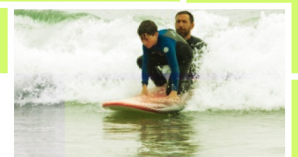
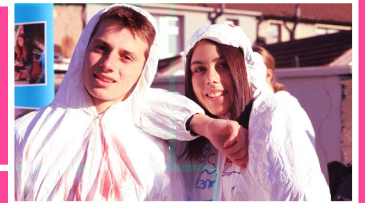


# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



## **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 (Resigned 1 October 2018)  
Kurt Fitzgerald (Resigned 1 October 2018)  
David Lynch  
Vincent Jackson  
Mary Daly  
Charles Murray  
Warren Dunne (Appointed 3 October 2018)  
Aaron Leddy (Appointed 3 October 2018)

#### Company Secretary

Mary Daly

#### Company Number

339290

#### Charity Number

CHY:21365, RCN:20150532

#### Registered Office and Business Address

41 Decies Road,  
Ballyfermot,  
Dublin 10

#### Auditors

KSI Faulkner Orr Limited  
Registered Auditors  
Behan House,  
9-11 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin 2

#### Bankers

Bank of Ireland  
Ballyfermot,  
Dublin 10

#### Solicitors

Bennett's Solicitors  
306 Ballyfermot Road,  
Dublin 10

# Executive Report

A Dhaoine Uaisle, P O R T

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

As Ballyfermot celebrated our 70th year as a community, young people could be seen at the centre of many of the events throughout the year. BYS presence was very visible in Ballyfermot, from street arts, concerts in the Civic Centre and Lawns park, a Canal Fest, two Liffey water events, a major exhibition celebrating women in our community and a hugely successful Halloween Festival for young people. We also witnessed the power of Street Arts to transform a community space, the wall at Tesco was transformed from a ugly space into a welcoming space by young people.

The range of programmes and events organised by our staff and volunteers showed their skill in engaging young people in positive changing experiences. We know that when you engage young people and turn on that light of learning it can improve their life outcomes. Youth work has the power to transform individuals which leads to better citizens and a more just society. The part played by a positive adult role models in a socially disadvantaged area is a powerful intervention in young peoples lives and we are fortunate in having such adults in BYS who are committed to inspiring and helping young people reach their full potential.

In terms of numbers, we engaged over two thousand young people in our programmes and activities including 196 young people on European projects abroad and 100 hosted in Ballyfermot. Our philosophy is to empower young people to take ownership of their lives and to engage in positive activity that provides them with a sense of ownership. None of these events could have taken place without commitment and organisation from our staff. Led by our Youth Service Manager Gerry Mc Carthy and his team, they have worked tirelessly throughout 2018 and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Board.

The Board of directors met regularly in 2018 and received reports on all aspects of the project, we set up a financial sub committee to monitor and advise on finances. We complied with all funding requirements by our funders and supplied detailed reports to the various government depts and we are continuing the practice of publishing our Audited Income & Expenditure details for 2018 in this report.

A number of capital projects were completed in 2018: new access roadway for our residential centre in Wicklow, a major refurbishment of our premises on Decies Road, which seen changes to our frontage design and complete modernisation of our rooms including upgrade of our lighting systems with low energy fittings installed, purchase of a bus for our Adventure Centre and finally new equipment for our centres. These changes could not have taken place without the support from Dublin City Council Discretionary fund, Dept of Children & Youth affairs for capital projects and locally to Ballyfermot Community Properties for facilitating an interest free loan for purchase of a bus and providing a small grant .

In 2018 a number of changes to the Board took place, Kurt Fitzgerald and Jordan Grey stood down as Directors and we welcomed two new young people Aaron Leddy and Warren Dunne to our Board. Serving on a local board is not a easy task, as well as the legal and state requirements, there is also a commitment required in terms of time and expertise.

BYS are fortunate in the commitment and enthusiasm from our board members, volunteers and this was very evident in 2018. Throughout the year not only attending meetings but helping out with major events our board members and volunteers could be seen and I wish to thank them for their guidance and support in implementing such a comprehensive range of programmes .

In the policy area BYS updated a number of our policy's in 2018 including a comprehensive Health and Safety policy for the organisation. Also in line with the new legislation keeping our young people safe we developed a Child Safeguarding statement which every member of staff and volunteers have adopted as good practice. Our Child Safeguarding statement is on display in all our centers for parents, guardians and young people and we have printed a copy in this report.

Many of the success of 2018 was a result of working in partnership with other organisations and individuals both community and statutory. By pooling our resources together we were able to deliver an improved programme and utilised resources more effectively for young people. Ní neart go cur le chéile. There is no strength without unity.

Thanks also to the staff of the Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment project for all their help with the various programme and their funders Dept of Social Protection. Mile buiochas to City Of Dublin Youth Service Board I would also like to thank our many European partners who we have engaged with in 2018. Thanks to Dublin City Council for their continued support and Waterways Ireland and finally I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs 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 2019 and having another successful year.

