

limerick youth service

CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE 2012 - 2016



"TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE
ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN SHAPING THEIR FUTURES"
MISSION STATEMENT

FORWARD

This Strategic Plan 2012 - 2016 was developed in a time of unprecedented uncertainty and change in Ireland's Economic and Social development. Since its inception in 1973, Limerick Youth Service has been flexible and willing to embrace new models and ways of working. It continues to play its part in influencing for positive change to ensure that the young people of Limerick City and County are valued in their communities and that their voices are heard and opinions listened to.

The challenges of our times have brought opportunities - a significant one being the development of the first full Ministry for Children and Youth Affairs that we strongly endorse and welcome. Welcome too are the developments in the resourcing of the Safeguarding of Children and the publication of the Governance Code for the Voluntary Sector.

As members of Youth Work Ireland we celebrate the national commonalities and distinct local differences of our service according to local interests and needs. We embrace the development of integrated services and strive to effect efficiencies and economies of scale wherever possible.

Youth Work has travelled a long road and has become much more understood and valued since the Costello report of the 1980's yet the values and principles remain the same. At its heart, youth work policy and practice offer a positive view of young people and their impact on Society and young people involved in Limerick Youth Service have taught us all how influential they can be.

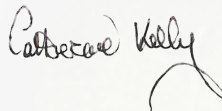
Working with over 3,000 young people aged 10 - 21 years throughout the City and County, provision ranges from youth clubs, youth cafes, Comhairle youth committees, targeted intervention projects, vocational training and education projects. Initiatives are always in response to individual and group needs and interests and are planned with and by young people to assert their values, identify goals and reach their potential.

Limerick Youth Service embraces the need to be proactive in raising awareness around diversity and ethnicity and to ensure all young people are equally welcome and valued.

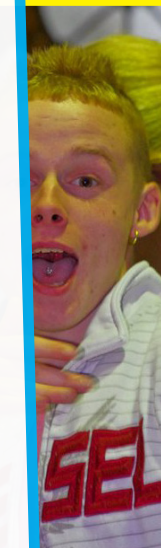
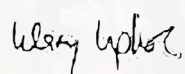
We are proud to work in partnership with a range of Statutory, Voluntary and community groups and will honour the belief held in us by our financial and other partners in ensuring that Limerick Youth Service is the voice of young people in our City and County.

Limerick Youth Service continues to value volunteers as the backbone of the Organisation and we salute them for their energy, dedication and perseverance in roles ranging from youth club leaders, and advisory group members to governing the Organisation on its voluntary board.

Catherine Kelly
Director



Mary English
Chairman



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The core principles guiding Limerick Youth Service are to:

- Value young people and volunteers
- Advocate equality and inclusion
- Partner local communities in innovation and integration
- Provide an energetic and quality experience



PRIORITY ONE: YOUNG PEOPLE

Recognise the rights of young people and hold as central their active and voluntary participation.

OBJECTIVES

- Consult and listen to young people in what matters to them
- Involve young people centrally in the design, delivery and evaluation of services
- Support young people in life transitions and choices
- Develop programmes and activities that build on the strengths of young people
- Promote equality of opportunity for all young people





PRIORITY TWO: VOLUNTEERS

Build on the vital and distinctive volunteer foundation of Limerick Youth Service

OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate the central role of volunteers in the organisation
- Enhance the development of volunteers through various training initiatives
- Strengthen opportunities for volunteers to lead initiatives throughout the City and County
- Promote intergenerational learning for volunteers and young people
- Facilitate volunteers to listen to and be a voice for young people in their communities

PRIORITY THREE: VIBRANCY

Rejoice, empower and believe in young people in Youth Work

OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate young peoples achievements
- Challenge decision makers to hear the voice of young people
- Ensure that fun is central to young peoples experience of Youth Work
- Promote positive media coverage of young peoples achievements

PRIORITY FOUR: INNOVATION

Promote new and diverse ways of working with young people and volunteers

OBJECTIVES

- Explore new and imaginative approaches to Youth Work
- Highlight and share models of best practice
- Engage in research to ensure the organisation continues to learn
- Enhance youth led models of practice including the use of technology and social media



PRIORITY FIVE COLLABORATION

Work with others to enhance achievements and opportunities for young people.

OBJECTIVES

- Work with communities to ensure young people are welcomed and valued
- Celebrate the diversity of young people
- Create a safe and welcoming environment for all
- Promote effective collaboration both within and outside the organisation
- Strengthen professional relationships with a range of community, voluntary and statutory organisations and groups

PRIORITY SIX: EXCELLENCE

Work to achieve best practice and cost effectiveness

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain and enhance Quality Standards and Human Resource systems throughout the organisation
- Continually update policies and procedures that promote the safety and wellbeing of young people, volunteers, and staff
- Build sustainable resources and partnerships to maintain and ensure provision and improvement of services
- Enhance procurement systems and develop financial tools to maximise value for money and contribution to the economy without compromising services



YOUTH WORK IS DEFINED AS:

" a planned programme of education designed for the purposes of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons 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"



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