



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Limerick
youth
service



Youth Work Ireland
Be Part of It

FOREWORD

In 2019, Limerick Youth Service (LYS) delivered on a broad range of innovative and impactful projects and programmes engaging large numbers of young people from across Limerick City & County. This report will outline the services and supports provided by LYS in meeting the aims and objectives of our Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

Some key developments in 2019 included:

- Jim Daly, Minister of State at the Department of Health, visited LYS and presented the Investing in Children award and launched the BE WELL *What is Counselling?* video;
- The Ability Programme continued to empower and facilitate young people with disabilities to develop personally, economically and socially;
- *Stand Up* was a powerful performance by young people from LYS' Diversity and Youth Group that wowed a packed auditorium at the Belltable Arts Centre. *Stand Up* gave an insight into growing up in Ireland through the eyes of young people from migrant communities;
- As part of YELL Yhdessä' LYS hosted and visited a Finnish group from the city of Kuopio, as part of an international youth exchange;
- LYS re-tendered for the Comhairle contract in October 2019 and was successful;
- Young People attending LYS' Community Training Centre (CTC) have continued to attain accredited qualifications and we have also enhanced our work experience opportunities and employability initiatives for young people;
- We have worked with over 1000 young people across 21 clubs including groups of young people with disabilities and ethnic minorities;
- Research has been completed on the needs of rural young people and will be launched and published in early 2020.

On the 11th of March 2020 the world in which we operate changed fundamentally, the World Health Organisation officially declared COVID-19 as an international pandemic.

LYS have responded to this unprecedented situation by continuing to deliver supports and services to young people despite the challenges of restricted movement. We have focused on the use of digital platforms where appropriate and on continuing to provide crises support to young people where needed.

We are liaising with all funders and securing agreements in relation to funding requirements during the Covid 19 pandemic, implementing a service response plan including working from home arrangements, crises service delivery, risk assessments, return to work protocols and staff training.

What is more difficult to assess is the impact of Covid-19 on global and national economies and the consequences of this unprecedented event on funding for youth work in Ireland post – 2020.

The mental and physical health challenges facing young people within the current environment are growing and demand for our services in the area of adolescent mental health are outstripping our capacity to respond. Overall funding for youth work stands at 17.4% below 2008 levels, not taking inflation into account.

These are the challenges we are facing and the commitment and passion of our Board and staff in facing this difficult period will be essential in ensuring that we can meet our objectives and so live our mission, which is to connect with young people and support them to reach their full potential.

Chairperson

Patrick Lynch

CEO

Fiona O Grady

‘Connecting with young people and supporting them to reach their full potential’

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

21,000 people accessed the facilities of **The Factory Southside Youth Space**

PROGRAMMES DELIVERED TO OVER **500** YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING JUNIOR LEADER TRAINING, MOVING ON UP- PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION PROGRAMME, YOUTH BANK AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

13 Young People took part in an international **Youth Exchange to Finland**

IN 2019 **167 LEARNERS** ENGAGED WITH THE LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE

94% of Trainees that complete their course or time at LYS CTC progress to employment or further education & training

17 SCHOOLS AND **3** YOUTH GROUPS ENGAGED IN THE **COMHAIRLE NA NOG AGM** IN OCTOBER. **102** YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT

24 young people joined the **Ability** programme where they were mentored, coached and supported into education, training and or employment

95 young people accessed one to one counselling through the **LYS BeWell Team**

187 marginalised young people including LGBT, Migrants, and Travellers accessed services

2,500 young people and **220** parents/guardians accessed LYS youth information service

157 Work Experience Placements were facilitated in displaying LYS CTCs commitment to work/skills-based learning

The **East Limerick Youth Project** engaged **95** young people aged 10-16 across Castleconnell, Cappamore & Caherconlish

LYS Youth & Family Support Project worked with an average of **63** Young people and their families over 2019

RATHKEALE YOUTH PROJECT WORKED WITH **164** YOUNG PEOPLE ON AN ONGOING BASIS

About Limerick Youth Service

LYS was founded in 1973 as a provider of youth work, education, training and employability programmes and youth friendly spaces to young people aged 10 to 25 in Limerick City & County. LYS is a registered charity and a member of Youth Work Ireland. LYS is governed by a Voluntary Board which is responsible for the overall governance of the Organisation.

Our Values

Young People at the
Centre of all that we
do

Value Young People,
Volunteers & Staff
Learning, Creativity &
Innovation

Equality, Inclusion &
Diversity

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Inclusive & Integrated Youth Service

To further develop and promote safe, integrated and inclusive youth services for young people in Limerick City & County

Youth Participation

To ensure that young people are actively involved and have real influence and voice in decision-making on matters affecting their lives, both directly and indirectly

Supporting Volunteers

To attract, support and sustain active volunteers so they may positively contribute to improving the lives of young people, and to strengthen communities and civil society

Young People achieving their potential

To empower and facilitate young people to develop personally, economically and socially to meet their needs and realise their full potential

Enabling our Strategy

To build a strong organisation that is open to learning, responsive to change and committed to its ongoing development



Inclusive & Integrated Youth Service

To further develop and promote safe, integrated and inclusive youth services for young people in Limerick City & County

Targeted Youth Funding Scheme

The Targeted Youth Funding scheme, funded by the Department for Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), provides out-of-school supports to young people in their local communities. The aim of this scheme is to enable young people achieve their full potential by strengthening personal and social development outcomes.

