

BALLYFERMOT YOUTH SERVICE

BYS Ballyfermot Youth Service



**ANNUAL REPORT
2015/2016**

EXECUTIVE REPORT

BALLYFERMOT
YOUTH SERVICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

Cuireann sé an áthas agus bród orm an tuairisc seo a sheoladh daoibh. It gives me great pleasure to commend this report to you, which captures the wide and varied range of programmes and activities that we have carried out in 2015. Despite this being a very tight year in terms of budgets, we have managed as an organisation to consolidate the range of programmes that we offer to young people. During the last twelve months alone, we have seen the growth in our European Erasmus projects, with over 100 young people from the area taking part in them. We have also seen the realisation of our Skateboard park for Ballyfermot getting to design stage.

Our residential centre in Wicklow (Oakwood) continues to play an important part in the lives of young people. Over 500 young people have now used this centre in 2015. Our Outward Bounds Amenity centre in Park West continues to provide outdoor education activities with an emphasis on adventure sports. We have recently being granted €30,000 from the Department of Sport to upgrade our equipment, which will ensure that young people have first class access to the best facilities. Our Drop-in Internet Information Centres on Decies Road and Drumfinn are continuing to attract young people. Our personal development and Peer Education drugs awareness programmes together with the After School programmes in Decies Road and Gurteen continue to provide positive choices for young people. Music, Arts and Film are also giving young people opportunities to develop their talents. BYS have successfully taken part in a number of public performances during the past year. As we write this report, BYS have just launched a major exhibition including street banners titled "Remembering the Leaders of 1916" this is testament to our work with young people.

"New attention is also directed at achieving more with the funding available, and at obtaining a return on investments. This too has led to a major shift. Organisations are now caught between competing priorities: The classic response to individuals' needs and interests, in line with the sense of the core mission of youth work, is now challenged by interventionist, target group-based approaches. Concerns have consequently emerged over loss of autonomy, compounded by the constraints of new obligations to compete for funding. As funding becomes linked more closely to measurable outcomes, the social nature of youth work may be in jeopardy and needs to be re-evaluated to ensure a complementarity with its educational role." (*Youth Work and non-formal Learning in Europe's education landscape 2016*)

In recent years BYS have suffered severe cutbacks to our service, it is now time to restore some additional funding to cope with the increased demands on our service and also the additional governance duties as laid down by the various government department. The needs of young people in Ballyfermot are complex and we are seeing more and more young people seeking our service for personal support in times of crisis. Never before has Youth work been mentioned as frequently or recognised more often as playing a leading role in young peoples lives (National Youth Strategy 2015 - 2020). But increased workloads require increased budgets to deliver these services, it's time to restore budgets so that we can employ additional youth workers and give young people the service they deserve.

Training plays a vital part in any organisation. In 2015 eighteen staff and volunteers undertook Fetac Level 5 first aid training and were awarded certificates. This enables BYS to ensure the safety and protection of young people in our care and comply with legalisation. In addition to first aid training, ten of our staff and volunteers also completed Child Protection Training. This is mandatory in BYS and is also part of our continuous improvement plan to ensure that all staff and volunteers are up to date on Child Protection Guidelines and good practice.

In 2015 the board of BYS embarked on a process of recruiting new directors. We developed a five week training programme that covered issues relating to being a member of a voluntary Board. The course covered the following topics: **Aims & Objectives of BYS, Board handbook, Policies of BYS Leadership skills, Financial accounts, Board responsibilities, Officer roles, Company Law.** Following the course we had four new Board members who were elected at our AGM in November 2015. The Board members were Adam Kealy, Kurt Fitzgerald, Jordan Gray and Bridget Murray. In addition the board was also strengthened by the appointment of Janice Mc Garry who has vast experience of Youth Work in both Ireland and Europe. The Board have also introduced a handbook for all directors to assist them in performing their duties. Going forward the board of BYS together with the staff and volunteers are in the process of developing a five year Strategic Plan for the organisation. We aim to undertake this task in the first six months of 2016 and look forward to mapping the future for youth services in Ballyfermot.

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. Last year we saw a number of our members step down after giving long service. To Leon Kelly, Marion Shelly, Lorraine Hyland and Ann Monaghan. I extend my sincere thanks to them for their commitment and service. I also want to welcome the new members of our management committee which give us a mix of youth and experience. I also want to thank our volunteers Joanne Kenealy, Richard Carolan, Peter Maxwell, Eoin Cummins Reid, Roberto Tusa and Sally Flynn for all their help.

