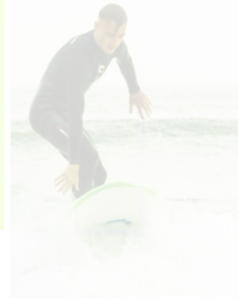
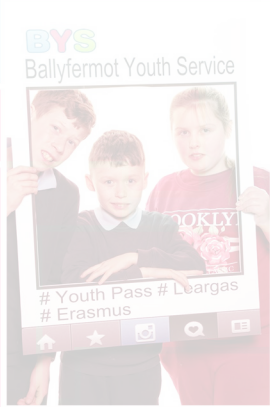


ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



Ballyfermot Youth Services Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors	Bridget Murray Janice McGarry Adam Kealy David Lynch Vincent Jackson Mary Daly Charles Murray (Resigned 8 November 2019) Warren Dunne (Resigned 10 April 2019) Aaron Leddy (Resigned 10 April 2019) Catherine Whelan (Appointed 7 October 2019)
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 2019

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

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

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

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

The organisation also provides planned educational and recreational activities for young people in Ballyfermot between the ages of 10 and 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 financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(22,865) (2018 - €(19,192)).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €313,913 (2018 - €361,751) and liabilities of €115,457 (2018 - €140,430). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(22,865).

Directors and Secretary

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

Bridget Murray

Janice McGarry

Adam Kealy

David Lynch

Vincent Jackson

Mary Daly

Charles Murray (Resigned 8 November 2019)

Warren Dunne (Resigned 10 April 2019)

Aaron Leddy (Resigned 10 April 2019)

Catherine Whelan (Appointed 7 October 2019)

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.

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.

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.

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 2019

	2019 €	2018 €
Income		
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs	534,200	514,398
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) General Fund Annual Grant	3,500	3,500
CDYSB - Dept of Children & Youth Affairs (Oakwood) Deferred	-	5,500
Health Service Executive - Dept of Health	19,093	26,101
Leargas	37,219	123,345
Dublin City Council	48,488	19,175
Health Service Executive - Dept of Health (Candle)	15,000	-
Other grants	92,441	48,619
Fee Income	42,481	55,683
Sundry Income	4,091	23,017
	----- 796,513 -----	----- 819,338 -----
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	434,808	434,208
Training and development	2,725	1,660
Programme Costs	47,126	80,039
Materials	2,235	761
Mentoring costs	12,300	1,050
Rent payable	5,200	4,200
Rates	834	1,047
Service charges	5,022	2,572
Insurance	37,801	34,393
Candle Expenditure	15,000	-
Light, Heat & Power	9,098	10,722
Kitchen supplies and cleaning	947	1,429
Repairs and maintenance	21,936	17,932
Printing, postage and stationery	13,756	11,758
Advertising	815	6,322
Telephone & Broadband	7,160	5,775
Computer costs	2,668	2,582
Motor expenses	715	5,224
Travelling expenses	130,010	149,217
Legal and professional	601	4,200
Bank charges	478	563
Bad debts	865	(292)
Canteen	8,388	12,007
General expenses	5,741	9,972
Profits/losses on disposal of tangibles	-	(4,855)
Auditor's remuneration	2,970	2,977
Depreciation	50,179	43,067
	----- 819,378 -----	----- 838,530 -----
Net deficit	----- (22,865) -----	----- (19,192) -----

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

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

2019 was another busy year for BYS, We continued to build on our strengths and consolidated our work 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. We have seen a spike in anti social activity during the year and a intervention by our staff and other youth organisations in tackling it. BYS engaged in an outreach programme for a period of three months with emphasis on the main shopping area. Unfortunately it was not possible to continue this on a full time basis because of lack of staff and resources. In order for us to work on the streets we had to close our centre in Decies two nights a week thereby depriving young people of that resource. There is a need for additional investment to be provided by the Dept and we are calling on them to provide this urgently.

2019 also saw the introduction by the Dept of the Targeted Youth Funding Scheme, this has involved the board and staff in attending a number of meetings and planning sessions for future development. Later in December 2019 the Dept announced the UBU Your Place-Your Space funding scheme . This is to replace the existing schemes and has a number of impacts on some of the work we currently do with schools. Under the new scheme no youth work can be carried out during school time on on their premises. This has a negative impact on our Peer Education Drugs Awareness programmes and our Adventure Sports which we currently carry out with transition year students and is due to be implemented in 2020 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.

In terms of numbers, we engaged over two thousand young people in our programmes and activities including 183 young people on European projects abroad and 40 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 2019/20 and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Board.

The Board of directors met regularly in 2019 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 2019 in this report.

The board were pleased that in years following underinvestment in capital equipment there was opportunities available from various state depts to apply for funding in 2019. Following a very successful application to the Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport by our Adventure centre manager we succeed in being granted €73,000 to purchase a range of new sports equipment which includes: new Kayaks, Bicycles, Safety equipment, wet suits and a storage unit. We were also successful in obtaining a grant from Dept of Children & Youth Affairs for new computer equipment for our Drumfinn offices. And from Dublin City Council for the provision of a white board for our youth centre in Gurteen.

In 2019 a number of changes to the Board took place, Aaron Leddy , Warren Dunne and Charles Murray stood down as Directors to further their studies and take up employment. We welcomed Catherine Whelan to our Board and we are currently recruiting two new young people for 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 and we very much welcome and appreciate our directors.