LYS supports 7 Projects under this programme: **East Limerick, Rathkeale, Garryowen, Kings Island, Special, Social & Educational Initiatives (SSEI), Youth Resource and Outreach.**

LYS Projects engaged a total of **861** young people aged 10 to 25 years with the Outreach Project engaging over **2,200** young people

Throughout 2019, all Targeted Youth Funding Projects were prepared for re-structuring under the new DCYA targeted youth funding scheme: "UBU - Your Place, Your Space".



THE **EAST LIMERICK PROJECT**

engaged **93** young people aged 10-18 years from Castleconnell, Cappamore & Caherconlish.

Young people accessed the following services and supports:

- Outreach activities including family support;
- Group Work sessions including safe and secure chill-out spaces; outdoor games and walks; relationship building; team building games and challenges; sexual health workshops; social & emotional well-being; arts and crafts preparations for community events;
- Evidence-Based programmes were delivered around resilience & personal development, sports & nutrition, health & fitness, drug and alcohol awareness, woodwork and film production;
- Once Off/Day Trips & Residentials;
- One to One social & emotional supports;
- Support & Supervision to volunteers and to students under 25 completing placements.

Bold Youthbank Committee Members



Let's dance! Caherconlish crew getting in some practice ahead of the 2019 Youth Factor!

YouthBank

BOLD (Bank of Life Changing Dosh) YouthBank, consisted of students from [Scoil na Trionaide](#), Doon, who took part in the YouthBank programme with LYS as part of a Transition Year project.

As part of the YouthBank programme, the students participated in a comprehensive training programme where they learned new skills in leadership, team-work and communication to name but a few.

The young people raised funds by bag-packing at the local supermarket with all monies raised matched by YouthBank Ireland. BOLD YouthBank Ireland was supported by LYS, YouthBank Ireland, Limerick City & County Council and the Ballyhoura Community Development Leader programme

EAST LIMERICK YOUTH PROJECT

Rathkeale Youth Space

164 young people aged 10 – 17 engaged with the Rathkeale Youthspace, specifically marginalised young people and young people experiencing socio-economic deprivation including Traveller and settled young people.

The services and supports provided included:

- Advocacy work supporting young people to access a holistic range of services;
- Outreach work and home visits with parents and guardians;
- One to one social and emotional supports;
- Residentials, Holiday Camps, Discos;
- Group work sessions focused on physical and mental health, learning and development; learning and development and youth participation & civic engagement engagement;
- A structured outdoor education programme was delivered to local Leaving Cert Applied students.



Askeaton Girls Group receiving their certificates on completing a nail art course



In 2019 the Senior Traveller Boys Group met every Wednesday to socialise, take part in a health and fitness programme and a baking programme.

The boys developed life skills and had an opportunity to have fun in a safe environment.





Handball in Kings Island



2019 saw the opening of newly refurbished youth friendly Nicholas St. Youth Space, Nicholas Street



King's Island Youth Group 2019

The **Kings Island Youth Project** engaged **47** young people aged 10-16 years from across the Kings Island area of Limerick City. Nicholas Street Youth Space provides services and supports to young people including:

- Detached/Outreach activities including home visits and detached youth work with young people in their own communities - playing sport and maintaining public facilities;
- Group work sessions such as arts and crafts; homework club; healthy eating/food literacy and cooking; baking; social and fun activities in safe and secure spaces including games, movie nights, board games, bingo, quiz nights; photography; music and ukulele workshops; local walks and trips; visits to other LYS groups and centres; kayaking; soccer; handball; horse riding; fishing; talent competitions; pool competitions and end of year sports day;
- Weekly youth café sessions;
- Evidence-based programmes included bee keeping; singing work-shops; hair and beauty and the delivery of a Youth Identity programme to young women aged 17-20 years;
- Once Off/Day Trips included activity day trips to Ballyhass Lake and holiday camps trips to the Escape Rooms, Cinema, Youth Factor Show and to the Garda Station.



KINGS ISLAND

Diversity & Youth

SPY SSEI SUPPORTED

164 MARGINALISED AND EXCLUDED YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS LIMERICK CITY INCLUDING YOUNG TRAVELLERS, LGBTI, MIGRANT YOUTH & YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN DIRECT PROVISION, YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH ACCOMMODATION ISSUES AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT IN EDUCATION AND/OR EMPLOYMENT.

LYS' Diversity & Youth (DAY) Group engaged 23 young people aged 13-20 years, of varied nationalities, ethnic and cultural heritage in the production and performance of 'Stand Up' to a sold out auditorium in the Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick. Through short drama pieces, monologues and dance routines, the young people shared their experiences of racism, living in the direct provision system and adapting to Irish culture. The DAY group received an award at the Garda Youth Awards held in Adare 2019 celebrating their achievement in producing and performing this play.

The Day Group performing at the Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick
May 2019



LGBT+ Youth Group

25 young people aged 13 – 20 years engaged with the LYS LGBT youth group; participating in Dublin and Limerick Pride Parades and the 'Shine a Light on the River Project' and a range of other activities and programmes.



