

Ballyfermot Youth Service

Report 2010



Inside

Chairperson's
Report

Manager's Report

Amenity Centre

Afterschool
Programme

Peer Education
Drug Awareness

Youth Work
Programme

Information Centres

Oakwood
Residential Centre

Youth in Action
Projects

Chairperson's Report

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

Cuireann sé an áthas agus bród orm an tuairisc seo a sheoladh daoibh.

It gives me great pleasure to commend this annual report to you, which captures the wide and varied range of programmes and activities that we have carried out in 2010. Despite this being a very difficult year in terms of budgets and cutbacks, we have managed as a organisation to consolidate the range of programmes that we offer to young people, and continue our commitment to them. During the last twelve months alone, we have seen the usage of our residential centre (Oakwood) in County Wicklow begin to play an important part in the lives of young people, over 500 young people have now used this centre in 2010.

Our Outward Bounds Amenity centre in Park West continues to provide outdoor education activities with emphasis on adventure sports and our Drop in Internet Information Centres on Decies Road and Drumfinn are continuing to attract young people with over 9100 visits in 2010.

Our personal development and peer education drugs awareness programmes together with the afterschool programmes in Decies Road and Gurteen continue to provide positive choices for young people. Our development of the European Youth in Action programme again highlights Ballyfermot Youth Services as one of the leading organisations in Ireland using this programme for the benefit of young people. The links between schools, community groups and

BYS continues to grow and the sharing of resources is a testament to the community spirit which is alive and thriving in Ballyfermot.

I wish to thank my fellow Management Committee members for their guidance and support in implementing such a comprehensive range of programmes.

Many thanks to the Manager Gerry Mc Carthy and his staff for their commitment and dedication to the young people of Ballyfermot. I also wish to thank the staff of the Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment project for all their help with the various programmes. Mile buíochas to City Of Dublin Youth Service Board Liaison Officer Gwen Doyle for her assistance and support.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Office of the Minister for Children and the City of Dublin Youth Service Board for their continued financial support to the project. I can guarantee that the financial investment has made a difference to the lives of young people in Ballyfermot.

Mar focal scoir, “Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine” and I look forward to working with you in 2011 and having another successful year.

Mary Daly, Chairperson



MANAGERS REPORT

2010 has been an exciting time for Ballyfermot Youth Service, we have seen continued progress in developing services for young people with the new Oakwood residential centre operational. The upgrading of Drumfinn and Decies Information Centres and the major renovation of the Gurteen Youth Centre in 2010 has meant that BYS kept our commitment to providing the best facilities for young people in Ballyfermot. In this report you can see the various programmes that we have delivered in 2010. Our programmes are designed to provide positive alternatives for young people and we are committed to involving as many of them as possible in our activities.

The issues facing young people in Ballyfermot are still daunting, drug misuse, early school leaving, youth unemployment are major challenges. However there has being some improvement in the numbers of young people

staying in the education system until leaving cert level and opting for PLC courses. This is to be welcomed and encouraged but we must ensure that any introduction of fees and charges do not stop young people from Ballyfermot progressing to third level.

No organisation can make progress without a committed workforce. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm that the staff of Ballyfermot Youth Service and Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment have shown to improving the lives of young people. I would also like to thank the members of our management committee who give their time voluntarily, for their help and support. A special word of thanks to Gwen Doyle Liaison officer of the City of Dublin Youth Service Board for all her help and also to the many schools and community groups who we work in partnership with.

Gerry Mc Carthy, Manager

Amenity Centre

Outward Bounds Amenity Centre

The amenity centre is situated in Park West Business Park adjacent to the Grand Canal, which is an ideal location for many of the activities & programmes it provides.

Aims:

Our aim for the centre is to engage young people in our targeted groups and involve them in positive recreational activity. Through this involvement in exciting and very social activities we hope to develop core life skills such as: respect, teamwork, communication skills, and improving physical well-being as well as an awareness of self, others and the environment. We also promote a 'Leave no Trace' policy.

