



Youth Work Ireland
Be Part of It



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

limerick youth service



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FOREWORD

In 2017 Limerick Youth Service commenced the development of our new Strategic Plan which will guide our work up to 2021. We know from talking and listening to young people that for some young people growing up and transitioning to adulthood can be difficult. Social Media and technology is a huge influence both positive and negative in the lives of young people. Youth unemployment remains high and while the numbers of young people staying in school are the highest ever, those young people who leave early are at an added disadvantage. Demand for services in the area of youth mental health are increasing with high numbers of suicides and self-harm cases particularly within Limerick City. Drugs, alcohol and crime continues to be a significant issue in the lives of some young people.

Limerick City and County is changing, data from the 2015 census indicates a changing demographic profile with significant increases in population in newer suburban areas, large numbers of immigrants within city centre areas and a significant decline in more traditional communities.

As part of our Strategic Planning process we have invested considerable time in talking to young people, consulting with our partners and other stakeholders, analysing our environment. This information is informing how we prioritise needs and best achieve improved outcomes for young people.

Some of our key developments in 2017 include the official Launch of the Northside Youth Space in February 2017 by the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan. The day was the culmination of nine long hard years of work and commitment by the Board to bring our vision of an open access purpose built space for young people from a concept stage to a reality.

We have also continued to invest in our Governance, reviewing our compliance with the Governance Code, assessing of Health & Safety and Risk Management Practice, Reporting to the Charities Regulator, Funders, Lobbying Register and meeting audit requirements as required.

From an Education & Training perspective over 160 young people have undertaken Education & Training programmes through the Community Training Centre. In addition young

people with all levels of need continued to access our youthwork programmes, youth and family support projects, Garda Youth Diversion projects, Youth Mental Health Project and employability initiatives.

As a Board we recognise the hard work and dedication of staff in developing relationships with young people, supporting their personal and social development, building resilience and providing good role models for young people into the future. We would like to acknowledge the huge contribution of staff at our meeting here this evening.

We also know that volunteers are essential to enabling us to carry out services. It is impossible to emphasise our gratitude to volunteers who give so much of their time to support their local communities.

We would like to thank the organisations who provided us with financial or voluntary support; with their help and with good management we have continued to deliver on our core mission. We also offer sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers, supporters and friends.

Looking to the future, we have many challenges, the nature of volunteering has changed and the requirements on volunteers often means it is difficult to get people involved, the funding to the youthwork sector is undergoing fundamental changes with a move to a commissioning and tendering model for the provision of services. This brings increased competition and requires us to change and focus how we present and evaluate our work.

The changing environment and policy context is a challenge, however the strength of Limerick Youth Service lies in its commitment *to connecting with young people and supporting them to reach their full potential* while remaining flexible and responsive to their needs.



Patrick Lynch
Chairperson

Fiona O Grady
CEO

OUR MISSION

“Connecting with Young People and supporting them to reach their full potential”

Our Values

The core principles guiding the work of Limerick Youth Service are;



Our Work

In order to achieve our mission LYS facilitate, deliver and provide:

- **Youth Work Supports, Services and Programmes**
- **Education, Training & Employability initiatives**
 - **Safe and Accessible Youth Spaces.**