Pride Party 2019

Poster made by the LGBT group celebrating Limerick Pride Parade in 2019



EMBODY CULTURAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

LYS, in partnership with Doras Luimní, designed and delivered a peer mentoring educational training programme to enable TY students to deliver workshops within their own school on racism and cultural difference. 'Embody/Cultural Integration' workshops were delivered to 315 young people aged 16-18 years attending Transition Year (TY) in Crescent Comprehensive, Ard Scoil Ris, Scoil Chiarian, Desmond College- Scoil Mhuire agus Ide- Thomond Community College and Gaelscoil Luimnigh.



TRAVELLER YOUTH

LYS continued to work with young travellers in the city environs. 32 young people aged 13 to 24 from halting sites in the city environs accessed LYS youth worker support through outreach, work with families and one to one supports in relation to social and emotional well-being. Group work supports and services were provided in areas including martial arts, a workshop with Fisheries Ireland; equine welfare; school support; health and fitness; physical education and personal development.

YOUTH RESOURCE

supported open access youth spaces and facilities in highly disadvantaged urban and rural areas across Limerick City & County, including: RK Youth Café in Rathkeale, Footsteps & Steps Youth Café at the Northside Youth Space and Lava Javas in the City Centre.

In addition to youth cafes, Youth Resource supported a range of youth initiatives across the county including:

- Study groups;
- One to one supports around social and emotional well-being and education issues;
- Sexual health workshops;
- Summer Camps, social and fun day trips;
- Evidenced based programmes.

Safe, accessible and youth friendly spaces LYS services and supports have been delivered within dedicated, safe, accessible and youth friendly spaces across Limerick City & County

**LYS Headquarters, Lower
Glentworth Street, Limerick**

**Community Training Centre,
Lower Glentworth Street,
Limerick**

**The Factory, Southside Youth
Space, Galvone Business Park,
Limerick**

**Northside Youth Space,
Ballynanty, Limerick**

**Rathkeale Youth Space, Abbey
Court, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick**

**Nicholas Street Youth Space,
Nicholas Street, Limerick.**

**East Limerick Youth Project,
Castleconnell, Co. Limerick**



23,000 people accessed the Factory SYS in 2019. **40**

community and youth groups used the facility on an ongoing basis.

At the request of Limerick City & County Council (LCCC), Limerick Youth Service agreed to continue our management of The Factory Southside Youth Space for an additional two year period up until the end of 2021. LCCC have committed to providing the necessary operational and capital funding which will allow for the provision of valuable services to young people and the community.

In addition, LCCC have committed to immediately progressing plans to develop and invest in appropriate youth and community facilities on the southside of the city with a view to having facilities in place by the start of 2022.

The Factory Southside Youth Space will continue to be an open, inclusive youth and community space for young people from the southside and beyond with Limerick Youth Service continuing to develop programmes and initiatives that will support young people across the community.

YOUTH RESOURCE

YOUTH CAFES

LYS currently supports 4 youth cafes in the city and county, *RK Youth Café* in Rathkeale, *Steps Youth Café* at the Northside Youth Space, *Laff Caff* at the Factory and *Lava Javas* in the City Centre. Approximately 250 Young people accessed these cafes on a weekly basis in 2019.

'Footsteps Café' in the Northside Youthspace is a weekly youth café for 13 to 15 year olds and 'Steps café', a weekly youth café for 16 to 18 year olds. A weekly café type session was also accessed by young people aged 10 – 12 years; enabling them to socialize, develop and have fun, in a safe and secure space.

87 young people aged 13-20 years, registered with RK Youth Café in Rathkeale, accessing weekly safe and youth-friendly spaces to chill-out and be themselves.

Lava Java's Youth Cafe is a youth led project in the centre of Limerick City providing a fun, friendly, active and engaging environment for Limerick's vibrant and diverse young people.



Members of Lava Java's Youth Committee



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORK



The Northside Youth Space supported 13 young people aged 13-18 years to travel to Finland as part of Erasmus+ Youth Mobility programme in 2019. As part of this exchange, LYS welcomed 21 young people aged 13-25 from Finland. Prior to travelling to Finland, young people completed workshops in areas including inter-cultural knowledge, understanding and skills; language skills and personal development. Following the exchange, a number of young people presented on their experience to LYS Board of Management at the Annual General Meeting.



Garryowen Youth Together Project

engaged a total of **64** young people from across Garryowen in youth work activities supporting:

- 8 young people in a young womens group aged 18-24;
- 16 young people on a young men's group aged 18-24;
- 16 young people on a young boys group aged 10-15;
- 5 young people on a young womens group aged 16-18;
- 12 young people on a Saturday group;
- 5 young people on a youth participation group.

DETACHED YOUTHWORK

The Detached Youth Work Programme is an outreach programme that engages with vulnerable and socially excluded young people and helps them connect with supports that will aid them in addressing their needs.



Garryowen Youth Project

LYS has three strands of Detached Youth Work: Ballycummin/Raheen, City Centre & Garryowen.

Limerick City Centre Detached Project

The City Centre Detached Project began the end of March 2019 and it covers 3 electoral districts in the City Centre. Its main aim is to engage with young people who may be detached from society or from a service.

