

SKATEPARK POSITIVE SUCCESS



**"IT HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE GET OFF THE STREETS AND HELPS
BROADEN THEIR MIND TO OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO...
SO, WE HAVE THE TEENAGERS THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN
INTO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AND THEY'RE WILLING TO TRY..."**

**IT'S TAKEN A LOT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
FROM THE AREA AND PUT IT INTO A POSITIVE.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT TO GO ON A BIKE THEY
CAN SIT AROUND WATCH, IF SOMEONE'S PUTTING
A DISPLAY ON, ON THE BIKES.**

**IT'S ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE THINGS THAT'S
HAPPENED IN THIS AREA IN MY LIFETIME, IT'S BRILLIANT".**

(INTERVIEW WITH A YOUNG PERSON FOR SKATEPARK REPORT JAN 2021)

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

Bridget Murray
Janice McGarry
Jason Kavanagh
David Lynch
Vincent Jackson
Mary Daly
Catherine Whelan

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
Statutory Auditors
Behan House,
10 Lower Mount Street,
Dublin 2

Bankers

Bank Of Ireland
Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10

Solicitors

Bennett's Solicitors
306 Ballyfermot Road,
Dublin 10

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

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 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), a minibus, a residential house, an Outdoor Education centre (Wicklow) and an Amenity centre (Park West).

Financial Results

The deficit for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(20,488) (2019 - €(22,865)).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €317,023 (2019 - €313,913) and liabilities of €139,055 (2019 - €115,457). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(20,488).

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year were as follows:

Bridget Murray
Janice McGarry
Jason Kavanagh
David Lynch
Vincent Jackson
Mary Daly
Catherine Whelan

The secretary who served throughout the financial 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 has developed an established place for itself within its market and will continue developments in this area.

Post Balance Sheet Events

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Irish and global economy and created a considerable amount of uncertainty as to how long the impact will last and what any recovery will look like, the Directors will continue to monitor the situation and act accordingly.

Auditors

The auditors, KSI Faulkner Orr Limited, (Statutory Auditors) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved 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.

Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

| | 2020 € | 2019 € |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | |
| CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs | 273,833 | 534,200 |
| CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) General Fund | 9,380 | 3,500 |
| Annual Grant | | |
| Health Service Executive - Dept of Health | 16,622 | 19,093 |
| Leargas | 33,377 | 37,219 |
| Dublin City Council | 10,126 | 48,488 |
| Health Service Executive - Dept of Health (Candle) | - | 15,000 |
| Other grants | 50,771 | 92,441 |
| Fee Income | 21,780 | 42,481 |
| Sundry Income | 9,753 | 4,091 |
| CDYA/CDYSB - UBU | 253,206 | - |
| | <u>678,848</u> | <u>796,513</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Wages and salaries | 451,368 | 434,808 |
| Training and development | 1,500 | 2,725 |
| Programme Costs | 22,707 | 47,126 |
| Materials | 5,693 | 2,235 |
| Mentoring costs | - | 12,300 |
| Rent payable | 2,200 | 5,200 |
| Rates | 780 | 834 |
| Service charges | 4,867 | 5,022 |
| Insurance | 34,224 | 37,801 |
| Candle Expenditure | - | 15,000 |
| Light, Heat & Power | 10,354 | 9,098 |
| Kitchen supplies and cleaning | 2,644 | 947 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 27,078 | 21,936 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 6,940 | 13,756 |
| Advertising | 2,964 | 815 |
| Telephone & Broadband | 7,248 | 7,160 |
| Computer costs | 3,499 | 2,668 |
| Motor expenses | 2,850 | 715 |
| Travelling expenses | 36,986 | 130,010 |
| Legal and professional | 3,670 | 601 |
| Bank charges | 440 | 478 |
| Bad debts | 1,020 | 865 |
| Canteen | 9,451 | 8,388 |
| General expenses | 2,678 | 5,741 |
| Auditor's remuneration | 2,967 | 2,970 |
| Depreciation | 55,208 | 50,179 |
| | <u>699,336</u> | <u>819,378</u> |
| Net deficit | <u>(20,488)</u> | <u>(22,865)</u> |

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

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

2020 was like no other year we have ever experienced , opened , closed , opened ,closed, Covid 19, lockdown, wear a mask , don't wear a mask , PPE , stay apart , two meter rule. To say at least it was an unforgettable year would be a understatement. To comply with all the legislative requirements that Covid 19 presented and to ensure that all our activities and operations were safe for young people and staff to use. We invested in a range of PPE equipment and distributed over 1000 washable masks to young people. We adopted new policies and procedures , quickly implemented Covid 19 training for staff and safely opened our premises when it was safe to do so. We established staff bubbles for our centers and although it restricted our service somewhat it ensured that BYS could continue to provide a service in four different Centers, Gurteen, Decies, Adventure Centre and the Skatepark. We switched a lot of our groups to using the outdoors and thanks to the Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Task force we were supplied with Gazebos which enabled this work to take place. We had a number of staff isolating throughout the year, some for health reasons and others for close contacts .Thankfully we had no serious outbreak of Covid 19 in our service. For BYS it was just another challenge in the ongoing commitment to provide quality services to young people in Ballyfermot.

It was not Covid 19 that was the biggest news in 2020 for BYS but the opening of a state of the art Skate Park in Ballyfermot. After years campaigning by young people for the resource it opened without any proper planning and coincided with the end of the first lockdown at the end of June. In November 2020, BYS commissioned Deborah Erwin and Lorraine Thompson to carry out research into the Skate Park's usage, benefits and the best way to maximise a youth work approach. The board was also aware of the need to secure mainstreaming funding to have staff based in the Skate Park on a permanent basis, the report states.