Many thanks to the Youth Service Manager Gerry Mc Carthy and his staff for their commitment and dedication to the young people of Ballyfermot. During the past year we had one redundancy in the organisation which saw our Project Leader Maria Healy leave to take up another position in Galway. I also wish to thank the staff of the Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment project for all their help with the various programmes. Mile buiochas to City Of Dublin Youth Service Board Liaison Officer Celene Dunne for her assistance and support. I also want to thank Gwen Doyle from CDYSB who has transferred to the Dept of Children & Youth Affairs who served as our liaison officer for the last 10 years. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs 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 2016 and having another successful year.

Vincent Jackson, Chairperson
March 2016



BYS Management Committee with Lord Mayor

L/R: Mary Daly, David Lynch, Bridget Murray, Vincent Jackson, Lord Mayor [Críona Ní Dhálaigh], Janice Mc Garry, Adam Kealy, Kurt Fitzgerald, Jordan Gray & Manager Gerry Mc Carthy

The ethos of Ballyfermot Youth Service is to work within the principles of youth work to provide a safe, supportive and positive environment which encourages the social and personal development of all young people, leading to positive social change. Our mission is to work with young people aged between 10 and 21 years in the Ballyfermot area who are at risk of early school leaving and involvement in/ or who are currently involved in anti-social behaviour and who may suffer from disadvantage, through appropriate social and personal development programmes and youth information services.

We use our resources to the maximum to meet the changing needs of local young people. As an organisation we have the capacity to provide a wide range of unique programmes in-house, making our programmes more accessible to the local youth community. We have a committed and experienced staff team who strive to empower young people to make positive changes to their lives. In this report you will see a range of activities including Art, Film, Media, Music and Sports which we use as tools to engage young people and achieve these objectives.

Engaged 2300 young people in Adventure Sports

We work collaboratively with other statutory and voluntary organisations on joint pieces of work and programmes which target young people. In conjunction with local schools and youth organisations, we provide personal and social development programmes in the form of Outdoor Education, Peer Education, Transfer and Mentoring programmes on a weekly basis. We work with sporting national governing bodies on certification for our outdoor education programmes. We share resources such as: our mini buses, Oakwood residential centre, outdoor education, youth work resources with youth and community organisations and schools. Ballyfermot Youth Service works within the core principles of youth work, promoting voluntary participation in a non formal and experiential setting. We follow these non-formal learning principles in all our groups:

4600 Visits by Young people to our Information Centres

We use the Erasmus programme to maximise opportunities and progression for young people at home and abroad. Such programmes, exchanges and linkages have allowed for the development of various partnerships with numerous youth organisation within Europe and other countries world wide. Ballyfermot Youth Service continues to build and foster these partnerships on a yearly basis.

138 young People on Erasmus Youth Exchanges



Thank You
We would like to thank St Dominics Secondary school and the Starr Project for the use of their mini buses throughout the year.



Ballyfermot Youth Service has been very busy over the last few years developing its music programme. The young people involved in the programme have worked very hard and participated in many various activities such as 'The Big Sparkle', Oakwood music camp, song writing, recording and weekly music development sessions. We view music as a way to express our feelings, thoughts and views about the world we live in. Playing music as a group is an important way to develop listening skills, team work, cultural awareness & employment opportunities. Learning to play an instrument, read music, perform in public all leads to building up the confidence of the young person.

Over the past year we have developed several new music based developmental groups as well as continuing our established older group. Our older group has used their skills and talents on European Youth Exchanges, performing in the CDYSB event 'The Big Sparkle' held in the Helix in December 2015 as well as assisting with the younger groups. The group have also played in the 'Remembering the Leaders' exhibition opening launch in the Ballyfermot library.

We hold an annual 'Music Camp' in Oakwood, where we bring together young people from different music groups to share their talents and skills with other young people which is always a great success. The residential programme allows us to create an environment where we can write, play & record music as well as explore new ideas with their peers. All the young people that have participated in the camp had a great time and really enjoyed the experience. Jason Kelly said "The music camp was really an intensive experience and I learned loads!" Ballyfermot Youth Service would like to thank all the young people that participated in the music programme throughout the year!



Niamh Redmond, Charlie Murray



Aaron Leddy, Niamh Redmond, Jason Kelly



John Kelly (Youth Worker) with Aaron Leddy



FILMS/MEDIA

The 'Cast' Film Festival Calls to Action Youth Groups, schools and organisations to break the mould and produce a short film which sheds the light on any social issue effecting their community. BYS have been involved in this process for two years and have produced a number of films which highlight many of these issues facing young people. In 2015, BYS entered two films into this competiton: 'SAOL' and 'No Need for Weed'. This process involved our EVS volunteer Roberto Tusa working with groups of young people and developing their ideas into a film.