Many of the success of 2019 was s a result of working in partnership with other organisations and individuals both community, statutory and business. By pooling our resources together we were able to deliver an improved programme and utilised resources more effectively for young people. This could be clearly seen during the Community Arts Week, Halloween Festival, Mental Health programmes and employment opportunities. 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 programmes. 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 2019. 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. Mar focal scoir, "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine" and I look forward to working with you in 2020 and having another successful year.

Vincent Jackson, Chairperson

Mary Daly
Director

Vincent Jackson
Director

Date: 25-03-2020

Date: 25-03-2020



BYS Staff

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Gerry Mc Carthy | Youth Service Manager |
| Jody Byrne | Information officer/Youth worker |
| Kevin Dolan | Youth Worker |
| 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 |
| Brian Perry | Activities Co ordinator |
| Kurt Fitzgerald | Admin temp |

YOUNG PEOPLES GROUPS

Ballyfermot Youth Service has been responding to the needs of young people within the community through specific groups for over 30 years. We operate these groups from three centers and we target a wide range of young people from 10 to 24 years old. With-in our service we work with many different groups of young people and these groups reflect the interests and challenges these young people face within our community.

In 2019 some of the issues covered within these specific groups were Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Sexual Health, Mental Health, Equality and Empowerment, Critical social awareness and much more. These programmers help young people in the Ballyfermot area to have more knowledge, confidence and a clearer understanding of the key issues that may affect them within society.

We aim to create a safe space for young people in which they gain confidence around informed decision making and building solidarity, this also gives our young people the opportunity to explore different situations that may be relevant to their needs.



2019 SUMMER PROGRAMME

In 2019 Ballyfermot Youth Service operated our summer programme from three different locations, Decies Road, The Layer and Gurteen Youth club. We targeted a wide range of young people from aged 10 and covered all areas within our community. This proved to be an extremely busy summer for our service and one of the hottest summers by far within Ireland.

BYS is exceptionally fortunate to have its very own adventure centre this plays an important role in our summer programme, some of the outdoor activities we participated in this year were Kayaking, Swimming, Cliff jumping, Mountain hiking, Pitch and putt, Cycling and many more. Two of the main attractions for our service in 2019 was Zip It and Bay sports Athlone, we found both these excursions to be full to capacity with great feedback from our young people on each occasion and of course the hot weather helped. We also have a number of different activities which take part within our buildings throughout the summer programmes like Arts and crafts, slime making, cooking, tournaments and much more.

As a piece of our summer programme we did a number of successful interagency collaborations our summer festival in Markiewicz park proved to be a huge success and what a way to celebrate our young people's talents, this was a piece of work with DCC and many other services showed their support and solidarity throughout the day. We had so many young people and local agencies performing at this event and many families came to support our community and the sunshine was just an added bonus on the day.

As we reflect upon 2019, we can't help but feel proud to be apart of such an amazing community and this day just highlighted to us the amazing young people and family support we have within Ballyfermot.



HINO GROUP PARTNERSHIP WITH BYS

The Ballyfermot Youth Service have proudly teamed up with the Hino Group (formally Harris Hino) to collaborate a multi-agency employment initiative for the young people of Ballyfermot. Hino's Chief Operating Officer, John McEvoy describes the Hino Group as one of Ireland's key players in the automotive industry. Harris Hino was established in 1968 by the late Robert "Pino" Harris who is described as being energetic character, hard-working and totally focused on his customer.

The Central Statistics Office (2019) states that over 43,000 people are employed within the automotive industry in Ireland. This challenging industry offers an abundance of exciting employment opportunities for young people, especially within this fast-moving era of digital technologies. It is a well known fact that some of the major players within the automotive industry have begun their careers as mechanics, sales reps and general operatives before they moved on to become major players within this sector. The possibilities for young people within the automotive industry are indeed very prosperous.

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.

This steady flow of young people to the labour market has been directly connected to young people developing key maintenance and mechanical skills from their engagement in such programmes. The development of these key skills have created the foundation of understandings of mechanical ability and practical skills needed for such industries.

We at the Ballyfermot Youth Service believe that it is essential to the rights of young people that they are respected and included as a vital part of the employment sector in Ireland.

The Ballyfermot Youth Service and the Hino Group, relay a shared vision outlined by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs that aims to ensure that all young people are enabled to reach their maximum potential by respecting their rights and hearing their voices.



In October 2019, the Ballyfermot Youth Service in conjunction with the Hino Group created the opening for a number of young people to attend a recruitment opportunity at their state of the art premises on the Nass Road which is just a short walk from Ballyfermot. This recruitment opportunity was complimented by an overwhelming response from the young people of Ballyfermot from a variety of other agencies including The Base and The Cherry Orchard Equine Centre. Young people in attendance of this amazing opportunity were overwhelmed by the welcome from the Hino Group. Young People were particularly inspired by the inspirational advice and compliments of John McEvoy And Denise Harris as they welcomed each and every young person with open arms while offering a new insight into the world of employment. 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.

As of 2020, we are delighted to announce that four young people from the Ballyfermot area are now 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 endeavour to continue this relationship that has no doubt changed the lives and possibilities of young people from Ballyfermot.

Thanking You On Behalf Of The People Of Ballyfermot.

