning plenary, participants heard about the policy and service challenges and opportunities that gave rise to this campaign. They listened to real, meaningful stories of what those challenges look like during our past present future montage and they heard about our proposed next steps to achieve Youth Work for All Demands.

The campaign launch and the actions that have emerged underscore the critical need for enhanced support and recognition of youth services in Ireland. Youth Work Ireland is committed to working towards ensuring that all young people have access to quality youth services that support their personal and social development.





# IRISH YOUTH MUSIC AWARDS



The [Irish Youth Music Awards](#) (IYMAs) is an all-island youth sector wide youth work programme that provides teenagers with personal development, employability skills, career and educational support via creative hands-on music based education which includes industry workshops, creative collaborative activity based task and performance opportunities. 2024 was an amazing year and saw 13 IYMAs hubs participate in the programme from October to April. These young people displayed their creativity and selected their representatives for the National Day in Dublin. The National Day took place in the RDS in Dublin on 17th May 2024. We saw young people from across the IYMAs hubs participate on two stages throughout the day. Young people attended the marketplace where they could meet with [IMRO](#), [RAAP](#), various music education colleges, learn to screenprint along with a clothing pop-up shop. [RTE 2FM](#) were also in attendance and broadcasted live from the event. Workshops included a songwriting workshop from award winning singer songwriter and mental health advocate [Luke Clerkin](#); Skip Christopher took us through a mixing workshop; a DJing workshop and a Q&A with music industry personnel. IYMAs partners and supporters included The [DCEDIY](#), [RTE 2FM](#), [IMRO](#), [RAAP](#), [Youth Action Northern Ireland](#), [Gaisce – The President's Award](#) and the [National Lottery](#).



# YOUTH WORK IRELAND WAY



The [Youth Work Ireland Way](#) is a QQI level 5 Programme established as a means of up-skilling and empowering staff, volunteers and community members in Youth Work Ireland member youth services. It is aimed at anyone who is working in a Youth Work Ireland member youth service who has no specific accredited qualification in youth work. The programme is a central pillar in the support theme of our [Strategic Plan](#). The result and impact of the programme has been a new source of trained youth workers for Youth Work Ireland member youth services. The programme is planned and delivered by [Youth Work Ireland Midlands](#) in collaboration with [LOETB](#).

The course content focuses on youth work in Ireland which is delivered the *Youth Work Ireland Way* - as [Integrated Youth Services Model](#). This model addresses current challenges faced by young people, in particular youth clubs, youth information, substance misuse, youth unemployment, homelessness and the impact of social media on society.

## Highlights from the 2024 Youth Work Ireland Way programme include:

- 3 learners achieving a Major Award in youth work from the first year.
- 19 Youth Work Ireland Way certs issued.
  - Over 40 QQI certs issued
  - 0% fail rate and 100% completion rate.
  - Over 50% Distinctions and 48% Merits
  - 16 active learners on the 2024 programme



# NOLLAIG



Nollaig 'Design a Christmas Card' was launched in September 2024 and is open to young people who are members of our clubs which are affiliated to our member youth services. Nollaig 2024 was yet again very successful with over 320 pieces of artwork received from 13 member youth services. The standard was very high as usual. This years overall winner was Rory Fitzgerald from Kilnaboy Youth Club in [Clare Youth Service](#). The category winners were Vitalina Novikova and Uliana Novikova and Clara Lewis from [Youth Work Ireland Midlands](#). We also awarded 4 highly commended prizes as well to Sophie O'Brien from [Ossory Youth](#), Emer Fitzgerald from Clare.



# DÁIL NA NOG



## Dáil na nÓg

Dáil na nÓg, the National Youth Parliament of Ireland, took place in the House of Oireachtas on the 27th March 2024. The biennial parliament, which provides a platform for young people to speak about and make recommendations on the issues that most affect them, was hosted by the Ceann Comhairle, Seán Ó Feargháil, who chaired the Opening Session in the Dáil Chamber. There were closing remarks in the chamber from Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People, Mary Butler. Dáil na nÓg, now in its 22nd year, tackled a range of issues related to mental health, including body image, school stress, and mental health services. Mental health was identified by over 3,000 young people across Comhairlí na nÓg as their priority issue for discussion in advance of the day. The Youth Advisory Group, supported by the National Participation Office, also held a Preparation Workshop in February to discuss the topics prior to Dáil na nÓg.

The delegates participated in workshops and discussions about the issues during the day. Following a formal vote, school stress was selected as the priority topic by the delegates of Dáil na nÓg. This will inform the work of the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive 2024-2026, who are tasked with advocating for policy change in this area.



## COMHAIRLE na nÓG

### Comhairle na nÓg National Executive



Comhairle na nÓg National Executive is made up of 31 elected young people from each Comhairle across Ireland and is supported by the National Participation Office. The National Executive 2022-2024 worked on Advocating for Inclusive Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in Ireland, following on from the decision in previous Dáil na nÓg. In spring 2024, they met monthly and finalised their report on RSE. The [Department of Education](#) responded very positively to the 'Take Action' proposal and have committed to taking key actions, to ensure that RSE in Ireland is on track to meet the needs of all learners, fostering an inclusive and equitable society. National Executive Members presented their work to the delegates at Dáil na nÓg, and had their final meeting with the incoming National Executive in May 2024. In December 2024, five of the delegates also joined a PACE event in Italy and discussed their work there. The new members of Comhairle na nÓg National Executive were appointed by the local Comhairlí at the beginning of 2024, and they started their work on School Stress in May 2024, followed by the discussions and decision in Dáil na nÓg. Since then, they have met monthly to progress the topic. They have also met with Jigsaw and the Department of Education, and have formed three sub-committees.