"The Skate Park opened without warning, which brought some issues such as anti-social behaviour, litter and questions around who would manage the maintenance and upkeep of the facility. Opening during a pandemic and dealing with the various public health restrictions along the way has not been easy. Since its opening Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) staff have been facilitating outreach, youth work, personal and social development with young people as well as supporting the development of a BMX club at the facility. The report highlights the journey so far from the first fruits of the idea to build the Skate Park and the challenges of its opening. It outlines the involvement of BYS in facilitating outreach youth work in the Skate Park and developing targeted provision, notes usage levels and staff input, and considers the vision and future potential of the Skate Park. The Skate Park is already proving to be a positive resource within the Ballyfermot community. It is attracting a new generation of young people and has the potential to be a world-class facility. The Skate Park is becoming a hub for young people to gather and therefore a central location for outreach and targeted youth work provision. Consistent with research on the benefits of youth work, outdoor education and sports development initiatives, the Skate Park has provided an opportunity to create a range of positive outcomes for young people through outdoor activity." (Skate Park Report)

2020 was also the year in which the use of digital technology came into its own, it again showed the divide in our society .We quickly became aware of the numbers of young people who do not have access to personal computers in their homes. They are using their phones to take part in school zoom classes. Our youth work team were also impacted by the digital challenge but they quickly adopted to using zoom, texts , kahotts and face time to maintain contact with young people in our community. We also developed an online digital consent form for parents to sign which captures all the data we require. BYS also implemented online employee scheduling software which enhanced our operations . It has being a challenge but we continue to build on our strengths in developing young peoples talents and skills throughout the community. The challenges facing young people in Ballyfermot are complex and are in need of a range of solutions and approaches. The introduction by the Dept of the UBU Your Place Your Space funding scheme came into operation in July 2020 and involved some administrative challenges. In terms of numbers, we engaged nine hundred and fifty seven young people in our programmes and activities. Led by our Youth Service Manager Gerry Mc Carthy and his team. They have worked tirelessly throughout 2020 and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Board.

The Board of directors also met remotely in 2020 using zoom and received reports on all aspects of the project. 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 2020 in this report. The board were very pleased to welcome three new young people to our Board as Directors , Chloe Kear- ney , Jason Kavanagh and Daryl Byrne . There was also changes to staff during the year with Paula Moore leaving us to work in the School Completion Programme. This resulted in Denise O Callaghan moving into a full-time role and Richard Carolan joining us.

The board were pleased that in years of underinvestment in capital equipment there was again another round of capital which we were able to use successfully in renovating bathrooms in our Decies Road centre and installing an outside covered area.

We continued to work in partnership with other organisations and individuals both community, statutory and business. Ballyfermot, Chapelizod Partnership were to the forefront in funding temp staff posts for the Skate Park and again our linkage with Harris Group resulted in more young people obtaining employment. Our work with Dublin City Council also continued on a number of fronts with practical support for environmental and sports projects. Ní héir go cur le chéile. There is no strength without unity.

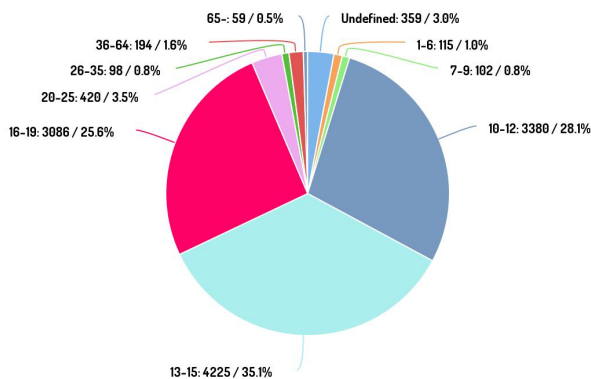
Thanks also to the staff of the Gurteen Youth Club Community Employment project for all their help with the various programmes. Mile buíochas to City Of Dublin Youth Service Board, Thanks to Dublin City Council for their continued support and finally I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Office of the Minister for Children for their continued financial support to the project. There is a need for additional investment to be provided by the Dept for the successful operation of the Skate Park and we are calling on them to provide this urgently. Mar focal scoir, "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine" and I look forward to working with you in 2021 and having another successful year.

Vincent Jackson, Chairperson

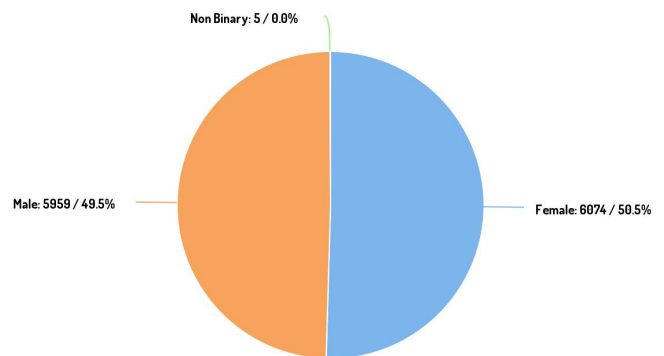
BYS Staff

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Gerry Mc Carthy | Youth Service Manager |
| Allegra Lalor | Senior Outdoor Education Instructor |
| Bryan Perry | Youth Worker Activities Coordinator |
| Denise O'Callaghan | Youth Worker |
| Elaine Doyle | Youth Workers Assistant |
| Ger O'Reilly | Instructor Outdoor Education |
| Ian Purdy | Administrator |
| Imelda Brady | Youth Workers Assistant |
| Jody Byrne | Information Officer/Youth worker |
| Kevin Dolan | Youth Worker |
| Martin O'Reilly | Information officer/Youth worker |
| Paula Moore | Youth Worker |
| Richard Carolan | Instructor/Activities Co-ordinator |

AGE GROUP TOTAL
01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020



PARTICIPANT GENDER TOTAL
01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020



MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS



Chloe Kearney

Chloe is 19 and went to St. Dominics College in Ballyfermot. She's been part of the Ballyfermot Youth Service for a number of years and has recently joined our Board. Her involvement in the BYS has influenced Chloe to study youth work as she has enjoyed it so much. She is currently studying Youth Studies and Community Development in the Liberties College and is hoping one day to become a youth worker and work with the young people of Ballyfermot and keep on delivering what Ballyfermot Youth Service have been doing for the past 30 of years.



Daryl Byrne

Aged 18 years, Daryl joined the Board in November 2020. Daryl is from lower Ballyfermot and has been a member of BYS since he was ten years of age taking part in many group activities. He is an active member of the Ballyfermot BMX club and is on the club committee. Daryl finished his leaving cert last year and is an apprentice sheet metal worker. Daryl is hoping to encourage more young people to more active in the community.