Garryowen Detached Youthwork

The Garryowen detached work sessions take place 3 times per week. Each week, there is approximately 50 contacts with young people.

Ballycummin/Raheen

The Ballycummin/Raheen detached work takes place twice per week. Over 50% of the contacts are street based with the remainder of contacts happening in shopping areas, social areas, lanes/fields etc.

Over half of the contacts with young people were young people engaged in social & recreational activities. 15% were young people engaged in risk taking behaviour.



GARRYOWEN

84 young people aged 10-16 were in

receipt of a Youth and Family Support Project

The types of interventions offered to young people included one to one and group work supports around social and emotional well-being and transitioning out of care including communication, emotional regulation, confidence and self-esteem, peer and family relationships, problem solving and decision making. Supports around physical health including sexual health in addition to educational supports and financial and housing related interventions were also accessed by young people.

Family support was facilitated around mental health and well-being, economic deprivation, safety and security and parenting programmes was delivered. Advocacy with other professional bodies and referrals to support organisations and services including counselling services were provided.

Evidence-based programmes were delivered to address mental health literacy and resilience. Crises interventions responses included working with homeless young people and young people with suicide ideation.

Young people also accessed holiday provision including indoor and outdoor fun activities with family and peers.

Young participants in the Youth and Family Support Project also attended The 4th National Child and Youth Participation Conference - "Bigger and Better: Building on our Success", in April 2019 in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone.





LYS Youth Mental Health Project

Be Well therapists have provided one to one strengths-

based counselling to **94** young people; positively contributing towards their social and emotional mental health and well-being

Be Well's youth mental health worker delivered the Youth Identity Project - empowering young women to explore who they are and to reflect on where their sense of identity comes from.

The YMH worker also provided group and one to one supports around:

- Social and emotional well-being including grief and loss, learning and development, loss through suicide, relationships, self-care and communication skills;
- Counselling referral support and referrals to other support organisations along with advocacy on behalf of young people with medical professionals;
- Mental health and well-being stigma reduction activities were delivered targeting 250 young people including community events focused on suicide prevention, social innovation awards and wellness days.

WHAT IS COUNSELLING?

The aim of Be Well's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) is to strengthen the voice and influence of young people in youth mental health services.

The YAP engaged in activities including contributions to 2019 Mental Health Week, local and national mental health conferences and consultations with medical bodies including the HSE. The Be Well YAP was instrumental in the production of the video 'What is Counselling', explained below:

'What is Counselling?' <https://limerickyouthservice.com/counselling-video/> - is a short film that aims to make young people feel more comfortable asking for and attending counselling. The film draws on the experiences of young people who have attended counselling and challenges the stereotypes often associated with it.

In 2019, Minister for Mental Health, Jim Daly TD launched the video in addition to presenting members of LYS with an *Investing in Children Membership Award*, acknowledging the role LYS has played in supporting the active involvement of young people in decision making on matters affecting their lives, including youth mental health.



Members of LYS' Mental Health Youth Advisory Panel with Minister Jim Daly TD & Maurice Hoare, HSE

Be Well' YAP Chairperson, Cian Guerin, accepted the award and told the Minister that 'one of our messages is to bring down the stigma and stereotypes of mental health and encourage young people to be more aware of it.'

Traveller Youth Mental Health

The Mid-West Traveller Youth Mental Health (TYMH) initiative was established for one year in March 2019. It was delivered in partnership with the HSE's Traveller Health Unit (THU).

The TYMH initiative promoted and protected the mental health and wellbeing of young Travellers aged 10-25 years, through:

- the creation of Traveller Youth Advisory Groups (TYAGs) engaging 10 young travellers across five Hubs in the Mid-West region (Askeaton; Littleton; Ennistymon; Limerick City and Kilmallock)
- the development of a suite of bespoke Traveller youth mental health and well-being information and capacity development materials.

The TYAGs led consultations around the development of a set of bespoke communication, information and capacity building Campaign Materials – with a focus on messages of 'Connectedness', 'Hope', 'Identity', 'Meaning' & 'Empowerment'. The following potential mediums and messages were identified:

- Mental Health Promotional Video
- Accordion Style Business Card containing signposting information
- Phone Pop Socket
- Intergenerational podcast with music and sharing experience.
- T-shirt with pictures and positive mental health slogan

The plan to launch and disseminate the media and messages and measure the impacts of the campaign will continue in 2020.



Garda Youth Diversion Project

LYS' Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP) work with young people (12-17yrs) who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and crime. Projects work in partnership with the Irish Youth Justice Service and An Garda Síochána.

Our three projects are located in Ballynanty, Irishtown and King's Island with our outreach team engaging with young people in the Limerick City Centre (Henry St) & Castleconnell Garda area.

The projects are designed to help young people develop their sense of community and their social skills through different activities. Young People are offered opportunities in education, employment training, sport, art and music.

88 young people were referred to **Garda Youth Diversion Project** (GYDP) in Kings Island, Irishtown;

Ballynanty and Henry Street Office. **9** families were engaged in a new GYDP Family Support Programme with a particular focus on the East Limerick area.