### Comhairle na nÓg Regional Networking Events

The National Participation Office organised three Comhairle Members' Regional Networking Events in July 2024. The events took place in Sligo, Limerick, and Dublin respectively and were attended by a total of 93 participants representing 28 Comhairlí na nÓg across the country. At the events, the delegates networked, discussed the work of their Comhairlí, shared ideas and hopes for Comhairle na nÓg in the future and completed the Comhairle na nÓg Satisfaction Survey as per National Participation Office 5-Year Development Plan.



### Supporting Comhairle na nÓg

A lot of the daily work consist of supporting the 31 local Comhairle na nÓg Coordinators and Local Authorities in their work. In 2024, the National Participation Office started to distribute a biweekly Comhairle na nÓg Newsletter to make the flow of information easier. Quarterly Cluster Meetings for both Coordinators and Local Authorities took place, as well as Coordinator Topic cluster meetings. "Progress the Topic" in person training and Comhairle na nÓg Social Media online training took place in 2024. Organisers Networking event took place in September and brought together the Coordinators and Local Authorities across Ireland. In addition to Comhairle na nÓg, we also support the work of National Youth Assembly of Ireland.



# COMHAIRLE NA NOG



## Consultations

The National Participation Office supports Consultations of young people. Consultation processes include forming a Youth Advisory Group that advises the planning of the consultations and reviews the Consultation reports. Below is more information on the Consultations that took place in 2024. LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy Consultation took place in July. Young people aged 13 to 18 years old discussed current issues and topics in the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy and made recommendations including a prioritised list of actions for consideration. The issues raised at the consultations will be summarised in a report and will be considered by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and will form part of its deliberations both internally and with other relevant Departments/Agencies as part of the development of the successor Strategy to the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy.

The first part of the Youth Homelessness Strategy Consultation took place in Dublin in November. The group participated in different group discussions concentrating on how to create a safe and inclusive environment for young LGBTI+ people, and what are some positive and/or negative examples of experiences they have had with any public service providers and what lessons can be learned here for service providers. Discussions will be compiled into a report after part 2 of the Consultation.



## Youth Fora

The National Participation Office supported the work of the Road Safety Youth Forum and National Stakeholder Forum on Education for Sustainable Development in 2024. The National Participation Office, together with the Road Safety Authority, organised Road Safety Youth Forum meetings in 2024. The Youth Forum is convened by the Road Safety Authority and concentrates on young people's viewpoint of Road Safety. The young people on the Forum discussed important aspects and issues and also met decision makers such as Minister of State at the Department of Transport and at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The work of the Forum continues in 2025.



The Ninth National Stakeholder Forum on Education for Sustainable Development took place in Dublin Castle in November 2024, serving as a platform for discussions between policy makers and all types of educators on the implementation of ESD to 2030, the 2nd National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development as well as best practice in ESD. To include young people in the process, a Youth Advisory Group of 12 young people was formulated and were part of the planning process as well as attended the event. They planned their own workshop and participated in the conversations as well as the Intergenerational Policy Panel on the day.



## EU CHILD PARTICIPATION FORUM



The Participation Team were invited through DCEDIY to take part in the European Union's Child Participation Platform event. Youth workers accompanied a young person from the National Executive group to Brussels to take part in the event. During the event there were workshops with Professor Laura Lundy and discussions around the Lundy Model of Child Participation. It can be difficult to get decision makers to a) change their policies in line with what young people want and b) accrediting the young people involved if changes were made. The Participation Team spoke about the need for a one page, child friendly feedback form within which decision makers can state that they have heard the voices of young people and a list of what they can and cannot do, when and why. The Participation Team have since been invited to take part in their communications team and will be attending again in 2025.



## LGBTQI+ INCLUSION SUCCESSOR STRATEGY



The purpose of the consultation with children and young people on the successor to the National LGBTQI+ Inclusion Strategy was to elicit the views of children and young people and to seek a list of priorities and actions as identified by them for consideration by DECDIY in the development of the successor strategy to the National LGBTQI+ Inclusion Strategy which concluded in 2021.

My role of the Participation Team was to create a youth advisory group to come together with the department and discuss the reason for the successor strategy and ask how best to involve the voices of children and young people. With that group a methodology for the consultation day was developed, which captured and collated the views of the young people said.

# VIRTUAL YOUTH SERVICE



In 2024 Youth Work Ireland commenced an innovative new Erasmus+ funded project to develop a Virtual Youth Service specifically oriented towards empowerment, rights and youth work principles.

The project will be led and delivered by [The Digital Design Lab in TUS, Clonmel](#) in partnership with [Youth Work Ireland Tipperary](#) and Youth Work Ireland as a national partner. The administration and governance of the space will be designed to ensure it is maintained as a public good in perpetuity in the trust of the Youth Work Ireland federation. Rather than rely on applications provided by the large corporations, imposing state control or allowing unmoderated open spaces to flourish, we are proposing the creation of a space which is developed using youth work principles as a public good. This will be a well moderated, safe space for young people, as is any youth club.

Unlike other virtual environments, this Virtual Youth Service will not be over-dependent on commercial applications but will be built on open-source technologies. It will be codesigned by young people, youth workers, games designers and educators. The space will be designed to encourage solidarity and inclusion among those who are on the margins of society and are most likely to be perpetrators or victims of deviant behaviour in games or may be vulnerable to being radicalised within the online space.

The space will be a repository of global citizenship education resources and activities. It will be designed to be built up and developed by a community of youth work and global citizenship education users. The space will also engage actively with the global south and create a space to develop shared spaces for dialogue and action.





## YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE

Working with young people in Youth Work Ireland Members, we delivered another successful programme of support and development in [Youth Climate Justice](#). Participating services in 2024 included [Limerick Youth Service](#), [Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan](#), [Donegal Youth Service](#), [Kerry Community Youth Service](#), [FDYS](#). Groups of young people identified and become active in addressing issues in their local environment.



## CLUBS AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVATION FUND

A new Youth Work for All Clubs and Volunteers Coordinator was appointed after a successful launch of the #youthworkforall campaign at our conference last year. Through the DCEDIY Clubs and Volunteers Activation Fund, resources have been secured for staffing and programme costs, allowing for the implementation of an ambitious work plan of support and promotion of volunteers and clubs. The programme includes:

- National Volunteer Recruitment and promotion Campaign.
- New packs and programme supports for club volunteers.
- New website providing a repository for clubs and volunteers.
- Training, both online and in person for clubs and volunteers.
- A new Youth Leadership training.
- Road shows and visits to local services



## PEACE PLUS PROGRAMMES

Working with our members, Youth Work Ireland will implement three new [PEACEPLUS](#) programmes in the six border counties starting in 2024. Through [Our Generation](#), Amplify and Shared Agenda for Peace, young people, Youth Work Ireland cubs, projects volunteers and staff will receive supports and gold-standard programmes over a period of four years. PEACEPLUS is a new cross-border funding Programme supported by the [European Union](#), the [Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#), the [Government of Ireland](#), and the [Northern Ireland administration](#). The Programme is designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.



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



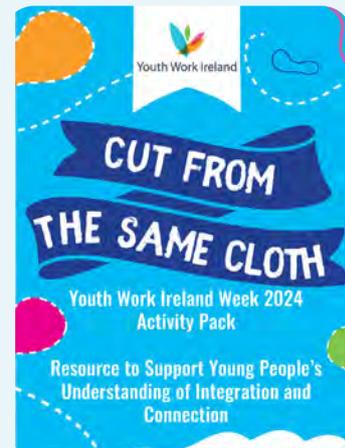
## COMPLIANCE

The compliance team in Youth Work Ireland operate systems of compliance that support and encourage good practice, management, and governance within Youth Work Ireland members. This work supports members demonstrate their compliance with key instruments outlining governance, finance and service delivery. It also ensures we have a better understanding of our members, their operation and issues impacting on them. We work to develop appropriate supports for members both specifically and across the board and the compliance team support the Youth Services Grant application and reports and monitoring. We oversee the Service Level Agreements by issuing the document and collecting documentation required by the process, carrying out any escalations to the management team and liaise with members and conduct compliance visits. The compliance team review national office and members key documentation and support the review key policies.



## YOUTH WORK IRELAND WEEK

[Youth Work Ireland Week 2024](#) took place from April 13 - 20th and aimed at supporting young people's understanding of oneness, integration and humanity. Youth groups around the country took part in activities from the Youth Work Ireland Week Activity Pack '[Cut from the Same Cloth](#)' which explored themes of connection and diversity through fun and creative sessions. The theme took inspiration from Michael D. Higgins to build an active citizenship based on participation, equality, unity and respect for all. The pack contains sessions and suggested activities so young people can increase their knowledge and understanding of a shared humanity, and what our obligations and expectations are in relation to building a better, more prosperous, more united, more just and equal world.



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

This training is for those within Youth Work Ireland who have the responsibility for the recruitment, training and support of club volunteers. The pack that was developed is a resource to help to ensure standardized and consistent approaches to volunteer training. 2024 saw more the second training workshop on the Volunteer Training Pack. It took place in National Office in October. 10 Member Youth Services took part in the training.



# YOUTH WAVE



Youth Wave 2024 took place on 5th October in the Sports Campus Ireland in Blanchardstown. We worked with the Club Development Network to structure the day. 250 young people from the member youth services took part in the day.

We were delighted to deliver various workshops on the following topics: sustainability goals where young people took part in a fun, interactive workshop around reusing plastic caps to create works of visual art; Virtual Reality where young people got to participate in the ultimate VR experience with Meta Quest 3 Virtual Reality Headsets; a face painting workshop where young people and volunteers learned how to apply face paint and learned various different techniques and styles; a team building workshop brought energy to their ice breaker and challenge style games workshop; a Juggling workshop that was a fast paced energetic and rewarding class and a skipping workshop where young people were introduced to the various elements of skipping including rhythm and teamwork skills and encouraged the young people to have confidence in themselves. Tasters were also delivered by coaches on soccer, badminton, handball, volleyball, an obstacle course, tug of war, three legged races, soccer, basketball and unihoc. Young people were able to take the many skills that they learned in each workshop and taster back to their youth clubs and share what they had learned with other young people.



# SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION



National office holds two separate functions in relation to child protection. As an organisation working with young people Youth Work Ireland has responsibilities under The Children First Act 2015 and other legislation relating to child protection, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. In addition, the national organisation has federal responsibilities identified in relation to our members.

We work to ensure that Youth Work Ireland is meeting its obligations under The Children First Act 2015, other relevant legislation and in line with our internal Guidelines (Policies and Procedures).

A key area of work has been the ongoing updating of policies within the organisation and developing thinking in key areas relating to safeguarding. National office also has a key role in the provision of Child Protection Awareness Programme (CPAP) training and running the Garda Vetting System across the organisation

# PROUD SPACES MODEL OF LGBTQI+ YOUTH WORK LAUNCH



On September 23, 2024, Youth Work Ireland launched an evidence-based model of LGBTQI+ youth work - "[Creating Proud Spaces in Rural Communities](#)" aimed at supporting young LGBTQI+ people living in rural areas. The need for this model of practice emerged from previous work done with [LGBTQI+ youth groups in across the Youth Work Ireland membership](#) which found that despite societal progress, many young LGBTQI+ people continue to face isolation, discrimination, and exclusion. Developed over two years with input from LGBTQI+ youth, the model identifies effective youth work practices and activities that foster inclusion and safety. Supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth through the [LGBTI+ Community Grant Scheme 2023](#), this initiative emphasises the need for increased funding, support and capacity building to ensure all LGBTQI+ youth have access to essential services. The model was launched by Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD with members of the LGBTQI+ community of practice in Dominick Street.





## PROUD SPACES AT DUBLIN PRIDE

On June 29, 2024, over 450 young people from Youth Work Ireland's LGBTQI+ youth groups across the country gathered in Dublin to participate in the [Dublin Pride](#) parade under the 'Proud Spaces' banner. The event not only celebrated the identities of the young people but also highlighted the critical role youth work plays in fostering inclusivity. The event was as always colourful, entertaining, fun, positive and provided a safe and supported space for young people to gather get Pride ready and march together in the parade. This year we had a tent in the Pride Village which allowed people to gather and enjoy the festivities in Merrion Square.

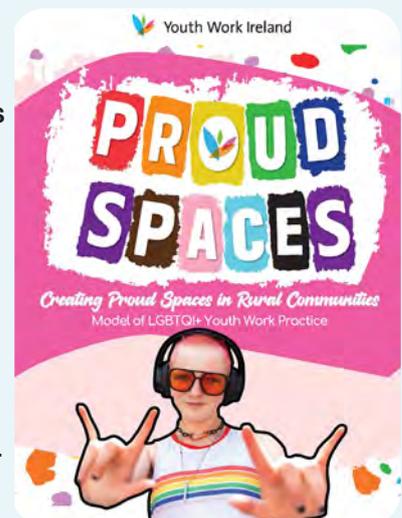


## SUPPORTING OUR PROUD SPACES MODEL OF PRACTICE



In 2024 national office continued to support youth workers who run [LGBTQI+ youth groups](#). In February we hosted a one day training awareness session to build the capacity of youth workers to explore the intersectionality of neurodivergence and LGBTQI+ and to explore practical ways and strategies to ensure youth work settings are responsive to the needs of neurodiverse young people.

In April we held a 2 day residential for members of the LGBTQI+ community of practice group in Athlone. This event provided a safe and supported space for workers to share challenges and opportunities in this work, and to identify priorities the group could work on together. There was also a training session gender identity delivered by GOSHH. In December we were successful in our application to the DCEDIY's LGBTI+ Community Grant fund to develop and launch an online youth café for LGBTQI+ neurodiverse young people aged 18-24. This café will run during 2025.



# COMMUNICATIONS



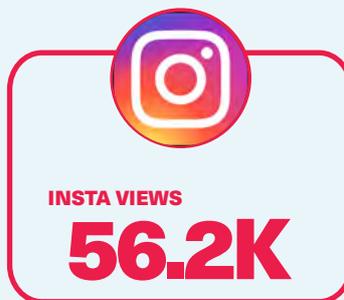
During 2024 we developed a focus communications campaigns to promote youth work and highlight the vital role youth services play in supporting young people across Ireland. As part of this, we developed key messages and promotional assets that showcase the incredible work happening in local services every day.

All our communications campaigns are designed to help raise awareness, celebrate the impact of youth work, and advocate for stronger support and investment in youth services. They highlight the diverse range of programs, activities, and opportunities that youth workers and volunteers provide to help young people thrive, develop skills, and feel part of a supportive community.

### Campaigns included:

- [Youth Work for All video](#)
- [Youth Wave](#)
- [Proud Spaces](#)
- Pride Breakfast
- Youth Work Ireland Week
- [Youth Work for All Conference](#)
- [Be Well Workbook](#)
- MYS updates
- End of Year-round up

In 2024 we improved our engagement on social media with Facebook reaching **64.8K** a **19%** increase from the previous year and Instagram reaching **19.1K** a **41.3%** increase from the previous year.



### Press Releases

We send out various press releases to promote projects and activities throughout the year. We managed to create an updated media contacts list which enabled us to secure 3 radio interviews for the [Proud Spaces launch](#).

### Youth Talk Podcast

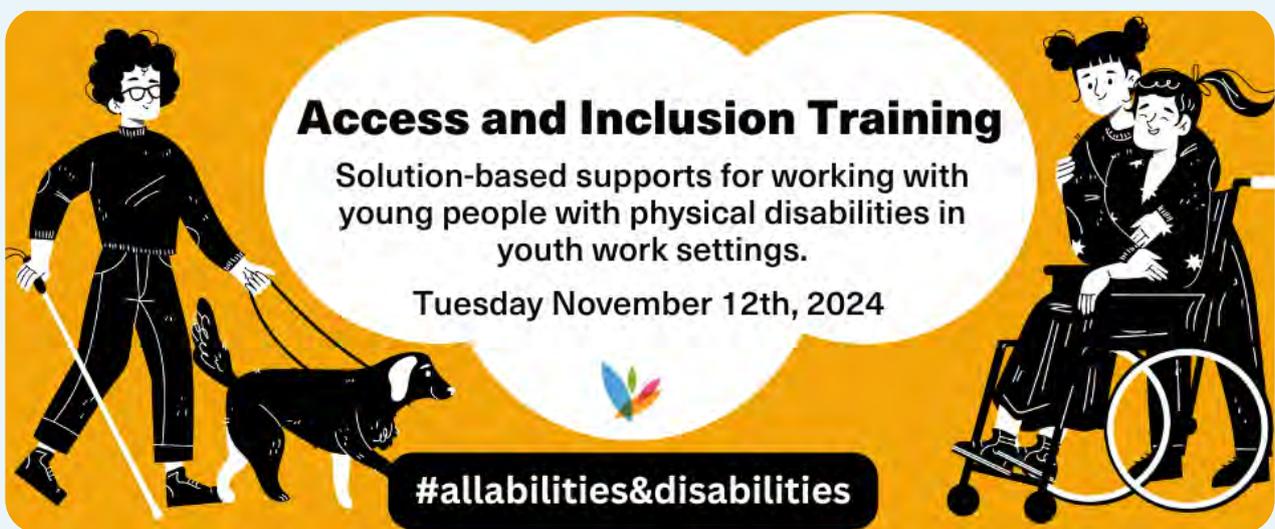
We aired four episodes of Youth Talk with Youth Work Ireland podcasts. The podcasts hosted guests from different member youth services allowing us to promote both the project/service and the youth service. The podcast's main goal is to highlight the value and impact of youth work as well as creating a better understanding of youth work and the work national office and our member youth services are doing within their communities and the country.



## ACCESS AND INCLUSION



As part of our ongoing work around the access and inclusion of young people with physical disabilities we developed a [poster campaign](#) to promote youth services as safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces for young people with physical disabilities. This initiative aims to highlight the accessibility of our services, promote a greater sense of belonging, and encourage greater participation from young people with diverse abilities. Through clear messaging and visual representation which was designed with the guidance of young people with physical disabilities, the campaign reinforces our commitment to inclusion, ensuring that all young people feel valued, supported, and empowered within our youth work spaces.



To further enhance this work we delivered a day's training in November designed to equip youth workers with practical, hands-on skills to better support young people with physical disabilities in their youth groups. With a solution-focused approach, the sessions provided youth workers with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of young people with visual or mobility impairments, speech challenges, or those who are deaf. The training was interactive and competency-based, ensuring participants developed the necessary skills to create inclusive and supportive environments in their youth groups.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANT YOUNG PEOPLE



In January 2024, young workers from across Youth Work Ireland's membership came together in Ennis, Co. Clare for a dynamic two-day residential training. This interactive event focused on practical ways to support young migrants in their services while addressing the challenges of integration. The Hope and Courage Collective delivered hands-on training to help services develop effective strategies, share best practices, and respond to challenges posed by extremist backlash and community disturbances. Additionally, NetLove led a powerful session on human connection, exploring what unites us at our core.

This group established an Integration community of practice, with the aim of coming together to collaborate on key issues. In September 2024, they met to define their priorities and set a course for future action.

# NATIONAL YOUTH ACTION GROUP



2024 saw the completion of the National Youth Action Groups European and Local Election campaign work with the support of [ERASMUS+](#) via [Leargas](#). The annual Political Briefing was an important lift off point with a consultation for young people from around the organisation on the main issues and priorities. In conjunction with Youth Work Ireland. The group developed clear “Asks” for MEPs and candidates and sought to circulate and promote these to as wide a group of young people as possible.



The Asks and other aspects of the project were also given wide circulation through social media platforms. The National Youth Action Group also began its own Instagram account in close co-operation with the organisation. The Asks were forwarded to all MEPs and candidates, and similar adjusted Asks were circulated for the local elections. Substantial engagement with a large number of young people was later organized at the Irish Youth Music Awards. With two referendums being held at short notice the group produced briefing material to assist young people to understand the issues at stake and also supported a Yes vote in both referendums. These asks were once more shared on social media and with other groups. There was also interaction with campaign events and hustings.

As part of the broader election campaign in November, the group contacted spokespersons and candidates to highlight and support Youth Work Ireland’s Asks and Election manifesto. A Votes at 16 online vote was also piloted by the group, an initiative which was seen as having potential for the future.

A further successful ERASMUS+ application was made in December to support work in 2025 on a rights-based youth participation quality mark based on local engagement with young people in Youth Work Ireland members. Individual members of the group continue to engage very fruitfully in many other activated and groups in their own right such as National Youth Assemblies, advisory groups for public bodies, other youth organisations and local initiatives.

# SUBMISSIONS



We continued to make submissions to a range of bodies on relevant policy areas such as:

## Coimisiún na Meán

The establishment of the Commission and the advent of the Digital Services and the Digital Markets Act represent a very welcome development in the field of regulating online content and ensuring the rights and needs of children and young people are recognised and vindicated. In our submission on their Online Safety Code we emphasised this area presents challenges for those working with children and young people at grassroots level. We also focussed on the “precautionary principle” particularly where events are subject to rapid change in an uncertain world. This would be common in environmental policy. We believe this should be considered for this code in the principles section particularly relating to children and young people. The best interest of the child is well established in Irish law and indeed now has constitutional expression. This clearly then must override all other considerations particularly where proportionality is concerned, we submitted.



## National Youth Action Plan

We welcomed the publication of the [Opportunities for Youth Policy](#) but still feel that it must also be aligned with funding from all sources. We wanted to see better definitions of key phrases like “Youth Services”, “Youth Work Services”, “paid and voluntary”. Similarly, we wanted to see reference to the concept of informal education. We would like to hear more on the governance structure bringing together the “funded and the funders” from all Departments and agencies not just Youth Affairs.

## Budget 2025

The annual budget is a key component of government policy for the youth sector. We emphasised Youth Services face huge problems in recruiting, retaining and deploying staff. Funding of individual schemes is still behind amounts in 2008 even allowing for inflation which itself has been running way ahead of other costs. We continued to highlight the need for specific support for Youth Information Services and to revitalize youth clubs. We called for a fund for the development of new physical infrastructure with dedicated and guaranteed access for young people in areas where there is minimal provision.