The skills learned by the young people included script writing, acting and filming while understanding the topic and how to portray it on film. The youth workers role was to explore with the young people the issues they were trying to convey on film while supporting them in that process. One was based around suicide prevention, the other on the dangers of drug dependency. Roberto worked on the final editing process. The young people also learned the power of film and media and how to portray the image that you want people to see. These films were very successful and won three awards: the best actor for James Cramp, best film in the community section and best producer for Roberto Tusa. The awards night took place in the Red Cow Hotel with presentations by the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

In addition to the above films, BYS also produced three other films: 'Trust 1', 'Trust 2' and 'Justice'. These movies used local actors. These films had a more creative outlook. Based on a similar theme to televisions 'Love Hate' series, they provided a Ballyfermot twist into the storyline.

The premiere screening took place in the Ballyfermot College of Further Education to a full house. The films can be viewed on YouTube. Altogether there were twenty young people involved in this project.



Rebecca O'Toole, Megan Mc Kee, Shannon Gray, Roman Couchaord, Kurt Fitzgerald, Jordan Gray, Lee Wyatt Clarke, Patrick Russel, James Cramp, Aaron Leddy, Roberto Tusa, Muireann Ryan, Kate Moss, Alex Doyle, Paula Moore, Luke Dalton, Imelda Brady and Derek Cully.



The Ballyfermot Youth Information Centres are an integrated part of Ballyfermot Youth Service Ltd. We are the first point of contact for many Young People seeking information on a variety of issues. We currently operate two centres, one based in Lower Ballyfermot and the other in Upper Ballyfermot. In 2015, we had over three thousand visits to our centres.

We provide a free confidential drop-in service that operates until late at night. We also offer our services over a five day period, with many young people accessing free internet, photocopying and printing.

Our premises provide a friendly, warm and informal environment. Our friendly staff assist young people in obtaining the information required. They deal with each query efficiently and appropriately, ensuring that it is suitable to the young persons needs. We advocate on behalf of our young people in all aspects of their lives.

Young people visit the drop-in centres as both individuals and in groups. Through regular attendance, friendships and positive relationships are created and enabled. This allows our Youth Work staff to identify 'at risk' Young People and encourage them to participate in our youth work programmes and activities. We also provide information for Young People to access appropriate local services. We offer advice and support to early school leavers, families, 'one to one' and young people 'at risk' in our community.

We organise European Youth Exchanges, European Volunteer Services, Youth Seminars, Residentials, Youth Awards, Youth Groups, Summer Programmes and Information Days. These can be used to provide details on life-styles and opportunities in other Countries.

The Information Officers through direct communication, work with our Youth Workers & Outward Bounds staff to provide supports to other relevant voluntary and statutory agencies whom we have built up relationships with. This can involve referrals to these agencies for more specialised information and assistance that may be required by Young People.

We also provide a variety of forms such as Passport, E11, Driver Theory Test, Learner Permits, Garda ID, CV's and job applications.

OUR OPENING TIMES:

Monday	2 – 7.00pm
Tuesday	2 – 7.00pm
Wednesday	2 – 9.00pm
Thursday	2 – 7.00pm
Friday	2 – 6.30pm



Ballyfermot Youth Information Centre(s)

3 Drumfinn Park,
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10.
Email: info@ballyfermotys.ie
Phone: 01 6237401

41 Decies Road,
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10.
Ph: 01 6231431

GURTEEN YOUTH CLUB COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

**BALLYFERMOT
YOUTH SERVICE**
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment Project is based in Ballyfermot. Our project has eighteen Community Employment (CE) workers and one Supervisor at present. We provide support to services offered by Ballyfermot Youth Services at Decies Road, the Youth Information Centre at Drumfinn Park and the Outward Bounds Activities Centre located in Parkwest. Our Club House is at the rear of the sports complex on Gurteen Road. Here we cater for children aged 6 to 12.

On the creative side, there are Art & Craft competitions, and of course our hugely successful Summer Projects. Our experienced staff offers a warm welcome to all children that attend our clubs. Children's clubs like ours present a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, participate in activities, and may well be the start of some lifelong friendships. We work hard to give all young people that participate in our clubs the chance to achieve their potential through social and personal development opportunities.

We aim to provide a comprehensive, inclusive, broad-ranging service to the young people of Ballyfermot and the adults who work with them. In doing this, we also create the opportunity for local people to participate on a Community Employment Project that will further the participants opportunity for employment. We offer good quality training that meets the needs of our participants as well as providing the opportunity to work in a nurturing and professional environment.

Anyone interested in joining in the fun, get in touch!

