

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

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

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Bridget Murray
Janice McGarry
Adam Kealy
Jordan Gray
Kurt Fitzgerald
David Lynch
Vincent Jackson
Mary Daly
Charles Murray (appointed 29 March 2017)

Company Secretary

Mary Daly

Company Number

339290

Charity Number

20150532

Registered Office and Business Address

41 Decies Road,
Ballyfermot, Dublin 10

Auditors

KSI Faulkner Orr Limited
Registered Auditors
Gateway House
133 Capel Street
Dublin 1, Ireland

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Ballyfermot, Dublin 10

Solicitors

Bennet's Solicitors
306 Ballyfermot Road, Dublin 10

EXECUTIVE 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 report to you, which captures the wide and varied range of programmes and activities that we have carried out in 2017. Our Adventure Centre in Park West and our residential centre in Wicklow add an important dimension to the range of programmes we offer young people. In 2017 our weekend service was again open and active with 80 young people attending on an average Saturday night. The ability of BYS staff to constantly challenge, change and be creative in how we engage young people in Ballyfermot is testament to their professionalism as youth workers.

As we celebrate our 30th year in operation we are committed to improving and keeping the service relevant to the needs of young people of Dublin 10. As a Board we are aware of the needs to constantly change in order to achieve these objectives. We welcome the findings of the Value for Money report that said,

“A key finding is that the programme should have a distinctive purpose in terms of improving the life chances of those young people who suffer inequality and exclusion because of marginalisation and disadvantage. The programme should be based on a non-formal education approach, and delivered mainly in community-based settings, at times and in ways that are accessible to young people. This purpose should be clearly reflected in policy objectives and in well thought out and realistic project plans.” However our Board is of the view that privatising Youth Projects and putting community groups through this process is not value for money or good sense. Youth projects are embedded in communities and have a unique link to young people living here and their needs.

The Board of directors met regularly in 2017 and received reports on all aspects of the project including financial information. We complied with all funding requirements by our funders and supplied detailed reports to the various government depts. In line with the new company law BYS also invited new company members and filled all our Annual Audit reports to the CRO office. We also received Charitable status for the organisation and we are continuing the practice of publishing our Audited Income & Expenditure details for 2017 in this report.

Some changes in staff during the year, I want to welcome back our Youth Service Manager Gerry Mc Carthy who was on sick leave and made a full recovery and to thank Kevin Dolan who acted as Manager in the interim and thank the staff for their commitment and dedication to the young people of Ballyfermot. I also want to thank Ger O Reilly who kept the show on the road in our adventure centre during Allegra's maternity leave. Thanks also to James O Reilly who worked with us for the year and finally it was great to welcome back Brian Perry to our staff.

In March 2017 we held our AGM and welcomed another young person to our Board as director (Charles Murray) I wish to thank my fellow board members for their guidance and support in implementing such a comprehensive range of programmes. Thanks also to 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 would also like to thank our many European partners who we have engaged with in 2017. Thanks to Dublin City Council for their continued support and 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. Mar focal scoir, “Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine” and I look forward to working with you in 2018 and having another successful year.

Vincent Jackson, Chairperson

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Achievements 2017

- 1,700 Individual Young People engaged with the service
- 18,103 Activity Hours
- 115 Young people on Erasmus+ Programmes
- Capital Investment in Equipment for Oakwood & Gurteen
- 191 Transition Year students on Peer Education days Training
- AGM- New young person Elected to the Board
- Charitable Status for Organisation
- All Staff trained in Child Protection E learning
- Strategic plan – In House Staff Learning Sessions



BYS Management Committee
 L/R: Mary Daly, David Lynch, Bridget Murray, Vincent Jackson, Janice Mc Garry, Adam Kealy, Kurt Fitzgerald, Jordan Gray & Manager Gerry Mc Carthy



BYS Staff

Gerry Mc Carthy	Youth Service Manager
Jody Byrne	Information officer/Youth worker
Kevin Dolan	Youth Worker
Sarah Flynn	Youth Worker (Temp)
John Kelly	Youth Worker
Alegra Lalor	Senior Outdoor Education Instructor
Paula Moore	Youth Worker
Ger O Reilly	Instructor Outdoor Education
Martin O Reilly	Information officer/Youth worker
Denise O Callaghan	Youth Worker (Temp)
Brian Perry	Activities Co ordinator



Allegra Lalor & Ger O Reilly

30 YEARS STILL GOING STRONG

In 1987/1988 a group of concerned residents from various parts of Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard came together to campaign for the establishment of a youth service in Ballyfermot. At the time there were serious anti-social issues in the area which resulted in the tragic loss of two young children on the corner of Ballyfermot road and O Hogan by a joyrider. This incident led to pressure being put on various government depts. Huge amount of lobbying took place with all the Local TDS and councillors being pressured to establish a proper youth service, so as to respond to the needs of the young people of Ballyfermot. The youth population at the time was over 7000 with one swimming pool and a small number of voluntary run youth clubs.

In order for the area to receive Government funding a requirement was that a limited company be formed, this led Voluntary groups came together, OLV, Gurteen Youth Club, Lr Cherry Orchard Youth Centre, St Beneldus Swimming Club, Statutory staff from Dublin City Council Play centre Kylemore avenue and the Library staff and some residents to form Ballyfermot Youth Federation Co Op Ltd.