The types of group work and programmes accessed included:

- restorative art and woodwork;
- hair and beauty;
- horse care;
- hand and machine sewing and stitching as part of the Teddy Bear project;
- media training;
- building positive relationships with local gardai;
- Work to Learn Programme;
- physical health related activities including healthy cooking, eating, exercise, addiction and sexual health;
- social & emotional well-being interventions addressing emotional regulation, resilience and communication.

Approval was granted by the Irish Youth Justice Service for the consolidation of LYS Garda Youth Projects based in Ballynanty, Irishtown and King's Island with an outreach youth justice worker in the Henry St Garda Division.

YES Programme (Youth Empowerment SRE)

The aim of this programme is to explore the area of sexual wellbeing, healthy relationships, consent and the wider influences in this context such as social media and peer pressure. LYS ran this programme as a pilot programme in 2019. The programme was officially launched in Ireland in Mansion House, Dublin in November 2019 and is part of a Europe wide initiative. Its purpose is to provide young people with empowering sexual health and reproductive education in a community setting.

Learning outcomes for the young people were as follows:

1. Explore sexual wellbeing & respecting other people's sexuality.
2. Understand what a healthy; relationship is for them;
3. Understand what consent is, understanding communication when they consent and don't consent and to develop an appropriate response around consent;
4. Be aware of the impact wider influences can have on sexual decision making;
5. Link decisions to a desired future self and to gain a sense of personal control around sexual decision making.



Youth Participation

To ensure that young people are actively involved and have real influence and voice in decision-making on matters affecting their lives, both directly and indirectly

Limerick Comhairle Na nÓg

Limerick's Comhairle Na nÓg theme for 2019 was Youth Homelessness. 30 members of Comhairle aged 12 to 18 contributed to the following worked objectives:

1. Education on Homeless services
2. Deliver a meaningful activity for Homeless Young People
3. Raise awareness and funds

In partnership with a number of agencies; Tusla, LCCC, HSE, Novas & Simon Community, Comhairle na nOg ran a 3 day summer camp for Homeless Young People (aged 6 to 12) in August 2019. The event was attended by 21 children. The group also ran a fundraiser in December making €300 for Novas.

Other Comhairle na nOg activities over 2019 included:

- Comhairle members involved in Healthy Limerick 'Not Around Us' initiative, and nominated for a WHO award;
- Comhairle members participated in a national consultation to improve the current RSE curriculum within secondary schools. They discussed themes such as LGBT education, Consent and RSE teachers – this will impact on policy;
- 17 schools and 3 youth groups engaged in the Comhairle na nOg AGM in October. 102 young people attended the event.

LYS re-tendered for the Comhairle na nOg contract in October 2019 and were successful in securing a three year tender.

Not Around Us Campaign 2019



Commissioning Project



As part of 'Involving Young People in Commissioning' a new Tusla initiative established in 2019, young people accessing LYS services produced a short animated film titled 'What Is Commissioning?'

The video was developed by the young people to explain what 'Commissioning' means in a simple and creative way.

As part of the film-making process the young people discussed their understanding of the term commissioning, earned about its role in their lives and worked with the animation team on producing the piece and with a number of young people voicing the short film.



Supporting Volunteers

To attract, support and sustain active volunteers so they may positively contribute to improving the lives of young people, and to strengthen communities and civil society

Youth Leadership Programme



In 2019/2020, LYS developed its own 'Leadership Programme'; building on the original 'Involvement Training Programme', which was delivered by LYS in collaboration with Youth Scotland to over 360 young people since 2013.

The aim of the LYS 'Youth Leadership Programme' is to improve young people's awareness of and attitudes towards political, social and civic engagement and to develop community leadership skills including teamwork, communication, planning and problem skills.

In 2019, a total of 56 young people across Limerick City and County completed the original Youth Scotland 'Involvement Training Programme'. An evaluation of this programme was conducted with 6 participants to inform the development of the new LYS Leadership Programme, in addition to feedback from experienced LYS staff.



Volunteers – Clonlara Youth Club

Clonlara & Kildimo Youth Clubs





OUTREACH

Outreach engages rural young people in youth clubs and programmes in community venues and facilities across Limerick City and County including provision in more isolated rural communities. Over 500 young people were engaged in programmes including: Youth Leadership, Youth Bank, Strengthening Families and 'Moving on Up' primary to post-primary transition programme.

The 'Moving on Up' primary to post-primary transition programme was delivered in primary schools in rural areas including Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher and Scoil Íde agus Mhuire, Newcastlewest

Over 1,700 young people attended youth club discos in Foynes, Newcastle West, Askeaton and the Southside Factory Disco. Almost 300 young people attended large-scale events including the LYS End of Year Games and the Youth Factor.



Youth Games 2019



In 2019 an average of **1200** young people spent their free time in one of 20 youth clubs each week. As part of LYS' affiliated youth clubs, young people can take part in a variety of activities and programmes that include inter-club visits, discos, Youth Factor variety show and youth games. Youth clubs are supported by over 250 volunteers across Limerick City and County. In 2019, the youth clubs supported included: **Castleconnell Youth Club, DSL (Down Syndrome Limerick) Youth Club, Kilfinane Fun Club, Granagh Youth Club, SOS Congolese Youth Club, Ballynanty Youth Club, Kildimo Youth Club, Castletroy Youth Club, Newcastle West Youth Club, Abbeyfeale Youth Club, Askeaton Ballysteen Youth Club, St Senan's Youth Club, Doon Youth Club, Limerick Connection, Killeedy Youth club, Clonlara Youth Club, Rathkeale Youth Space, Domain Youth Club, St. John's Youth Club (Garryowen), Ballingarry Youth Club & Fedamore youth Club**

LYS is committed to safeguarding young people by ensuring that the entity is compliant with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance 2017.