## EU ENGAGEMENT

Young people are subjected to lower minimum wages in Ireland and also lower rates of Job Seekers Allowance and unpaid internships in many areas. Through our membership of the European Economic and Social Committee we have raised this issue in a 2023 Own Initiative Opinion. In 2024 the Low Pay Commission, the independent statutory body which makes recommendations to the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment endorsed the ending of Sub- Minimum Wage rates for young people in its report to Government citing this report amongst its sources. There is clearly now an onus on Government to act in order to make work pay for young people. Traineeships where our Head of Advocacy raised issues of concern with the EU Employment Commissioner Nicholas Schmidt in the European Parliament chamber. We were represented at the European Youth Forums major democracy event in advance of the European elections - Level up where our Head of Advocacy was one of the keynote speakers. Members of our National Youth Action Group and other parts of the organisation were also represented. Similarly, we contributed to the European Economic and Social Committee's annual youth event Your Europe, Your Say as well as that bodies ongoing work piloting the EU Youth Test.

## Advocacy Strategy

Consistent with our Strategic Statement we finalised our Advocacy Strategy in 2024. The strategy has a strong focus on working with members. Youth Work Ireland has a widespread network of projects, clubs, volunteers, and other people. This is a valuable resource. We need to harness this more to bring influence to bear. Given its key role this is an area where national support and animation is to be provided.



Our strategic priorities form the main basis for all work by all parts of the organisation nationally and locally. It needs to be supported by people, money and other resources to fulfil the commitments in the statement of strategy. We set out priorities for policy and submissions, campaigning, working with members, and targeting decision makers.



## Policy Brief

Our quarterly policy brief provides bite sized policy updates on a variety of policy information relating to young people and those who work with them for our audience and others. A huge variety of topics were covered in 2004 across a wide range of areas. Some of the more notable items this year included;



- Funding issues and policy change for the youth sector
- The developing framework for online safety and the role of platforms
- Developments at international and EU level
- Housing issues
- Integration, immigration and young people
- Equality and rights in numerous sectors

## Premises Research

Youth Work Ireland has a history of seeking to provide quality built safe environments for young people. In 2024 we invited tenders to assist us on a research study in this area. We will seek to carry out mapping of the current types and form of provision of built youth facilities in Ireland in close co-operation with Youth Work Ireland members and others in the broader youth sector. We hope this will identify models of provision examining ownership history and development, International best practice and models.



We plan to examine partnerships with Local Authorities, ETB's, The OPW, Government Departments, Housing Bodies, charities, Leader Companies, Partnerships, corporates/private sector, Trusts and Foundations. We will also examine planning and development system and funding in light of the above the potential different funding models and sources to inform the case for support for the tenderer, this might include, but is not limited to, open funding sources, partnerships.

# EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK



## ERYICA

**ERYICA** the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency is an independent organisation composed of national and regional youth information coordinating bodies and networks. Their work upholds the right of young people to complete and reliable information, helping them in making life decisions, and promoting their ability to think critically and to become active participants in society.

ERYICA aims to intensify European and international cooperation in the field of youth information work and services, by giving visibility to initiatives at a local, national and international level, and by providing its members with opportunities for professional development, exchange and innovation. Dr. Patrick J Burke, (CEO of Youth Work Ireland) is the current president of ERYICA.

ERYICA has 42 members, operating in 26 countries. There are over 4000 youth information Services delivered by 31,000 staff and volunteers.

Youth information and counselling aims to uphold the right of young people to full and reliable information. It helps them to make informed choices, and promotes their autonomy, their ability to think critically, and their active participation in society.

Youth information and counselling seeks to inform and accompany young people on the delicate path to adulthood. A transitory and challenging period in which young people are expected to make a myriad of important decisions that will no doubt highly influence their future. These decisions need to be based on unbiased, complete and comprehensive information.



Generalist youth information and counselling work covers all topics that interest young people, and can include a whole spectrum of activities. The term “youth information and counselling” can encompass a wide range of services, such as informing, counselling, supporting, coaching, training, peer-to-peer networking, or referral to specialised services. In 2024 Youth Work Ireland members availed of Training on distinct aspects of youth information provision from ERYICA. A number of people participated in the ERYICA General Assembly in Bucharest and joined EYRICA in a number of ERASMUS projects.



## ECYC



The ECYC General Assembly took place on the 19th of October in the European Youth Capital 2024 in Ghent, Belgium. It was hosted by the Ghent City Youth Service. A new bureau for 2025-2026 was selected during the GA: Catherine Durkin, Youth Work Ireland (President), Lennert Vorrsselmans (VP), Marco Santos (VP) Kenneth Dugbaard Poulsen (VP) and welcomed 2 new observer organisations Fundacja Europejski Instytut Outsourcingu (FEIO) from Poland and Young Improvers for Youth Development from Bulgaria. Andrew King was appointed Secretary General. He looks to continue building upon the work to strengthen the voice of ECYC members and continue increasing the confederation's visibility throughout Europe and beyond.