The first committee of the Co-op was: Gerry Mc Carthy, David Connolly, Linda O Reilly, Julie Clarke, Francis Lee, Alan O Hanlon, Robert White, Eileen Waters, Francis Houlihan, Vincent Yourell and Ann O Brien. Their voluntary commitment led to the successful campaign which resulted in the government funding the youth Project with initial grant of €40,000 in June 1988.

The objectives of the Co-op was:

- To organise and coordinate the activities of youth clubs and associations
- To develop facilities and amenities for the benefit of the community
- To promote and encourage the involvement of young people in the community
- To identify and obtain the resources necessary, to implement local initiatives in group work
- To carry out research into the future needs of young people in the area.

The next part of the journey was to establish a centre in Decies road and employ two youth workers. The service slowly grew and developed providing services in different parts of Ballyfermot. In the late nineties there was a major investment by the Local Drugs Task Force in Youth Provision, both capital and people which was led by the Chair of Sr Liz. This seen a substantial provision for young people in Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard. The Co Op changed its name to Ballyfermot Youth Service and again reinvigorated itself in the provision of services for young people. The establishment of the Outdoor Education Centre in Park West, Info centre in Drumfinn, Oakwood Residential Centre in Wicklow and becoming one of the leading organisations in Ireland promoting European Erasmus Programmes for young people.

BYS have being fortunate in having excellent chairpersons over the years who have had the vision and clear commitment to Ballyfermot: Vincent Jackson, Mary Daly, Sr Liz, Ann O Brien. Over the years the service has developed and grown and new members of the management committee have given their time and energy free, we are thankful to all of them. We are also fortunate to have staff who are professional and committed to the ideals of the organisation and work flat out for young people. It's a testament to their commitment and I look forward to the next 30 years for Ballyfermot Youth Service.

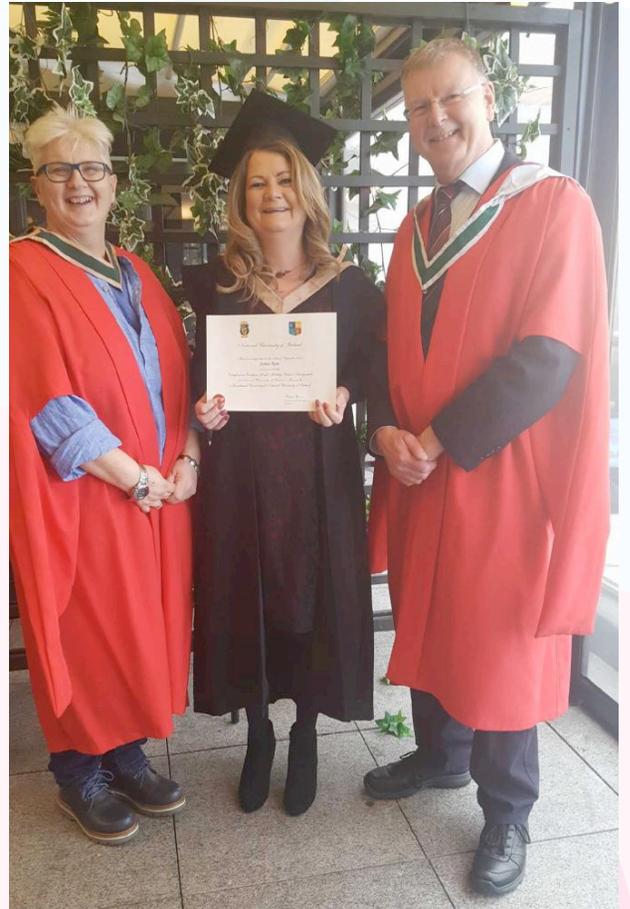
Gerry Mc Carthy Youth Service Manager

VOLUNTEERS

Ballyfermot Youth Service hold a long tradition of the involvement of volunteers who contribute their unpaid, personal time to different programmes and activities. Ballyfermot Youth Service encourages the participation of volunteers with our organisation. To comply with all relevant policy's and procedures it is a requirement that volunteers undergo training in relation to Child Protection guidelines and Garda Vetting.

Our volunteers are interested, well motivated and suitable for the various tasks involved. Without them it would not be possible to run as many varied programmes and activities that we provide. In 2017 one of our volunteers Joanne Kenealy received a volunteer award from the City of Dublin Youth Service Board for her services to Ballyfermot Youth Service.

Thanks also to James Gonzales, James Cramp, Carla Jakes, Amy Ryan, Teresa Dunphy, Aaron Leddy, Jason Kelly, Sandra Carey, Linda Corcoran and Breda Dalton and of course all our management committee members.



YOUTH WORK WORKS

The ethos of Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) is to work within the principles of youth work by providing a safe, supportive and positive environment. BYS enable the young people to develop their voice and to reach their full potential, by encouraging the social and personal development of all young people, leading to positive social change.