Programmes:

Throughout the year the young people have participated in a wide variety of programmes including, Intro to Kayaking & Open Canoeing, Irish Canoe Union Level 1 proficiency in kayaking, Mountain Biking & Bike agility as well as multi disciplinary adventure sports programmes, including rock climbing, orienteering, fishing,



snorkelling, gorge walking, hillwalking, camping & overnight expeditions & residentials. Most groups meet once a week for a minimum of 2 hours.

In 2010 the centre catered for the following numbers:
2616 visits to the centre
1024 individual young people

- 617 Boys
- 389 Girls
- 18 adults



The centre also works closely with other agencies within Ballyfermot who target specific 'at risk' groups such as early school leavers, Garda Diversion projects, young people already involved in the justice system and provides them with an outdoor education option for their programmes.

In 2010 we worked with the following organisations amongst others:

WHAD, ABLE, BASE Young Parents Groups, St. Ultan's Care Unit, Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project, Equine Centre Early School Leavers, The Life Centre, St Dominic's Junior School Completion programme & Mary Queen of Angles SCP.

We run the activity section of accredited programmes helping young people who are out of formal education to gain qualifications & formal recognition.

This year it included:

- ❖ Supporting 4 young people in achieving their Gold Gaisge Award.
- ❖ 5 Achieved their FETAC Level 3 in Kayaking.
- ❖ 6 achieved their FETAC Level 3 in Outdoor Pursuits.

Irish Canoe Union Personal Kayaking Proficiency Award were achieved by:

- ◆ 51 Discovery Level
- ◆ 48 Level 1
- ◆ 8 Level 2
- ◆ 2 Level 3

4 have completed their Level 3 training.

This year we started two sport-specific clubs, a Youth Kayaking Club and a Mountain Biking Club, in order to introduce a high skill level & competitive element for those dedicated young people.



The Kayak club comprises of young people who have shown an aptitude, interest & enthusiasm for the sport as well as 3 Junior leaders who have come up through other clubs and groups run by the centre over the past few years.

In May they took part in the



Junior Liffey Descent & in August travelled to Wales.

They camped in the village of Bala on the banks of the Tryweryn River which is one of the most popular kayaking destinations in Europe for young kayakers and clubs. It offers dam controlled exciting white-water

up to grade 4 and a perfect safe training ground for groups to practice skills while getting a taste of the travelling culture which kayaking has to offer.

The Club is currently fund

raising to go to Slovenia next year which is a highly renowned area for white water paddling.

The Mountain Biking club involved 12 young boys from Ballyfermot. They trained on various downhill & dirt bike tracks around Wicklow. They took part in the Kippure Mountain Biking Summer Racing series where one youth won a bronze medal.



Due to the popularity in Mountain Biking as an activity with the young people, our bikes have had a great deal of use and are reaching the end of their useful life in the centre.

Therefore, with the help of over 40 young people we have been fundraising to purchase new bikes by the end of the year.

As part of the International Surfrider River and Coastal Clean up 2010, 22 young people were involved in filling 2 large skips from the clean up of the Grand Canal at the 7th Lock.



Staff:

Allegra Lalor, Outward Bounds Centre Coordinator/Senior Instructor

Ger O'Reilly, Outward Bound Instructor

Barbara Healey, Administrator.

During the summer we were fortunate to have two additional staff funded through the Dublin City Council Student Summer Scheme. This enabled us to provide outdoor activities to a much greater number young people than would otherwise have been the case.

This year we have assisted two young men from the community in developing their skills as leaders through taking them on for work experience. One has continued to work with us as a volunteer, in what is, for him, his first experience of the working environment.

Afterschool Programme

The After-schools program was set up to facilitate the needs of Young People living in Ballyfermot who may not have for a number of reasons the ability to complete their homework after school. We have two centres one in Gurteen Youth Club in Upper Ballyfermot and the other located in Decies Road Ballyfermot Lower. Both Centres are run by the Youth Workers and Community Employment (CE) Staff of Ballyfermot Youth Service.