The LYS Child Protection team delivered child safeguarding training to 235 people. 60 participants attended a briefing session and 175 people attended the full programme. 462 people were Garda vetted.

In addition, LYS supported youth clubs and volunteers with club Governance; Finance; Grant Applications; Fundraising; National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) Compliance; Reporting and Administration, recognition and award events and Volunteer Recruitment events.



Garda Youth Awards 2019



Transition Programmes 2019

Youth Information



LYS's Youth Information & Communication Service provides a general and specialist information service to young people and to those who work with them on subjects including accommodation, careers, education, employment, rights & entitlements, sport, travel, European opportunities & more. Youth Information Centre is part of the Youth Work Ireland & SpunOut partnership that launched an online youth information chat service.

In 2019:

- 2,500 instances of Youth Information were provided to young people with 220 instance of information provision to significant adults/guardians;
- The majority of young people in receipt of information, at almost 29% were aged 16-18, closely followed, at 28%, by young people aged between 19-26;
- 37% of information provision was via face to face; 21% via email/website; 17% via a social media platform and 16% via telephone;
- Youth Information was also provided via large scale community events, group work and to LYS volunteers;
- There were approximately 24,200 visits to the LYS website <https://limerickyouthservice.com/>

In 2019, LYS engaged with social media in the following ways:

- 22 Facebook Pages, 2 Twitter accounts, 1 LinkedIn, 3 Instagram, 1 Sound Cloud & 1 YouTube account with unlimited reach & interaction;
- Our Twitter accounts received an average of 384,600 views and our Facebook pages approximately 450,000.

In addition, Infolink, LYS e-zine was produced weekly with all the latest LYS news along with local and national youth work events and news.

Young People achieving their potential

To empower and facilitate young people to develop personally, economically and socially to meet their needs and realise their full potential.

Community Training Centre (CTC)

30 major awards and 148 component certificates were achieved by 48 CTC learners in 2019.

LYS CTC has outstanding progression results to Employment and FET. In 2019, 94% of trainees that completed their course or time at LYS CTC progressed to employment or Further Education & Training (FET) (40% in to Employment, 54% on to FET).

LYS CTC is committed to developing Trainees' skills to succeed and bridge the gap to employment: 157 Work Experience Placements were facilitated in 2019 displaying LYS CTCs commitment to work/skills-based learning. Placements are of great value to Trainees in consolidating their learning, aiding self-guidance, development of 21st Century Skills, and preparation for employment or FET



LCA Class 2019

Social Inclusion /Learner Supports

LYS CTC strives to ensure that all our young people have a sense of belonging. With our learner centred ethos, we enable our learners to take charge of their lives and to grow and develop as individuals to understand that they have a right to be respected, accepted and equal member of society.

Supports and Social Inclusion at LYS CTC include initiatives such as TY placements, Third Level Placements, Summer Programme for learners and activities to enrich learning and enhance personal and social skills.





The **Ability Programme**

aims to empower and facilitate young people (15-24yrs) with disabilities to develop personally, economically and socially to meet their needs and realise their full potential. Ability Participants must live in Limerick City or surrounds and have a

diagnosis of a disability. In 2019, **24** young people joined the Ability programme where they were mentored, coached and supported into education, training and or employment.

Two young people from the Ability Programme were successful applicants in Future Film Makers having completed a C.V, an application form and Interview. David O'Brien and Max O'Sullivan took part in the first stage which was a series of diverse workshops where trainees were introduced to different aspects of film work. From camera work, theatrical make up application and prop-making. Once Future Film Makers was completed David and Max were afforded the amazing opportunity to volunteer on the set of a short film production gaining a true insight into life on set. A significant outcome of the project included both young people securing places on the second stage, Passport to Production, a week-long, full-time programme run by an industry partner Troy Studios.



Youth Employability Initiative (YEI)

LYS facilitated the YEI between June 2019 and February 2020. The aim of this project was to contribute towards the employability of young people aged 16-18 years, from the St. Mary's Park area of Limerick City through strengthening social and emotional skills; Career development skills including CV writing, interview and work experience skills and to support progress to formalised skills training programmes/courses. 6 young people, males and females, aged 16-18, participated in the initiative.

In addition to one to one mentoring and group work sessions, this programme delivered the 'Work to Learn' Planned Programme encompassing activities focused on the development of employability skills for those young people who are at risk of/not in education, training or employment.

Work experience was a key feature of the programme as the young people took part in employment placement with local organisations and businesses including the St. Mary's Community Café and Cionlara horse-riding centre.

On completion of the work to learn programme, participants have gained knowledge and skills in CV development, job research and application skills, interview and work experience skills. The participants completed work experience placements in areas including catering, sport and working with animals.