Our mission is to target young people aged between 10 and 24 years in Ballyfermot area who are at risk of a wide variety of characteristics, using the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures and the National Quality Standards Framework, which underpins the principles of equity, diversity and interdependence. BYS maximise our resources to capitalise on the changing demands facing young people and the community. BYS provide a wide range of unique programmes, promoting equality of opportunity and diversity of programmes enabling the young people access to enhance their future development.

BYS have a very committed and experienced team, who strive to promote a culture that safeguards the welfare of young people, which is imbedded in the organisations policy for the protection of young people. BYS identify key stakeholders and agencies within the local community who are suitable towards developing and promoting awareness of youth work activities. We develop and maintain a network of contacts within the local community, ensuring the best interest of the young people of the community are served. We work to develop an atmosphere of professionalism and mutual support and make time available to support others.

In this report you will see a wide range of activities including Art, Film, Media, Music, Sexual Health/Drug/Alcohol Awareness, Mentoring, Transfer Programmes, Sports etc.

Outward Bounds Adventure Centre, enables young people to represent themselves and their peer group, presenting them with dignity at home and abroad, taking part in a diverse range of activities, including Kayaking and BMX.

Peer Education Days has taking part in Baltinglass Adventure Centre and the National Sports Campus. This programme allows for groups of Transition year students from all Secondary schools in the community to take part in discussion and group activities on topics such as Peer Pressure, Drug Awareness, Empowerment and Leadership Skills. In total 162 students took part.

Erasmus Programmes gives young people from the community to take part in Youth Exchanges at home and abroad. The Erasmus Programme also caters for young people to take part in European Volunteer Programmes (EVS). The Erasmus Programmes encourage young people to broaden their horizons and to use their learning to enhance their future development and to maximise opportunities for progression. BYS are always keen to seek new Partners through the Erasmus Programme, to allow for further development for the organisation and most importantly the young people.

The number of young people engaging in Erasmus programmes in 2017 was 115.

The Information Centre provides vital information to adults and young people seeking guidance on a range of topics including further education, additional courses and allows young people free access to the internet.

Oakwood Residential Centre in Wicklow allows staff to engage in a different setting other than those used traditionally, supporting the development of effective relationship building with the young people.

Finally, BYS works within the core principles of youth work, promoting voluntary participation in a non-formal and experiential setting. BYS engage with the local community, promoting the value of youth work, and the interests and contributions of young people.

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The music development programme continues to evolve with additional young people being recruited, to allow for new groups to be formed. Ballyfermot Youth Service view music as a way to enable young people to use their learning to enhance their future development and express their feelings, thoughts and views about the world they live in. Learning & playing music as a group is an important way to develop listening skills, team work, cultural awareness & employment opportunities. Ballyfermot Youth Service offer a welcoming relaxed environment that encourages young people to work together effectively in groups, express themselves and develop as young people.

Ballyfermot Youth Service continues to work with a variety of stakeholders including Familibase on a shared project. Our older members have also been busy using their skills, knowledge and experience to explore, exhibit and perform at many events, including Ballyfermot Youth Service Awards nights and on a number of Erasmus projects.

Ballyfermot Youth Services, youth worker and music teacher John Kelly has taking a career break and two of the Older members (Jason Kelly and Aaron Leddy) of the music group have continued where John has left off. They support and facilitate the work-shops, assisting the young people to express and to realise their goals, through music. The influence the older members have had on the group in Johns absence has being phenomenal, as they continue to evolve themselves as young adults.

Ballyfermot Youth Service have groups that are open to all ages from 10 – 21 years and new members are always welcome. The work-shops cater for guitar, ukulele, drumming, singing, song writing and keyboards, so if you're interested why don't you drop down and get involved.

Ballyfermot Youth Service would like to thank all the young people that participated in the music programme throughout the year!



AFTER SCHOOLS

The After-Schools programme was set up to facilitate the needs of young people living in the Ballyfermot area 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 after-schools programme takes place in our two venues located in Decies Road and Gurteen Park. They occur over four separate days (Monday–Thursday) each week during the standard school year (September through to June).

The After Schools Staff initially make contact with the local schools who then target and refer specific young people to attend the club on a voluntary and regular basis. The Youth Service staff would also target other young people who they feel would be in need of this service.



Each session would cater for approximately 12 young people. There are eight different groups every week.

One of the main objectives in Ballyfermot Youth Service is to always provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our young people. This in turn allows the programs to take place in the best possible scenario, and they are more likely to re-attend. Each session in the After-Schools Club provide a hot meal with refreshments on a daily basis. The centre would always carry a stock of stationary equipment to assist the young people.

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 participating in the After-Schools Programme would benefit and gain some life skills.

These would include:

- Boosting their self-confidence and awareness.
- Heighten their listening and communication skills.
- Learn to respect themselves and others.
- Build relationships.
- Co-operative skills.
- Increase tolerance levels.



When the After-Schools programme ceases in late June, the young people would normally continue their involvement within the Youth Service by participating in our Summer Programme.

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

YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRES

Our 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 or concerns. We provide a free confidential, open drop-in and internet service with late night openings five days a week. In 2017 we had 5000 visits to both centres by young people, we organised specialised themed events such as, One World Week- Peace and Justice, STAND UP –LGBT , Young Voices Seminar.