CE Participants:

Michael Breen	Richard Behan
Barbara Fitzpatrick	Kenneth Johnston
Samantha Kelly	Sandra Atkinson Kelly
Phillip Mc Kenna	Marie O'Reilly
James Rock	
Amanda McCormack	

Supervisor:
Pauline Grogan

Jobs Initiative:
Ann O'Byrne
Imelda Brady
Elaine Doyle



What is Peer Education?

Peer Education is an approach within youth work which sets out to empower young people to work with other young people, and which draws on the positive strength of the peer group, by means of appropriate training and support, the young people become active players in the educational process rather than passive recipients of a set message, central to the work is the collaboration between young people and the peer educator/youth worker.

Peer education proposes education among equals and aims to encourage the active involvement and development of young people through information-sharing, debating and interaction, peer education is an innovative method for working with young people. The aim of the programmes we carry out is to introduce a peer education model based on shared practice as an instrument for working with young people in need of support and guidance.

This is the concept which provides the foundation for Our Peer Education Programme at Ballyfermot Youth Service.

Peer Education Programmes and Training

In 2015 the Peer Education Programme involved over 100 young people in a variety of different peer education programmes including peer education training.

These programmes were based on developing young people's leadership/facilitation skills, group work and drug awareness workshops. The programmes were delivered in the following schools in the Ballyfermot area:

- Cairatas College
- St Dominics Secondary School

Each group was for a period of 10 weeks, the programme is mainstreamed as part of the transition year curriculum. The content over the ten week period is as follows:

- Peer Education definitions and Exploring Peer Pressure
- Personal development and Empowerment
- Drug Awareness
- Leadership skills, Facilitation skills, and Group work skills

Outcomes

When young people are involved in peer groups it encourages active participation, involvement and familiarity with the group and their community and society, as well as interest in social experiences, independence and assertiveness, improved relationships with themselves, peers, family and other areas of society, greater awareness of their own potential and limitations and development skills.

This training also provided the young people with an opportunity to put their skills into practice through facilitating sessions for their peers within their school or youth group.

The young people also expressed that they were more confident and knowledgeable regarding Drugs and Alcohol issues within their community. They also said how the leadership skills will help them in their future careers after completing the programme.



ADVENTURE CENTRE

**BALLYFERMOT
YOUTH SERVICE**
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Adventure Sports has fast become one of the most rewarding and fulfilling activities for young people worldwide and is deemed as the most valuable way of enhancing young people's lives. From our centre in Park West Industrial estate we offer a range of Adventure sports to the young people of Ballyfermot, we also work closely with other youth services, schools and statutory authorities sharing our expertise and facilities.

We are very proud of our high standards when it comes to participant safety within our high level of activities. We are also very proud to stand by our reputation as one of the finest adventure sports youth based centres in Ireland. This high reputation and standard has become possible through our dedicated adventure sports team who have vast knowledge of the great outdoors and are always searching for new and exciting locations for activities that will enhance the possibilities of growth for our participating young people.

This year we have witnessed an outstanding level of interest in our programmes with many young people showing a great level of enthusiasm for each activity.

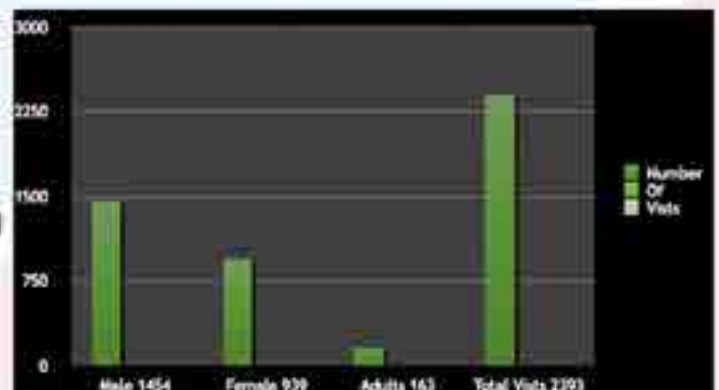
Richard Carolan and Brian James qualified as Kayaking instructors in May.

This has been a major thing for us and obviously for both Brian and Richard themselves. We have been able to expand the groups we take and having another qualified kayak instructor helps fill in the kayaking hours. Richard has been volunteering with us for nearly a year now and we were delighted to be able to help him achieve his instructor award as well as being able to call on him to cover hours when staff are out. It is also fantastic for our CE staff to be able to attain a meaningful qualification that will help them to get work in the future. It also meant we hired two local lads this summer through the DCC summer staff programme. This has always been our aim but this is the first year we have actually achieved filling both spots with local qualified people.

Sports capital grant.