*Vincent Jackson, Chairperson*



### **BYS Staff**

Gerry Mc Carthy	Youth Service Manager
Jody Byrne	Information officer/Youth worker
Kevin Dolan	Youth Worker
Sarah Flynn	Youth Worker ( Temp )
Ian Purdy	Admin
Allegra 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
Kurt Fitzgerald	Admin temp

### **Achievements in 2018**

- 2030 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THE SERVICE
- 196 YOUNG PEOPLE ON ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES
- CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT & BUS
- CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN OUR HEAD OFFICE
- PRIDE OF PLACE WINNER
- CHILD PROTECTION & E LEARNING FOR STAFF
- STREET ARTS , CANAL FEST & CONCERTS ORGANISED
- COLLABERATIVE PROJECTS WITH DCC & CANAL WATERWAYS

# Young Women's Empowerment Groups

△ Ballyfermot Youth Service have been responding to young women's needs within the community through specific young women's empowerment groups. These groups reflect the interests of young women and the challenges they face as individuals and the need to empower them to take positive decisions in their lives. In 2018 we had six organised groups of young females engaged in specific empowerment groups.

The issues they looked at were:

- Drug Awareness
- Equality and Empowerment
- Sexual Health
- Friendship and Identity
- Critical Social Awareness.



We also looked at the 100 years of voting rights in Ireland for women and how they were achieved. (See *Celebrating Women* Article)

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, help them make good informed decisions, and be in control within difficult and challenging situations. It also gives young females self-strength, self-power, self-reliance, own choice, life of dignity in accordance with one's values, capable of fighting for one's rights, independence, which helps them to be stronger citizens.

It gives young female participants the opportunity to explore different situations in the sense of 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.

One such project that built on the Empowerment theme was "Use your voice to make that choice" this project was held over 8 days in Dublin & Galway during Easter 2018. it was a project based on the methodology of Peer Education, which encouraged and enabled the young people of today to look at perceptions, attitudes, affects, effects, stereotypes, cultural differences and similarities around Alcohol and related behaviours. This project gave 40 young people from four different countries Ireland, Malta, Poland and Estonia the opportunity to explore the normalization and social acceptance of Alcohol in their own countries and across Europe, the young people also explored the effects alcohol has on an individual, family, community and society.

The project involved a range of activities including workshops, and outdoor education activities. The central aim of the project was to create critical social awareness around Alcohol and Drugs and to highlight the importance of valued shared experiences to equip the young people in making positive choices when faced with these issues.

The project was co funded by Leargas under the Erasmus + programme and the Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.

# ADVENTURE CENTRE

2018 was most certainly our busiest year so far at the BYS Adventure Centre and let's not forget it was the hottest summer for many years. Along with all our weekly groups we also ran, or took part in, many big events.

Ballyfermot is exceptionally fortunate to have its very own adventure centre that plays an important role in introducing young people to the world of outdoor activities and the natural environment. Positive interaction with the natural world has many benefits in areas of psychological and sociological development for both young people and the wider community.

As we reflect upon our year we can't help but feel proud to be part of such an amazing community. Over the 13 years of operation for the Adventure Centre, we've seen the long term developments in attitudes and positive life choices taken by young people as a direct result of engagement with our service and we feel very proud to have played our part allowing young people to make positive life choices.

## **Knowledge is Power, Community is Strength, and Positive Attitude is Everything**

*Here are the highlights from 2018:*

### **Ireland's Highest Mountain.**

On Top Of The World, well not really but that's how we felt when we climbed Ireland's highest mountain, Carrauntuhill, in the beautiful Co Kerry. A wonderful weekend in Kerry proved that our best times can be spent engaging in positive activities with the absence of drugs or alcohol.

Our group took part in a number of training hikes to prepare for the huge climb to Ireland's highest peak.

Climbing Carrauntuhill is no easy task. It was a really tough climb from start to finish. It demanded every aspect of the group's ability both mentally and physically. The team work excellently together and showed their strengths as members of an amazing team.

A huge thank you to the Ballyfermot Drug & Alcohol Task Force for funding this opportunity for young people, and to Paul O Shaughnessy from the Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Service for a wonderful multi-agency approach to positive youth development programme.



### **Liffey Odyssey**

The Liffey Odyssey is a wonderful 8 Kilometre canoe / kayak trip along the River Liffey that starts at the Garda Boat Club and finishes at the popular 3 arena and raises money for Our Lady's Children's Hospital. Our training this year started a few weeks before the event at our premises on the Grand Canal. Young people along with their parents and aunts, uncles and friends were encouraged to take part with a focus on skills development and social interaction through positive involvement in adventure activities

## Canal Splash Festival

The Canal Splash Event can only be highlighted as the most perfect example of multi-agency collaboration, community spirit and the adventure centres capacity to engage people of all ages into the wonderful world of outdoor learning.

The involvement and participation of so many different strands of the community was the biggest highlight. We had people aged from 4-68 years of age, families, youth groups, grandparents and grandchildren, groups of friends and individuals. Young people who had been engaging with us over the years brought their families and parents for the first time. It gave these parents an opportunity to see and understand more fully what their children are doing when they are engaging with the youth service and to meet all the staff involved.



Waterways Ireland instilled a sense of historical pride amongst all participants as the Lock Gates were opened to demonstrate the 250 year old engineering. This was the first time for most people to see the locks in action and it sparked a lot of interest from adults and young people alike.



Activities on the day included, Snorkelling, Water Polo, Pier Jumping, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Canoeing And Rafting. Each activity had a theme of enjoyment with a big focus on community engagement and water safety.

The event was a great opportunity to show off the positive aspects of the Grand Canal, with the area cleaned up, painted and looking well and with a focus on using the water safely we felt that the area was positively promoted and many pre-existing negative opinions were challenged.