Catherine Whelan

A member of the BYS Board since 2019, Catherine is from Cremona Road and a former pupil of St. Dominics School in Ballyfermot. Over the past 20 years Catherine has held a number of senior management roles in both public and private sector organisations such as Head of HR, Innovation Manager and Head of Organisational Development and Learning. She has lectured in UCD and DCU and is a part of associate faculty at the Irish Management Institute. She has an MBS in Human Resource Management from the Michael Smurfit School of Business Studies and also holds an MSc in Computing and Learning Technologies from the National College of Ireland.



Jason Kavanagh

Former President of the Students' Union of IT Tallaght, it was his job to manage the running of the Union and to make sure students have the best third level experience possible. As the main spokesperson of the Union and the main student representative Jason was on many committees and councils such as Academic Council and the Institute's Governing Body. As marketing director, he created and implemented marketing and communication strategies, and he supervised all campaigns of the Union including local and national campaigns. As the President he liaised with students, staff and all relevant authorities to enforce students rights, on all educational, welfare and equality matters. We welcomed Jason to the BYS Board in 2020.

DAVID LYNCH PRESENTATION

On the 17th of September 2020 we had a special visitor to the Skate Park. Davy Lynch along with his wife Deirdre and family came to view the facilities. Davy has spent many years on the Board of Management and was one of the main activists in campaigning for the Skate Park.

It was an important day to many of us at Ballyfermot Youth Service as we presented an award to Davy for the outstanding volunteer work with the BYS and being instrumental in encouraging many young people to take up BMX biking.



Davy has mentored and guided many young people and has been a major role-model to many aspiring young people, his wisdom and knowledge was the key to the ongoing success of the Bossman Davys BMX Club.

We are proud and privileged to have Davy as part of this fantastic facility.

The Award was made by local artist John Farrell and was specially commissioned by BYS to thank David Lynch for all his service.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MAN



Not all heroes wear capes. This hero proudly wears a high viz jacket with the logo of the Ballyfermot Youth Service as he maintains and prepares the park each day for the people of Ballyfermot. Meet Luke Costello, a born and reared Ballyfermot man who returned from Spain to revisit his roots.

Luke kindly volunteered his time to the upkeep of the park out of the true goodness and kindness of his own heart for many months. He is now a proud member of the Ballyfermot Youth Service team and is based at the park each day. Luke brings his own truly unique positive energy to our wonderful facility and has very quickly become an integral part of the overall park operations.

Luke has also become an important representative and ambassador for Ballyfermot Youth Service as he casually chats with parents, grandparents and young people who avail of our amazing park.

His ability to recognise and engage with young people and his level of wisdom offered to staff methods and approaches have complimented the overall success of our delivery of planned programmes within the Skate and Play- Park.

Luke is a firm believer in bringing good energy to the park and believes we get back what we put out.

"What You Think You Become, What You Feel You Attract & What You Imagine You Create".

Thank You Luke On Behalf Of The People Of Ballyfermot.

UBU REPORT

The rebranded targeted youth funding scheme, UBU Your Place Your Space, was introduced in July 2020, after a comprehensive consultation process, involving a wide variety of stakeholders within the youth and community sector in Ireland. The Value for Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes (VFMPR) had been considered in the design of the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme. This very complex process, which is still ongoing, recognises that there is an onus of responsibility on the policy makers in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, as well as all those funded under the scheme to engage and communicate to bring value to the services delivered. This ongoing process, will be continuously reviewed and evaluated, to determine, if the sector is delivering, quality services to support the best outcomes for young people.

The UBU Your Place Your Space Performance Oversight and Engagement Framework (POEF) has been designed to provide stakeholders with a set of standardised tools, templates and guidance. POEF has been developed with a view to collecting information consistently across the sector to contribute to the development of an evidence base showing

the impact of the work with young people. The purpose of the POEF is to implement the The Logic Model, Timetable, Financial Template and Drawdown Sheet, Planning and Progress Review Meetings and Unannounced Visits to the projects.

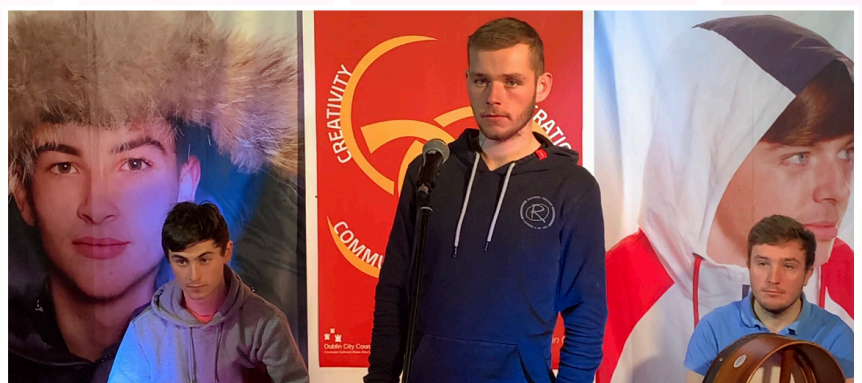
In compiling the information for the UBU, the excellent work provided by youth services in the country was recognised as the cornerstone of youth provision and was invaluable. It was also acknowledged the crucial roles played by youth service staff and the many volunteers who give so generously of their time, for the benefit of young people. The mission of UBU Your Place Your Space is "to provide out-of-school supports to marginalised, disadvantaged or vulnerable young people aged between 10 and 24 in their communities, to enable them to overcome adverse circum-



stances and achieve their full potential". This is supplementary to the youth work act of 2001.

There is a new departure as working in schools is now classed as a double payment by DCYA, and for the moment is forbidden, under this funding scheme. The vision of UBU Your Place Your Space is "that all young people are enabled to realise their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood".

The UBU Your Place Your Space scheme has two overarching goals, to be achieved through the attainment of specific objectives. Goal 1 is "to provide young person centred, community-based and out-of-school youth services to young people in need of support", and Goal 2 is "to ensure that each layer of the governance structure adds value to the direct work with young people".