YEAY!!! We were approved for €29,000 under the 2015 Sports Capital Grant. This can be roughly broken down into €16,000 for new bikes, helmets, elbow and knee pads.

€8,000 for replacement of essential kayaking equipment, wetsuits, booties buoyancy aids etc and €5,000 for replacement of Rock climbing equipment.



Further Education

We have two young men who started the outdoor education course this year in St Kevin's College, Crumlin, one going into his second year in Collaiste Dooligh and one completing his Kayaking Instructor Award as part of an LTI programme being run by DCC.

Employment Initiative

In 2016 we are embarking on a new training course targeting young people who are not in work or education. This course is being funded by the CDETB as a pilot and we are currently recruiting young people age between 18 and 24.

Further Skate Park developments.

There have been major developments in the skate park plan in the last 12 months. The Irish Architecture Foundation in collaboration with The Matheson Foundation have come on board with Dublin City Council to create an innovative new and exciting play space in Ballyfermot. The first two phases have been completed the IAF spent the summer 'getting to know the community' running events and collecting feedback and design ideas from local people. The guys at Shoot to Kill made a film of the process where you can learn about the hopes and needs of the community. Our BMX club were also involved in this process and had an excellent design workshop where they could express their hopes and wishes for the park. There has also been meetings with local groups including residents groups. All this information was put together in a design brief and an international competition was launched to design the new park service. The final design was agreed in Feb 2016 and is now going to planning process. The budget has been increased to €500,000 and they still feel they are on track to start building next June 2017.



Senior instructor
Staff Allegra Lalor

Instructor
Ger O Reilly

Volunteer Instructor
Richie Carrolan



REMEMBER THE LEADERS

Most people are familiar with the seven leaders who signed the proclamation declaring a republic in the 1916 Easter rising. Connolly, Pearse, Plunkett, Mac Diarmada, Ceannt, Clarke and Mac Donagh. However there were an additional nine volunteers who were executed along with these leaders. They were: Thomas Kent, Michael O'Halloran, Con Colbert, Edward Daly, John Mc Bride, Michael Mallin, Michael O'Hanrahan, Roger Casement, Sean Heuston and William Pearse.

Ballyfermot Youth Service have put together a graphic and photo exhibition of all these leaders of 1916. As part of the project, a group of young people thought it was also important to include three additional leaders as they had played a vital part in our history of that period: these were: Michael Collins, Constance Markievicz and Eamon De Valera .

Working with an Italian Graphic Artist Roberto Tusa from Tortona in Italy, who is a European Volunteer on an Erasmus programme with Ballyfermot Youth Service. Twenty young people have taken original photographs of the sixteen leaders and used a poster style technique to enhance the images, using vibrant colours of reds, greens, blues and yellows.

Each young person's task was to decide on the leader that they identified with. They read the proclamation and picked three words that represented their ideas and visions about this revolutionary period and what it meant to them as young people in today's Ireland.

They incorporated these words together with their own photograph alongside the image of the leader. These images are printed on large polyboards and create an explosion of colour and imagination. In addition to the exhibition, street banners were displayed for the public to see on the main shopping street in Ballyfermot.



The exhibition was launched by the Lord Mayor, Cróna Ní Dhálaigh on 18th January 2016 in the Ballyfermot Library. The event was widely covered in the print & television media.



EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN

Ballyfermot Youth Service is currently engaging with young females, providing them with specific empowering opportunities. This enables and enhances their personal development, while they explore different issues as individuals and within their peer group. We recognise and value empowerment as one of the core principles of youth work. This specific piece of work has been delivered to various groups of young females within the Ballyfermot area over the past eighteen months. This piece of work was a response to the needs of the young women within the area, in relation to certain issues identified through our various youth groups and clubs. In 2015, we had three groups operating in both Decies and the Gurteen area.

This programme takes on the form of various elements of and including; Drug Awareness, Equality and Empowerment, Holistic Therapy, Sexual Health, Well Being and Critical Social Awareness. These programmes help young women in the Ballyfermot area to be more positive, confident, and more aware of the inequalities that affects them as young women. We aim to build solidarity amongst young women, which will give them a more powerful voice. This can help them make good informed decisions, and be in control during difficult and challenging situations. It also gives young females self-strength, self-power, self-reliance, own choices, life of dignity in accordance with one's values, capable of fighting for one's rights, independence, which helps them to be free. It gives young female participants the opportunity to explore different situations while being able to influence what happens to them and their peers. These young women are learning about power, empowerment, disempowerment, and being able to recognise power structures within their lives, communities and society as a whole.