The Young People in question attend national school locally and are in 5th and 6th class. Some of them are referred to our After Schools Programme by the liaison officer in their respective schools and some by parents and others by self referral.

We work continually in partnership with the local schools by providing them with official Consent Forms which outline what the After Schools program entails and what guidelines are set in place. These forms are brought home to be read and signed by their parents or guardians. The program consists of four separate groups which has an average of ten members, the sessions are held from Monday to Thursday. The program begins directly after school and we are located within walking distance from both schools.

The Young People require a calm, safe and enjoyable environment to complete their homework. This is vital, and we are always aware that attending the After Schools Program is completely voluntary and we need to keep them motivated at all times.

Over the course of the school year for four days a week we provide shelter, hot meals, stationary equipment and activities to meet the requirements of the young people. On our first day we create a code of conduct where the Young People have a major say in how they approach and achieve their objectives. This makes the young people realise that they are a fundamental part in establishing an enjoyable environment to assist



in completing their homework.

We would begin the session with a hot meal prepared by our CE Staff especially as some of the young people may not get this elsewhere and a full stomach helps to increase their attention spans. When the meal is finished we begin with their homework in a group or separately if required. We also encourage some of the more advanced Young people to assist their peers where possible. After the homework is completed we engage in indoor or outdoor activities weather permitting. Some of the activities include arts and crafts, music, sports and internet access.

Outcomes

Due to the continued high attendance level throughout the school year it proves that the young people enjoyed participating in the program. Hopefully by making learning more interesting it will improve their chances of staying in school. To help with this we also use the homework club as a link to encourage our members to stay involved with the Youth Service in general. This is normally achieved directly after the After School program has ended in June and our Summer Program starts in July. This helps to strengthen and continue the relationships created between the young people and Staff.

Martin O'Reilly

Youth Work Programme

Ballyfermot Youth Service work in partnership with young people to find new innovative activities which will motivate young people and provide them with exciting opportunities which will enhance their social and personal development. Some of our initiatives are as follows...

New Innovative Initiatives

Know your rights cards

The Know Your Rights Card resource, informing young people of 52 rights which they are entitled to, was launched this year by one of our young men's group in partnership based in the Gurteen area. These young men have been involved with the youth service for a long time



and have done a wide range of workshops, activities and trips over the years with the youth service such as drugs awareness and alcohol programmes, racism, first aid course, car repair workshops, leadership programme and youth exchange trips. They have seen a gap in the need for information around young people's rights and they responded to it.

The cards are available from Ballyfermot Youth Service, 41 Decies Road Ballyfermot Dublin 10.

Peer Education Suicide Prevention Programme

This year Ballyfermot Youth Service and The Base Youth Centre will work together on an integrated project which will train 10 young people to become peer leaders in the area of suicide prevention. These young people will be

supported to develop their knowledge and skills in the area of suicide prevention which will enable them to facilitate sessions with their peers and hopefully prevent more young people from taking their own lives.

Music madness

As part of the youth work programme Ballyfermot Youth Service has been developing and delivering music programmes for the young people we work with in the area. This year we have facilitated more than 30 music sessions which have involved guitar lessons, drumming, DJ'ing and music appreciation. Alongside this the youth service runs disco's for 10 – 13 year olds in Gurteen Youth Club. We see music as a great way for young people to express themselves, explore the world we live in as well as a fantastic skill to have. We will strive to improve and expand our music programme so that as many

young people as possible get the opportunity to take part in the future.

Saturday Nights Soccer Camp

The Saturday night soccer camp caters for up to 100 young people every Saturday evening, the event is split into different age categories and some of the young people from Ballyfermot Youth Service and Gurteen Youth Centre act as referees at the event for their peers. This initiative continues to be a success year after year.

Young people's Involvement in Beyond 96 Youth Club

This Year 8 young people aged 16-18 took over the running of the Beyond 96 youth club which was set up in 1996 by a group of young people at that time. The unique thing about this club is that it has always been and always will be run by young people from the community for their peers.