The youth service manager held a workshop with the youth work staff to prepare for the scheme prior to it being implemented. This gave the staff the opportunity to ask questions about this new process and the staff worked together to develop Logic Models based on groups being worked with, incorporating the seven personal and social development outcomes, which are key component to the UBU Your Place Your Space. The seven outcomes are: Communication skills, Confidence and Agency, Planning and Problem-solving, Relationships, Creativity and Imagination, Resilience and Determination and Emotional Intelligence.

The training also included the criteria for engaging with young people. The manager has submitted the plans according to the criteria set out for our Service Level Agreement, to the funding organisation, CDYSB. BYS are fully compliant with the new criteria, as set out by DCYA..

SKATEPARK BRINGS JOY TO YOUNG AND OLD

The 23rd of June 2020 was to become a striking date within the historical calendar of Ballyfermot. This beautiful sunny day saw the opening of the highly anticipated Ballyfermot Skate and Play Park.

The opening of this magnificent facility was just one stage that formed part of an intensive eight-year period of campaigning, design competitions and community consultations. Young people involved with Ballyfermot Youth Service were instrumental in initiating the idea for the Skate Park while Ballyfermot Youth Service staff played a vital role in echoing their young voices to Dublin City Council and national government. This long process saw the youngest ever deputation to Dublin City Council as far back as 2012 which was delivered by a slightly younger-looking Lee Corcoran, Richard Carolan and Ger O'Reilly who on that day became the proud voice of Ballyfermot.

Long before the new Skate Park opened, Ballyfermot Youth Service proudly facilitated the running of a highly successful mobile BMX club for young people which continued for a period of eight years. This club was also known as Boss Man Davies BMX Club as local volunteer Davie Lynch played a significant role in the development of the lives of young people from the club. The operation of this club involved the weekly departure from Ballyfermot to avail of Skate Park facilities in other areas of Dublin and other counties. Today this departure is mirrored by people who now travel to Ballyfermot to avail of our state of the art facility.



"It doesn't stop there, the ball is rolling now to build a sense of place and increased responsibility, not just with those young guys who were involved for the last 8 years, but with this whole new delivery of young people who are taking part and taking an interest in this new sport. It has blown us away with the amount of interest". (BYS Staff Member)

Since its opening, Ballyfermot Youth Service staff have been instrumental in ensuring the success of the facility. Our adventure centre team supported by our youth work staff and management have managed to turn this facility into a national and internationally recognised outdoor learning environment where young people are provided with an array of era responsive opportunities that aim to promote a psychosocial relationship with themselves and their community.



Behind the daily scenes, sounds and playful images of excitement and enjoyment is a dedicated team of passionate BYS staff, whom are also complimented by young aspiring leaders. This joint responsive approach helps tackle issues of anti-social behaviour, allows us to liaise with local authorities, local Garda representatives, Dublin City Council, parents of young people and other relevant bodies to ensure young people are wise within their pursuit of engagement with what is an outstanding facility in which we as Ballyfermot people are proud to call our own.

The success of the Skate Park so far is consistent with modern research on the benefits of the combined approach of Youth Work and Outdoor Education. This joint approach is key to the development of all our community Skate Park initiatives.

BALLYFERMOT BMX CLUB DEVELOPMENT

The Skate Park has now become the primary home of the new Ballyfermot BMX Club with thanks owed to Dublin City Council. The agreed use of the pavilion building as a BMX club facility was foreseen within the early stages of the park's development as a key factor that will complement the overall success of the park. This building has become an integral part of the park and has quickly become the main hub for young people seeking activities, support and guidance within the area of Ballyfermot. Plans to re-develop the building to better accommodate the club's purpose are underway.



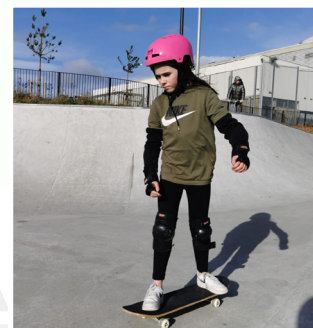
This BMX club is a youth led sporting and social organisation that primarily promotes the effective engagement of young people within community activities. BYS Adventure Centre staff have overseen the development of the Ballyfermot BMX club and continues to provide leadership and skills training as well as support to the leaders as they embark on the many tasks involved in running a club. The club has delivered its very own junior leader programme that both creates and recognises positive possibility and potentials within young people of Ballyfermot while also helping to develop essential life skills that will enhance future outcomes for all community members.

The club operates on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and also runs a special girls BMX club on a Wednesday afternoon. Many of our junior members can be spotted in their red BYS jackets and are present on a daily basis to help provide a voluntary community service to other young people who aspire towards improved lifestyle choices. New members are always welcome to join as the club continues to embrace the overwhelming level of positive feedback from all who have witnessed our club in action. Young people who take part in this wonderful journey will naturally inherit essential personal and social skills that have been proven to enhance educational, employment and lifestyle opportunities. The Ballyfermot BMX Club is Ireland's first official registered Freestyle BMX Club.



FIRST EVER IRISH SKATE-BOARDING LESSONS

In October 2020, Ballyfermot Youth Service in conjunction with Dublin City Council, facilitated the first officially recognised Skateboarding lessons to be held in Ireland. Pro Skateboarder, Brian Corscadan was on-site to inspire and deliver the full programme to what was a packed turn out (within current restrictions!) for each instructional session. Brian is regularly at the park on his board and gives his time to engage with young people of all ages, he has naturally become a role model for future Skateboarding riders. A special thanks to DCC's Ballyfermot Sports Officer Sharon Kelly for supporting the full programme and bringing her expertise to what was a truly historic day for Irish Skate-boarding.



BALLYFERMOT COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

The Ballyfermot Community Action Group is a grassroots youth initiative that emerged from public safety concerns arising from the opening of the park. The park opened in the absence of an effective cleanup plan combined with issues around responsibility from relevant authorities. The young people of Ballyfermot under the guidance of Ballyfermot Youth Service staff member Ger O'Reilly quickly initiated a 7 day a week park safety clean up which has rightly reached national news headlines. The actions of this group of young people have inspired others to change their behaviour towards more purposeful intentions and has encouraged all young people involved in our programmes to take a more environmentally friendly approach to using the park. It is a requirement of our BMX club that all participants must take part in a clean up before and after club activities.