300 Volunteers

30 Youthclubs

22 Youth Projects

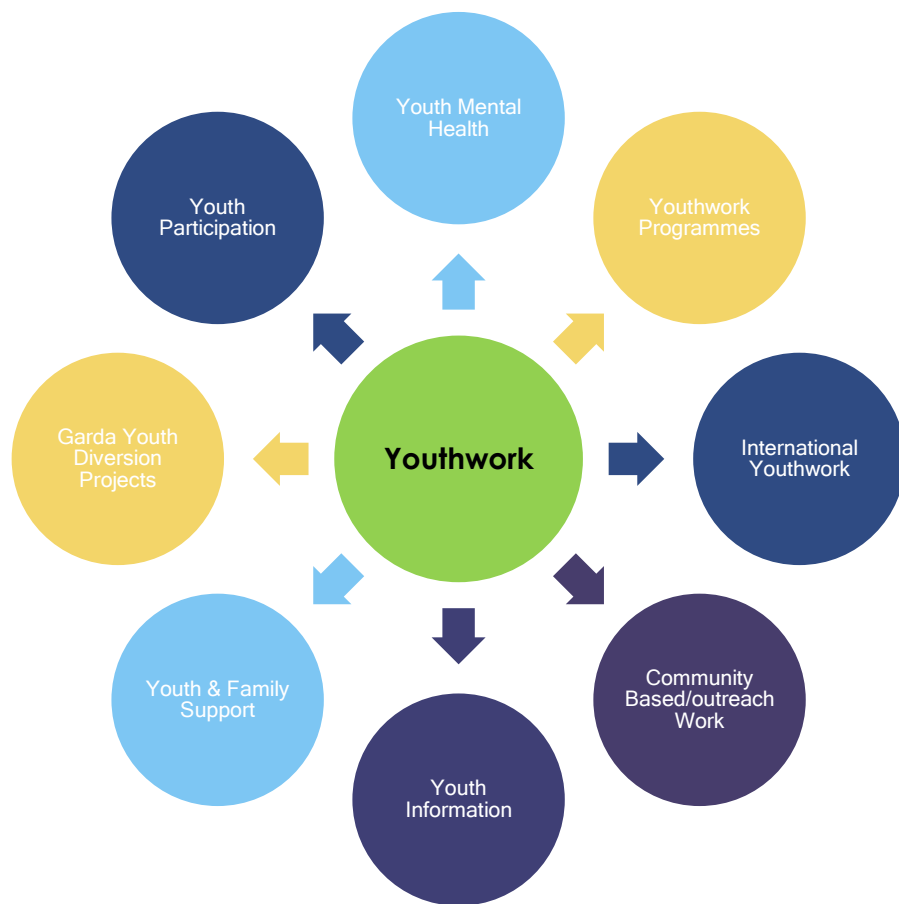
5000 Young People

96 Staff

7 Youth Spaces

YOUTHWORK SUPPORTS, SERVICES & PROGRAMMES

LYS youth work programmes, services and activities are designed to improve confidence, communication, planning and problem-solving skills among young people. Our innovative programmes and activities further prioritise empathy and resilience and support the development of healthy relationships. LYS youth work supports are delivered in a developmental and holistic manner with a focus on fun and voluntary participation.



Garda Youth Diversion Projects

- 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 support young people in the areas of education & training, employment, recreational activities as well as focusing on issues such as substance

misuse, civic pride, behaviour management, anti-social behaviour and making positive life choices.

- GYDPs are based in Ballynanty, Irishtown and King's Island with an outreach youth justice worker in the Henry St Garda Divisional area.
- In 2017, 78 Young People engaged with our Youth Justice Projects.

Youth & Family Support

- The aim of the Youth & Family Support Project is to improve the life chances of young people enhancing their personal and social skills in partnership with their family and community.
- The project worked with an average of 75 Young people and their families over 2017.

Be Well Youth Mental Health Service



Minister for Health Promotion, Catherine Byrne TD at the launch of the youth part of Limerick Mental Health Week at the Northside Youth Space.

Limerick Youth Service, Youth Mental Health Project aims to address youth mental health needs through the provision of:

- One to One Counselling
- Group Based Initiatives
- Youth Engagement (YAP)
- Education & Awareness
- Family support
- In 2017 approximately 80 young people accessed one to one counselling and over 500

young people accessed group based information, education and youth participation initiatives.

Special Projects for Youth (SPY)

Special Projects for Youth (SPY) engage young people from a variety of backgrounds in



Rathkeale Youthspace

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. Specific interventions and supports are provided to young travellers, minority groups, LGBTQI+, young people in direct provision and other hard to reach young people. SPY also supports the

development and maintenance of a number of Youth Spaces across the city & County.