Our premises are warm and welcoming and the atmosphere is warm and informal. Our friendly staff will assist to find the information required in dealing with each young persons query efficiently and appropriate to the young person's needs. We advocate on behalf of our young people in all aspects of their lives and facilitate them in exploring and accessing information to make effective decisions. We ensure that the rights of our young people are promoted and upheld within a culture that safeguards their welfare.

The information officers work along side our youth workers / outward bounds staff and provide supports to other relevant voluntary/ statutory agencies whom we have built up relationships with, which involve referrals to these agencies for further and more specialised information and assistance as required for our young people. We are always at the forefront to access the most up to date information from our local/national agencies for the benefit of our young people. The Youth Information also promotes its services to other stake holders.

We plan, prepare and facilitate European Youth Exchanges, European Volunteer Services, Youth Seminars, Residentials, Youth Awards, Youth Groups, Summer Programmes and Information/Peer Education Days providing details on lifestyles and opportunities both at home and in other Countries through these programmes, this enables young people to represent themselves, addressing their health and well-being, develop a culture of equality and diversity and encourages young people to broaden their horizons to becoming active citizens

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

Our opening times:

Monday	2 – 7 pm
Tuesday	2 – 7 pm
Wednesday	2 – 7pm
Thursday	2 – 7 pm
Friday	2 – 6.30pm

Ballyfermot Youth Information Centres

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

41 Decies Road
Ballyfermot
Dublin 10

Ph: 01 6231431

SATURDAY NIGHT SOCCER & SOCIAL PROJECT IN ASSOCIATION WITH DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Project

The Saturday Night Soccer (SNS) project has been part of Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) programmes to work with the most at risk young people in the community, catering for age groups from 10-21 years of age. The project is running for the last twelve years and has grown from strength to strength. The project runs for six hours every Saturday evening/night from 4-10pm. The project runs from October to May of the following year. It concludes with a Finals Night, with awards for different teams and participants from the different aged sections. The parents, guardians and friends are invited to come along to the final night.

The project is staffed by Ballyfermot Youth Service and Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment Project. The cost of the project is €7,000 which covers the hire of premises from 1st Oct to end of May each year, Public Liability Insurance and a incentive travel weekend for the most improved players throughout the year.

The background to the project is a result of consultations with young people in the community around weekend leisure time and having positive alternative programmes available. It was agreed by staff and management to establish a Sports and Social programme that young people could access. The programme combines a traditional soccer five a side with the youth centre providing, music, food and a safe social space for young people to meet on a Saturday night.

The benefits accruing as a result of the SNS project is linking some at risk young people into already established groups as well as establishing new groups for participants to engage with BYS on a more regular basis. The most significant benefit is taking up to 100 young people of the streets of Ballyfermot for a considerable amount of time on Saturday evening/nights. There has been consistently on average 80 participants attending the SNS project in 2017. The relationship the SNS staff has with the participants, has grown from strength to strength, resulting in very little incidents occurring which allows for the smooth running of the project.

Dublin City Council (DCC) has been very supportive of the SNS project, providing substantial funding to offset some of the costings associated with the project. SNS has the hire of the very accommodating Ballyfermot Sports Complex, plus the additional insurance cost specifically for the SNS project, to cater for limited personal accident insurance

The SNS project is a huge success for both the community of Ballyfermot and the organisers. It reflects the relationship people have with sport and its use as a developmental tool for society, demonstrating a positive relationship between sport, sporting programmes and the social environment of a disadvantaged area.

BYS, through its SNS project, not only agrees with Article 31 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child but complies with most if not all as a result of the SNS project and the spin off through its additional programmes, which allows participants to engage with the services, which provide for leisure, play, recreational, cultural and artistic activities.



Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states:
"The child has the right to rest, engage in leisure, play and recreational activities, and participate in cultural and artistic activities".



ADVENTURE CENTRE

MORE young people becoming MORE active MORE often

The Ballyfermot Youth Service Adventure Centre has established a strong reputation of being the finest and most rewarding outdoor activity and outdoor learning facility for young people from all areas of Dublin City and County.

Young people have developed long-lasting life skills through non formal outdoor learning programs. Many young people have progressed on to become professional outdoor education instructors within many outdoor establishments spread across the country.

Young people enter our service and experience a warm encouraging atmosphere which allows them to excel in each activity. Our friendly staff at the adventure centre have immense knowledge and first hand experience of the benefits of non formal outdoor learning programs.

There was a vast amount of activities available to young people in 2017.

Mountain Biking, BMX, Kayaking, White Water Rafting, Team Games, Canoeing, Hill- Walking, Rock-Climbing, Abseiling, Bush-Craft, Cliff Jumping, Bog Jumping, Snorkelling, Pier Jumping, Environmental Awareness Programs, Fishing, Gorge Walking.

Each session was focused on the development of young people before, during and after each activity.

As we exposed our participating young people to new environments and creative challenges they each developed skills and knowledge in the areas of Positive Mental Health, Team Building, Environmental Awareness, Water Safety, Leave No Trace, Bush Craft, Navigation, and Peer Education.

Outdoor environments naturally inspire young people to become more physically active.