Ballyfermot Youth Service has witnessed an overwhelming response from young people who were willing to take part in our daily cleanups. Since the opening of the park in June, we have proudly recorded 145 cleanups involving a staggering 1,979 young people. It can only be de-scribed as an Army Of Generational Change.

This innovation has managed to create a safer community for all to enjoy while also building a sense of ownership and responsibility by allowing young people to become an integral part of the community in which they live.

" I have to say that BYS have been absolutely fantastic, they went right into the breach. Parks hadn't installed any bins and they couldn't deal with the amount of rubbish that was there with the influx of people using the park. Immediately BYS got engaged with litter-pickers and bags (provided by DCC) then immediately encouraged children of all ages to clean the park. They would clean up before they'd actually use it, anytime I've been down the place is spotless. BYS have been terrific with what they've done" (Stakeholder).



The BMX Club and the Community Action Group have both featured on RTE's Nationwide programme and were also filmed as part of The Irish Architecture Foundation's Open House Dublin event, Ireland's largest architecture festival. These wonderfully captured films, told by the voices of the young people themselves, showed the true essence of the community spirit that has derived from the positive actions of young people under the guidance of Ballyfermot Youth Service.

CANDLE COMMUNITY REFERRAL

The Ballyfermot Youth Service were delighted to avail of the Candle Community Trust Support Hub. This programme uses psycho-therapeutic methods aimed at addressing the educational and social developmental needs of young people from Ballyfermot.

The programme is delivered over a six week period on a one to one basis under the guidance and supervision of a trained therapist. An additional ten-week group affiliation programme is then offered to all participating young people that aims to produce a social network of peer to peer support for all involved. We at BYS feel very fortunate to be selected as one of the referring projects. This allowed our staff to identify young people within our service who require this additional and essential support.

The complete programme has produced significant results and we are delighted to echo the positive feedback from young people who gladly availed of the opportunity.

This is a much needed inter-agency initiative that has proved to be very successful and there is a high demand for it within the community of Ballyfermot. Multi-agency approaches have proven to deliver an increased rate of success when it comes to working with young people.

Let's continue to work together to support positive youth mental health. Together We Can Achieve More.

ERASMUS PROJECTS

BYS had successfully applied for a Training Programme and Youth Exchange to be held at the start of the year. The project was called The Culture Awakens. The training course was focused on youth workers, youth leaders, volunteers, educational field professionals, that were interested in the topic and experienced in the managing of groups, with good facilitation skills aged over 18 years. The group for the youth exchange targeted the age group from 15-17yrs.

We invited ten different partners to take part in the Training. There were two partners from Italy and Finland and the remaining were from, Spain, Belgium, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and one additional partner from Ireland. This brought the total to eleven different partners taking part including the host BYS. The Youth Exchange, was to take place in Killary in the West of Ireland, with three of the partners from the training, Poland, Spain and Italy.

Regretfully, the first wave of the Corona Virus was already underway in China and was only starting to take hold in the rest of Europe. This played havoc on the plans that had been put in place for the programme. The Training in February commenced, albeit without a variety of partners that had to withdraw as a result of the spreading of the Corona Virus.

This created lots of problems for BYS as host as we had to try to seek new partners at very short notice. Before we could do this, we had to contact The National Association Leargus to seek an amendment as a result of the changing environment we were now facing into. BYS had paid out a lot of the income in advance from the grant received and as a result of partners not able to attend created untold grief, as we tried to satisfy partners that wanted to attend the training. We were now in uncharted waters and were very unsure of what the outcome would be, as we had also paid a substantial deposit on Killary Adventure Centre, for the upcoming Youth Exchange.

The training still proceeded, we had lost two partners from Italy, the Belgium's didn't travel and one person attended from Cyprus who was based in the UK. Regretfully, the Youth Exchange never took place as the Corona Virus was now in full swing and lockdowns were common place throughout Europe.

The training coincided with International Women's Day. We prepared and performed, a play specifically around domestic violence. Local women came to the live performance and shared their different life experiences as women growing up in the community. We took part in a St Patrick's Day Festival in the community as part of the Seachtain na Gaeilge. This took place a week early, as we are aware the official St Patrick's Day Parade was canceled as a result of the Pandemic. The Training was a huge success considering the conditions of the time, as the following week we went into Lockdown. Thankfully, nobody contacted the virus on the project and all partners got home safe and sound, albeit some having to go straight into quarantine, because of the pandemic and their countries response to it.

2ND CONNECTION: Training Course 29th February – 7th March, 2020 Antalya, Turkey

JJody Byrne attended the training in Turkey. The aim of the course was to increase inter-cultural competence of youth workers to improve the quality of youth work while working with immigrants and refugees. There were thirty youth workers from seven Countries, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ireland, Romania, Greece and Italy. Throughout the workshops there were many discussions.



The course was set around young people and how as 2nd generation they can develop inter-cultural competences as a skill set in today's European Youth Work. The workshops looked at strong social fears, stereotypes, different values, beliefs and experiences that seem to be touching most of Europe. They looked at issues that arises from these fears and differences through discussions, role play, team building and group work. They also explored the lack of critical thinking and knowledge about other cultures and how youth workers can address European Youth Work.

BRIGHTEN UP BALLYFERMOT ART PROJECTS 2020

From September till December 2020, 25 young people from Ballyfermot Youth Service undertook 3 projects as part of the Brightening Ballyfermot Projects 2020 in the local community. The first was the second part of the canal project which took 12 - weeks and this year the theme was diversity in Ireland in 2020. The young people came up with this topic themselves. The idea developed out of a conversation with the girls while doing outdoor activities with the BYS when they brought up the racial bullying that they had experienced. After some workshops on diversity they decided they would like to make this the focus of the art project this year. The project brought out a lot creativity in the young people and the staff and helped to improve the surrounding of the Grand Canal.

A special thanks to Artist Ayelet Lalor who put structure on our ideas and her artistic skills and ability to help and guide all the young people with their creative diversity art project.