We have seen first hand the outcomes and benefits that this programme has made to the young female population of Ballyfermot. Many of these young women have taken part in various actions, on an individual and group level, demonstrating the new skills they have learned. In June 2015, a group of young females participated in Dublin's Flora Mini Marathon, standing together united as young women in a very empowering event.



*For further information contact:
Paula Moore (Youth Worker)*

ATTRACTIVE CITY

Our project was called "Attractive City" The main aim of our project was to promote the reflection on multiculturalism in society and we wanted to find ways for young people to feel more connected to live in their own city. While becoming more tolerant and active citizens. We also wanted to foster the relationship of people from different cultures, backgrounds and experiences, decreasing prejudices and increasing social cohesion of multicultural Europe. The idea for the project came from a previous project that we had undertaken with one of our partners from Poland. The project allowed the young people from Ireland, Poland, Finland and Italy to make a model of a city attractive for them to live in the future. This project gave the young people space to develop their leadership skills by: planning and delivering different activities, presentations, performances using verbal and nonverbal language and learning by partaking in outdoor education activities and cultural performances.

There were 52 participants and eight leaders. The participants were from four different countries: Ireland, Italy, Finland and Poland. With the exception of the Irish group (from a city) the other three groups were all from small rural towns in their countries. The project started off in Dublin for two days and the remaining time was based in Killary Adventure Centre, Galway. The project was held over nine days in June 2015. We used a variety of methods throughout the project, Art, Sport, Discussions and Cultural performances. We created workshops based on Employment. Each group had to come up with 200 ways for employment in an ideal city. This gave the young people the opportunity to learn from one another's political, cultural and social backgrounds while broadening the young people's aspirations for their future. Art played a key role in developing ideas around a multicultural city. We produced a large mosaic with 556 pieces, that were painted, designed and assembled by the young people. We built a city from waste materials and also designed a wrap around banner which represented our future. We used outdoor education sports and methods for team building, while pushing ourselves to the limits, trying new sports and finding ways to work with one another.

Each country presented their own cultural night which gave us an insight into their customs and practices. These performances included music, dance and games specific to their country.

The desired effect locally is that young people see participation in Erasmus+ Programmes as a positive thing in their life, giving them a sense of achievement and pride. There were tears of sadness when we had to say 'goodbye' to each other, but straight away the young people accessed their Facebook pages for the project planning of future projects. One comment from one Irish boy during the project stuck with me when he said *"I feel I am in a different place, different country"* so perhaps we had created an ideal Attractive City after all.

Leaders:
Gerry Mc Carthy
Roberto Tusa
David Lynch



This project was funded by the European Union through Leargas & the Erasmus+ fund.

Erasmus Mobility of Youth Killary Ireland

In June 2015 BYS hosted two Youth exchanges in Killary, Co Galway. These projects involved over 112 young people from 8 countries and thirty young people from Ballyfermot. The first project was called "Better Quality of Life". The main aim of our project was to promote and learn about our environment from recycling to waste management and to empower our young people with knowledge. We wanted to find ways for young people to learn more about the environment and have a better understanding. We also wanted to foster the relationship of people from different cultures, backgrounds and experiences, decreasing prejudices and increasing social cohesion in a multicultural Europe.

The idea for our project originated from discussions with our youth group about the Thorntons recycling plant in our community. From there we contacted some of our previous partners Malta, Hungary and Cyprus with our project plans and discussed the outline of the project. Our idea was based on the belief that young people can find solutions to the serious issues facing our environment. This project gave the young people space to develop their leadership skills by: planning and delivering different activities, presentations, performances using verbal and nonverbal language and learning by partaking in outdoor education activities.



There were 52 participants and eight leaders. The participants were from four countries, Ireland, Malta, Cyprus and Hungary



Activities

We used a variety of methods throughout the project, Art, Sport, Discussions and Cultural performances. We used groupwork for all the activities and had different group formations for various activities (groups of 10, 20 & 30) thereby increasing the participation of young people.

We held workshops on recycling and Waste Management and our local recycling plant environmental officer gave a presentation on their plant, this was followed by discussions, question and answer session. We also held workshops on water quality, services, reform and climate change. Each group participated through a variety of techniques, our final workshop was a role-play and was performed through rap, dance, song and a theatre performance. All the participants learned about different cultures from one another, each country presented their own cultural night which gave us a insight into their customs and practices. These performances included music, dance and games from their country.