Interagency work is a vital part of how we deliver our service to the maximum number of young people. In 2017 we worked with the following projects and schools:

Mary Queen Of Angles Primary School
De La Salle Primary School
WHAD Program.
Able Project.
Cody Project
St Dominic's Secondary School
Kylemore Collage
Family Base
Dochas Family Centre
Clondalkin Youth Reach

D10 Swimming Club
St Ultan's Care Unit
The Yes Centre
The Cherry Orchard Equine Centre
The Orchard Centre
The Ballyfermot Star Project
Realt Nua
Matt Talbot Community Trust
Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project
Work with Dublin City Council

Programs the centre was available to the 18 Dublin City Council Sports Development Officers. This joint working relationship with Dublin City Council has extended our services too every young person within the Dublin City Council area.

Skate Park Developments

We are delighted to announce that the construction of the new Skate-Park for Ballyfermot will commence in summer 2018. This has been a lengthy and very exciting journey for the many young people from Ballyfermot who have dedicated their time and effort in the creation of this amazing new addition to the area. All young people involved have gained vast amounts of knowledge while being encouraged to become active citizens within their local area. Community involvement is the solution for future change.

Liffey Odyssey

The Liffey Odyssey is a canoe tour through the heart of Dublin City. It covers a distance of almost 8 Kilometres. Starting at the Garda Boat Club and finishing at the 3 Arena.

This stretch of water is immersed in history, folklore, wildlife, and excitement. It is a must do for all youth projects as a way of engaging young people socially in outdoor education.

There was a huge interest from young people from Ballyfermot to attend the event. We ran 5 weeks of canoe and kayak skills training at our centre in Park-West. The 5 weeks training had a huge focus on the positives of being active within the community and also focusing on the mental health benefits to physical activity. Well done to all who took part. In 2018 we plan to engage as many young people as possible in this event with a huge emphasis on Mental Health. We are all looking forward to this event.

Most Popular Activity This Year.

Jumping into the Canal has been the most popular activity for the centre this year. Young people just LOVE to enjoy themselves here on the Grand Canal. The addition of up to date safety equipment supplied by our centre has led to the direct result of safer usage of our Irish water ways. The 7th Lock is just one of Irish Water Ways designated areas of recreation.

Taking part locally in services while using local resources, allows young people the opportunity to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility while being empowered to become active citizens. This in turn creates positive visions within the local area and naturally influences our younger generation by the use of Outdoor Education. This Is The Circle Of Positive Community Participation.



2017

Has been a great year for us here at the adventure centre; we had 2,111 visits by young people to the centre this year. With 950 individual young people attending programs, most young people have attended more than once and would have experienced a wide variety of outdoor education activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who took part in our programs. Special thanks to all the EVS volunteers who took gave their time to make it's such a busy year. It's amazing to see the growing interest in outdoor education within Ballyfermot.

From All Here At The Adventure Centre

Ger O Reilly, Allegra Lalor, Elaine Doyle, James O Reilly, Chris Hughes, Tracy Smith, Andrew Jackson, Billy Doyle,

PEER EDUCATION

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, debate 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.

Peer Education rests on the view that young people learn a lot from one another as part of their everyday lives and that peer groups play an important part in defining and maintaining an individual's identity. Peer Education seeks to institutionalise what is seen as a naturally occurring process within a young person's life. The method of peer education has been very successful over the last number of years, as a particularly effective approach to Drug and Alcohol prevention.



Peer Education Programmes and Training

This year in 2017 the Peer Education Programme was carried out in schools in the area and involved over 200 young people in a variety of different peer education workshops. These workshops were carried out with participants from four secondary Schools, we used Baltin-glass Outdoor Adventure Centre where we did outdoor activities and different workshops based on developing young people's capacity and awareness of drug and alcohol misuse, we also used a new venue this year the National Sports Campus in Blachardstown to introduce young people to these amazing facilities. The programmes were delivered in and with the following schools in the Ballyfermot area:

- Caritas College
- St Dominic's Secondary School
- St Johns College De La Salle
- Kylemore College



Each group lasts from 6 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 6 to 10 week period is as follows:

- Peer Education definitions and Exploring Peer Pressure
- Personal Development and Empowerment
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness/ pathways to dependency and exploring the effects of misuse on an individual family and communities.
- 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 programme also provides 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 expressed how the leadership skills will help them in their future careers after completing the programme.



Peer Education Days 2017

Kylemore College 52 participants
 St Johns College 50 participants
 Caritas College 37 participants
 St Dominic's College 52 participants
 191 Transition year Students Engaged
 with the Peer Education Programme

Youth Exchange FROM THE FOREST TO OUR HEART – Spain & Ireland 4th to 12th April, 2017

The exchange was held in Granada, Spain. It was the first collaboration with our Spanish partners. The project had 48 participants including 8 leaders. The main activity of the project was to gather young people to share experiences and knowledge in relation to the environment, how they as peers find new ways of living and understanding relationships between each other, their environment and nature. Our aims and objectives set out for the project was to start friendships between our organisations and they young people. We met weekly to plan and prepare in advance of the exchange. Our participants became eager to be involved and explore the theme through energiser games, team building, cultural evening preparation and really getting to know each other prior to departure.