This project was also featured in RTE's 'This Is Art' Project which aired on RTEJnr, RTE News and Nationwide. Thanks to Pat McDonnell Paints, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council and Waterways Ireland for all the support in the Canal project. BYS staff Allegra Lalor & Bryan Perry. - Artist: Ayelet Lalor



ART ON THE STREETS

The second art project took place on the Halloween 2020 mid-term break. The Group of 6 young people picked a project that would literally brighten up the shop front on Ballyfermot road. It had vibrant fun colors that lifted the spirit of community as all the people/ shoppers that passed were complementing the young people on the art and thanked them for putting some colors and hope in the area. This gave the young people a lot of confidence and helped build up better social skills and self-esteem. The young people said working on this project was very relaxing and rewarding and helped lower stress levels each session.

BYS Staff Bryan Perry, Gerry McCarthy, Jody Byrne



SPORTY ARTS

The third project took place from Sep – December in the Ballyfermot Sports Complex on Gurteen Road. A mixed group of 8 young people took on this project with sports in mind. The young people had a lot of creativity and learned to work as a team with the youth workers and their peers. They came up with new and fun sports images to help brighten up the sports hall for all the future sporting activities. Their confidence grew each session and they were very dedicated to the project even in the cold winter months. The Sporty Arts project helped the young people to reduce social exclusion and isolation and helped make them feel safer and stronger as part of this little art group community. BYS staff Bryan Perry

"Art. Comes in many different shapes and forms. Colours and lines. Tones and textures. We're all living masterpieces"

Sophia Bikova Artist's on project



HOW CREATING ART RELIEVES STRESS

Activities like painting, drawing are relaxing and rewarding hobbies that can lower stress level and leave you feeling mentally clear and calm. Creating art provides in the local community was distraction for the young people giving their brain a break from the usual thoughts of everyday life during the pandemic, school, lockdown etc.

"Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life." Pablo Picasso

Special thanks you to all the young people that took part in all the art projects.

For your ideas, creativity and fun. Hope to create more Art in 2021

2020 SUMMER PROGRAMME

In 2020 Ballyfermot Youth Service operated our summer programme from a different perspective due to Covid 19 restrictions, we operated from four different locations, Decies Road, The Skatepark, Park West and Gurteen Youth club. We targeted a wide range of young people from aged 10 and covered all areas within our community. We worked with over 1167 young people from Ballyfermot over the summer period bearing in mind that activity numbers had to be reduced and transport, when allowed, was at half capacity to meet department guidelines and ensure safety for all participants and staff.

This proved to be an extremely busy summer for our service and we went above and beyond to ensure the young people of Ballyfermot had lots of opportunities and activities available. BYS is exceptionally fortunate to have its very own adventure centre which played an important role in our summer programme and in 2020 we were fortunate enough to also have the skate park added to our list of outdoor spaces, we were able to utilise this space and create many new activities for young people to participate in including a BMX club and regular cycling trips, we had great demand by our young people to take part in all activities we had to offer. Some of the outdoor activities we participated in this year were Kayaking, Swimming, Pier Jumping, Hiking, Pitch and Putt, Cycling and many more. In 2020 we were able to purchase two new outdoor gazebos out of funding kindly provided to BYS from Ballyfermot local Drugs and Alcohol task force. These gazebos have been a great addition to our centres and enabled us to do lots more outdoor activities during the pandemic while numbers indoors were reduced to meet department guidelines.



We also offered extra activities which usually take part in our buildings such as Arts and crafts, cooking, board games, sports and bbqs, the gazebos allowed us to still operate and offer all the above activities in an outdoor space. Some of the main attractions for our service in summer 2020 was Strandhill Surf School in Sligo, Carlingford Adventure centre and a 5k walk to Oakwood in the Dublin mountains. On each occasion we had 30 young people take part in these excursions. As buses could not operate at full capacity due to Covid restrictions, we were fortunate to receive funding from the Ballyfermot and Chapelizod Partnership. This contributed greatly to our transport over the summer programme. We also had many trips to Zip It, Bay Sports in Athlone, the beach and footie golf. We found all these excursions to be full to capacity daily with great feedback from our young people on each occasion. Summer 2020 also encouraged our youth work team to look at activities and excursions within our city these included visiting the barracks, museums, local parks, Dublin mountains and enjoying our own resources within our community. During these exceptionally difficult times when the young people of Ballyfermot were dealing with the difficulties of maintaining social distance and routines they remained positive and engaged in all activities. We feel this is a great reflection of the work we do at BYS and we are proud to be a part of such an amazing community.



PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2020/2021 we all were hit with further Covid 19 Restrictions which meant we had to find ways of being resilient and making things happen. We partnered up with various community organisations on a number of projects from festivals , summer projects , food delivery and training events. Our partners: Ballyfermot/ Chapelizod Partnership, Dublin City Council , Ballyfermot Inchicore Credit Union , Studio 2 Photography and Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Task Force supported us through funding and resources. We also continued our youth employment project with large local employer Harris Hino.

Ballyfermot Art Festival 2021

Through 2020 and into 2021 Covid 19 Restrictions we continued organising the Festival , working in the background since October 20 and going online for the 2 week event 18th -31st January 21. We decided as Ballyfermot + Festival Committee not to cancel this event, but to bring it to an online platform using digital media. The new digital platform zoom enabled the people of Ballyfermot and beyond to view many evenings of entertainment from Pre-recorded concerts, Drama- "Smashing Barriers" with Ballyfermot/ Chapelizod Disability Action Collective, Arts in the Community "Corona Leaves" Project & Exhibition, Together FM Poetry Competitions, Local Drugs Task Force Film Competitions, Book Launch, Nature at your doorstep, Ballyfermot Photography Exhibition, Basement Productions, Familbase Music Group, Historians in Residence "The Troop Train Ballyfermot, War of Independence", the Ballyfermot Heritage group were a great support in generating links online, with the huge success of the Ballyfermot Parade Film made in 1974 for the finale of the Festival.

Ballyfermot Youth Service had a huge role in this event participating and leading . We pre-recorded four Music Concerts with young people who are participants in our service as well as local talent within the wider community. Our young people became involved with the poetry and short film competition "Enjoy Life, Be Happy" where they filmed and edited short films about what makes them happy.