Graduates from LYS' Youth Employability Initiative Programme at Nicholas St Youth Space



Enabling our Strategy

To build a strong organisation that is open to learning, responsive to change and committed to its ongoing development.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE

LYS was founded in 1973 and is registered as a Scheme of Incorporation by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and 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 are volunteers and are its Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law.

The Board meet a minimum of six times per year and met six times in 2019.

The Board of LYS are not remunerated for their services to the organisation, however, in some instances nominal travel costs are paid.

The current Board members of LYS are as follows:-

Mr	Patrick	Lynch	Chairperson
Mr	Eddie	O'Neill	October 2014
Mr	Dan	O'Gorman	December 2014
Ms	Bernadette	Daly	March 2015
Ms	Sinead	Clohessy	March 2015
Ms	Audrey	Healy	June 2016
Fr	Seamus	Enright	October 2016
Ms	Karen	Long Eacrett	February 2018
Inspector	Paul	Reidy	February 2018
Ms	Karen	O Connor	February 2018
Dr	Patrick	Buckley	February 2018
Ms	Laura	Scanlan	February 2018
Ms	Aoife	Walsh	June 2018

Management Team

The Board delegates the day to day management of LYS to the CEO and Management Team who are as follows:-

CEO

Fiona O Grady

CTC General Manager

James Connery (Resigned 6th September 2019)

CTC General Manager

Kathryn Clancy (Appointed 9th October 2019)

Youth Work Manager

Maurice Walsh

Finance Manager

Bernadette Behan

Human Resources Manager

Sinead Noonan

STAFFING

LYS employs approximately 100 staff and 400 volunteers are engaged in various aspects of our work.

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

LYS is continuing to strengthen governance and organisational management to ensure effective delivery of our Strategic Plan.

SUB COMMITTEES

The Board has established a number of sub committees including Audit, Governance and Risk, CTC and Human Resources in addition to time bound specified purpose working groups which advise on specific projects.

Audit, Governance and Risk Sub Committee

The role of the Audit, Governance and Risk Sub Committee is to monitor and control the audit and risk management systems of LYS including planning the annual audit, reviewing the annual financial statements, reviewing the quarterly management accounts, reviewing the risk register and driving good governance practice and policy.

In 2019, the Audit, Governance and Risk Sub Committee continued to work on a number of areas including reviewing and restating of the Governance Code and ongoing development of the risk policy.

Membership

Mr	Eddie	O' Neill	Board Member
Ms	Audrey	Healy	Board Member
Fr	Seamus	Enright	Board Member
Ms	Karen	O Connor	Board Member

CTC Sub Committee

The CTC Sub Committee's principal objective is to assist the Board of LYS in the provision of training, education and employment related services for young people in a friendly and informal manner.

Membership

Ms.	Mary	English	Sub Committee Member
Mr.	Sean	O'Meara	Sub Committee Member
Mr.	James	Connery	CTC General Manager (Resigned 6 th September 2019)
Ms.	Kathryn	Clancy	CTC General Manager (Appointed 9 th October 2019)
Ms.	Fiona	O'Grady	CEO
Ms.	Bernadette	Daly	Board Member
Ms.	Irene	Glimore	Probation Services
Mr.	Maurice	Walsh	Youth Work Manager

Human Resources Sub Committee

The Human Resources Sub Committee was established in 2018 and its principal objective is to assist the Board and the CEO to fulfil their functions by providing timely advice and guidance on areas within its remit.

Membership

Ms.	Audrey	Healy	Board Member
Fr.	Seamus	Enright	Board Member
Ms.	Sinead	Clohessey	Board Member
Ms.	Bernadette	Daly	Board Member

RISK MANAGEMENT

LYS holds risk management as a core tenet in its Strategic outlook and central to effective Governance. Risk is an everyday part of the organisations activities and managing it effectively is essential to provide an effective service and safeguard funds and assets. Risks can affect staff, volunteers, service users, liability to others, property etc. In order to effectively manage risk, LYS identifies risk, assesses the likelihood/probability and the consequences or impact of an occurrence. We monitor identified risks on an ongoing going basis and manage risks through tolerating low level risks, managing and containing certain risks to acceptable levels, transferring identified risks to third parties through insurance or terminating certain activities where risks are unacceptably high.

CHILDREN FIRST

LYS is committed to safeguarding young people by ensuring that the entity is compliant with the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance 2017. All our staff and volunteers undertake an application process, including Garda vetting and cannot start employment/volunteering before their vetting is complete. All staff and volunteers participate in a 4 hour Child Safeguarding Awareness programme (NYCI). On completion of this programme, each participant receives a certificate which is valid for 4 years. In 2019, the Child Protection team delivered child safeguarding training to 235 people. In 2019, 60 participants attended a briefing session and 175 people attended the full programme. In 2019, 462 people were Garda vetted.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2019 LYS has committed significant resources to building staff knowledge, skills and capacity in order to be proactive in meeting the needs of young people. Training and upskilling has been conducted in areas including:

- Safeguarding
- Health & Safety
- First Aid
- ASIST
- Restorative Practice
- Information Technology
- Group Facilitation Skills
- Resilience
- Restorative Practice

LYS staff undertook bespoke youth participation practitioner training with Hub na nÓg (DCYA) focused on ensuring the active voice and involvement of young people in decision making.

A competency Based Performance Achievement system was also implemented in 2019.