Throughout the project we encouraged our young people to take leadership roles to improve their confidence and assertiveness in allowing space and time for the participants to develop in all aspects of the programme. Learning by doing, communication, cultural awareness and expression was some of the key competences that were put into practice from their youth pass dairies for the duration of the exchange. We used non formal and group work methods throughout the project this allowed the young people to fully engage and interact and be empowered by each other.



During our exchange we stayed at two different locations, a wonderful environment in the Sierra Nevada Natural Park, Alpujarra one of Spains iconic landscapes with lots of nature around this enhanced our workshops in exploring our sporting activities of tree adventures, sense and taste within a nature environment. The other was the city centre of Granada, which was a different dynamic and vast change from the nature park, equally enhancing the participants knowledge when visiting the Spanish participants local village and putting into practice our learning from the workshops on display for the children and families off the village.

The groups participated in different activities every day, they engaged with each other, supported each other and the interaction between them flourished as the days of the project continued. Each evening some time was put aside for reflection on their learning throughout the day and leaders also discussed if matters arose and planning for the next day. Both countries presented a Cultural Evening. With plenty of preparation prior to the exchange. Our young people were very proud of their participation each individual being involved with traditional dance, music, food and quizzes. Our partners Cultural Evening was also excellent. It gave all the participants a sense of pride of were the come from, their cultural identity and understanding of different cultures.

The young people really surpassed their expectations throughout the project, They have learnt valuable skills and memories from this exchange. We will continue to work together with our new Spanish partners and look forward to developing many projects in the future. We would like to express sincere thank you to the hosts - Asociacion Dee Monitores Para El Tiempo

Malta 28th of July to 2nd of Aug 2017 "Lets talk about Life"

8 young people from Ballyfermot took part in this project in Malta with Poland and Estonia, around Bullying and Gender stereotyping, as these social issues can have a negative impact on young people. Throughout this project young people learned It is often the case that when bullying or discrimination takes place, the bystanders that witness it happening do not know how to respond and as a result end up doing nothing to stop it.

The project helped young people become equip with skills, abilities and awareness that they can stop bullying and gender stereo-typing by voicing their concerns through concrete actions. One of the most effective tools to create this type of attitude throughout the exchange was through peer-education. Peer education aims to promote critical consciousness where by peers discuss amongst themselves issues impacting their life and become aware that change can only start with them taking positive actions.

After this exchange and the learning through the model of peer education a continuous project was put together and an application for Erasmus+ was developed to do a further project on peer education and drug awareness at Easter 2018 hosting Malta, Estonia and Poland here in Ireland.



European Programme 2017

Feburary	Lithunina	EVS 1 Person Social care project
March	Italy Lecce	1 person working with Migrants 6 months
April	Spain Granada	Youth Exchange 20 young people
April	Italy	EVS 2 young person Art project
June	Italy	EVS 2 young people Music project
June	Poland	EVS 2 young people Social project
June	Portugal	10 young people Surfing School
June	Malta	Training project for 4 youth workers
July	Italy	Training project Street Arts 4 young
July	Malta	8 young people Youth Exchange
July	Killary	12 young people Youth Exchange
Aug	Malta	8 young people Youth Exchange
Aug	Italy	EVS 2 young people
Sept	Portugal	12 young people Surfing School
Sept	Italy	Street arts 3 young women
Sept	Hungary	1 person EVS Training
Oct	Belgium	8 young people street arts
Nov	Italy	7 young people training

Evs in Ireland

2 from Spain
1 from Malta
4 from Italy
1 from Finland

Total 115 persons on European Programmes 2017

E.V.S. EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Are you between 18 and 30 and would like to explore new alternatives for your future? Would you like to experience new cultures in different countries from Europe? An EVS project might be the answer. The EVS is an international volunteering project funded by the European Commission and that it is included in the Erasmus+ programme for the youth.

This programme provides an opportunity for young people to learn and acquire new competences and skill in a non formal educational environment. Ballyfermot Youth Service has been working in partnership with different organisations for years to support and encourage young people from Ballyfermot to go en EVS.

In 2017 we have hosted volunteers from Malta, Spain Italy and Finland : Martin Azzopardi from Malta and Estefania Alvarez and Raul Hinojosa from Spain. This has been their experience so far:

“Volunteering in the BYS has been a great opportunity for me to work with young people and gain experience in this age interval, which definitely will be of great value for my CV. Not only am I learning new job skills, but also I am meeting wonderful people, making new friends and discovering a beautiful city full of history, adventures and fantastic secrets.” - Estefania.

“Living in Ireland was an amazing experience. I had a great host who treated me like family and my workmates and the other volunteers made me feel welcomed. I am looking forward to come back and I will always recommend Dublin as a destination.” - Martin

“Taking part in this project is a great opportunity to know a new culture, new people and expand my confront zone. I have experienced in an youth exchange how BYS works with young people and how Irish people are and I thought: why not going to Ireland and discover every single part of this country and its people?.” - Raul

Sending volunteers

Ballyfermot Youth Service also sent 4 young people on short term EVS to Italy for two months to work with our partner organisation La Fenice in Tortona, Italy. Volunteers, Michael Hunt, Chloe Mc Garry, Gemma Kinsella. The Italian organisation also sent four volunteers to Ballyfermot, they were Edoardo Cosseddu, Sofia Riccardi, Giovanni Silvano and Giacomo Borgognone.