The festival was very inclusive of all people, with many different groups participating from the community in the huge range of events. By going online it also provided us with the ability to reach out to the Irish abroad and people house bound . Going forward when we have our concerts outdoors or other community events, we will also broadcast these events online continuing on from this huge response which saw over 68,000 people viewing The Ballyfermot Arts Festival online.

Our Moto became "We won't let Covid Stop Us" and it didn't. All of these events are available to view on Ballyfermot+ Arts Festival 2021 Facebook page.

Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

The Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Local Task Force this 2020/2021 committed to training events for stakeholders, community & youth workers within the Ballyfermot Area.

One of the trainings was Young People & Substance Misuse in Ballyfermot. The event reviewed some of the work done in Ballyfermot on this topic and there was a panel of local professionals who work in Ballyfermot in the area of substance misuse treatment and with specialist training and experience in working with young people. One of the panelists was Ger O'Reilly from our Adventure Team, whom shared an excellent presentation on the value of Outdoor Education for young people involved substance misuse and the many ways we engage our young people.

Another training and discussion was the use of Nitrous Oxide in the Ballyfermot Community, these are a small canister of what young people call laughing gas normally used in the catering industry and can be purchased in large quantities online with relative ease. Our young people are very familiar with the gas but are unaware of the dangers of taking this drug regularly. We discussed how we can approach this issue with our young people together as a collective group, working and supporting. It was wonderful to see so many participants committed to supporting the young people in the community who have been drawn into anti-social behaviour related to drug misuse.

Hino Group (formally Hino Harris)

The Ballyfermot Youth Service are continuing to team up with the Hino Group multi-agency employment initiative for the young people of Ballyfermot. The possibilities for young people within the automotive industry are indeed very prosperous. For some young people, this opportunity was their first ever insight into the world of employment and as a result, has opened up a new vision of potential and possibility. Over the years, we have witnessed many young people enter the automotive sector as a direct result of their participation and attendance within Ballyfermot Youth Service programmes. Our Youth Service and the Hino Group, relay a shared vision for the community of Ballyfermot. As of 2020/2021 we are delighted to announce that five young people from the Ballyfermot area continue to be in full-time employment at the Hino Group. We at Ballyfermot Youth Service would like to extend our appreciation to the complete Hino Group for this amazing opportunity. We would like to extend a special thank you to Denise Harris, Lynda Boylan and John McEvoy for this wonderful process and we shall endeavor to continue this relationship that has no doubt changed the lives and possibilities of young people from Ballyfermot.

DIGITAL YOUTH WORK

Digital media has always played a part in the work we do. Whether under the guise of youth information, job seeking, counselling or general open youth work.

But due to the onset of COVID 19 and it's inevitable arrival on the shores of Ireland, it wasn't long before the normal face to face working alongside young people had to move aside and eventually cease for a period. During 2020, our organisation has had to adapt it's methods to ensure that the strong critical links established between the Youth Service and it's young people were maintained. The first step was to create different ways to communicate as a staff and then with the local community at large. We began by changing our old method of giving paper consent forms to parents/guardians and replaced them with a digital Covid updated version which has been of a huge benefit to the service. We have also introduced a digital staff roster which links all staff together under one format.

Through services like Zoom we were able to hold staff meetings and plan our strategies going forward to deliver our objectives. Another benefit of digital youth work was the fact that most young people have access to some sort of online device. This allowed us to check-in and continue to work with them on a regular basis. There was a huge risk

that the 'most at risk' could become disconnected from support services like ourselves and this would impact massively on their mental health and well being. It was very important during a time of isolation that a routine was created to give young people something to look forward to. It was also an opportunity to assist young people in developing their online literacy.

Other means of communication like Facebook, WhatsApp, messenger and instagram were also utilised to offer young people positive messages by uploading videos, offering support around the fear surrounding the pandemic, uncertain future around school/college/exams and providing important updates around Covid 19 guidelines. We also used our time on digital media to offer advice on various things to do online to keep the mind and body positive, like taking in virtual tours provided by Museums, participating in keep-fit and yoga classes. Running Kahoot quizzes has proven to be very popular with the young people and good way of creating a good atmosphere with plenty of fun.

BYS has a rich history of European Partnership and Youth Exchanges. Even though our young people can't meet their European neighbours in the traditional way, projects like Erasmus have continued to be carried out online by zoom with sessions that included dance, music and other performances.

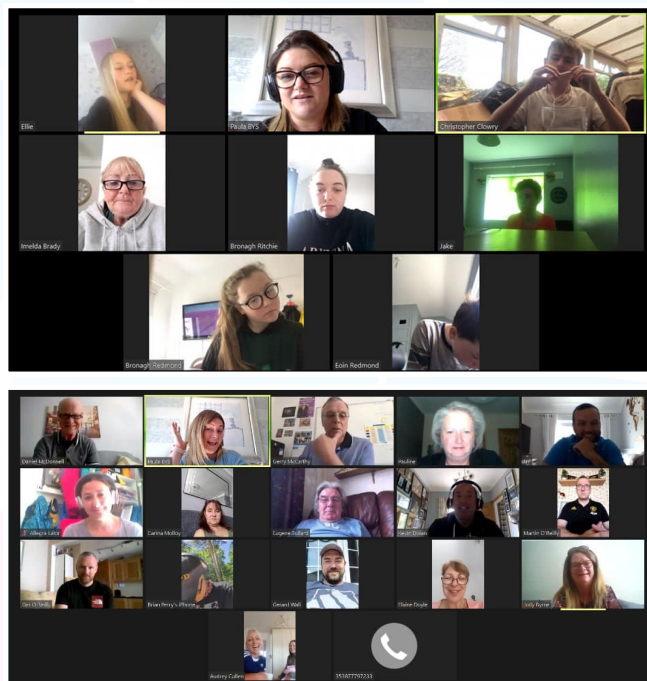
Different countries have been affected by Covid in many different ways and many messages of support have taken place throughout this time between ourselves and our European counterparts.

CORONA LEAVES PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Between October and Christmas 2020, 12 young people supported by their BYS leaders went around the streets of Ballyfermot taking photographs of its citizens and residents, people of all ages, colour, creed, shape and size. Two photographs were taken of each person one with their mask on and one with the mask off. The young people took part in a few days of initial training with experienced Photographers Lorraine Cummins and Colm Reilly, to learn how to use the cameras and how to frame the photos.