Peer Education Drugs Awareness

What is peer education?

Peer education is based on a concept which makes positive use of potential peer influence. It involves the sharing of information, attitudes or behaviour by young people who are not professionally trained instructors but whose goal is nonetheless to educate. This is the concept which provides the foundation for the Ballyfermot peer education programme.

According to young people in Ballyfermot “peer education is about young people coming together for a purpose to share knowledge and experiences in an informal setting.”



Peer Education programme & Training

This year in 2010 the peer education programme supported 9 schools in the area and involved 245 young people in a variety of peer education programmes including peer education training. These programmes were based on developing leadership, facilitation, group work skills & Drugs awareness workshops. The programmes were delivered in the following schools in the Ballyfermot area:

- St.Dominic's
- St.John's College
- Caritas College

- Pobal Scoil Iosaide which is now part of Ballyfermot Drugs Task Force area
- St. Louises x 2
- Mary Queen of Angels x 2
- St.Michaels

Each group facilitated by the peer educators last for up to 10 weeks. In two of the above named schools the programme is mainstreamed as part of the transition year curriculum. The content over the ten week period is as follows:

- Identifying peer education definitions
- Exploring peer pressure
- Personal development
- Drugs awareness
- Leadership skills, Facilitation skills, & Group work skills

Outcomes

This training also provided the young people with an opportunity to put there skills into practice through facilitating sessions for there peers within there school or youth group. The young people also expressed that they were more confident & knowledgeable regarding drug related issues within there community, they also expresses that the leadership skills would help them in their future careers after completing the programme.

International Youth Exchange

In June this year the Peer education programme hosted an international exchange based on promoting healthier life styles for young people through the concept of peer education. 30 young people from Ballyfermot, Valencia & Belgium came together to share experiences from there own culture and learn about creative ways to work with there peer groups in there own country. The exchange provided opportunities for the young people to participate in new exciting activities such as outdoor education, non formal workshops based on the theme and lots of other fun activities.

Information Centre

“Young people are growing up in a fast changing and complex world where they are confronted with many choices, conflicts, challenges and pressures. Often they have to make decisions, some of which will shape the rest of their lives. To do this effectively, they need reliable information on the options available.”

Dochas Na Og, Ballyfermot Youth Service, 1997



Youth information, in the context of the education process, aims to empower young people to make informed decisions about their lives, by providing fast and easy access to a wide range of information in an informal and supportive environment. Youth information Centres (YIC) enable young people to avail of opportunities, to develop their skills and abilities, to solve problems and to actively participate in society at a local, national and international level. Ballyfermot Youth Service runs two YICs, located at 3 Drumfinn Park and 41 Decies Road.

This year both centres have undergone major refurbishment with up to date facilities. The centres are approachable and youth friendly, encouraging young people to walk in off the street. Frequently, young people will use the centre to browse and access the free broadband Internet Service, often returning within a few days for assistance and advice on specific issues



or queries. This year there were over 9000 visits by young people to the centre's

Facilities

The centres provides a free and confidential information service to young people and those who work with them on a wide range of subjects including:

- Accommodation
- Careers / CV advice
- Education & training
- Employment
- Family / personal problems
- Finance
- Health & Personal support
- Travel

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Opening Hours

Decies:	Mon – Friday	2.30 – 7pm
Drumfinn:	Mon – Tue	2.30 – 7pm
	Wed	2.30 – 9pm
	Thur – Fri	2.30 – 7pm

Oakwood

BYS Open New Centre in Wicklow

For the past three years Ballyfermot Youth Service have been developing our own outdoor education centre in County Wicklow. The centre is based outside Blessington on the road to Glendalough and was previously operated by Catholic Youth Care as Oakwood. Following their decision to hand this centre back to Coillte, who own the premises, we approached them and agreed that BYS would take over the lease. The location of the centre is ideal for many activities and as it is based in the Garden of Ireland many natural amenities such as: lakes, forests, walking trails, kayaking activities and mountain biking trails.

The centre was in very poor condition and needed major refurbishment to bring it up to modern standards. BYS appointed architects Kearney Merriman and set about designing a centre that would be able to be used for outdoor sports activities and for hosting international exchanges. The centre can now sleep up to 24 persons and each bedroom has its own bathroom facilities. There is a common sitting room and modern kitchen facilities. Major work was conducted on insulating the property with double glazed windows ,doors and installing a new central heating system.

Ballyfermot Youth Service would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who helped us with the project. To our Funders, Rapid Ballyfermot, Dublin City Council, CDYSB and the Local Drugs Task Force for their assistance with this project. Special thanks to Gurteen Youth Club for their generous financial assistance. And to Coillte and Catholic Youth Care who agreed to transfer the lease to us. Also to our builder Elmleaf Construction and Architect Brian Merriman. We look forward to using the centre and continuing our work with young people giving them a positive experience of living in the country.



European Youth in Action

Youth Exchange Lithuania

In June 2010, 50 young people met in the little village of Ayltus in Lithuania, ten of the young people were from Ballyfermot. The Youth exchange was centered around a cultural centre in the town which specialises in dance, film and drama activities and there were groups from Turkey, Ireland, Poland, Romania and Lithuania. The experience allowed the young people to learn about each others lives by living together, learning about different aspects of life in other cultures. **Given that one of the priorities of the Youth in Action Programme is to combat racism and xenophobia in Europe,** this project



demonstrated to the young people the advantages of working together as a team.

Theme

The theme of the exchange was Bread as a common food and link throughout Europe. By looking at how Bread is used in different societies and the way it is vital to our daily diet. We also looked at the way junk food is both advertised throughout Europe and the need for young people to stay healthy by having a balanced approach to these foods. The youth exchange also looked at how dance, sport and music can be used as a tool for integration in society and how you can use these tools as a positive force for bringing people together from different cultures.

Activities

There was a wide range of activities organised throughout the ten days from music to art. Each group was asked to pick a MTV music video production and to replacate this in front of the larger group. The Irish group chose the Fat Boy Slim video of "Praise You" the group also got to create a picture using only Black and White materials.

Like most exchanges, this experience also allowed young people to learn about each other's lives, by living together, learning about different aspects of life and how each country in the European Union treats its young people. This youth exchange allowed the young people to experience how participation in sport can be used as a positive activity to break down barriers.

While in Lithuania the group got to visit the capital city of Vilnius and the many attractions it has to offer. We also took part in a sailing event in the town of Trakai.

All the logistics for the trip such as meals, accommodation were provided by the Lithuanian group and they made the young people from Ballyfermot very welcome.

European Youth in Action

Finland 2010 *"The great outdoors"*

Theme

In February 2010, six young people from Ballyfermot who volunteer in the youth service embarked on a youth exchange with a difference. The project was held in Puumala Finland, which is in the north of the country. This is a small rural town about four hours from Helsinki. The project involved young people from Finland, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Ireland.

The weather was completely different to our weather as it was -20 degrees to -25 degrees. It took the group a few days to adjust to the climate.



The project was based in a local school and there was a very busy timetable which involved various workshops and cultural events. The workshops included :

Puppet making

The puppets were displayed in a local civic building and each country made a stable with their country's flag. The children from the local primary school visited the display and got to play with the puppets.

Cooking. Traditional dishes

Film making

Recycle bag making

Where each young person made a bag representing their country and at the end of the



programme the young people got to swap their bags so everyone had a bag from a different country.

Activities

As skiing is a major part of the Finnish culture we took part in cross country and downhill skiing, this was a first for the Irish group and they really enjoyed the experience in the snow.

They went on a shopping trip to the city of Mikkeli, where they visited vintage shops and flea markets. Energy saving was one of the topics of the exchange and they looked at how Finland uses and conserves its various forms of energy.

Culture

The programme allowed each group to give a presentation through culture and music of their own country. The group from Ballyfermot cooked a Irish stew on the Irish night and also wore Irish football and GAA jerseys. They brought Irish instruments such as a tin whistle and a bodhrán. where they performed a display in the civic office for the Mayor of Puumala.

Young People Comments

"It was an experience of a lifetime"

Brian Perry, Sarah Doyle, Natalie Mc Kee, Natalie Judge, Lorna Maher, Aoife Quinlan, Aimee Harding

European Youth in Action

Tree Cultures One Journey Oakwood County Wicklow Aug 15th - 22nd

The project was a Tri-lateral exchange, hosted by Ballyfermot Youth Service in our new Oakwood Residential centre in Co. Wicklow and also in Ballyfermot. The exchange brought together 30 young people, from Ireland, Belgium and Italy and was held over 8 days in Aug. Our partners were Comune di Tortona Italy and Le Grand Mome Belgium. The theme for the exchange was "Tree Cultures One Journey" the theme represented the environment that we work and live in and the journey and the experience of using the environment to have positive experiences of life. The project also challenged our attitudes to our environment and learn from our experiences to appreciate our natural environment



We used various sports activities to engage the young people and build up teamwork, we also used the process of groupwork to establish teams, the emphasis was on participation, planning, communication skills, learning by doing and safety. There were challenges of self discovery and learning for the young people. The project will also include a number of workshops using various methods such as IT, Art and Photography. We used the three languages throughout the project. Italian, French and English.



Our objectives were:

- Build Teamwork.
- Learn about our environment
- Strengthen the links between the three countries.
- Try new sports
- Improve communication skills in the various Languages
- Learn about each others culture

Preparatory

Prior to the exchange each group met weekly to research, plan and implement their workshops. They were responsible for designing and listing all the materials required for their workshops. They were responsible for providing two ice breakers and games that they did with the larger group. They were also responsible for organising workshops.

Activities

We used the following sports throughout the project: Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Hill walking, Gorge walking, Rock Climbing, reading maps, planning routes

Workshops: IT Photography, Power Point presentations, Films, Cultural Nights, Forest Walks, Learning songs from different countries.

Visits: Water Treatment Plants in Ballymore Eustace where we learned about the process of supplying water to Dublin and the various stages of treating that water before it gets to your tap. We also included a visit to Ballyfermot where our group acted as guides visiting various community



facilities and services and comparing rural and urban life. We did a workshop with Eco Ensko on sustainable living which was all interactive.

The Italian group did a presentation on ECO Mafia which showed the huge damage that is done to the environment in Italy and the vast profits being made on illegal waste dumping, both Industrial and social.

We also had a night in Dublin at the Riverdance show in the gaiety.

Group work From the outset of the project we used group work

European Youth in Action

Oakwood 2010

Youth Exchange Ireland-Valencia-Belgium

“Promoting Healthier options through Peer Education”

How it all began

Funny story this... in May 2008 Janice met Kostas on a Youth Pass Training in Bulgaria!! Later, Janice contacted Kostas to organise an exchange in Greece, but he was on EVS in Valencia but agreed to organise the exchange there. When we arrived in Valencia we met lovely Lilly, unfortunately Kostas had already left. The exchange turned out to be an amazing experience for the young people and led to a partnership with Ireland and Valencia this year in June in Ireland.



The Plan

The funny part was this year Kostas was back again with Valencia and arrived for the APV here in Ireland where we planned this year's exchange. All the plans were made but by the time we hosted the exchange Kostas had left Valencia and gone back to Greece!! Once again the exchange went ahead with a third partner from Belgium & turned out to be an amazing experience.



The Exchange

The theme of the exchange was promoting healthier options for young people through Peer education “young people teaching young people”. The programme involved 30 young people in total and each day was spent participating in a variety of activities based on the theme e.g. self defence workshops, gym, kayaking, mountain biking and lots more.

The young people also facilitated a variety of workshops themselves based on drugs awareness and developing a better understanding of one another's culture. Everyone involved had an amazing experience.