Youth Participation Training with Hub na nÓg (DCYA)

EVIDENCE & DATA COLLECTION

LYS strengthened our evidence-informed and outcomes based programme planning in-line with organisational and national objectives and policy. We have worked on prioritising clear links between objectives, inputs, outputs & outcomes and implemented and developed data collection applications. This in turn has generated data on the numbers and socio-economic profile of young people accessing LYS services & supports and youth work operational activities

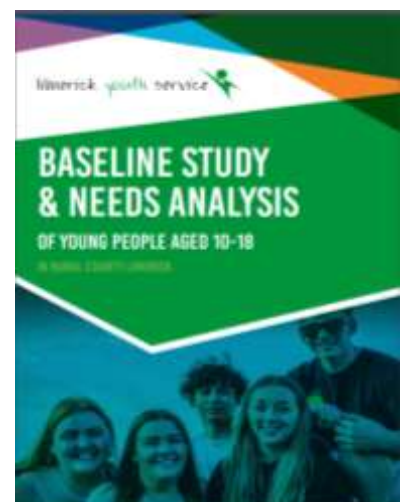
In order to evidence our work we have implemented the evidence-based Outcomes Star tool for use with the Youth Mental Health project, Youth and Family Support Service and the GYDP teams

LYS have also facilitated the completion and publication of 'A baseline study and needs analysis of young people aged 10-18 in Limerick County', funded through the LEADER Programme 2014-2020. This study identified key issues affecting young people in rural areas and identified clear recommendations, which will be used to develop funded interventions targeting young people in rural County Limerick.

<https://limerickyouthservice.com/resources-publications/#baseline-study-needs-analysis-of-young-people-in-rural-county-limerick-10-18yrs>



Company Marathon Challenge 2019 – University Of Limerick



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019 LYS continued to contribute to local, regional and national policy development through active participation in a number of inter-agency policy and decision making structures, including:

- Youth Work Ireland
- Local Community Development Committee
- Limerick Sports Partnership
- Irish Association of Community Training Organisations
- LCETB Youthwork Sub Committee
- Regional Drugs Task Force
- Connecting for Life Mid West Steering Group
- Limerick Integration Working Group
- Limerick Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) (Research Sub-Group)

In addition we participate on a range of collaborative partnerships and networks including;

- JAG (Jigsaw Advisory Committee)
- SIG (Youth Mental Health Service Integration Committee)
- Limerick Mental Health Week Committee
- Area Forum for mental health
- Garryowen CDP board
- Children & Youth Fora
- Rathkeale Youth Network
- Local Link Board
- Local committees and events structures

Corporate Partners

LYS also worked with corporate partners including;

- GECAS
- Roche's Foods
- Analog Devices

Smart CityxChange (*Positive City ExChange*) is a smart city project, which has been granted funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme in the call for 'Smart cities and communities.' The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) is the host and leads the +CityxChange consortium together with the Lighthouse Cities Trondheim Kommune and Limerick City and County Council. LYS is one of the test sites for this initiative.

"LYS is engaging in collaborative partnerships and activities in order to maximise outcomes for young people"



THE FUTURE

Looking forward to 2020, there is a number of opportunities and challenges which will present themselves;

- Covid 19 will present some of the most significant challenges ever experienced in terms of how we deliver our services and the uncertainty created by the pandemic will be felt into the medium term. Our priority will be to prioritise the needs of young people in this new *normal* and to ensure our services continue in a responsive and flexible manner.
- The publication of the research on rural young people will inform future planning and service delivery in rural areas.
- The DCYA are reforming the Special Projects for Youth Funding and all existing projects will be required to be re-engineered to fit the requirements of the new Targeted Youth Funding Scheme by June 2020.
- The Youth Services Grant which traditionally funded the core costs of the organisation is being reviewed and reformed. This will require some restructuring in how we work in 2020.
- The continued difficulty in recruiting and retaining volunteers, particularly in urban areas will challenge us in the delivery of Volunteer led Youth work.
- We will continue to expand links with private enterprise and look to develop appropriate partnerships and collaborations with corporate bodies.
- In 2019 we continued to work on governance and 2020 will be the first year registered charities are expected to comply with the new CRA Governance Code.
- Reduction in the number of learners in the CTC from 110 to 100 and consequent reduction in staffing has required and will continue to necessitate some reorganisation of programme delivery in 2020



FURTHER INFORMATION

LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019 CAN BE FOUND AT

<https://limerickyouthservice.com/resources-publications/#lys-financial-statements>

LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE

www.limerickyouthservice.com





An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs



Bord Oideachais & Ólúna
LIMERICK & CLARE
Education & Training Board



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Tréimheasmacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



government supporting communities



city of dublin youth service board

comhairle
le lean óige



Irish Youth Justice Service
Seirbhís na hÍdweonais le hOideachas le hAisle Óige



ciste na
gcuntas diomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills



Young Voices. Local Issues.



Agtas le daoine óga
a bhfuil míchumas orthu
a gcumas a bhaint amach
Supporting young people
with disabilities
reach their potential



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your Future
European Social Fund



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



The European
Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development
Europe investing in
rural areas



Ballyhoura
Development
Limited



An tSeirbhís Oideachais Lámhainne agus Scileanna
Further Education and Training Authority



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