The aim was to get 300 photos of the Ballyfermot people and display them from the trees as part of the Ballyfermot Arts Festival in January 2021. These 'Corona Leaves' represented the new leaves on the bare January trees, new life, new year and the new world we are living in.

The group spent many hours editing, printing and sticking the photographs to boards before they could be cut out and hung along the trees of Ballyfermot's main road for all the community to see. Thanks to Lorraine and Colm for sharing their extensive knowledge and experience and to all the members of the community who agreed to be photographed for our project.



2020 AT THE BYS ADVENTURE CENTRE

2020 began with excitement and anticipation for the year ahead. An early January training trip to Greece, hosting the Natural Classroom Erasmus project, guiding an exciting multi-generational walking programme, hosting of the BYS Splash Fest and the first pilot junior scuba diving programme all to look forward to in the first half of the year. Things didn't exactly turn out as planned. An important characteristic and benefit of a good outdoor education leader has always been their ability to adapt to a constantly dynamic working environment and this was never so true or so needed as it has been in 2020. Like the whole Youth Service in March we went online, trying to keep engaged with our young people. We built bird feeders and bug motels, explored green spaces within our 2 or 5k, learned life skills by cooking for the family, tick-tocked and made plans for when we could do these things together again.

As the country went up and down through the Living with Covid Levels there was a greater demand for safe outdoor activities to engage the young people who were all so desperate to get out after the long lock down and the BYS Adventure Centre with our water sports centre in Park West and with the opening of the Skatepark was in the perfect position to meet this need. Staffing was a challenge for us this summer as the DCC Student Summer Placement scheme which has been of such huge benefit to us over the last 10 years could not go ahead. Thankfully the Ballyfermot and Chapelizod Partnership provided emergency funding under their Community Resilience Fund which enabled BYS to employ 2 additional instructors. This allowed us to reopen Park West, run trips out of the area when restrictions allowed as well as start the process of embedding the Skate Park into the local community by running sessions in and from the park 5-6 days a week.



Park West Adventure Centre

After months of engaging with each other through screens the importance of face to face interaction and outdoor physical activity cannot be over emphasised. On June 29th we opened the sanitised doors of the Adventure centre for kayaking and water sports. In order to ensure social distancing, group sizes were reduced to 6 and we erected two marquees as changing rooms outside. The young people were delighted to be back out on the water in every craft we had available, Kayaks, Stand Up Paddle Boards, Open Canoes and our new Rafts. The rafts were also a huge success with our groups from Downs Syndrome Ireland, supported by DCC, where the family pods could work as a team in a raft each.



Day trips

During the times of the year that we have been permitted to use our bus we availed of every opportunity to get out and explore. Throughout the summer months the young people loved the exhilaration of pier jumping in Wicklow Harbour and cooking up a warming BBQ feast for themselves afterwards. We explored the Hell Fire Club, Masseys Woods and Fairy castle, building shelters, camp cooking and learning new survival and life skills.

Bike Week

We had planned Bike week activities across Ballyfermot and our ever-successful BMX day in St Anns Park but June came and went still under lockdown. Bike week was rescheduled for September and we ran many local cycles as well as an extremely successful bike safety and maintenance day in Le Fanu Park. Young people from the area brought down their bikes and scooters. Our staff and volunteers from the BMX Club helped the young people fix their bikes and with additional funding from DCC for parts and safety equipment we also gave out over 50 helmets. This is part of a wider BYS initiative to encourage the safe use of the skate park and the general wearing of helmets.

Pilot Diving programme

This summer BYSAC teamed up with Sharon Kelly, local DCC Sports Officer and Diving Ireland to run a pilot Junior 1 Star Scuba Diving programme aimed at young people who wouldn't normally get this opportunity and specifically targeting females.

Sharon is a qualified diving instructor with Aquatec TU Dublin Sub Aqua Club and with the private access to Ballyfermot Sports & Fitness Centre it allowed young divers to learn snorkelling and scuba techniques in the pool and undergo important classroom training in a safe environment before taking to the open water. Scuba sessions took place in stunning locations including Slade Harbour, and Hook Head in county Wexford. Each student was required to complete five dives to achieve their qualification and additional dives were facilitated by Portmarnock Sub Aqua Club and Aquatec TUDublin Sub Aqua Club.

This programme was planned to begin in March and be rolled out in Dublin and the midlands with joint dives at the end. Considering all the challenges created by COVID-19, including gear not able to be shared, no or reduced transport to name but two, it was only through the constant adaptation, commitment and vision of our DCC Sport Officer that the delivery of this innovative programme was even possible.



DCC Change for Life

The Change for Life programme is run by the DCC Sports and Wellbeing Partnership and aims to support people to change habits and embrace a healthier outlook on life. As part of this initiative BYS AC provided an intergenerational, progressive walking programme. The 6 walks we got in before lockdown were a huge success, with participants aged 14-70 getting involved. Walking is a truly inclusive activity with participants joining us from groups as diverse as the Central Remedial Clinic, Youth Reach and Active Aging as well as many others.



Natural Classroom Erasmus+ Key Action 2 Project.

The aim of this project is to gather professionals from across 6 countries, from the environmental & outdoor sector, working with young people, and through sharing practices in Natural and Environmental Education, create a guide of best practice that can be shared with other youth workers and educators across Europe. The first two meetings were held in 2019, January 2020 saw us head to Paranești in Greece where the focus was on simple, practical ways to engage and reconnect young people with their natural surroundings through innovative games and programmes. The Irish meeting planned for 2020 was designed to highlight the therapeutic benefits of outdoor education. Unfortunately, with just a day to go before the start of the programme, COVID 19 put a halt to our project. We presented part of the Irish programme online but we hope that this project can resume in some form in 2021.

COVID 19 has created an extended time of challenges and changes to our work practice but through the dedication and hard work of our staff we will keep disinfecting, keep adapting as guidelines keep changing and we will continue to be open to support our young people in every way we can.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



Studio 2 Photography

The Area Based Childhood Programme