So what's next?

Well guess who's popped up again? Yes Kostas to conclude the final part of our exchange and where better than Greece at least this time he can't leave. In the Easter break this year the young people will travel to Greece to participate in the eco wave's project where they will learn about the environment, new cultures & have fun.

European Youth in Action

Sweden Trip August 2010

Ballyfermot Youth Service fundraised with a group of young people for 3 - 5 months for a trip to Sweden. The trip took place on 26 August – 29th August 2010. They did Bag Packing, Discos also sold spot the balls in schools, shops and at home. The group was made up of 6 young people from the Ballyfermot area and 2 Staff.

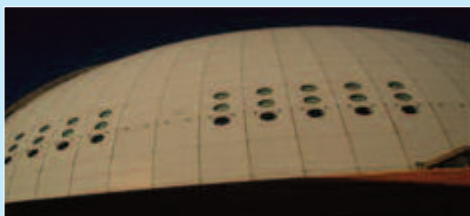


The group worked very hard while organising this trip looking for accommodation, planning activities and timetable and things to do while they were in Sweden.

While in Stockholm they visited many tourist attractions in the city. They also purchased a “Stockholm Card” which allowed them to get discounts on Public Transport and Admission to 80 places such as Museums, Parks etc.

They went to an Aquarium, The Royal Museum and a tour of Stockholm on a barge and horse and cart. They visited the Tivoli Theme Park followed by a Concert, and they also went to Restaurants and shopping.

A highlight of the visit was a trip up to Sky View, it the name of the attraction that takes you on a breathtaking journey to the top of



Ericsson Globe, the world’s largest spherical building. From it’s peak at 130 meters above sea level, you gain a whole new perspective on Stockholm.



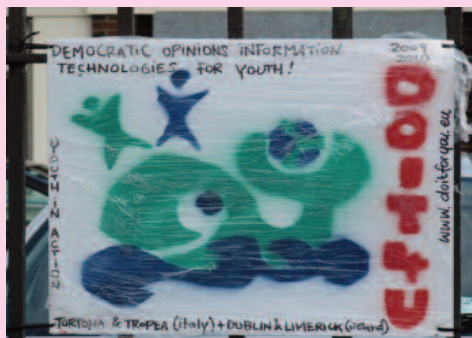
Gemma Stanley, Lauren Nolan, Natasha Fletcher, Ashling Rochford, Danielle McDade, HayleyKate Conlon, Bryan Perry, Ema Geraghty.

European Youth in Action

D.O.I.T. 4 YOU

Starting in October 09 a youth democracy project entitled - 'do it 4 you'- 'think glob@lly, act loc@lly' – began in both Ireland and Italy. There were four organisations involved in the project, Ballyfermot Youth Service, Limerick Youth Service, Tortona (Italy) & Tropea (Italy).

The project, the first of its kind is about youth participation in decision making, in particular about their right to be listened to on the matters that concern them and on all issues that have to do with their communities. This was done by building relationships with local politicians and representatives through workshops and sharing the information gathered by consulting with local young people.



The project wanted to experiment with new technologies and encourage young people to use them to express their opinions on certain issues. We also wanted to expand the ways in which ideas are heard and expressed so that the consultation and decision making process is more relevant to the world we live in today.

The project entailed two international meetings, the first in Tortona in February 2010 & the second in Ballyfermot in August 2010. During each international meeting the young people took part in workshops to learn how to make videos,



use photos and explore the key concepts of participation, democracy and power in society. They also had the opportunity to become clowns and entertain the citizens of Tortona!

Overall, the year was a great success and the young people got to experience lots of new things, new cultures and new ideas. Ballyfermot Youth Service hopes to continue this work into the future and to ensure that young people in the area take an active role in the decisions that affect them.

Ballyfermot Youth Service Awards



Ballyfermot Youth Service, 41 Decies Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. Ph: 6231431



Clár 'An Óige i mbun gnímh'



An Oige i mbun gnímh