*One of member of the group commented to me at the end of the project
"What a life changing and amazing experience"*

Leaders:

Jody Byrne,
Sally Flynn,
Roman Couchard

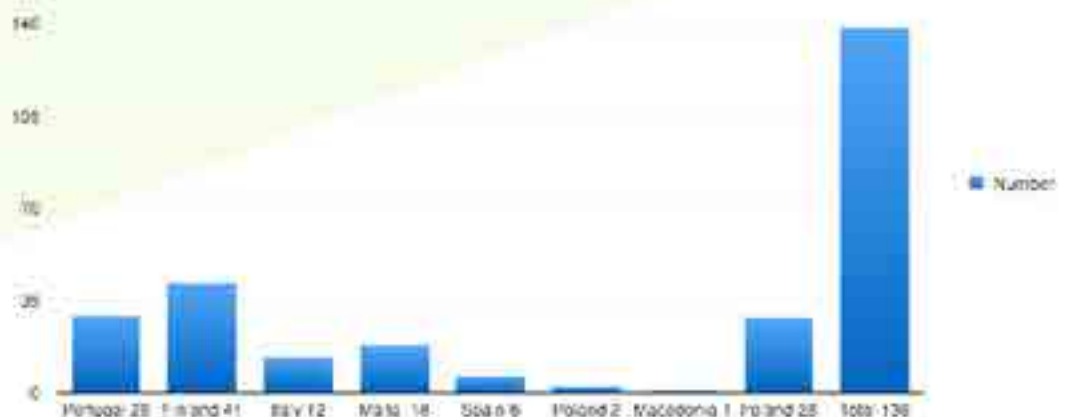


Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport from 2014 to 2020. It provides funding and support for organisations to operate projects that are consistent with its objectives and which encourage European exchange, co-operation and learning. Erasmus+ is funded by the European Union. Erasmus+ aims to modernise and improve the quality of teaching, training and youth work across Europe, and to support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices. These objectives are closely tied with the Europe 2020 strategy of achieving a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 for all of Europe's citizens. Fundamental goals for Erasmus+ include improving key competences and skills, and fostering partnerships between education and employment. The programme also seeks to promote European values as stated in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Ballyfermot Youth Service uses the Erasmus programme to engage young people in our programmes. In 2015 we had 138 young people participating on Erasmus programmes in Ireland and Europe. We engaged with twelve partners from the following countries: Portugal, Spain, Italy, Poland, Finland, Hungary, Malta, Cyprus, Belgium and Macedonia.



Erasmus+ Projects 2015

	Number
Portugal 29	29
Finland 41	41
Italy 12	12
Malta 18	18
Spain 6	6
Poland 2	2
Macedonia 1	1
Ireland 29	29
Total 138	138



EVS for Volunteers European Voluntary Service (EVS) What's in it for me?

Are you between 18 and 30? Would you like to:

- see more of the world?
- experience different cultures?
- meet new people?
- do meaningful and valuable work as a volunteer?
- develop your confidence and gain new skills?



If so, European Voluntary Service (EVS) is just the thing for you!

Ballyfermot Youth Service & Beyond 96 Youth club have been working in partnership for a number of years to support young people to go on EVS.

The European Union provides funding for young people to volunteer in another country for between two and 12 months, or shorter in certain cases. Accommodation and food are provided, along with some monthly pocket money. The funding also covers the majority of your travel costs.

Project Duration 2 - 12 months
18* - 30 year old volunteers
Sending organisation applies
via online e-form by 11:00am Irish time

Can I do EVS?

Are you:

- ENTHUSIASTIC? RELIABLE? WILLING TO LEARN?

You don't need to have gone to college or have worked previously to do EVS - just the right attitude! Organisations are seeking young people who are interested in the work they do and who will work well with others.



Roberto Tusa, James Gonzales

Where can I go?

There are a wide range of organisations available to host volunteers across the EU as well as in many bordering countries, for instance:

- a youth organisation in Finland
- supporting people with disabilities in Spain
- advocating for Human Rights in Moldova
- a street theatre in Austria
- working with street children in Russia

Ballyfermot Youth Service in partnership with Beyond 96 youth club will carry out pre-departure preparation or training with you. This will cover practicalities such as travel arrangements, insurance, finance and accommodation. They will also help you to make the most of your EVS e.g. by setting learning goals; preparing you for living in a different culture; and helping you face the challenges you might experience. Make sure to ask your Sending Organisation about Youthpass, a certificate you can receive after your EVS project that describes what you have done and what you have learned.

It can take many months to plan and prepare for an EVS project – so get started early! Your Sending Organisation will explain the process to you. Remember, either your Sending or Receiving Organisation must submit an application for funding your placement to their National Agency. This is done through the Erasmus+ programme and there are three deadlines a year for applications, usually in February, April and October.

AFTER SCHOOL

The After-Schools programme was set up to facilitate the needs of young people living in Ballyfermot who may not have the ability or support to complete their homework after school. Its primary objective is to assist young people attending 5th and 6th class who are preparing for the transition to 1st year. The program takes place over the duration of the standard school year (September through to June). It takes place over four days each week in both our Decies and Gurteen Youth Centres. The After Schools Staff contact the local schools who would in turn refer the young people to attend the club on a voluntary and regular basis. The Youth Service staff would also target and refer young people who they feel would be in need of this service. One of the main objectives in Ballyfermot Youth Service is to always provide a safe and enjoyable environment. This allows the programs to take place and because the young people already feel comfortable, they are more likely to re-attend. The After-Schools Club provides a hot meal with refreshments on a daily basis.

The After-Schools programme, by its very nature, creates long term relationships between the staff and young people. This is a vital tool in encouraging young people to primarily stay in school. Secondly, it serves as a direct link for young people who wish to stay involved in the Youth Service. It is hoped that the young people involved would benefit and gain some life skills.

These would include:

- Boost their self-confidence and awareness.
- Heighten their listening and communication skills.
- Learn to respect themselves and others.
- Build relationships.

The majority of young people attending the After-Schools program would continue their involvement with the Youth Service by participating in our Summer Programme which sets them up nicely when they return in September.



Martin O' Reilly – 085 8423095 (After-Schools & Homework Co-ordinator)

OAKWOOD

2015 was a busy year for our residential centre in County Wicklow (Oakwood). We had over 600 young people take part in residential trips. The centre has proved a fantastic success providing low cost adventure trips for young people. The centre has been used for youth exchanges, adventure sports, music camps and just as a place to go to chill out. All bookings for Oakwood are handled by our Information officers in Drumfinn who do a great job.



Ballyfermot Youth Service Limited

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

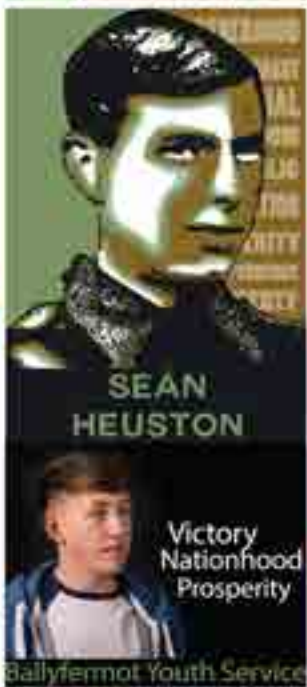
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015 €	2014 €
Income		
City of Dublin Youth Service Board	485,456	469,581
Health Service Executive	31,702	27,202
Leargas	84,528	25,702
Dublin City Council	13,500	30,000
The Advance Programme	1,000	1,500
Other Grant	9,612	1,395
Fee Income	34,235	26,869
Sundry Income	3,721	21,622
	<u>663,754</u>	<u>603,871</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	372,037	405,219
Programme costs	53,509	36,132
STARR Project Costs	13,601	13,601
Materials	8,625	10,239
Rent and Rates	8,481	5,905
Insurance	20,910	20,840
Light and heat	9,901	10,015
Kitchen supplies and cleaning	8,879	5,750
Repairs and maintenance	9,002	12,576
Printing, postage and stationery	3,173	-
Advertising	1,156	3,152
Telephone	6,359	6,285
Computer costs	3,676	1,191
Motor expenses	8,738	8,734
Travelling expenses	87,338	33,025
Legal and professional	4,354	4,108
Audit and accountancy	5,206	5,166
Bank charges	457	464
Training and development	1,917	1,559
General expenses	714	1,013
Depreciation	27,691	33,896
	<u>655,724</u>	<u>618,850</u>
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>8,030</u>	<u>(14,979)</u>

BALLYFERMOT YOUTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT
2015/2016



BALLYFERMOT YOUTH SERVICE - HEAD OFFICE

41 DIECIES ROAD
BALLYFERMOT 10 - DUBLIN
TEL: 6231431
EMAIL: GERRY@BALLYFERMOTYS.IE

GURTEEN YOUTH CENTRE

GURTEEN ROAD
BALLYFERMOT 10 - DUBLIN
TEL: 6005501

ADVENTURE CENTRE

42 CANAL WALK PARK WEST INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
BALLYFERMOT 12 - DUBLIN
TEL: 612 0948
EMAIL: BYSKAYAKING@EIRCOM.NET

INFORMATION CENTRE

3 DRUMFINN PARK
BALLYFERMOT 10 - DUBLIN
TEL: 623 7401
EMAIL: INFO@BALLYFERMOTYS.IE

BYS Ballyfermot Youth Service

Official youth service of CDYSB

Erasmus+

Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Health Service Executive

Dublin City Council

léargas