In addition one young person, Adam Curren, volunteered in Lithuania for six months.

Volunteer Main Activities

- Development and implementation of activities for young people aged 14 to 20 at the Youth Centre of Tortona (type of activities: workshops and labs on different topics, informal language classes, cultural events, etc.)
- Support to local secondary schools and high schools in the implementation of language spoken classes, both within and outside the classrooms
- Development and implementation of recreational activities focused on language learning for kids aged from 3 to 10 at the Youth Centre of Tortona
- Support to the development and implementation of recreational and educational activities for young migrants and refugees hosted in Tortona, in collaboration with the local administration and different associations/cooperatives
- Support to the communication strategy of the organization (website, FB page, Instagram account)

GURTEEN YOUTH CLUB COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

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 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 club 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 nurturing and professional environment.

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

OAKWOOD

2017 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. In 2017 the centre's main road was resurfaced so as to improve access for emergency vehicles and all Kitchen Equipment was replaced thanks to Capital grant of €5,000 from the Dept of Children and Youth Affairs.

CE STAFF

Sandra Atkinson Kelly	Daniel McDonnell
Ailbhe Boyne	Kenneth Macken
Veronica Dixon	Marie O'Reilly
Mark Ennis	Denise O'Halloran
Noel Hickey	Maciej Rafa
Kenneth Johnson	Namina Zaidan
Andrew Jackson	Gerard Wall
Carina Molloy	Patrick Waldron
Joseph Mortimer	

CE SUPERVISOR

Pauline Grogan

JOBS INITIATIVE

Imelda Brady
Elaine Doyle
Ann O'Byrne

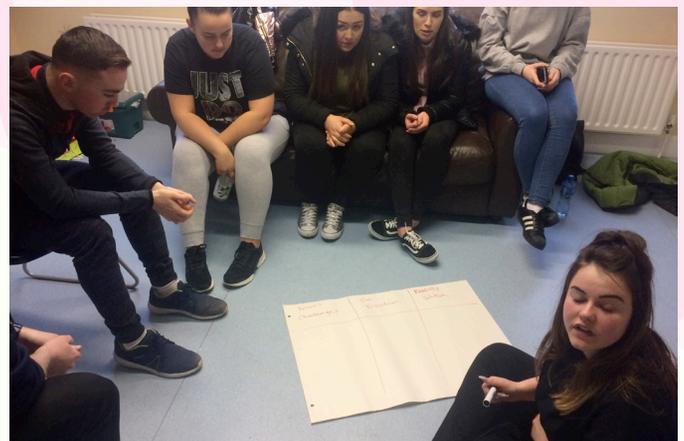
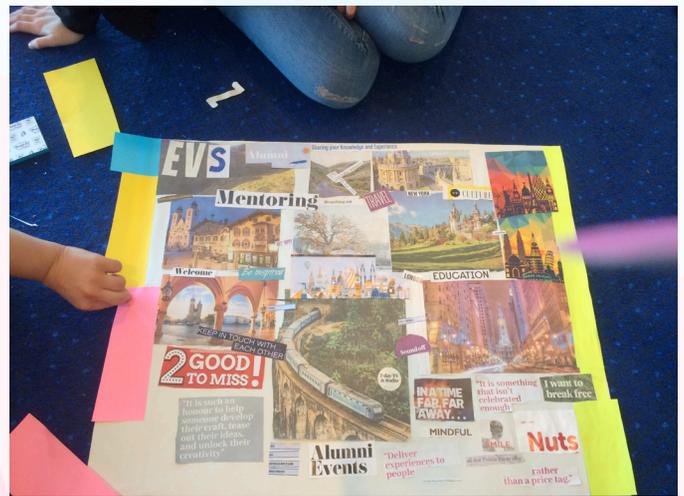


BEYOND 96 YOUTH PROGRAMME

This year Beyond 96 youth club in partnership with BYS celebrates sending 100 young people from Ballyfermot on EVS projects in Macedonia, Finland, Slovenia, Italy, Moldova and Spain.

What better way to celebrate this than forming an Alumni group in partnership with Leargas to promote these fantastic opportunities to other young people. The Alumni will also give our returned EVS volunteers opportunities to progress into other leadership roles in Ireland and in Europe. More than 22 years since Beyond 96 Youth Club was set up to provide leadership opportunities for young people at local and National Level we have invested precious time in developing relationships with fantastic partners in Europe to provide creative EVS projects for young people.

Giving them opportunities to develop their skills and become conscious active citizens. In the coming months we will send an additional 30 young people from Ballyfermot on a variety of EVS projects where they will make friends for life.



This picture tells a 1000 words about Amy's EVS experience in Modova.

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN BALLYFERMOT & IRELAND

BALLYFERMOT LIBRARY
From March 8th

BYS Ballyfermot Youth Service

In 2018 two significant events are being commemorated, the centenary of votes for women and Ballyfermot as a community is seventy years old. In this context, Ballyfermot Youth Service put together two major projects involving 34 women from BYS, the installation of thirty street banners displaying the images of thirteen revolutionary women who played a part in the struggle for Independence and rights for women in Ireland, including two women connected locally Eileen Bell and Lucy Fleming. The second being an exhibition featuring portraits of seventy women active in various community organisations in Ballyfermot.