## Bike Week

As part of Bike week we rang a BMX day in conjunction with DCC Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, where over 80 young people from across Dublin learned new bike skills and got to road test them on the BMX track



# ADVENTURE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019

## Saturday Clubs – Improving Cherry Orchard

As part of the make Cherry Orchard better program, the BYS Adventure centre ran two youth centred adventure clubs over a number of months that included a wide range of different outings and activities. As well as weekly adventure sessions, the adventure club also took part in a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre, staff at the Carlingford Centre where stunned at the level of confidence amongst the group, this level of confidence has visibly grown each week through positive engagement and involvement in a wide number of pre-planned adventure activities.

The make Cherry orchard better program has played an important part in engaging young people in life changing opportunities. Interaction with the outdoor environment plays a vital role in allowing young people to learn about themselves and their peers. Outdoor environments have been proven to be naturally stimulating which automatically enhances the learning outcomes for young people. Young people on this programme engaged in non-formal learning opportunities and received their Level One Kayaking Skills Award while also becoming ambassadors for their local environment. Well done to all involved.

## Hell and Back

Who doesn't want to get muck up to the eyeballs while racing against yourself or your team mates? Everyone enjoyed the event and it was great to see so many different group from Ballyfermot this year. Young people from all across Ballyfermot took part in this 7 Kilometre course full of muck, ice cold water, all sorts of obstacles and even a jump into a farm land lake that tastes exactly like you would imagine it would. There was a great sense of community spirit and help was only ever an arms distance away. A huge well done to everyone who took part and a massive credit to the wider Ballyfermot community for such an overwhelming level of interest.



## Lord Mayors Liffey Bridge Paddle

This year we created a brand new event. The LORD Mayors Liffey Bridge paddle was ran in conjunction with Dublin City Council Sports Fest.

This event consisted of a 10 kilometre Kayak / Canoe trip through the heart of Dublin City. Combining the spirit of adventure with a unique tour of our capital city has most certainly captured the hearts of many and we expect next year's event to be even bigger.

Some words from our participating young people "I've fell in love with my city again"

The Lord Mayor, who paddled the entire course, described it as "such a unique way of seeing the city which he believes is the best city in the world".

This event also highlights the knowledge and skill set within our adventure staff team, their vision and passion for new ideas is has most certainly played its part in making Ballyfermot a better place.



**Continuous Professional Development** of staff at BYS Adventure Centre. We believe it is of great importance to keep up to date with new methodologies and recognised practices within the ever evolving world of Outdoor Education. At BYS Adventure Centre we include in our vision the development of the young people of Ballyfermot in the safest and most productive way possible. Adventure Staff including Community Employment staff have all recently been involved in training course and assessments. Ger Wall and Andrew Jackson have both received their Cycling Ireland Low Land Cycle leader Award. Ger O Reilly and Allegra Lalor have started both the new Coastering Instructor course and their Stand Up Paddle Board instructor qualification in the hope that we can bring this new and exciting activity to the adventure centre in the very near future. Ger has also started a BA Degree in Outdoor Learning at IT Tralee, this new course will allow the adventure centre to keep up to date with modern practices and pave the way for better opportunities for young people.

### **Summer Staff**

This year as part of the Dublin City Council summer placement scheme, we were delighted to have on board Chris Hughes and Shannon Horrigan. Both Shannon and Chris became an integral part of our adventure team and did not hesitate when it came to making an impact with young people. Chris and Shannon then continued to work with us as part of the make Cherry Orchard better programme. Their commitment to young people over the duration of their time here has been noticed by all.

### **Dublin City Council**

We would like to thank Dublin City Council for their amazing continued support and project collaborations. A special thank you to our local Sports Development Officer Sharon Kelly, Sharon has played a vital part in many of the Ballyfermot Youth Services events and outing for 2018. Sharon has gone above and beyond to assist the adventure centre and our targeted young people in more ways than we can remember. We would like to highlight that the area of Ballyfermot is extremely lucky to have such a wonderful enthusiastic sports development officer in which we are proud to work alongside.



### **Thanks to Park West**

We would like to say a huge thank you to Park West for funding the cost of our brand new marquees and our new well needed 40 foot container. As well as looking good with our logo visible to everyone, the marquees are also a vital part of our operation in terms of changing facilities for young people while out away from our Centre. We would like to express a wider thank you to Park West management and staff for their continued support for our adventure centre in so many ways over the years and we are delighted to be part of the Park West community.

*Special thanks to Park West Management Company, Waterways Ireland, Swim Ireland, Mick Kinahan, DCC Sports and Wellbeing Partnership and specifically our DCC Sports Officer: Sharon Kelly*

# 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 2018 was 198.

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.

# After School

△ The After-Schools programme was set up to cater for the needs of young people living in Ballyfermot that may not have the ability or support to complete their homework after school. Its primary objective is to assist young people that are attending 5th and 6th class. Sixth class can be quite daunting for those that 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 Gurteen Youth Club and covers two days in our Decies Road Club.

## How are the young people chosen

The After Schools Staff contact the local schools who would in turn invite specific pupils to attend the after-schools on a regular basis. The Youth Service staff would also target and refer young people who they have worked with and feel would be in need of this service.



## What does it do

One of the main objectives in Ballyfermot Youth Service is to always provide a safe and enjoyable environment. This allows the programmes to take place and because the young people already feel comfortable, they are more likely to re-attend. The After-Schools Club would provide a hot meal with refreshments during every session. The after-schools club would carry a stock of stationary equipment to assist the young people.