BRAINSTORM

Background to the Brainstorm drama project

As part of our objective to promote awareness around adolescent mental health, Family Matters ABC wanted to find a way to spread awareness of the new science about the teen brain and how this affects young people's wellbeing and relationships with the adults in their lives. Rather than develop adult led workshops, we decided to get teenagers involved. In 2016, Sarah Jane Blakemore wrote a book on the adolescent brain called "Inventing ourselves". This book brilliantly informs the reader about the teen brain. Ned Glasier and Emily Lim with Company 3 (formerly Islington Community Theatre), read this book and approached the author. In collaboration with neuroscientists, Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and Dr Kate Mills, they created the play 'Brainstorm'. Based on the science in Sarah Jane Blakemore's book, Brainstorm, a community play exploring how teenagers' brains work, and how they have evolved was written. The play was designed to be adapted and performed by a company of teenagers, based on their personal experiences. A scratch version of Brainstorm was performed at Platform Islington in March 2013. The version of the show published by Nick Hern Books was first performed at Park Theatre, London, in January 2015, then at the National Theatre, London, in July 2015 and April 2016. On previous occasions, we used process drama with young people to raise awareness of issues around youth mental health. We believe that bringing together the play Brainstorm and our experience of process drama is an ideal way to spread understanding of teen brain development, and the impact this has on young people's wellbeing and relationships.



This play has never been performed in Ireland. In 2019, Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership purchased the performance rights and began working in partnership with Ballyfermot Youth Service who have direct experience of working with young people in the area to develop this project. Under the guidance of youth workers Jody Byrne and Kevin Dolan. We wanted to work with a group of local young people who had not acted before, to develop their performance skills as well as to adapt the play to make it relevant to the lives of young people in Ballyfermot. The director Neil Haran workshoped the play with the group and based on the outcomes of this process wrote a final draft of the script. From January-April, the group completed rehearsals and backstage work.

STAFF AND CREW PHOTO



NEIL HARAN
Director



DEBBIE SCALES
Development Worker



JODY BYRNE
Youth Workers



KEVIN DOLAN
Youth Workers

BALLYFERMOT DRUGS & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE - SUPPORTING PEER EDUCATION

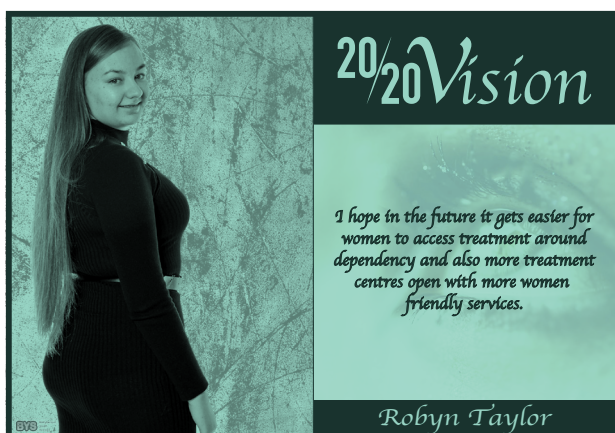
Working closely with Ballyfermot Drugs & Alcohol Task force, BYS have continued to invest time and energy in a range of programmes that encourage young people to make positive choices around their lives. In 2019 we rolled out a number of initiatives including: Youth exchanges, Peer led groups in the schools, young men and women groups, training programme for youth workers and a parents programme. In 2019 a total of 120 students from secondary schools in Ballyfermot took part in Peer Education/Drug Awareness Days in Baltinglass Adventure Centre, where they engaged in workshops around, drugs and alcohol, empowerment, peer education, friendship and leadership skills. They also did outdoor activities to encourage team building and relationship building.

What is Peer Education?

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

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

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



Community Resilience Report

A recent study of drug dealing and organised crime in Dublin's south inner city that includes Ballyfermot has found that children as young as 12 years of age are being induced into gangs. The report, entitled 'Building Community Resilience - a response to criminal networks' identified two large criminal organisations with around 100 members between them. It outlines responses to community-based organised crime, including increases in the number of outreach workers and community gardaí. The report was carried out by Dr Johnny Connolly from the University of Limerick Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies.



Outcomes

These findings come as no surprise to us in Ballyfermot Youth Service and further our resolve to continue to provide young people with positive experiences. When young people are involved in peer groups it encourages active participation, involvement and familiarity with the group and their community and society, as well as interest in social experiences, independence and assertiveness, improved relationships with themselves, peers, family and other areas of society, greater awareness of their own potential and limitations and development skills.

2020 VISION

As we entered 2020, the role of the media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, What's app, Tik Tok have become more powerful in our lives. Sometimes we only hear what is dictated to us from the powerful owners of these media. Very often young people are portrayed negatively. They are portrayed as a problem, with issues that need to be resolved. We rarely hear the voices of the young people, in particular young people from working class communities. In this project we presented to the community of Ballyfermot a project that captures and creates ways to express young people's own visions, hopes and dreams for the future. Over 30 young people took part in the project along with Derek Gore from the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Disability Action Collective and Warren Dempsey from the mental health awareness group.

The project is about changing the often negative images portrayed in the media of our young people. It's about their personal vision, within the community and further afield. They share where they visualise themselves in twenty years. The aim of this project was to use creative ways to express ideas and to communicate these to the wider community. With this in mind we used photography, graphic design, advertising banners, public exhibitions in the library, the civic centre and on the streets to display these images.

With their unique skills the photographers Lorraine and Colm from Studio 2 Photography captured not only photographs but the spirit of the young people, and how they see their vision of the future. Their ability to relate to young people is evident within their work and can be clearly seen in the images.

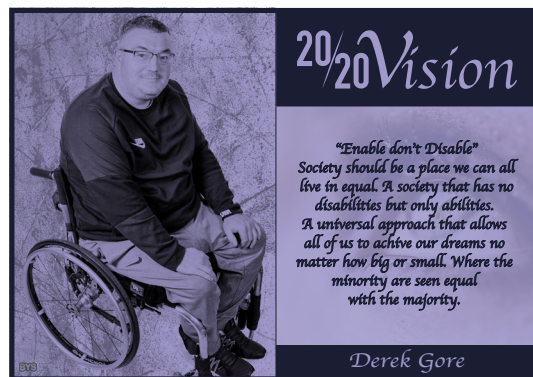
Robyn and Giovanna our Italian friends who's first language is not English worked endlessly through phone calls and emails with Gerry on the amazing designs of the banners, booklets, posters, and invites, you both with Lorraine and Colm brought this project to life.

As our President Michael D Higgins says " words and language are strong so it's important how we use them, words can show hurt, love, anger, inspire and also help us express ourselves."

The Young people's visions throughout this project are ambitious and inspiring and are full of hope and Love, they want to become entrepreneurs, they are thinking of healthy successful futures full of opportunities and goals. Their visions show individuality and how they want to aspire in life, striving for equality and happiness, and also acknowledging the importance of the environment, diversity and embracing different cultures.

Young people throughout the project are aware of inequalities around racism and disabilities and have spoken about the importance of equal opportunities for all and also how they as young people can contribute to their own lives, their Community and Society.

Empowerment has been at the forefront of our youth work practice at Ballyfermot Youth service, as we always strive to promote equality for all young people, we decided to do this project to allow young people to communicate with their own voices and share where they visualise themselves in twenty years' time. The project was officially launched in the Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre on January 14th with a great turnout by the community.



Thanks

We would like to take to this opportunity to thank:

Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership for funding this project under the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme and to Dublin City Council Community Development for coming on board and funding the street banners.

The youth work team Jody Byrne, Paula Moore, Denise O Callaghan and Gerry Mc Carthy who worked with the young people.

BYS CANAL SPLASH FESTIVAL

This was the second year of our BYC Canal Splash Festival and despite the weather being very changeable in the morning it was still a fantastic event with a great turnout from across the community.

Held at the end of June, it was the opening event for the Ballyfermot Summer Festival and was free to all. The 144 participants got the opportunity to try Snorkelling, Water Polo, Pier Jumping, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Canoeing and Rafting in a fun, inclusive and safe environment on the Grand Canal.

This was a truly multi-agency collaboration with input, staff and/or financial or other assistance from DCC Sports and Wellbeing Partnership and Local Area Office, Waterways Ireland, Swim Ireland, the Irish Underwater Council, Gurteen Youth Club, St John's Ambulance and all the staff and resources from across The Ballyfermot Youth Service. Again this year the collaboration between all those putting on the event and the involvement and participation of so many different strands of the community were the biggest highlights. People of all ages and abilities took part from 4-70 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, many 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 Adventure Centre, to meet all the staff involved and have some fun themselves.



The event is also a great opportunity to show off the positive features that the Grand Canal has to offer right on the doorstep of Ballyfermot. Waterways Ireland and Ballyfermot Youth Service staff and young people put a lot of time and effort into the area around the 7th lock in the weeks and months before the Splash Fest. The banks were cleared, the weeds in the water cut, a new launch area for boats installed, the whole area around the 7th lock cleaned and cleared, and of course the 'Brightening Ballyfermot' Project which involved painting under the badly graffitied Killeen Road bridge with a new positive mural designed by the young people all of which made the whole area safer and more inviting. Google employees and Leave no Trace Ireland also did a major rubbish collection along the banks from 6th to 7th lock and BYC took bags and bags of rubbish from the canal itself. This was a truly community spirited event and we hope to see big crowds enjoying the canal and the wonderful world of outdoor learning again in 2020.



ADVENTURE CENTRE

In the past decade, the benefits of connecting to nature have been well documented in scientific studies and publications and this research shows that young people's social, psychological, academic and physical health is positively impacted when they have regular contact with nature. For children growing up in technology-enabled, safety-conscious and urbanised environments, programmes which take them into the natural environment and deliver experiential learning benefits are being seen internationally as more important than ever. At the BYSAC, we strongly believe that every young person should have access to safe and rewarding adventurous opportunities that include engagement with nature and general outdoor environments. Through our well-designed programmes our young people engage with the natural environment and take on tasks and challenges which provide "safe" risks. Activities such as mountain biking, climbing, kayaking and coasteering provide a perfect forum to take risks, experience challenges and develop responses which promote resilience and emotional wellbeing. Most groups meet once a week for a minimum of 2 hours. We also work closely with other agencies within Ballyfermot who target specific 'at risk' groups such as early school leavers, Garda Diversion projects, young people already involved in the justice system and provides them with an outdoor education option for their programmes.

ACTIVITIES:

Kayaking, Canoeing, White Water Rafting, Mountain Biking, Cycling, Bike Agility, Coasteering, Pier Jumping, Orienteering, Bush Craft, Highboard diving, Survival Skills, Hillwalking, Rock Climbing and new for 2019 we added Stand Up Paddle Boarding.

After 15 years of working with the boys and teachers of De la salle we were deeply saddened when in June the school closed its doors for the last time and we miss them all.

Skatepark Development

We are delighted to welcome the completion of the new play park in Ballyfermot. This playpark will be a wonderful addition to the area, it will also act as the base for our new Ballyfermot Biking Club. Check out the image below of the timeline of how it all began.

Dublin City Council

We collaborated with DCC on many projects again this year, including working with the Sports Officers from across Dublin with weekly groups, the Local Area Office, The Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, Parks and the DCC Summer Student Placement scheme.

The Change for Life programme aims to facilitate and support people to change habits and embrace a healthier outlook on life. As part of this city wide initiative BYS AC provided an intergenerational, progressive walking programme. This was a huge success, with participants aged 12-70 getting involved and culminating in hiking Lugnaquilla, Leinsers highest mountain.

Liffey Odyssey

The Liffey Odyssey is a unique opportunity to Kayak through the City Centre from the Garda Boat Club to the 3 arena. Our training this year started a few weeks before the event where the young people along with their parents, aunts, uncles and friends focused on skills development and social interaction through positive involvement in adventure activities.

Bike Week

As part of Bike week we rang a BMX day in conjunction with DCC Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, where over 90 young people from across Dublin learned new bike skills and got to road test them on the BMX track

Saturday Clubs – Improving Cherry Orchard

The BYS Saturday Adventure Club was started in 2018 and additional funding provided by the Improving Cherry Orchard grants, allowed it to continue through 2019.

The make Cherry Orchard better program has played an important part in engaging young people in life changing opportunities. The young people on this programme engaged in non-formal and experiential learning programmes during their weekly Club. From bush craft to canal clean ups and kayaking to coasteering, their level of confidence has visibly grown each week through positive engagement and involvement in the outdoors. They also took part in bigger events like the Liffey Odyssey which introduced them to the greater kayaking community and as well as the big physical challenge of kayaking 8k.



Hell and Back

Who doesn't want to get muck up to the eyeballs while racing against yourself, your leaders, your parents or your team mates? We brought 30 Young people from Ballyfermot to take part in this 7k 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 thank you to Sharon Kelly and DCC for organising and subsidising this event.

Oakwood Management Group:

The Oakwood Management Group was set up during 2019. Members of this youth lead activity group have expressed a common interest to enhance the residential experiences had by young people using the Oakwood Residential Centre. The group plans to make monthly presentations of their work to the Ballyfermot Youth Service Management Board while also seeking recommendations and guidance from members of the board.

This youth led management group meets on a weekly basis to discuss topics and issues that they as a group have identified. In January they upgraded the outdoor social area with an improved fire pit which now includes a new seating area in which they built themselves. The group are currently working on a number of improvement goals that they intend to pursue throughout 2020.

The Bronze Gaisce Award has been introduced to the group as part of their overall engagement. They plan to advance their individual personal development through the process of improving Oakwood in the following areas:

- To improve the Oakwood Hostel booking system.
- Adopt a more environmentally friendly approach by implementing recycling options.
- Improve and adopt safe practices and guidelines for hostel users.
- Improve the experience for young people by applying their own knowledge and understanding of the benefits of residential.

European Outdoor Education Conference IT Tralee.

In September 2019, BYSAC staff had the pleasure of attending the 18th international European Outdoor Education conference at IT Tralee, Co Kerry. The theme of this year's conference was Diversity and Inclusion in Outdoor & Experiential Learning. Outdoor practitioners and academics from across the world gathered to share some of the latest approaches to implementing Outdoor Education practices. Inclusion of young people underrepresented or socially excluded within society is vitally important to the work of the BYSAC and our attendance at this conference has increased the opportunity for people with disabilities to take part in outdoor activities in Ballyfermot. This conference was also crucial for making important links and keeping up to date with latest practices and new developments within the area of Outdoor Education. 2020's Conference will be held in Germany and will focus on combining Outdoor Education And Youth Work Practices.

Natural Classroom Erasmus+ Key Action 2 Project.

6 Meetings: 6 Countries: 18 Outdoor Educators: 10 Months
Ireland, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Greece & Latvia

The AIM of this project is to gather professionals from the environmental & outdoor sector, working with young people, and through sharing practices in Natural and Environmental Education from each country, create a guide of best practice that can be shared with other youth workers and educators across Europe.

The project started in the beautiful hills above Maracena, in Spain, in early October where the practicalities and framework for the project was consolidated.

In November the first training meeting took place in Tortona in Italy. The programme was altered due to constant rainfall but focused on methodologies of engaging young people in environmental issues and climate change.

January saw us head to Paranesti in Greece where the focus was on simple, practical ways to engage and connect young people with their natural surroundings through innovative games.

The Irish meeting planned for late February 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 have presented part of the Irish programme using modern digital technologies but we hope that this project can carry on later this year.



Sports Capital Grant

We were delighted for our application to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport for Sports Capital funding to be approved in 2019. This €73,023 which comes from National Lottery Funding is the largest grant ever sought by BYS. It is only through this fund that we are able to make the vital upgrades and replacements to our equipment some of which was purchased as much as 15 years ago. With 2,500 people through the centre a year the equipment gets well used and needs to be replaced every few years. The river kayaks, all of which were very old, have been replaced and joined by a fleet of Sea Kayaks. This year we have branched into Stand Up Paddle Boarding and have purchased 14 boards. Our wetsuits and buoyancy aids which were in a bad state of repair have been replaced and we have ordered a new trailer to carry the Sea Kayaks. Still to come are white water rafts, new hybrid bikes and a container to act as a work-shop for equipment maintenance.

GURTEEN AREA

Open Mic Nights

In 2019 we invested in music equipment for Gurteen Youth Club – a flexible and removable stage, a PA System, Mic's & Stands and Lighting. Young people from throughout the community, alongside other youth services performed and engaged in Open Mic Nights. These were a huge success developing young people's confidence in their abilities as musicians / singers to be able to perform confidentially to an audience and their peers supports and encouragement. Together they explored their music abilities, increased their understanding of music and the role of music in their personal and social development.

Culture Evenings

Throughout 2019 we hosted many a Cultural Evening with our volunteers from Austria, Germany and Spain whom have been with our service for many months. Our young people experienced new cultures and insights from these European Countries. The volunteers would cook beautiful traditional food from their Countries, showcase there villages and of course teach us there traditional dances. Our young people gained new life experiences overcoming communication barriers and engaging outside of their normal settings.

Developmental Groups

There are many developmental groups / programmes running from Gurteen Youth Club involving all of the youth work team and our adventure team from Sexual Awareness, bodyrights, LGBT, alcohol & drug awareness and after schools programmes. catering for all young men, young women and mixed groups. Gurteen Youth Club is also the base from which young people from an early age become involved in the many programmes we offer, we have seen hundreds of young people growing throughout the years , developing, learning individually and alongside their peers with supports from the youth worker.

The Gurteen Youth Centre provides a safe and enjoyable experience for all our young people.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIDGET



Bridget Murray was the recipient of a volunteer achievement award by City Of Dublin Youth Service Board for her contribution to Ballyfermot Youth Service and Gurteen Youth Club. Bridget is a member of the board for the last 6 years and can always be seen at events helping out. She has contributed to the growth of the youth service and is very committed to the development of young people in Ballyfermot.

PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Many of the success of 2019 was a result of working in partnership with other organisations and individuals both community, statutory and business. By pooling our resources together we were able to deliver an improved programme and utilised resources more effectively for young people. This could be clearly seen during the Community Arts Week, Halloween Festival, Mental Health programmes and employment opportunities. Working particularly with Dublin City Council Community Dept and Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership we were able to tap into funding for major community events and improvements in services.

Ballyfermot+

Since its inception Ballyfermot Youth Service has been an important player in promoting the festival committee and its events. In 2019 we had a two week festival in July with over 50 events finishing with a major Concert in Markievicz park which was supported by Culture Ireland. Over 1500 people attended the event, which was very successful. Banners with the image of Countess Markievicz were displayed on light stands around the park. Musicians on the day included Matt Dodd from Ireland's Got Talent and the Ballyfermot Trad Hub plus the un song voices from the Ballyfermot Youth Service. We also had local majorettes take part in the event, this brought an intergenerational audience and participants. The main attraction for children was a performing circus.

The local heritage group played a pivotal role in publishing the events on social media (Ballyfermot Heritage Facebook Page) including short videos which showed the various performers at the festival. In addition the Ballyfermot Youth Service also promoted the event on our Facebook page, both of these social media pages are hugely popular and have thousands of views. There are over 1000 photos currently circulating and the reaction from the public has been overwhelming with positive feedback about the event. Given the very sad situation in the community with recent suicides this event brought light and happiness on bringing the whole community together to celebrate life in a friendly family way. Volunteers from 8 community organisations provided 30 stewards for the event



Halloween Festival

This was the third year of the Halloween festival and undoubtedly one of the best, again Markievicz park was the setting for a great family day with mini golf, games, kids train and our own stilt walkers. This year we embarked on a training programme with the Dublin Circus school to train up ten young people to be stilt walkers. They started the training in Sept and were ready for the day, they performed in Markievicz park, Candle and the haunted house in Cherry Orchard Equine centre. The training was paid for by Dublin City Council and it is hoped to get another group trained up this year.



Ní neart go cur le chéile. There is no strength without unity.

ERASMUS PROJECTS

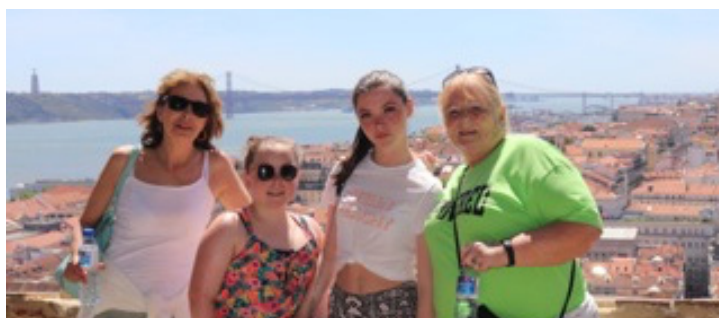
Dublin Training

Can U Handle It: Paula and James implemented a Training Programme and Youth Exchange Erasmus Plus, which took place on 25th of Feb to the 2nd of March 2019 (Training) and 12th to 19th of April 2019 (Exchange). This training provided youth workers/volunteers from ten different organisations around Europe and Ireland with tools to carrying out Peer Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programmes with young people from their organisations. This involved over 50 participants, the training took part in different venues around Ballyfermot. All the participants involved participated in ice breakers, workshops, creative informal ways to teach young people all over Europe about, drug and Alcohol awareness, the effects of drugs and Alcohol misuse on the individual, family, community and society. This gave the participants tools and experience to go back to their organisations to carry out these programmes from the methodology of peer education theory.

Killary Ireland

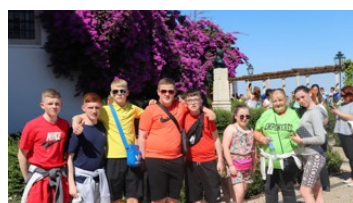
The second part of this project was a Youth Exchange hosted in Killary Adventure Centre Co Galway, with two partners Spain and Italy, this involved 42 young people the theme of the project was around sexual health. The young people were involved in four different workshops per day, which allowed them to explore all elements from a sexual health programme called Squashy Couch. It aimed to educate young people about Consent and the Law, relationships, sexuality, contraception's, STIs and STDs, Body parts, and using the rights terminology when taking about sexual health.

The Young People enjoyed the outdoor activities at Killary Adventure Centre which involved, Rock Climbing, High Ropes, Giant Swing, Pier jumping, Archery combat, Abseiling. These activities allowed the young people to do team building and build lasting relationships with each other.



Poland Exchange August 2019 Less Stress More Fun

A group of eight young people from Ballyfermot joined Malta, Estonia and Poland in Warsaw Poland. The exchange was about strategies for young people around stress and positive mental health. The group prepared and carried out workshops. The young people presented an Irish Culture night. We enjoyed the lovely rural environment and beautiful scenery in Warsaw. The young people enjoyed the workshops and activities and the campfires and culture nights. Th exchange allowed them to discover why they often felt stress in their lives, how to deal with this stress, and how-to de-stress.



Salzburg Austria

In July, Denise and Charlie took a mixed group consisting of seven male and three females to Austria., on a youth exchange. The theme was Sport, Bikes and Music. Everyday we had high energy workshops which were mostly outdoors in the extreme heat. We done abseiling mountains in the city centre. We hiked across the Alps which was beautiful. We made bikes from scratch and displayed them at end of project where the Mayor of the city attended. We visited the Lakes and had a swimming day also lots of water sports. We also had a music workshop in which young people sang and learned about voice control, this included a Rap workshop in which they created and performed their own rap.

ERASMUS PROJECTS

Tortona Italy

In July, four young adults took part in the Street Arts training project in Tortona. The training gained throughout the training was implemented at the Magic Circle youth exchange.

The “magic circle” is the space in which the normal rules and reality of the world are suspended and replaced by the artificial reality of a game world. Playing, through games and activities, is fundamentally a medium for storytelling; creating these “magic circles”, through accepting this artificial setting and situation, and playing along, that lives can be changed. It is in this way that games are a strong tool for bringing youth together and empowering them to tackle serious topics; sometimes even outside of the scope of the game itself. Therefore, we believe that learning to gamify aspects of (formal and nonformal) educational activities in everyday life through a better understanding of narratives and game design can lead to enjoyable and educational methods of lifelong learning! The main objective of the project was to involve youths from different backgrounds and social-stratus in the development and creation of different games, activities, and tools in order to not only empower them through the scope of the process of creation, but also in contributing to the educational processes of other youths, thereby creating sustainable avenues of lateral empowerment amongst youngsters.

Tortona Italy

In September three young adults took part in the second part of the Magic Circle Erasmus programme. The youth exchange encompassed a lot of the learning from the previous training earlier in the year as part of the Magic Circle programme.



Lecce Italy

In September, six young adults took part in the project “Strike a Pose” which included thirty participants from five different countries: Italy, Greece, Poland, Spain and Ireland. The project “Strike a Pose” started from the recognition that there is a lack of media literacy and knowledge amongst young people: social media and social network are still not considered as fundamental tools; even though nowadays it is proved that, by using them, it is possible to considerably increase employability and to have more chances to get, catch or create new jobs. The idea behind the methods is that, with the use of social media as a tool, we can increase the youth employability and the sense of initiative. With the working method of learning by experience as a tool of non-formal education, we will be encouraged to adopt a proactive attitude towards the activities, and consequently towards our lives. Thus, Youth from different countries, by sharing and by working together, will have the opportunity to start to build new future and careers just following and fulfilling their dreams and expectations.



Lecce Italy

In November, four young adults attended the second part of the “Strike a Pose” Erasmus named “Media-People” The international youth exchange on the topic of media literacy and youth employability, with the intention of using knowledge and experiences acquired in the previous mobility, in September.



EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Lecce, Italy

Gerry and Jody took a mixed group to Lecce in Italy in February. There were fourteen young people aged sixteen to seventeen years of age. The hosting organisation engaged with are based in southern Italy named South European Youth Forum (SEYF). SEYF work with minority groups including Migrants from a variety of countries. The main purpose of the trip was to meet the people in the refugee centre and play a game of football. On completion of the football match which was remarkably successful. This included a game against each other as well as a mixed game. This allowed for the entire group to engage with each other through the medium of sport. On completion of the football, we were invited into their centre and the Irish Group presented an Irish culture evening and the migrant groups also presented their culture. The Irish group presented some Irish food and likewise the migrant groups did too. There was an opportunity for the Irish people to inquire about the migrant's situation, which was greatly beneficial. The host SEYF also brought the Irish group to view the beautiful sites of Lecce. Overall, this was a magnificent Educational trip, with the Irish group having a better understanding of the migrant situation in southern Italy.



Malta

In Feb 2019, Denise and Charlie took eight young people on an educational visit to Malta. They visited museums and the science centre. We done a visit to the islands and engaged with a Youth Service and spent time there doing activities. We stayed in a catholic run hostel which was based in a great location.

Bilbao Spain

In June, Gerry, Kevin and Jody took a mixed group to Bilbao in Spain There was fourteen young people aged sixteen to seventeen years of age. The group took part in surfing lessons, giving the group the opportunities to try new skill sets. The project enabled young people the opportunity to broaden their horizons and visit some of the beautiful cultural sites in the Basque city, including the beautiful Guggenheim Museum and The Casco Viejo is Bilbao's Old



Lisbon Portugal

In June, Imelda, Gerry and Elaine took a mixed group of twelve young people to Portugal for surfing lessons to Carcavelous near Lisbon . BYS have being coming to the surf centre for the last five years and know the staff and instructors. As well as doing the surfing lessons the group took in most of the cultural sights of nearby Lisbon.

Riga Latvia

In August, Bryan took eight young people to take part in an educational project in Riga, Latvia. The young people visited cultural sites in the city, including the House of Blackheads, National History Museum, Dome Cathedral, St Saviours Church, St Peters/Johns Church, Freedom Monument, Latvian Museum of Art, Riga Castle, the Three Brothers and Parliament. The group took a City bike ride over the Daugava river in Riga. The project, the young people learned a lot about themselves including communication, culture, food and the history of the country. The trip enabled the young people to use their learning to enhance their future development and to broaden their horizons on travel and culture. The project also facilitated the young people to boost their confidence and self-esteem.

OAKWOOD

Our residential centre in County Wicklow (Oakwood) had over 500 young people take part in residential trips in 2019. 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 2019 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 2020 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
Namina Zaidan

Noel Hickey
Carina Molloy
Audrey Cullen
Joseph Mortimer
Daniel McDonnell
Gerard Wall
Majek Rafa

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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

We all know that knowledge is power and the provision of accurate information to young people on their rights as citizens is vital in a democratic society. In recent years many changes in the law have taken place around LGBT rights, environment, elections, new marriage equality, abortion, digital rights, GDPR etc. So how do we ensure that the information provided to young people is up to date and accurate and that young people will access it. With this in mind Bryan Perry and Martin O Reilly (Youth workers) embarked on a project with a group of young people to research, design and implement a project that would make it easier for young people to learn about their rights as citizens.

Previously BYS in 2015 produced a set of Know Your Rights playing Cards and we spoke to some of the youth groups we were working with about doing an update on the information which was on the cards and encouraging them to be involved in updating the cards with local and national information that was relevant to them. The young people took on the project with enthusiasm and there followed a busy timeframe with a deadline of December 2019. The group met on a regular basis after school and some of them took on online research from home on some of the tasks. They also had to talk with professionals in the area and making sure all the content was up to date and correct for the "Empowerment Cards for Young People 2020" while keeping the content relevant for their peers



The Young people on this project found it helped build up their Social and civic responsibility in their local community. The Young People themselves were doing the research, looking for the best and most updated Information and images, going to meetings and making phone calls. The cards contain a lot of information - contact numbers for local services including sports, community and state organisations and are valuable in promoting community involvement.

The skills learned by the young people helped to build up their Digital competence and improved their self esteem. The whole process assisted the young people in learning to learn and enabled them to describe what they have done and show what they have learnt during this process.

The design layout and artwork of these cards was guided by the youth workers and involved the young people in picking images, colours etc. All the information gathered was collated in house and inputted on a computer and was checked for accuracy by the staff before being sent to the printer. Dublin City Council area office came on board with funding for to print the cards and distributed the first print run to their new tenants coming into the area. BYS will be having an official launch later in the year.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The After School programme was set up to meet the needs of both parents and children living in Ballyfermot. For parents, this means knowing that your child is safe and happy in a club that is reliable and offers a consistent service.

For a child this means creating an environment that is safe, supportive and encouraging. It is a place to be with friends and make new ones; to be able to try out new activities, to relax, to have fun and enjoy.

At the After School Clubs we believe all children have the right to play.

Play is the basis to providing healthy development and the well being of individuals. The club will provide a balanced structure of activities and play experiences.

We provide a hot healthy meal with refreshments and carry a stock of stationery equipment to assist our 5th and 6th class learners.

The After School programme by its very nature helps to create long term relationships between the staff and the young people who attend. This is a vital tool in encouraging them to stay in school. During our sessions it is hoped that they would gain some important life skills that 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 during homework (co-operative)
- Increase tolerance levels



How are the young people chosen?

The After Schools team contact the local schools who would invite specific pupils to attend. The Youth Service staff would also target and refer young people that they have worked with who would benefit from using this service.

Venues

Two venues, Decies Road, (Tues, Thurs) and Gurteen Youth Club, (Mon to Thurs)

Start Times

The After School Clubs run from **2.30pm at the end of the school day until 4.30pm during term time.**

Hopes

When the After School Programme ceases in late June, our participants would hopefully continue their involvement with the Youth Service. They would be encouraged to engage with our Summer Programme until they return to school in September.

Contact Details

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(mob: 085 842 3095) (email: martinoreilly@ballyfermotys.ie)