On the 18th of October, ECYC hosted the international conference "[Challenge, Change, Opportunity: Rethinking Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Open Youth Work](#)". The conference gathered 60 participants representing academia, civil society, youth organisations, youth clubs and policymakers. The conference was opened by Phillip Michiels from the Ghent European Youth Capital office. The keynote speaker, Professor Howard Williamson, spoke to critically analyse the challenges for inclusion in youth work. Jorun Boklov from the European Education and Culture Executive Agency presented insights on the work of the European Commission. Laure Verstraete, board member of the European Youth Forum, highlighted the importance of voluntary youth work. Patrick Burke, ERYICA President (and CEO of Youth Work Ireland) emphasised the role of information and counselling for young people. ECYC members organized parallel workshops on topics including race equity, rural youth work, youth empowerment, peace building, and LGBTQI+ youth

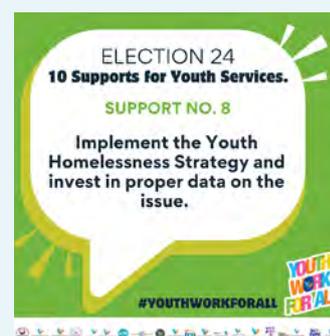
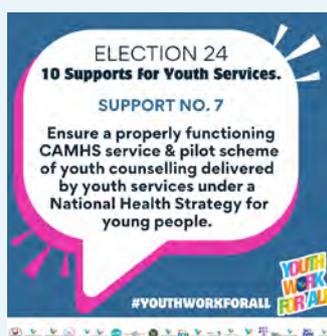
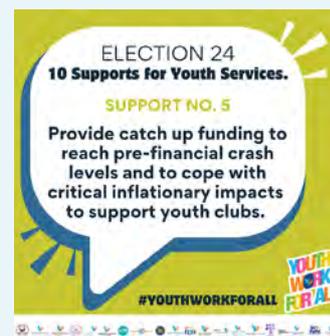
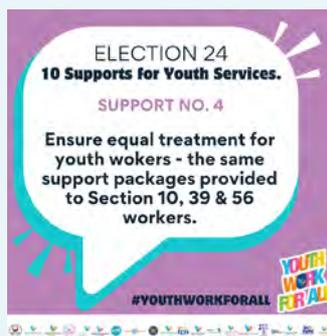
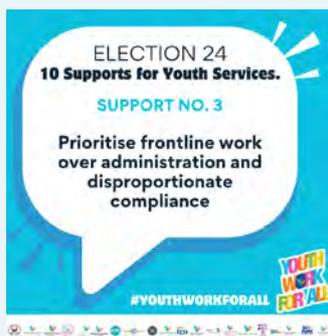
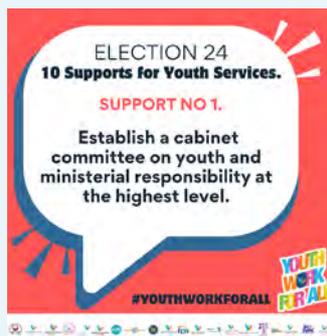


# ELECTION 2025



Youth Work Ireland took the opportunity of the election in November to impress upon all candidates and parties the importance of support for voluntary youth services. We developed and distributed our manifesto covering all the major policy issues for those working with young people. This was a centre piece for local action for election candidates. We also interacted with parties and spokespersons nationally on our key asks and our National Youth Action Group were active in all areas. The major issues highlighted were;

- Funding and staff to sure equality with others in the voluntary and community sector
- Quality spaces and premises to ensure our offer relates to young people's lives today
- Mental Health services to ensure young peoples needs are understood and met
- Housing where young people need a better deal on rent and student accommodation



## BROADENING OUR RELATIONSHIPS



As part of our strategic statement, we have been working to ensure our work nationally reflects the diversity of relationships and finding that exists amongst our membership. Gradually this has entailed working with more departments and agencies at the national on a gradual basis. In 2024 we engaged intensively with [Tusla](#) and their commissioning process including the new CEO. The reorganisation of their work opens up potential opportunities for local youth services.

We have begun engagement at national level with the HSE in partnership with the Children's Rights Alliance. Interventions at community level in a diverse range of areas such as drug education and prevention, and counselling to mention just a few.

This work will increase in 2025. Elsewhere we have outlined an enhanced level of engagement with [Coimisiun na Meán](#) on areas of online safety and digital platforms. This has been mutually beneficial and very relevant for our Youth Information Services and our European Engagement with [ERYICA](#).



## YOUTH INFORMATION CHAT SERVICE



Youth Work Ireland works with a national partnership between Youth Work Ireland Members, [Crosscare](#), [YMCA Ireland](#), and [Spunout](#) to provide a National Youth Information Chat Service. This service offers information, advice and guidance about the issues that matter to young people. [Youth Information Chat](#) is a free, non-judgemental, one-to-one, online chat and email service for young people. In 2024 Youth Information Officers from the partnership had 1,901 conversations with people about the issues that mattered to them. On average, people waited just 0.41 seconds to speak to a Youth Information Officer. Most of the queries dealt with complex issues which required on average 14 minutes to address.



# TRAINING AND ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Youth Work Ireland is constantly listening and responding to the needs of its members. When new aspirations and needs arise in the lives of young people, Youth Work Ireland's member services respond. In turn, the Federation works to support staff and services in meeting these new priorities. One of the ways we do this is through ongoing Professional Development. In 2024 Youth Work Ireland provided training in Advanced Listening Skills, Supervision o Staff and sharing of professional practice through Communities of Practice in the following areas of youth work:

- UBU
- Youth Information
- Access and Inclusion
- Inclusion
- Youth Work Managers
- LGBTQI Youth Work
- Counselling in Youth Work
- Clubs Network



# OIREACHTAS BRIEFING



On April 17th, Youth Work Ireland held its annual Political Briefing at Buswells Hotel, bringing together over 80 Oireachtas members with local youth service delegations from across Ireland. This event served as a platform to highlight the impact of youth work in communities and advocate for stronger supports and resources for the youth sector. This year, young people played a central role, with members of our National Youth Action Group engaging directly with decision-makers on issues affecting them.