The After-Schools programme, by its very nature, helps to create long term relationships between the youth work staff and the young people attending. This is a vital tool in encouraging them to stay in school. It also serves as a direct link for the 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 and strengthen relationships.
- Encourage them to assist their peers with homework. (Co-operative skills)
- Increase tolerance levels.

## Hopes

When the after-schools Programme ceases in late June, our members would normally continue their involvement within the Youth Service by participating in our Summer Programme until they return to school in September.

**Contact details:** Martin O' Reilly Mob Phone: (085 8423095) Email: martinoreilly@ballyfermotys.ie  
(After-Schools Coordinator)

# Pride of Place Winner



As Ballyfermot celebrated its 70th year as a community, BYS were fully involved with the local Festival community in organising a number of community events showing off our community in a positive light. Ballyfermot 70th festival committee is a voluntary group of community organisations both statutory, voluntary and business' who have come together to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of Ballyfermot.

The aim of the group was to:

- Promote positive involvement of all the people within our area.
- Promote Sporting, Cultural, Educational, Arts, Social & Health Events
- Working with all age ranges from 1 – 100 to Celebrate Ballyfermot 70th year as a community

As the year progressed BYS staff were to the forefront in organising a number of major events involving over two thousand young people participating in Street Arts, Canal fest, Exhibitions, concerts, Liffey Kayaking and a Halloween Festival. In recognition of our work BYS together with the Festival committee were nominated by DCC as an entrant in the Pride of Place All Ireland Awards. This involved making a presentation of the area and showing off the various strengths of young people of the area. The judges visited Decies Road and the Adventure centre in August as part of their judging and were blown away by the staff and young people. A special thanks to Ian Purdy who provided Admin backup for the Festival committee. The purpose of the competition is to acknowledge the work being done every day by communities all over the island of Ireland, the competition is sponsored by IPB insurance and Co operation Ireland. The results were announced in Nov at an event held in Cork City and Ballyfermot was a winner in the urban population section.



## Citation

*The winning entry communicated a strong sense of belonging and pride in the people of this place. To celebrate their 70th birthday several community groups and organisations have come together to organise a host of events during this year. Books have been published, plays and sketches written, and films and documentaries produced. Environmental improvements have been carried out and a series of commemorative flags have been put up. A successful men's shed has been established and a special project this year featured an exhibition of Community Women leaders from the area. These numerous activities and events are held for all age groups from preschool children to the elderly in a truly inclusive community celebration.*

BYS would like to acknowledge the involvement of the two Dublin City Council Community Development staff, Miriam Flynn and Dave Windrim and all the festival committee members for their work on this project.

# Making Cherry Orchard Better Plan

△ BYS participated in the making Cherry Orchard Better Plan by establishing a Saturday Adventure club from our centre in Park West, Initially every house in Cherry Orchard was leafleted and young people were encouraged to sign up for the programme. The project was funded by DCC and the Department of Rural and Community Development administered by Ballyfermot Chapelized partnership.

BYS targeted twentyfour young people from the Cherry Orchard area, consisting of two groups, twelve in the morning and twelve in the afternoon. Initially 24 young people signed up, age group 10 to 16 years and the project ran from the 1st Sept to end of December. The aim is was to encourage the participants young people to broaden their horizons and encourage their involvement in the design of adventure sports and youth work activities. The project was delivered in BYS purpose-built Adventure Centre, in ParkWest which is within ten minutes of Cherry Orchard. The equipment and facilities which include Kayak and mountain bikes are maintained regularly and transport was provided for out of centre day trips.

The outcomes and benefits for the participants in the project were :

- Improved physical Health
- Improved mental health
- Introduced participants to a new range of sports
- Introduced to positive leisure activities
- Provided structured discipline and behaviour through physical sports
- Provided opportunities for sports accreditation

BYS provided two fully trained additional staff to coordinate the project. They were Chris Hughes and Shannon Horrigan. These workers were additional to the current staff working in the Adventure centre. The programme consisted of two different sessions consisting of ten young people in each session, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.



BYS Adventure staff have the experience of worked with young people from Cherry Orchard and some have developed long-lasting life skills through non-formal outdoor learning programs. Many young people have progressed on to become professional outdoor education instructors spread across the country. The young people entering our Adventure Centre experience a warm encouraging atmosphere which allows them to excel in each activity. Our staff have immense knowledge and first-hand experience of the benefits of non-formal outdoor learning programmes.

The project operated around the host of activities the BYS Adventure Centre had to offer, such as Mountain Biking, BMX, Kayaking, White Water Rafting, Team Games, Canoeing, Hill- Walking, Rock-Climbing, Abseiling, Bush-Craft, Cliff Jumping, Bog Jumping, Snorkelling, Pier Jumping, Gorge Walking. The participants were exposed 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, Navigation, and Peer Education.

*This Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Dublin City Council as part of the making Cherry Orchard Better Plan*

# Child Safeguarding Statement

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019

## 1. Name of service being provided:

Ballyfermot Youth Service CLG  
41 Decies Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10  
42 Canal Walk , Park west Business Park, Dublin 12  
12 Gurteen Park , Ballyfermot, Dublin 10  
Oakwood, Hollywood, County Wicklow  
3 Drumfinn Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10  
Gurteen Youth Centre, Gurteen Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10

## 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Ballyfermot Youth Service provide a range of social , personal, educational ,recreational , developmental and sporting programmes for young people age 10 to 24 years in the Ballyfermot area. These programmes cover a broad range of activities: Music and IT classes. Arts, Adventure sports, Afterschool activities, Peer Education Drugs Awareness, Leadership skills, European Erasmus + and a comprehensive Residential programme.

We operate in five centres, Decies Road, Drumfinn, Gurteen, Parkwest and Oakwood Co, Wicklow.

Ballyfermot Youth Service believe that Child Protection is about promoting the welfare of children who avail of our services and creating a safe environment for both staff/volunteers and young people, where trust and willingness to listen to the young person is foremost.

It is the policy of Ballyfermot Youth Service to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people in our services by protecting them from all forms of abuse. We are committed to providing a safe space for children and young people to grow, develop, learn, and have fun in line with Children First Act 2015.

## 3. Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk identified Procedure in place to manage risk identified

Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1 Unsuitable adults having access to young people	Garda vetting for all staff/volunteers/tutors/Students. Reference check and recruitment procedures Letter from Interagency groups confirming their Garda Vetting procedures Copy of Third Party groups using Oakwood of their Child Safeguarding statement .
2 Non reporting of concerns due to risk of harm not being recognised by staff/volunteers	Induction for all staff. Child protection training for all staff.
3 Risk of inappropriate behaviour on overnight residential & European trips	Policy guidelines for trips. Staff planning. Risk assessment of accommodation as part of residential/trips policy/guidelines. Adequate adult supervision for duration of trip.
4 Risk of inappropriate or abusive behaviour by staff, volunteers or students	Garda vetting for all staff/volunteers/tutors/Students. Induction for all staff. Child protection training for all staff.
5 Appropriate management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against staff, volunteers or student	Child protection training for managers and DLP's. Clearly defined CP and HR policies and procedures that include the role and responsibilities of Boards to manage

# Child Safeguarding Statement

**6** Risk of harm from accessing inappropriate materials on line

IT policy for staff and young people.  
Level of staff supervision.  
Online safety training for staff.  
Appropriate Internet filters.

**7** Dignity & Privacy of young people partaking in outdoor sports, particularly water sports where changing clothes is a requirement

Provision of a mobile screens for changing areas.  
Health & Safety Policy  
Provision of Male & female changing areas in our centre in Parkwest.  
Separate changing area for adults.

**8** A danger to young people if a group or activity is not adequately supervised.

Planning for future events, with ratios of adults to young people.  
Trained staff – Induction training, child protection training, first aid training.  
Garda Vetting for all volunteers & staff.

## 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## 5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service. This child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on March 2019, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed:

Provider Youth Service Manager Gerry Mc Carthy , 41 Decies Road, Ballyfermot , Dublin 10

For queries, please contact Gerry Mc Carthy Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.  
Tel 087 9251006

In 2018 BYS organised and carried out two very successful Street Arts projects in Ballyfermot. The projects were funded by Leargas under the Erasmus + programme with additional funding from Ballyfermot Local Drugs Task force. The first project was held in April and called "Unfolding Street Arts in Youth Work" and was geared at upskilling young people with skills that would enable them to carry out performances on the street. We were able to bring in a range of trainers to work with Ballyfermot Youth Service and we organised a series of training events between Jan and March. This involved 12 local young people who were in Transition year from St Johns College, Kylemore College and St Dominic's, ages range from 15 to 17 years which tapped into positive energies of young people. We employed one local musician who held a number of workshops with young people and encouraged them to learn busking in public. We brought over from Italy an Expert in teaching clowning and developing young people's abilities to explore their feelings of happiness and life. We also had a juggler who organised four workshops for our group who met on a weekly basis.



This training provided the young people with the tools and capabilities to implement street arts/circus workshops in Ballyfermot. We tested, explored and proved the positive impact of street arts and circus skills on young people. All participants gained individual and group skills such as self-esteem, confidence, ability to interact in intercultural contexts, respect, tolerance, solidarity, understanding and team spirit.

The second part of the project was to organise a seminar in Ballyfermot around the theme of Street Arts. The seminar involved 40 young people from 12 European countries and we were exploring and practicing Street arts, the seminar was based in the BLCO Sports Complex. The group carried out training exercises for 4 days, followed by 2 days performance on the street. The highlight for our young people was taken part in the public performances in Ballyfermot on April 20 and 21st. We set up a stage in the car-park of Tesco and carried out performances throughout the two days. The performances included flash mobs, juggling, clowning and busking. We also transformed the wall of the car park with a colourful mural painted by local young people and designed by a Polish Artist.



Over the two days 500 people attended the performances with the streets coming alive with the sound of laughter and music. The added bonus of the excellent weather led to a carnival atmosphere and inspired us to continue the experience, trying to make it more sustainable and lasting. For this reason in Oct the second part of the project was held during Halloween where we were able to involve more young people in our actions.



△ All the participants on this project challenged themselves with street arts, in particular clowning, juggling and performing in public. The project left a positive footprint in our community and showed the power of using arts to engage, motivate and empower young people. The project also created a support network around the young people, involving different actors and stakeholders in the actual implementation of the project activities (Dublin City Council, Kylemore College, St Dominic's and St Johns College.). Transition year students were directly involved in the projects and national school children were invited to the public performances. In this way, and thanks to the dissemination activities we gave a great visibility to the project in our local community.