The project kicked off in Oct 2017 with a series of photo shoots with local women and a number of workshops where young people researched women of the rising. The project was financed by Dublin City Council Decade of Commemorations Fund for Communities and Ballyfermot Credit Union.

FINANCE REPORT

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Income		
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs	501,798	477,284
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) Generai Fund	14,000	3,500
Annual Grant		
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) Deferred Health	(5,500)	-
Service Executive - Dept of Health	13,601	13,601
Leargas	60,530	122,446
Leargas grants returned	(10,130)	-
Dublin City Council	-	27,500
The Advance Programme	-	1,000
Other grants	9,136	1,090
Fee Incarne	66,515	28,515
Sundry Incarne	9,102	425
Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport	572	29,030
CDETB	-	12,824
	659,624	717,215
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	406,765	(374,598)
Training and development	2,815	2,736
Programme Costs	34,836	70,692
Materials	-	6,514
Mentoring costs	3,150	-
Rent payable	4,325	3,437
Rates	1,023	795
Service charges	4,776	-
Insurance	26,412	29,954
Light, Heat & Power	10,454	10,571
Kitchen supplies and cleaning	547	8,898
Repairs and maintenance	10,587	12,940
Printing, postage and stationery	4,441	4,170
Advertising	4,380	5,846
Telephone & Broadband	6,967	6,976
Computer costs	1,767	2,233
Motor expenses	6,577	9,325
Patent applications	-	527
Travelling expenses	87,104	97,943
Legal and professional	11,077	9,423
Consultancy fees	-	7,857
Bank charges	492	619
Bad debts	-	255
Canteen	6,090	-
Security	511	-
Generai expenses	6,177	832
Subscriptions	-	205
Auditor's remuneration	2,977	5,166
Depreciation	27,680	29,849
Charitable donations	1,005	-
	672,938	702,455
Net (deficit)/surplus	(13,314)	14,760

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2017

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The company is a non profit making organisation. The principal activities of the company are to empower, support, promote, assist and work with the young people of the Ballyfermot community or those associated therewith, by providing them with positive help, education and recreational services so as to counter the risks associated with inequality, disadvantage and anti-social behaviour in the community.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The organisation provides a range of services to the young people of Ballyfermot from Outdoor Education programmes, Drop in Information centres, Music and Arts programmes, access to the European Youth in Action programme and a comprehensive Drugs Peer Education programme.

The organisation also provides planned educational and recreational activities for young people in Ballyfermot between the ages of 10 and 21 years. The organisation receives funding from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs which is administered by the City Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB). Funding for the youth exchanges is derived from a variety of sources including, the European Union through Léargas in Ireland and their national counterparts in other European countries.

The organisation also provides a range of services and facilities to young people, including two youth club centres (Decies and Gurteen), two information offices with IT suites (Drumfinn and Decies), two mini buses, a residential house, an Outdoor Education centre (Wicklow) and an Amenity centre (Park West).

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In common with all companies operating in this sector in Ireland, the principal risk facing the company is securing continued funding from the State. Funding has been secured for 2018, at similar levels to the current year. We have taken steps to ensure the continued high quality provision of services to the community for the coming year given the valuable contribution the company makes to the local community.

Financial Results

The (deficit)/surplus for the year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(13,314) (2016 - €14,760).

At the end of the year, the company has assets of €289,772 (2016 - €313,899) and liabilities of €49,259 (2016 - €60,072). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(13,314).

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the year, except as noted, were as follows:

Bridget Murray

Janice McGarry

Adam Kealy

Jordan Gray

Kurt Fitzgerald

David Lynch

Vincent Jackson

Mary Daly

Charles Murray (Appointed 29 March 2017)

The secretary who served throughout the year was Mary Daly.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for reelection.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities and do not expect to make any significant changes to the operation of the company in the near future.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year-end.

Auditors

Nolan & Partners resigned as auditors during the year and the directors appointed KSI Faulkner Orr Limited (Registered Auditors). To fill the vacancy.



REVOLUTIONARY



EILEEN BELL
1918 - 2018

WOMEN



CONFIDENCE

BYS Ballyfermot Youth Service **CDYSB** City of Dublin Youth Service Board **CDYSB** Youth Photography

EXHIBITION LIBRARY



Ballyfermot Youth Service – Head Office

41 Decies RD
Ballyfermot 10 – Dublin
Tel: 6231431
email: Gerry@ballyfermotys.ie

Gurteen Youth Centre

Gurteen RD
Ballyfermot 10 – Dublin
Tel: 6005501

Adventure Centre

42 Canal Walk Park West Industrial Estate
Ballyfermot 12 – Dublin
Tel: 6120948
email: byskayaking@eircom.net

Information Centre

3 Drumfinn Park
Ballyfermot 10 – Dublin
Tel: 6237401
email: info@ballyfermotys.ie



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

AFTER DREAM
MEDIA PRODUCTION

An Roinn Cormaic Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Óilín an Aithe Legantail agus Grúnaíal Óige
Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

An Roinn Iompair Turasoíreachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport