

limerick youth service



Annual Report 2016

Our Mission

‘To support and encourage young people to be active participants in shaping their futures’



Our Principles

The core principles guiding Limerick Youth Service are to:

Value young people and volunteers

Advocate equality and inclusion

Partner local communities in innovation & integration

Provide an energetic & quality experience

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Foreword

Young People are at the centre of the success of Limerick Youth Service (LYS) and are the inspiration for our participation and commitment. In 2016 young people continued to participate and excel across LYS in areas such as volunteer led youth clubs, International Youth Exchanges, Education & Training, Targeted Youth Programmes, Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Active Citizenship Initiatives, Youth Cafes, Transition Programmes and Equality Initiatives.

LYS continued to develop our Youth Spaces across the City & County with the Northside Youth Space, which was nine difficult years in the making, opening its doors to young people and the community. The consolidation of operations in one purpose built building means that LYS can offer an integrated range of services to young people in the area.

LYS's new Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Project became fully operational. The service is providing one to one support and counselling to 100 young people over a full year as well as providing a range of step down and group based supports.

The environment and policy context for youth work has changed significantly in the last number of years. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, the National Policy Framework for Children & Young People, the National Youth Strategy 2015 and the National Strategy on Youth Participation provide a robust and well defined framework for the delivery of youth work services. An emphasis on value for money, evidence based practice and achieving outcomes provide us with an opportunity to showcase the range and impact of our work. However it also requires us to be more demanding and rigorous in documenting and recording our work.

LYS continued to reflect critically on governance in the organisation and undertook a range of measures in this regard in 2016, including consolidating the accounts into a SORP format in line with best accounting practice. In addition the Board continued to monitor our governance standards through the implementation of the Governance Code for the Community & Voluntary Sector.

With over thirty years' service, Catherine Kelly who held the position of CEO of LYS for fourteen years, left the organisation in June and was replaced by our new CEO, Fiona O Grady.

We are looking forward to a new phase in the development of LYS with a renewed focus on our future planning, evaluation and research and the delivery of high quality relevant services and supports to young people.

Patrick Lynch

Chairperson

Fiona O Grady

CEO



Limerick Youth Service

Limerick Youth Service (LYS) is an integrated youth organisation and a leading provider of youth work, education, employability & training projects & programmes for young people.

LYS combines shared values, guiding principles, vision, staff, projects, training, programmes, activities, space and volunteers to ensure that when young people engage with our services they are engaged with us as a 'whole young person.'



LYS delivers innovative youth work projects that include Youth & Family Support, International Youth Work, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg, Garda Youth Diversion Projects, a Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Project, Youth Cafés, volunteer led youth clubs & a Youth Information Service.

Second chance education, employability & training are also a key feature of LYS. We delivered a number of projects and programmes that include the iScoil programme, Employability Skills, Leaving Cert Applied, Bakery Project, Catering Course, Early Childhood Care Skills, Pathway to Employment & Office, Hospitality & Tourism Skills. 2016 also saw the launch of two new initiatives, a Bike Project and a Community Mapping Project.

LYS delivers our services in dedicated Youth Spaces and in community centres across the city & county.

As members of Youth Work Ireland, LYS celebrates the national common features and distinct local differences of our service and engages in ongoing consultation to assist in the identification of the needs of young people in Limerick.

A recognised charity, LYS is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland.

The Governance Code is a resource to assist organisations to develop their overall capacity in terms of how they run their organisation. It is a voluntary code provided free to all boards/committees/ executives of not-for-profit groups to encourage them to check themselves against best practice in the management of their affairs.

LYS delivers its services Youth Spaces across



Community Training
Centre

Community Training Centre

Located at Lr. Glentworth St, Limerick City, LYS's Community Training Centre & a HQ building are home to number of youth work, education, training & employability programmes.

An Employability Skills, Bakery Project, Catering Skills, Pathway to Employability, Office, Hospitality & Tourism Skills & Leaving Cert Applied courses are all based at the city centre youth space which houses a public restaurant, shop, woodwork store and industry standard bakery and kitchen areas.

Youth work and volunteer training are also delivered there with Lava Java Youth Café and Youth Information Centre located at the Youth Space. In addition to a LYS's administrative department is also based there.



Nicholas Street
Youth Hub

Nicholas Street Youth Hub

Located across from St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick City, Nicholas St Youth Hub is home to King's Island Garda Youth Diversion Project, which runs the iScoil initiative. Young people and volunteers from the community also use the hub while the former Abbey Youth Local Training Initiative delivered its service there in 2016. .

The Youth Hub has activity rooms, chill out zones, study areas, a kitchen, pool & games rooms and has been used by young people and the community for a variety of events.

The Factory Southside Youth Space

Located at the Galvone Business Park, The Factory Southside Youth Space is an integrated multi-activity Youth Space for young people.

The Factory is home to several LYS projects including the Laff Caff Youth Café, Bike Project and Youth & Family Support while it also hosts the Youth Games & other interclub activities.

In 2016, 17,084 people availed of activities with 12,905 of those being under 18 years of age.

58 separate community groups, organisations and sports clubs availed of the facilities in 2016 with the FAI, Limerick Sports Partnership, Limerick City & County Community Games all using the premises on a regular basis.

Irish Youth Justice Service supported projects, Southill Outreach, LeChéile Restorative Practice and Extern Ireland's Southside Youth Initiative GYDP are based in The Factory.



The Factory
Southside

in a number of Limerick!



Northside
Youth Space

Northside Youth Space

The purpose built Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty, Limerick, opened its doors the summer of 2016 and brought a number of LYS projects into one centralised and accessible location.

Steps Youth Café, Ballynanty Youth Club, Ballynanty GYDP, Traveller Support Groups, a Youth Mental Health Project & Youth & Family Support are some of the projects & clubs based there.

The state of the art Youth Space has a theatre, family room, kitchen area, meeting rooms and activity space are a welcome addition for young people in across the community.



Castleconnell
Youth Project

Castleconnell Youth Project (ACM Centre)

Based at the ACM Centre, Main St, Castleconnell, this integrated community hub is home to LYS's East Limerick SPY Project, which includes Castleconnell Youth Project.

A Garda Youth Diversion Project outreach service is also based there while young people can access information and support services.

The youth hub boasts a chill out zone, activity rooms and is a focal point for young people in the community.



Rathkeale
Youth Space

Rathkeale Youth Space

West Limerick SPY (Special Project for Youth) is based at the Rathkeale Youth Space which is a centre of the delivery youth work programmes and activities for young people.

The Youth Space has activity rooms, chill out zone, kitchen, outdoor area and in 2016 became home to the RK Youth Café.

Community coffee mornings, awareness events, holiday activities and family fun days have also taken place at the very popular Youth Space which is located in the Abbey Court area of the West Limerick town.

Youth Work

Youth Work is

'a planned programme of education designed for the purposes of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary participation and which is complementary to their formal, academic, or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary Youth Work Organisations'

(Youth Work Act 2001).

LYS delivers an integrated youth work that ensures young people can be involved in one or more areas of youth work according to their interest and need at a particular time. Our youth work projects & programmes aim to develop young people's communications skills, confidence, creativity, imagination, resilience problem solving ability and emotional intelligence.



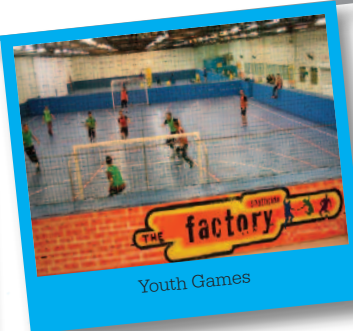
Newcastlewest Youth Club



Rathkeale's Got Talent



Youth Factor 2016



Youth Games

Youth Development

LYS supports the development of a young person through activities that meet the challenges of adolescence and prepare a teenager to achieve his/her full potential in adulthood.

From enjoying their free time in youth clubs, to participating in youth work programmes that develop their skills such as leadership and entrepreneurship, LYS promotes the civic, social and personal development of a young person.

Youth Clubs

2016 continued to see the development and growth in popularity of LYS's volunteer led youth clubs with an average of 1,500 teenagers spending their free time in one of 35 youth clubs each week.

Parteen-Corbally, St. Patrick's (Rhebogue) and Queen of Peace (Janesboro) were three of a number of newly opened youth clubs.

As part of LYS's affiliated youth clubs, young people can take part in a variety of activities & programmes that include inter-club visits, discos, Youth Factor variety show, Youth Games & lots more.

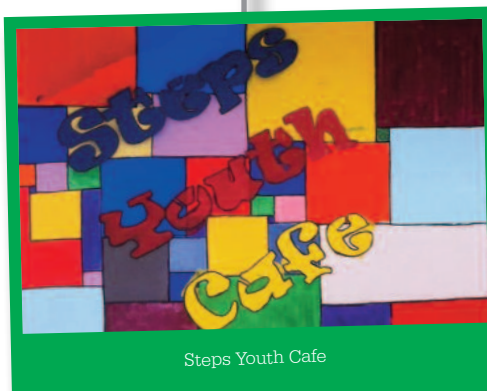
Youth clubs are supported through the SPY-Special Projects for Youth Outreach programme and continue to be a much needed and welcome social outlet for young people across the Midwest.

Youth Cafés

With the launch of the RK Youth Café in Rathkeale, Steps Youth Café at the Northside Youth Space, the continued success of the Laff Caff at the Factory and a renovation project at Lava Javas, it was a busy year for our Youth Cafés.

The open access Youth Cafés continued to grow in popularity, particularly with older teenagers, with members to the fore in running a number of youth initiatives and taking part in youth exchanges.

Youth Cafés are run by young people and are fun spaces where teenagers can spend their time and, if they wish, take part in activities or programmes.



Steps Youth Cafe



RK Youth Cafe



Laff Caff Youth Café



Lava Javas Under Construction



Exploring a Changing World in Finland

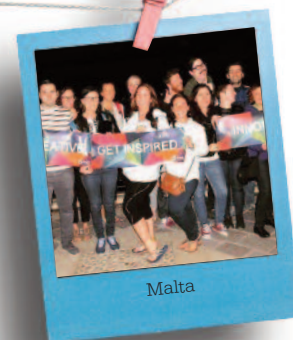
International Youth Work

LYS continues to engage in International Youth Work (Erasmus+ Programme) with young people, staff and volunteers taking part in a variety of exchanges and training programmes.

The core personal and social development, the integration of young people from a variety of backgrounds and the forging of new friendships between young people from across Limerick was a key outcome.



Malta



Malta

The Shift

In partnership with our colleagues in ZAK Malta Youth Organisation, 22 young people & 15 staff/volunteers took part in four youth exchanges exploring young people's progression in education & training.

Participants were presented with their EU Youthpass Certification by Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD. The Youthpass documents the learning outcomes from youth work activities and is recognised across Europe.

The KEY

(Keep Educating Yourself) Having commenced in November 2016, this large scale youth exchange programme is a trilateral partnership involving Limerick Youth Service, ZAK Malta and a new partner, Bjorknasgy from Sweden.

Building on the successes of The Shift, this programme aims to continue on the theme of progression in education and training and will continue into 2017 with all three nations hosting various legs of this ambitious programme.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS)

allows young adults (18-30yrs) an opportunity to volunteer with youth & community organisations across Europe with a placement ranging from two weeks to 10 months.

Having started in 2015, volunteer Stacey Lyons, completed her EVS placement in Finland in 2016 gaining valuable insight and experience in the youth work field.

Youth Work & the Refugee & Migrant Crisis

2 staff members and 1 volunteer participated in this innovative training course in Finland that focused on the role youth work can play in the refugee crisis.

Participants explored issues that young refugees/migrants faced with staff learning new methods and programmes to engage with young people (migrants & indigenous) in raising awareness of the journey of refugees and combating racism.



Youthbank Training

Youth Work Programmes:

- Child Safeguarding Awareness Programme
- Friends for Life
- My Friends Adult Resilience Programme
- Personal & Social Development
- Involvement: Junior Leader Training
- Youth Participation Programme
- Mind Out
- Moving On Up- Primary to Secondary Transition Prog
- Next Steps
- Starting Out
- The REAL U Programme
- WRAP – Wellness Recovery Action Plan
- Your Community Your Call
- Youth Bank
- Web Safety & Cyberbullying
- Let's Go EVS
- Strengthening Families
- Positive Parenting (Parenting Plus)
- Grief & Loss Programme
- Life Loss Programme

Youth Work Programmes

LYS youth work programmes aim to enhance the civic, educational, personal & social development of a young person. These programmes cover many themes and issues such as animal welfare, healthy eating, leadership, cyberbullying & web safety, making positive life skills, creative arts and music to name but a few!

Moving On Up Primary Transition

Prepares 6th class students on the transition from primary to second level with a focus on changing friendship, communication skills, peer pressure, bullying and the school rules!

659 young people took part in this initiative which was delivered in primary & secondary schools across Limerick City & County.

YouthBank

YouthBank is an all-Ireland initiative of over 20 grant-making committees run by young people. As part of the programme, young people elect a youth committee, who decide a theme and raise funding which is matched by a funder. The local community and youth groups then apply for funding from YouthBank.

In 2016, nine young people from southeast Limerick successfully ran the EIC (Every Idea Counts) YouthBank with a focus on youth mental health with seven youth groups receiving funding to run much needed mental health & wellbeing themed initiatives.

Youth Involvement (Junior Leadership Training)

A programme that focuses on developing young people's communication & problem solving skills, while improving their self-belief & confidence.

81 young people took part in this leadership course which is accredited by Youth Scotland.

Strengthening Families

This programme covers topics such as communication skills, peer pressure and encourages participants to share their experiences.

For parents & children (12-16yrs), the course helps to improve family relationships, communications & is delivered with a mixture of parent/child & parent & child only groups.



Having fun in Lough Derg

In addition to open access projects and programmes, LYS provides additional services that engage with and support young people and their families who have a particular need at a specific time in their lives.

Youth & Family Support

LYS's Youth & Family Support team worked with 107 young people and their families, who faced particular life challenges.

Through group work or on a 'one-to-one' support, the Youth & Family Support team provided specific supports to young people through after-school clubs, parent & child groups, civic awareness, parent only supports & holiday activities that included horse riding, surfing & cycling.

Using the Meitheal best practice model ensured that the needs and strengths of children were properly identified, understood and responded to an interagency basis.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects

LYS's Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) work with young people who are either involved in or at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminality.

GYDP projects aim to help to move young people away from behaving in a way that might get them or their friends into trouble with the law and help them develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities.

In 2016, 89 teenagers engaged with LYS's GYDPs which offer opportunities for education, employment training, sport, art, music and focus on issues such as substance misuse, civic pride, behaviour management, anti-social behaviour and making positive life choices.

LYS's GYDPs are based in Ballynanty, Irishtown and King's Island with an outreach youth justice worker in the Henry St Garda Divisional area.

GYDPs are managed by An Garda Siochana in partnership with members of the local communities including youth & social workers.



GYDP at Great Limerick Run



GYDP Climbing Croagh Patrick



Irishtown at Ballyhass Lakes

Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Project

LYS's mental health service expanded to include a new Youth & Mental Wellbeing Project. This new project included an additional counsellor/psychotherapist & a youth mental health worker.

Our counsellors provided one-to-one support to 74 young people (14-25yrs) with some adhering of a follow up service, through the youth mental health worker and other LYS projects.

Young people, staff and volunteers also participated in mental health awareness and educational programmes such as Mindfulness and Grief & Loss.

Young people remain a key tenant of the team with and were to the fore in organising Be Well Limerick Week in November 2016. The young people were honoured at the Garda Youth Awards 2016 for their outstanding contribution in the field of youth mental health and wellbeing.



Garda Youth Awards



Guest Speakers at Pathway to Recovery



Be Well Week at the Milk Market

Be Well Limerick Week

A youth led mental health initiative that aimed to build resilience, develop coping skills & tackle the stigma sometimes associated with mental health.

- ▶ Over 500 people attended events that included a visit to a Retirement Centre, Castletroy and the Children's Ark, UHL.
- ▶ A 'Be Well Day' at Northside Youth Space followed by an evening on 'Our Mental Health' with Dr. James Heffernan.
- ▶ A workshop on Web Safety & protecting yourself online.
- ▶ FLASH, a youth photography project.
- ▶ Pathway to Recovery, an evening where people, including two young people from LYS, shared their mental health journey.
- ▶ A Tree of Hope at Bedford Row where people placed their private messages on their mental health.



Green Ribbon at Ballynanty GYDP

Integration & Diversity



Minions Supporting Diversity

As an integrated youth organisation, LYS continued to engage with young people from minority communities to enhance supports, identify particular needs and, if needed, to build their confidence to take part in 'mainstream' groups/clubs.

While young people from minority communities continued to engage with LYS, the need for 'issue only groups' was a identified by young people as a key feature with LGBT, migrant, disability and Traveller groups an example of this work.

These groups allow young people to speak about issues in their own communities and for some, to build the confidence to join 'mainstream' groups.

LYS continued to work with the Travelling Community with the establishment of a youth group at the Clondrinagh Halting Site, while young Travellers were a key part of groups in Limerick City and Rathkeale.

Meanwhile a volunteer led youth club that catered for young people with special needs opened in Limerick while LYS continued to work in partnership with organisations such as Blackberry Park and the Brothers of Charity.

In partnership with GOSHH Youth, LYS hosted Limerick Pride Youth Party and facilitated the youth participation in the city's Pride Parade.



Cookery class at LYS



Football Champions



Whispering with Horses

Special Projects for Youth



Castleconnell Youth Project



Cappamore Youth Group



Caherconlish Youth Group

SPY (Special Projects for Youth) engage with and support young people to reach their full potential through their civic, personal and social development.

SPY projects engage with young people from a variety of backgrounds in programmes and activities such as drug & alcohol awareness, mental wellbeing, fitness, Junior Leader training, international youth work, holiday provision, discos, awareness events, variety shows & lots more.

SPY also provides support, information and safe spaces for young people to meet and be themselves, while they engage with parents, schools, other local agencies and volunteers to enhance the quality of the youth work provision.

LYS has six projects under this scheme with three geographically based and three others having a broader City and County remit.

East Limerick SPY is based at the ACM building, **Castleconnell** with additional outreach services in **Caherconlish** and **Cappamore**.

Located at Rathkeale Youth Space, LYS's **West Limerick SPY** Project mainly serves Rathkeale, a largely disadvantaged area and RAPID designated area.

West & East Limerick SPY operate an 'open door policy' to all young people, therefore the target group is quite broad in that they work with those that are very much in need of support and those that would be deemed 'mainstream youth'.

The **Rathkeale** based project is also quite unique in that it engages a large traveller population living in the area and an additional number of transient travellers that come 'home' to Rathkeale over the Christmas holiday period.

LYS's **City Disadvantaged SPY** engages with targeted groups of young people in the King's Island, Watergate and other inner city communities. The project has both a co-ordination function and a service delivery aspect as it targets young people with very few community supports and would be classed as Hardiker Level 3.

The **Outreach SPY** provides a wide range of provision to young people in villages and towns in Co. Limerick with a particular focus on volunteer led youth clubs. These supports to young people are provided in rural towns and villages where there is very little access to alternative services for young people. Youth clubs provide a vital community based service locally and are delivered in partnership with staff, volunteers and young people.

Youth Resource SPY supports the provision of open access youth facilities (Youth Hubs) in areas of high disadvantage and ensures the infrastructure, personnel and expertise in order to advance services to young people in Limerick City & County. Significant resources and staffing support the ongoing management and maintenance of a number of open access youth facilities across Limerick city & county including **LYS's City Centre HQ, Northside Youth Space, The Factory Southside Youth Space, Rathkeale Youth Space & Nicholas Street Youth Hub.**

There are 2 main elements of the programme: **Youth Infrastructure & Facilities** ensures youth work is delivered across LYS by our staff in high quality premises. This work is supported by ongoing policy development.

Youth Resource also provides very specific supports to the engagement of special interest and Targeted Youth Groups including those most at risk in City and County across our Youth Spaces.

The project engaged with multi- cultural/ethnic young people (12-25yrs) from different communities including Knocklisheen and Limerick City Centre reception and accommodation centres) and promoted the participation of disability groups and seldom heard young people across the various programmes of the LYS.

SSEI (Special, Social, Education Initiatives) focuses on the social and educational welfare of young people through programmes that meet the specific needs of the individual target groups. SSEI also provide opportunities for young people to access a more diverse range of services and mainstream youth programmes in their local areas.



LYS continues to ensure the voice of young people is heard in issues that affect them, at local, national or international level.

LYS believes that with the proper support & guidance, young people can advocate for their peers and create positive social change through engaging in the democratic and political system.

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg

Is a youth council that gives teenagers a voice on the services, policies and issues of importance, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg was to the fore in advocating for young people.

Each year its members focus on a particular issues and in the past have addressed subjects such as mental health, bullying, homelessness and the direct provision system.

In 2016, Comhairle na nÓg's primary topic was the education system with members advocating for a restorative practice approach in addressing the relationship between teacher and students in the classroom. This project will continue into 2017.

Members were also to the fore in promoting political engagement in the 2016 General Election with many of its members voting for the first time.

Limerick Be Heard

A joint initiative with LYS, Limerick Comhairle na nÓg and the Department of Politics & Public Administration at the University of Limerick, Limerick Be Heard aims to increase the political participation and civic engagement of groups whose voices are seldom heard in mainstream electoral discussions, such as young people.

Election 2016

LYS was to the fore in encouraging young people, particularly first time voters, to register to vote & to engage in the democratic process.

In the lead up to polling day we had 'mock polling stations' to demonstrate what happens in the polling booth.



Comhairle at 1916 Celebrations
with President Higgins



At the Comhairle National Showcase



Youth Information

LYS's Youth Information & Communication Service provides general and specialist information service to young people and those who work them on subjects such as: accommodation, careers, education, employment, rights & entitlements, sport, travel, European opportunities & more.

Through its partnership with Youth Work Ireland, Eurodesk, EYRICA and SpunOut, Youth Information continues to be the fore in identifying and developing new methods of engaging with young people. 2016 saw a key focus on Web Safety and young people not in education, employment, training (NEETs).

With some young people spending on average of 27 hours a week online, LYS partnered with McAfee/Intel & Youth Work Ireland to run a Web Safety & Cyberbullying Programme.

Youth Information service was also active in advocating for, promoting & raising awareness of youth issues and supporting young people in making positive life choices.

The Youth Information team were to the fore in promoting a voter registration drive for the 2016 General Election, running Youth Work Ireland Week and Limerick's Lifelong Learning Festival to name but a few.



Communications

LYS continues to promote the positive contribution of young people, youth work and second chance education across the local media, through an extensive online presence, via the LYS website and social media, in the print media, on local radio and at Community & Career Fairs.



2,200

Avg over 2,200 hits per day across all accounts



1,110

1,110 connections (100% increase)



50,747

views of LYS videos

Infoblink

45

45 newsletters/e-zines issues



50,747

views of LYS videos



1,500+

1,500+ articles primarily in local newspapers



2016

Launched Instagram a/c with



475,400

(impressions on Twitter)



Education, Employability & Training

LYS continues to provide second chance education, training and employability projects & programmes for early school leavers and with one in five young adults not in employment, education or training (NEETS) the need for these initiatives has never been greater.

Delivered in a supportive and encouraging environment these courses equip young people with the skills to progress to further education and/or employment.

In 2016 the Abbey Youth Local Training Initiative closed due to a withdrawal of funding. After five successful years this was a loss to young adults in King's Island, a community with one of the highest levels of youth unemployment in Limerick.

Despite this setback, LYS continued to explore and develop new initiatives for young people with a Community Mapping & 'Changing Lanes' Bike Project starting in 2016.

Community Training Centre

LYS's Community Training Centre (CTC) delivers a number of projects & programmes for young people (16-21yrs) accessing a wide variety of academic and personal supports.

The courses not only focus on a young person's education and training but on their well-being and personal development.

Courses, including baking & catering are taught in industry standard facilities giving learners first-hand experience of working in the respective areas and are in industries where there is a need for trained & experienced professionals.

In addition to the practical work, many learners participate in youth work activities such as junior leadership training and youth mental health initiatives with others taking part in youth exchanges to Malta.



LYS's Community Training Centre



Level 3

Employability Skills:

With a specific focus on literacy & numeracy, learners also spend time in woodwork & horticultural courses



Level 4

Early Childcare Skills:

Two year course that focuses on childhood development, different types of play activities, observation techniques, need of families & more.



Level 4

Office Studies, Hospitality & Tourism:

One year course where learner study retail sales, customer services, information technology & communications skills.



Youth Advocacy:

Provide learners with career & educational guidance, periods of work experience & a pathway to employment portfolio.



Level 4

Catering Course:

Learner's study short order cooking, meal service, kitchen skills, food hygiene & more over a comprehensive two year programme.



Baking Industry Skills:

Diploma in Proficiency in Baking Skills is a two year course that teaches learners skills in both bread making and flour confectionery.



Leaving Cert Applied:

Career orientated & practical course with two-thirds of it continuously assessed. The LCA focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps them apply what they learn in the real world.

The balance between academic and practical learning is a key feature with the time spent on work placement also complimenting the classroom based subjects, leading to a more wholesome experience for learners.

Many of the young people have progressed to further education courses, such as Limerick College of Further Education, while more entered employment.



Abbey Youth Local Training Initiative

15 learners, primarily from the King's Island and Lee Estate communities of Limerick City, enrolled with Abbey Youth LTI.

Abbey Youth LTI provided opportunities for marginalised learners who left school early and, who for personal, social or geographic reasons, were unable to participate in other training interventions.

Abbey Youth provided vocational training opportunities, learning supports and project-based learning to assist participants achieve awards on the NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications) and to develop the capacity to progress to further training, education and work.

Changing Lanes Bike Project

In 2016 LYS launched a new Bike Project that offered young people the opportunity to meet new people, explore the cycling trails of Ireland and learn a new skill.

From its workshop at The Factory Southside Youth Space, the Bike Project has allowed young people an opportunity to learn non-formal skills, develop their self-esteem and keep fit.

Community Mapping Project

In mid 2016, LYS started an exciting Community Mapping Project. The project saw seven young adults researching the assets, or lack thereof, of youth and community provisions in their local communities with a particular focus on Limerick City Centre & the surrounding areas.

The project has given the young adults an opportunity to add to their skillset through research methods, information gathering and web design.

Their findings will be released in mid-2017 (online and via a booklet) and will contribute to LYS's Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

iScoil

iScoil is an online learning community that offers an alternative path to learning, accreditation and progression and is taught at LYS's King's Island Garda Youth Diversion Project.

With iScoil students study a programme tailored to their individual needs where they can re-engage with education, achieve recognised certification and access further education, training and employment opportunities.

The iScoil model is based on principles of inclusivity, equality and adopts a non-judgmental approach. It is strongly learner-centred and involves personalised learning plans based on the student's needs and interests.

Student Placement/Work Experience

28 third level & 25 secondary school students participated in a period of placement and work experience with LYS where they received mentoring, support and experienced an integrated youth organisation.

Volunteers

Over 400 volunteers continued to give their free time to support young people be it through youth projects, planning events, on sub groups and committees or through volunteer led youth clubs.

Through their commitment, time and skillset, volunteers played a key role in the social and personal development of a young person and in the continued success of LYS.

LYS supports volunteers by providing ongoing training & support to volunteers through Child Safeguarding Awareness Training, ice breakers, basic first aid, volunteer celebration nights & more.



Our Supporters

Limerick Youth Service works in partnership with a number of bodies including Youth Work Ireland, the Health Service Executive, TUSLA the Child and Family Agency, the Irish Youth Justice Service, Irish Youth Foundation, Limerick & Clare Educational Training Board, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Department of Social Protection, An Garda Síochána, Pobal, Limerick City and County Council, Leargas, West Limerick Resources Ltd, Ballyhoura Development Limited, PAUL Partnership, Community Foundation of Ireland, Mid-West Drugs & Alcohol Forum (formerly Mid-West Regional Drugs Task Force), Rathkeale Community Council and The City Of Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB).

Limerick Youth Service also works in partnership with local schools, Third Level institutions, local businesses, community centres, parish halls and many voluntary and community groups and individuals who have and continue to support Limerick's young people.

LYS embraces the development of integrated services and strives to implement efficiencies and economies of scale in line with Dept. Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) requirements.



Our People

LYS has a team of highly qualified and dedicated people with a broad range of skills that work together in the delivery of youth work and educational programmes for young people.

Across our youth spaces and training centres, over 100 staff are employed as youth workers, instructors, teachers, maintenance, counsellors and in administration.

LYS is also an active supporter of the Community Employment Scheme and Jobs Initiative programme with members participating in further training and education programmes.

LYS has committed significant resources to the training and upskilling of staff and volunteers in Safeguarding Training, Garda vetting, group facilitation, Personal Development, Risk Assessment, ASIST and Behaviour Management.



Limerick Youth Service:

Structure & Governance

Structure

Founded in 1973, Limerick Youth Service is registered as a Scheme of Incorporation by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations & Bequests in Ireland, under Section 2 of the Charities Act 1973. The Scheme and Constitution were revised in 2011 and approved and sealed by the Commissioners for Charitable donations and Bequests for Ireland in December 2011.


Board Membership and Officers

Limerick Youth Service is governed by a Voluntary Board which is responsible for the overall governance of the Organisation. The Board of Limerick Youth Service are not remunerated for their services to the organisation, however, in some instances nominal travel costs are paid for attendance at meetings and special events. The Board controls the work of Limerick Youth Service. It determines its policies and monitors the work carried out by the organisation. The Board meet a minimum of six times per year. The day to day Management of Limerick Youth Service is devolved by the Board to the CEO and Senior Management Team.

Limerick Youth Service is under the patronage of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick and the Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, each Bishop nominates two representatives to the Board. At least four Board members are actively engaged in organisations relevant to the workings of Limerick Youth Service, but must not act as a representative of that group in acting as a Board Member. Vacancies are filled based on skill deficit as per annual Board skills audit document. Board members having served a three year term at the time of the AGM shall retire and may be eligible for re-election for one further three year term.

Limerick Youth Service Board Members 2016

Name	Position
Mr Patrick Lynch	Chairperson
Rev Paul Finnerty	Board member (Resigned September 2016)
Mr Niall Green	Board member (Resigned April 2016)
Mr Jerry Scanlan	Board member
Mr Sean O'Meara	Board member
Mr Keith Morrow	Board member
Ms Olive Noonan	Board member (Resigned December 2016)
Rev Vicki Lynch	Board member
Mr Luke Conlon	Board member
Sr Phyllis Moynihan	Board member
Mr Eddie O'Neill	Board member
Mr Dan O'Gorman	Board member
Ms Bernadette Daly	Board member
Ms Sinead Clohessy	Board member
Mr Daniel Roche	Board member (Joined June 2016)
Ms. Audrey Healy	Board member (Joined June 2016)
Fr. Seamas Enright	Board member (Joined October 2016)



On joining the Board, members are briefed on their role and responsibilities and provided with a Board Induction Pack. The Board met a total of nine times in 2016.

Limerick Youth Service is an Integrated Youth Service and one of 22 Member Youth Services of The National Youth Federation trading as Youth Work Ireland.

The Board has two permanent sub – committees and the Board has authority to establish time bound working groups to advise on specific projects as required.

Governance, Audit & Risk Sub Committee

The role of the Governance, Audit & Risk Sub Committee is to monitor the control and risk management systems of Limerick Youth Service including planning of annual audit, review of Annual Financial Statements, Review of Risk Register and to drive good Governance practice and policy.

Mr Keith Morrow	Board member
Ms Olive Noonan	Board member (Resigned December 2016)
Sr Phyllis Moynihan	Board member
Mr Eddie O'Neill	Board member
Mr Daniel Roche	Board Member (Joined June 2016)

In 2016 the Governance, Audit & Risk Sub Committee focused its work on a number of particular areas including

- Development and review of risk register and risk management policy for Limerick Youth Service
- Supervision and review of Limerick Youth Service compliance with the Governance Code
- Continued commitment of significant resources to the training and upskilling of staff and volunteers in the areas of Child Protection and Garda Vetting

Community Training Centre Sub Committee

The Community Training Centre sub-committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Limerick Youth Service. The CTC Subcommittee's principal objective is to assist the Board of Limerick Youth Service in the provision of training, education and employment related services for young people in a friendly and informal manner.

Ms Mary English	Board member
Mr Jerry Scanlan	Board member
Mr Sean O'Meara	Board member
Ms Vicki Lynch	Board member
James Connery	CTC General Manager
Maurice Walsh	Youth Work Services Manager
Fiona O'Grady	CEO

Working Groups

A number of working groups were established in 2016 to undertake specific timebound areas of work including the Ballynanty Building Committee and a CEO recruitment Committee.



Management Team

Day to day Management of the Organisation is delegated by the Board to the CEO and Management Team. CEO of Limerick Youth Service for fourteen years, Catherine Kelly resigned her position and left the organisation in June 2016. Recruitment of a new CEO Fiona O Grady was completed by the Board following an open competitive recruitment process in July 2016.

CEO	Catherine Kelly (Resigned)
Fiona O Grady	(Joined July 2016)
CTC Manager	James Connery
Youthwork Manager	Maurice Walshe
Finance Manager	Bernadette Behan
HR Manager	Sinead Noonan

Reference and Administrative Details

Name:	Limerick Youth Service Board.
CRA No.	20016531.
Head Office:	5 Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick City.
Community Training Centre,	Lwr Glentworth St, Limerick.

Outreach	Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty, Limerick. The Factory Southside Youth Space, Galvone Business Park, Limerick. Rathkeale Youth Space, Abbey Court, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. King's Island Youth Hub, Nicholas St, Limerick. East Limerick SPY Project, Main Street, Castleconnell.
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Bank:	Bank of Ireland, 125 O'Connell Street and AIB 106-108 O Connell Street, Limerick.
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Auditor:	Grant Thornton, Mill House, Henry Street, Limerick.
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Solicitor:	Ms Fionnuala McMahon, O'Gorman Solicitors, Munster House, O'Connell Street, and Limerick.
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Financial Statements & Accounts Summary

Full Financial Statements Available on SORP www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie or at www.limerickyouthservice.com





limerick youth service 

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