## Key Advocacy Priorities:

- Supporting Young People in Rural & Remote Areas
- Increased investment in youth club infrastructure and dedicated development staff
- Improved rural transport links to ensure accessibility to youth services
- Placing Youth Work at the Heart of Local Authority Integration
- Youth services must be central to Local Authority Integration Teams
- Dedicated youth spaces within Local Authorities
- Urgent action on accommodation needs for young people in the international protection system
- Ensuring Equality for Youth Workers
- Fair pay and conditions in line with WRC recommendations
- A sustainable funding model for youth services and staff in the new Action Plan for Youth Services

This event reinforced the vital role of youth work in communities and the need for government support to sustain and expand these essential services.



Leo Galvin (NYAG), Heather Humphries TD, Dr Patrick Burke, CEO Youth Work Ireland and Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin (NYAG)



Michael Healy Rae TD & Doireann Walsh (NYAG)



Ivana Bacik TD, with Aisling Maloney and Leo Galvin (NYAG)



Kieran Donohue, CEO FDYS, Verona Murphy TD and members of FDYS

## 20 LOWER DOMINICK STREET



One of the highlights in Youth Work Ireland in 2024 was opening the doors of our beautiful Georgian Building on 20 Dominick Street to [Heritage Week](#) and being part of that celebration of Ireland's rich built, cultural, and natural heritage. We were very excited to offer tours of our Georgian Building on 20 Dominick Street FREE of charge. The guided tours of 20 Dominick Street were available on two days in August 2024, there was a huge interest and all tours were fully booked on both days

In addition, as part of this celebration of 20 Lower Dominick Street, we had a zoom talk which took place online with experts in the field on the topic of the architectural value and importance of the building. This event was open to all and featured inputs from the amazing Prof Christine Casey, [Trinity College Dublin](#) and Kevin Blackwood, Architect and Arran Henderson, Professional Tour Guide. The front elevation of 20 Lower Dominick Street required some major work. The repointing of the building was completed in 2024 along with the windows and front door. This work was done with the generous help of a grant from [Dublin City Council](#).

We had several Events that took place in 2024 in Youth Work Ireland Building

- Comhairle Training
- Volunteer Training
- Youth Work Ireland AGM
- Supervision Training
- Youth Work Ireland Staff Training Day
- Pride Breakfast
- Leargas Training Days
- CPAP Training
- House Wine & Cheese Evening
- Community Practice Launch
- Bradog Exchange Event
- Access & Inclusion Training
- Regional Directors Meetings
- Board Meetings

The banner features the Youth Work Ireland logo (a stylized leaf) and the National Heritage Week logo (three purple swirls). Below the logos are two images: a photograph of the red brick Georgian building at 20 Lower Dominick Street and a close-up of intricate white stone carvings. The text at the bottom of the banner reads: "Heritage Week 2024 Youth Work Ireland are offering tours of 20 Dominick Street Lower, one of Dublin's most beautiful Georgian buildings, as part of Heritage Week celebrations 2024."

# Financial Review

The financial results for the year are outlined in the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows and further explained in the subsequent notes.



## INCOME



DECREASED TO  
**€3,342,974**

Income has decreased by 4% to €3,342,974 in 2024 (2023: €3,471,898).

Income generated from charitable activities is grant related funding received from DCEDIY, SEUPB, Erasmus+ and other private incomes. The income generated by charitable activities has decreased by 4% to €3,252,002 in 2024 (2023: €3,390,034).

While we received an uplift in our youth services grant and across other funding lines, this decrease is due to SEUPB funding along with the historic fund grant and some Erasmus+ programmes completing in 2023.

# EXPENDITURE



DECREASED TO

**€3,342,589**

Expenditure has decreased by 5% to €3,342,589 in 2024 (2023: €3,519,937).

This is in line with the income generated above. Expenditure is allocated across charitable activities, fundraising and support based on staff time. Support costs include human resources support, IT support, finance, governance, and compliance.

These costs increased to €377,125 in 2024 (2023: €350,344). Youth Work Ireland salaries are now aligned with public service rates and national pay agreements.

The subcommittee of Finance and General Purposes review the budget each year and the board approve it. The Board receives management accounts regularly which track performance against the budget.

## Reserves

The charity's available reserves at the year-end are contained in note 19. The reserves policy of Youth Work Ireland is that it will, if reasonably able, maintain sufficient reserves for the following:

**Working capital (cash flow):** To have adequate cash flows to provide a stable service and to provide working capital when funding is paid in arrears.

**Capital maintenance:** To have sufficient funds to maintain its Fixed assets to include where possible contingency costs.

**Development:** To maintain enough reserves to develop the service in line with the future needs of young people and local member youth services.

**Other Contingencies:** To maintain sufficient reserves for unforeseen events e.g., the loss of a major income source.

The balance sheet position as of 31st December 2024 is as follows:

**Restricted reserves**

**€54,779**

**Unrestricted reserves**

**€1,698,659**

Restricted funds are funds unspent at the year-end that will be spent in line with the funders wishes and intentions in future years. These funds are not available for any other use.

Unrestricted reserves funds are available for the general purpose of the charity.

The above outlines the performance of Youth Work Ireland for 2024. The Board believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt Youth Work Ireland's ability to continue in operation. Therefore, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

# APPENDIX ONE

Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan

Youth Work Ireland County Longford

Youth Work Ireland Galway

Youth Work Ireland Laois

Youth Work Ireland Louth

Youth Work Ireland Meath

Youth Work Ireland Midlands

Youth Work Ireland North Connaught

Youth Work Ireland Tipperary

Canal Communities Regional Youth Service

Carlow Regional Youth Service

CDYS Youth Work Ireland

Clare Youth Service

Donegal Youth Service

FDYS

In Sync Youth and Family Services

Kerry Community Youth Service

Limerick Youth Service

Ossory Youth

Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service