- There are six projects under this programme with three geographically based and three others having a broader City and County remit.
 - East Limerick SPY
 - Rathkeale SPY
 - Outreach SPY



Mentoring Programme Coláiste Íde agus Josef, Abbeyfeale

- City Disadvantaged – Kings Island
- Youth Resource
- Special Social & Educational Initiatives

QUEENS OF THE ISLAND FIELD

Two short plays based on stories from the women of St. Mary's Community, Limerick

Field of Dreams by Mike Finn
Washed Up devised with participants by Monica Spencer
Directed by Joan Sheehy



Approximately 650 young engaged in projects and programmes under the SPY initiative with a further 1200 young people involved in 30 Volunteer Led Youth Clubs. Over 300 volunteers supported youth work across the city & county.

Youthwork Programmes

- LYS youth work programmes aim to enhance the civic, educational, personal & social development of a young person.
- Programmes delivered to over 1000 people in 2017 include Personal & Social Development, Involvement: Junior Leader Training, Youth Participation Programme, Mind Out, Moving On Up- Primary to Secondary Transition Programme, Youth Bank, Web Safety & Cyberbullying, Strengthening Families



Above: Delivering our Transition Prog with First Years at Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton

Community Based/Outreach



Halloween Disco 2017

Youth Clubs.

In 2017 an average of 2000 young people spent their free time in one of 30 youth clubs each week. 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 by over 250 Volunteers across Limerick City & County.

Youth Cafés.

LYS currently supports 5 Youth Cafés in the City & County; *RK Youth Café* in Rathkeale, *Steps and Footsteps Youth Café* at the Northside Youth Space, *Laff Caff* at the Factory and *Lava Javas* in the City Centre. Approximately 130 Young people access the cafe each week.

Youth Information & Communication

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.



Above: Michael Noonan TD (former Finance Minister) opened the Northside Youth Space

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. In 2017 80 young people took part in international Youth Exchanges

Youth Participation

Limerick Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg is a youth council that gives teenagers a voice on the services, policies and issues of importance to them. In 2017 Limerick Comhairle na nÓg addressed the educational system, focusing on the classroom relationship between teacher & student.

110 young people were involved in Comhairle na nÓg in 2017.

Limerick Be Heard is 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. In 2017 young people from LYS travelled to South Africa as part of the project



Limerick Youth Service were in South Africa for the Youth Global Awareness Programme

YOUTH SPACES

LYS services and supports are delivered within dedicated, safe, accessible and youth friendly spaces across Limerick City & County including:

- Limerick Youth Service Headquarters, Lwr Glentworth St. Limerick
- Community Training Centre, Lwr Glentworth St, Limerick.
- The Factory, Southside Youth Space, Galvone Business Park, Limerick.
- Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty Limerick
- Rathkeale Youth Space, Abbey Court, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick
- Kings Island Youth Space, Nicholas St, Limerick.
- East Limerick Youth Project, Castleconnell



LYS Community Training Centre, Lwr Glentworth St. Limerick



Kings Island Youth Space, Nicholas St, Limerick

Working in partnership with local communities, LYS also facilitates youth clubs and programmes in community venues and facilities across Limerick City and County including provision in more isolated rural communities



Northside Youth Space, Ballynanty



Rathkeale Youth Space

EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYABILITY

LYS provides education, training and employability programmes and courses to young people not in employment, education or training (NEETS) through our Community Training Centre, Employability Initiatives, Work Experience and Student Placements



Above: Trainee April Devereux honing her skills at Ballymaloe Catering School.

Community Training Centre

LYS Community Training Centre delivers a range of practical and academic programmes including catering and professional bakery, office and administration, early childhood care and support and Leaving Cert Applied.

162 young people between the ages of 15 and 21 were registered with the Community Training Centre in 2017.



Participants on Bakery Project 2017.

Employability Initiatives

LYS facilitates innovative employability programmes such as our Bike Project and Community Mapping. We use an informal education approach with the intention of improving young people's chances of engaging with the world of work and improving attitudes, motivation and behaviour.

Work Experience/Job Placement

Young People are supported in developing interpersonal skills, self-esteem, confidence, finding pathways to work and gaining practical skills and experience through the provision of work experience and work placement opportunities

74 young people (32 second level, 27 third level and 15 work experience placements) were facilitated by LYS in 2017.



STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

Structure

Limerick Youth Service (LYS) was founded in 1973 and 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.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board Members

LYS is governed by members of the Board who are appointed for a term of three years and may serve no more than two terms of three years. The Board members of Limerick Youth Service are volunteers and are its Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law.

The Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Bishops (Patrons) each nominate two representatives to the Board of LYS. The Board of Limerick Youth Service are not remunerated for their services to the organisation, however, in some instances nominal travel costs are paid. In 2017, 6 Board Members resigned with 5 having completed their maximum term of office. 5 new board members joined the Board in early 2018.

Board Members 2017

Patrick Lynch
 Jerry Scanlon
 Sean O Meara
 Keith Morrow
 Rev. Vicki Lynch
 Ins Luke Conlon
 Sr. Phyllis Moynihan
 Eddie O'Neill
 Dan O'Gorman
 Bernadette Daly
 Sinead Clohessy
 Audrey Healy
 Daniel Roche
 Fr. Seamus Enright

Management Team

The Board delegates the day to day management of Limerick Youth Service to the CEO and Management Team.

CEO	Fiona O Grady
CTC Manager	James Connery
Youth work Manager	Maurice Walshe
Finance Manager	Bernadette Behan
HR Manager	Sinead Noonan

Limerick Youth Service employs approximately 100 staff, has 400 volunteers engaged in various aspects of its work with 10 – 24 year olds throughout Limerick City and County.

Sub Committees

The Board has established a number of sub committees including Audit, Risk & Governance and Community Training Centre Committees in addition to time bound specified purpose working groups which advise on specific projects.

Audit & Governance Sub Committee

The role of the Governance, Audit & Risk Sub Committee is to monitor and control the audit 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.

In 2017 the Governance and Audit Sub group continued to work on a number of areas including review and restatement of the Governance Code, ongoing development of a risk policy and register and completion of a tendering process for Auditors

Audit Committee

Mr. Keith Morrow	Board member
Sr Phyllis Moynihan	Board member
Mr. Eddie O'Neill	Board member
Mr. Daniel Roche	Board member

Community Training Centre Sub-Committee

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

Working Groups

A number of working groups were operational in 2017. These groups undertook specific time-bound areas of work including the completion of the Ballynanty Building Project, High needs Sub-committee and a Working Group to Review Structures.



REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION 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

Bank: Bank of Ireland, 125 O'Connell Street and AIB 106-108 O Connell Street, Limerick

Auditor: Grant Thornton, Mill House, Henry Street, Limerick

Solicitor: Ms Fionnuala McMahon, O'Gorman Solicitors, Munster House, O'Connell Street, Limerick.

Financial Statements & Accounts Summary

Full Financial Statements prepared in accordance with SORP available at

www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie

www.limerickyouthservice.com



Southside Youth Forum 2017

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last 45 years, Limerick Youth Service has held the needs of young people and their families at the centre of our activities and services. This is our greatest strength. The values which underpin our work combined with our commitment to delivering high quality services, support us in achieving our mission.

The development of our Strategic Plan 2018-2021 was an opportunity to engage with young people, our funders, collaborative partners and volunteers, analyse our environment and establish our priorities for our work over the next three years.



Key priorities for our work over the coming years include;

- Develop new and innovative responses in relation to volunteer led Youth work.
- Consider the changing demographic profile of Limerick City & County and pay particular attention to the needs of rural young people in the planning and development of new and existing youth work responses.
- Continue the development of International Youth Work opportunities for young people.
- Ensure the robust governance and accountability of the Limerick Youth Service and its compliance with statutory requirements.

- Embrace and embed the changes from funders and funding administrators where possible whilst always keeping to the vision and priorities of Limerick Youth Service and its relevance to young people.
- Continue to develop Youth Mental Health Initiative in line with best practice with the HSE.
- Enhance the participation of young people in all aspect of the Limerick Youth Service's work including planning, evaluation and decision making.
- Actively develop and refine data collection and research capacity and techniques so as to better inform the planning and development of activities and programmes and to evidence the impact and outcomes of our work.
- Explore and develop opportunities to engage young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) in training, education and employability initiatives.



Above: Members of LYS's Youth Advisory Panel with Dr. John Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children & Joanne O'Riordan at the recent 25th anniversary of the Ireland's signing of the United Nation's Children's Rights Charter at Croke Park.

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