Feedback from young people:

*Guys, just wanted to excuse myself for not saying bye to you....I felt very emotional and didn't know how to handle it as never in a million years would I have thought that 6days with complete strangers would change my whole life... Strangers who became Friends. I really miss you guys...I left a piece of my heart in Dublin.... keep on smiling...*

*I've learned so much, appreciating life, loving themselves, smiles and care is the way to help other people! Everyone has up and down trips but it's never too late to focus on love, wake up its inner child and help other people on their way with a smile!*

*It was an amazing experience, I challenge myself in stuff like juggling and clowning and I think I made a great job making some people laugh. It was also a pleasure sharing this training with a lot of amazing people, some of which are now part of my heart. I just wanna say thank you to all of them and especially to Robin Roberto Tusa for the amazing photos that he made with a lot of passion and professionalism.*

*What an awesome and intensive week I had in Ireland in Erasmus+ St.Art 4 -project. One week with beautiful people from all over Europe. Together we played & practiced juggling, clowning and miming. We had strong connection, good energy and lots of fun together. Atmosphere was easy, safe and trustful. It was easy to be me and jump to daring zone to do things I didn't have any experience before.*

*It was surprising to me how you can use clowning to share love. After all the things I have learned trough self development seminars and life coach studies I found those things in clowning! And it was amazing to feel that freedom to be a clown, to be who you are, to play, to try new things and dance, dance, dance... The highlight of the week was performing in streets of Ballyfermont and celebrating it's 70 th anniversary. We shared smiles and hugs with local people. And got a few fans also :D.*



# European Solidarity Corps

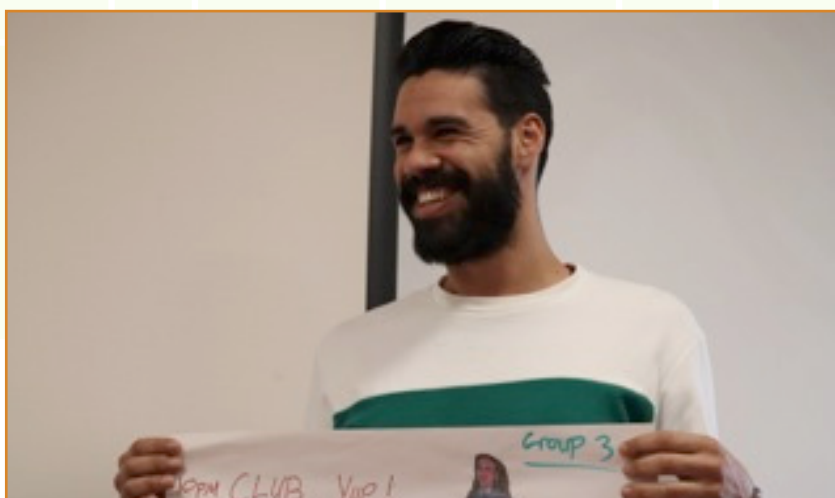
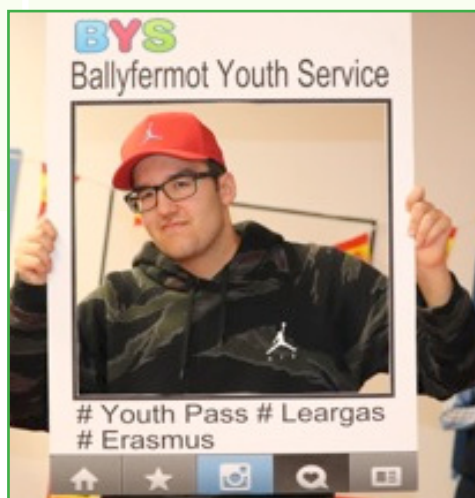
The European Solidarity Corps enables young people to respond to important societal needs by taking part in solidarity activities across the European Union. It creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work (in their own country or abroad) in projects that benefit communities and people. Through Volunteering, Traineeships, Jobs, or Solidarity Projects in their own communities, young people contribute to strengthening communities while gaining experience, skills and competences for their own personal, educational, social, civic and professional development.

## What does it involve?

European Solidarity Corps projects cover a wide variety of topics, but all must fall within the Mission of the European Solidarity Corps and meet its Principles. Participants will not be asked to provide any services related to the immediate response to disasters: these types of tasks will continue to be performed by those with specialist training and experience.

## Benefits

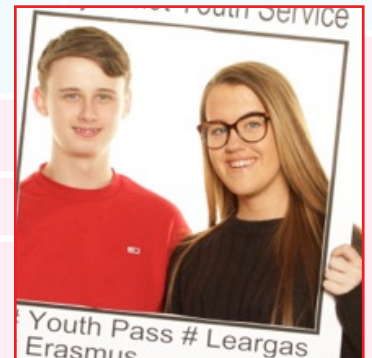
The European Solidarity Corps is designed for people who are ready for a challenge and willing to dedicate themselves to helping others. Young people can improve their practical, social and cultural skills, while showing their personal commitment to the community. The experience can also be a stepping stone to employment or to further learning. Organisations can connect quickly to a dedicated and enthusiastic group of young people who share their aims. This allows organisations to be more creative and flexible when working towards their goals.



In 2018 BYs have hosted volunteers from Austria, Germany Italy, & Spain: Johann Richter from Germany and Estefania Alvarez and Raul Hinojosa from Spain. Simone Maragna & Giovanna D'Alema and Can Yagmur from Austria.

# Awards Night

AN



## Killary Adventure Trip 2018

Last summer seen a number of residentials organised by BYS, one such trip was to Killary Adventure centre in Galway. We took 10 young people five male and five female age fifteenth years of age all from Ballyfermot. The young people are all part of the Ballyfermot Teenage mixed group programme. Who meet on Monday nights in our centre in Decies road and the trip was for five days. The cost of the trip was €150 which was subsidised by Ballyfermot Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. The Killary centre overlooks Killary Fjord on the Wild Atlantic Way and has everything needed for a fantastic activity programme in Ireland. The group took part in over 10 of the most exciting adventure activities in stunning location. Activities such as the HIGH ROPES, GIANT SWING, ROCKCLIMBING & ABSEILING, ARCHERY COMBAT, KILLARY CHALLENGES.

Raft building and Speedboat to name but a few, The outcomes achieved from the Killary trip :

- helped the young people by boosting their self
- confidence and awareness, Improved their listening and communication skills .
- It helped Increase tolerance with each other and build relationships.
- The trip also helped them to learn to respect themselves and others.

The Ballyfermot Youth service would like thank all the young people who took part in the Killary Adventure Trip 2018

# Celebrating Women

In 2018 we seen two significant events commemorated, it was the centenary of votes for women and Ballyfermot as a community was seventy years old. In this context, Ballyfermot Youth Service put together two major projects, 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, and an exhibition featuring portraits of seventy women active in various community organisations in Ballyfermot.

## Project History

The project took six months to put together and involved ninety six individual women from fifty three different organisations, age range fifth teen years to ninety five years, two sets of twins, over one thousand five hundred photos taken, twenty three different designs, Meetings in Italy and Ballyfermot. Three massive Art projects: Installation of street Banners, photo exhibition, production of Brochure. Many Re writes Re writes Rewrites

The idea for the project has its roots in 2015 when a group of young people came together to look at remembering the leaders in 1916 and in particular women. However the group could find little material about woman's role in our revolution but last year they came across Liz Gillis book women of the Irish revolution and that set off again. We also wanted to recognise the role women played in building up Ballyfermot and to celebrate our 70th Birthday as a community.

## Street Banners

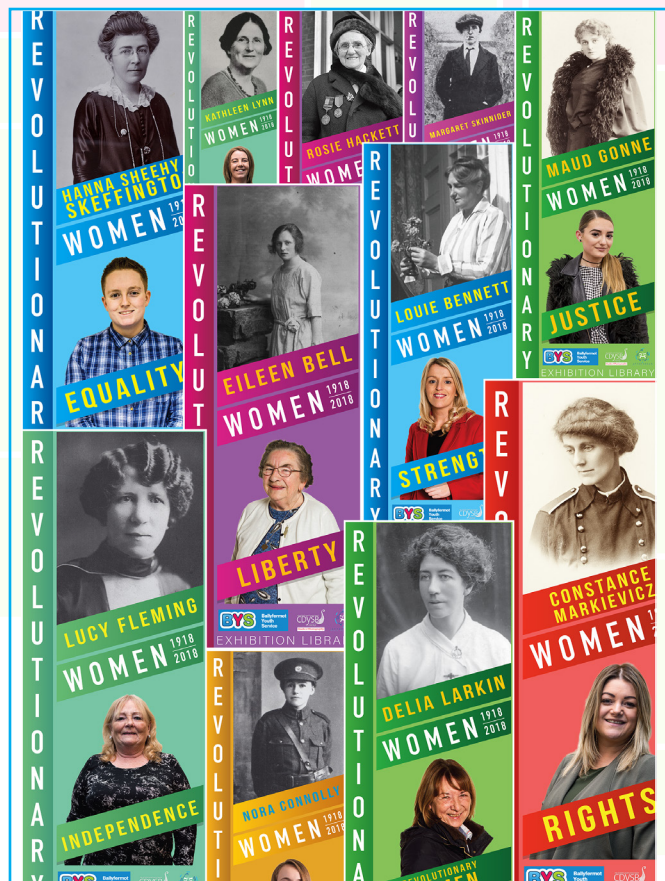
The thirty street banners, which were developed and designed by members of the Ballyfermot Youth Service and were displayed on street poles along the main street in Ballyfermot. These banners recognised the active involvement of women in our country and community. The large images displayed included: Maud Gonne, Kathleen Clarke, Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Kathleen Lynn, Constance Markievicz, Helena Molony, Margaret Skinnider, Rosie Hackett, Nora Connolly, Delia Larkin, Louie Bennett, Lucy Fleming and Eileen Bell.

## Photo Exhibition Library

At the same time as the street installation a major exhibition of local women activists is displayed in our Library to mark the seventy years of Ballyfermot as a vibrant community. The Library exhibition incorporated portraits of the revolutionary women alongside photographs of the seventy women from various local community organisations in Ballyfermot. The project was launched on international Women's Day March 8th and was attended by hundreds of local women and young people.

## Thanks

In terms of technical support we had previously worked with Roberto Tusa from Italy who had lived in Ballyfermot in 2015/16 and he was more than willing to help us out with the design. We were also lucky to have worked with Studio 2 Photography, Lorraine and Colm and again they said yes to our ideas and produced fantastic photos. The project was led by Jody Byrne and the young women's groups and was funded by Dublin City Council under the Decades of Commemorations Fund for Communities and Ballyfermot & Inchicore Credit Union.



# Oakwood

△ Our residential centre in County Wicklow (Oakwood) had over 500 young people take part in residential trips in 2018. 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. The centre is a 24 bed residential unit with on suite facilities in each bedroom. The centre has a number of unique features, set in the most beautiful landscape of Wicklow between Glendalough and Hollywood.



For us the number one feature is that the centre is a no mobile phone free zone, this means that young people and leaders have the opportunity to live in a digital free area. For BYS this has proved to be a positive feature and has enabled young people to switch off from their smartphones and improve their communication with one another.

All bookings for Oakwood are handled by our information officers in Drumfinn who do a great job. In 2018 as part of our capital allocation from Dept of Children & Youth Affairs we were able to replace and upgrade kitchen and dining room equipment. Our plan for 2019 is to carry out further capital investment including replacing bedding, flooring and decoration.

## 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. We provide support to Ballyfermot Youth Services at Decies Road, the Youth Information Centre at Drumfinn Park and the Outward Bounds Activities Centre located in Parkwest as well as Donore Harriers Athletic Club and Sons of Divine Providence centre in the Ranch.

Our CE participants work alongside BYS staff in a supported role and on the creativity side, there are Art & Craft classes and of course our hugely successful Summer Projects. Our experienced staff offers a warm welcome to all children that attend the youth service. 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.



### CE STAFF

Olivia Doyle  
 Luke Brennan  
 Moya O'Hanlon  
 Lynsey Rowley  
 Eugene Bullard  
 Sandra Atkinson Kelly  
 Veronica Dixon  
 Majek Rafa  
 Gerard Wall

Noel Hickey  
 Carina Molloy  
 Andrew Jackson  
 Joseph Mortimer  
 Daniel McDonnell  
 Kenneth Macken  
 Denise O'Halloran  
 Namina Zaidan

### CE SUPERVISOR

Pauline Grogan

### JOBS INITIATIVE

Imelda Brady  
 Elaine Doyle  
 Ann O Bryne

In doing this, we 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. A number of our CE participants have progressed on to full employment including Civil Service, Childcare and Industry. Our CE Supervisor is Pauline Grogan.

The project is funded by the Dept of Social Protection

# FINANCE REPORT

## Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

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

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Income</b>		
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs	514,398	501,798
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) General Fund	3,500	14,000
<b>Annual Grant</b>		
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) Deferred	5,500	(5,500)
Health Service Executive - Dept of Health	26,101	13,601
Leargas	123,345	60,530
Leargas grants returned	-	(10,130)
Dublin City Council	19,175	-
Other grants	48,619	9,136
Fee Income	55,683	66,515
Sundry Income	23,017	9,102
Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport	-	572
	-----	-----
	819,338	659,624
	-----	-----
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Wages and salaries	434,208	406,765
Training and development	1,660	2,815
Programme Costs	80,039	34,836
Materials	761	-
Mentoring costs	1,050	3,150
Rent payable	4,200	4,325
Rates	1,047	1,023
Service charges	2,572	4,779
Insurance	34,393	26,412
Light, Heat & Power	10,722	10,454
Kitchen supplies and cleaning	1,429	547
Repairs and maintenance	17,932	10,587
Printing, postage and stationery	11,758	4,441
Advertising	6,322	4,380
Telephone & Broadband	5,775	6,967
Computer costs	2,582	1,767
Motor expenses	5,224	6,577
Travelling expenses Erasmus+ European Projects	149,217	87,104
Legal and professional	4,200	11,077
Bank charges	563	492
Bad debts	(292)	-
Canteen	12,007	6,090
Security	-	511
General expenses	9,972	6,177
Profits/losses on disposal of tangibles	(4,855)	-
Auditor's remuneration	2,977	2,977
Depreciation	43,067	27,680
Charitable donations	-	1,005
	-----	-----
	838,530	672,938
	-----	-----
<b>Net deficit</b>	(19,192)	(13,314)
	-----	-----

# Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

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

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2018

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

### 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 behaviours 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 24 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), a minibus, 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 next year, 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 for the year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(13,942) (2017 - €(13,314)).

At the end of the year, the company has assets of €361,751 (2017 - €289,772) and liabilities of €135,180 (2017 - €49,259). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(13,942).

### Directors and Secretary

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

Bridget Murray	Janice McGarry
Adam Kealy	Jordan Gray (Resigned 1 October 2018)
Kurt Fitzgerald (Resigned 1 October 2018)	David Lynch
Vincent Jackson	Mary Daly
Charles Murray	Warren Dunne (Appointed 3 October 2018)
Aaron Leddy (Appointed 3 October 2018)	

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 re-election.

### 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.

### Statement on Relevant Audit Information

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

### Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at 41 Decies Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.

### Signed on behalf of the board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Daly  
Director  
Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Jackson  
Director  
Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



*Studio 2 Photography*



An Roinn Comhairle Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection



Dublin City Council  
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



AFTER DREAM  
MEDIA PRODUCTION

## 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](mailto:byskayaking@eircom.net)

## Information Centre

3 Drumfinn Park

Ballyfermot 10 – Dublin

Tel: 6237401

email: [info@ballyfermotys.ie](mailto:info@ballyfermotys.ie)