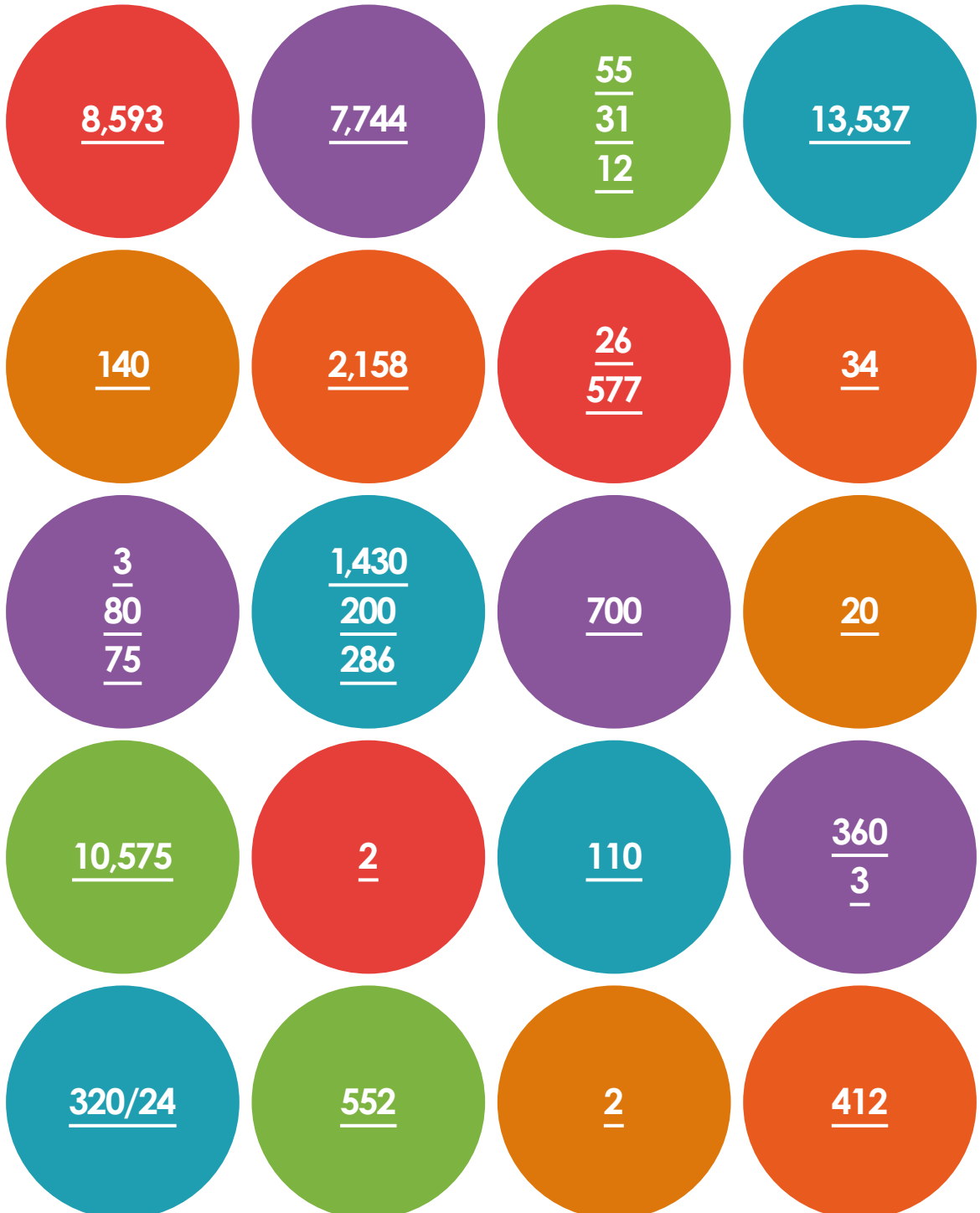

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND

Annual Report 2012



**The National Youth
Council of Ireland is the
representative body for
national voluntary youth work
organisations in Ireland.**

**Is é Comhairle Náisiúnta
na nÓg an eagrais ionadaí
ochta an óige in Éirinn.**

**It represents and supports
the interests of voluntary
youth organisations and uses
its collective experience to
act on issues that impact
on young people.**

www.youth.ie

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Frances Fitzgerald Minister for Children and Youth Affairs



I am delighted to be given this opportunity to provide a foreword to the 2012 annual report of the National Youth Council of Ireland. To begin I would like to commend the excellent work of the National Youth Council of Ireland and to acknowledge the commitment, expertise and dedication of its staff in representing all the member organisations and the myriad of young people involved in those organisations. This report is a testament to the hard work, endeavour, and commitment by a great number of people.

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the “Access all Areas”, a diversity toolkit developed by those working on the ground with young people, north and south. This is evidence of the work being done to further cooperation in youth work in both parts of Ireland and to enable groups and organisations to examine the inclusion of all young people with a multitude of disparate needs.

We are living through times of immense change and uncertainty, not only in Ireland but globally. The futures of our young people are being shaped decisively by the economic and social change taking place at present. It behoves us all in these challenging times to work together with even more determination to steadily improve the services that support the changing needs of young people. It is imperative that we continue to provide a range of creative and innovative opportunities for our young people so that they can continue to develop and grow and realise their potential.

As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, I believe that, with a shared vision and collaboration, we can bring about positive and meaningful change in the lives of our young people by helping them to develop and utilise lasting skills that will open up new opportunities and life experiences for them.

With this in mind my Department has led a number of initiatives that will result in an improvement in good practice and will, to an even greater extent, assist youth organisations and services in addressing the developmental needs of young people. The National Quality Standards Framework (NQS), the forthcoming Standards for Local Youth Groups and the recent Symposium and Round Table events in Dublin Castle all point to considerable and continued change within the youth work sector.

Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, which will commence in January 2013, presents a vital opportunity to showcase and progress work in the Youth domain. Ireland along with our trio partners of Lithuania and Greece have agreed upon the theme of Social Inclusion as informing the work of our respective Presidencies. We in Ireland have significant expertise in the development of quality standards in youth work provision and the Irish Presidency provides an important opportunity for us to share our knowledge and learning in this area. As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs I wish to acknowledge the vital contribution made by the thousands of volunteers who give of their time on a weekly basis to support the work of youth organisations. Within my own Department this work is highly regarded and there is no doubt that we are living through an era when volunteering is needed more than ever.

Finally I thank you for your valuable work and commitment and I look forward to us working in collaboration to ensure that the future is positive and bright for all of our young people.

Frances Fitzgerald

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

James O'Leary President



It is with great pleasure that as President I introduce you to the National Youth Council of Ireland's Annual Report for 2012. It has been yet another year in which the youth work sector has been tasked with doing more, with less resources than before at its disposal. Despite this, however, it has been encouraging to see NYCI, and the sector as a whole, responding positively to this challenge through innovation and collaboration, as evidenced by the breadth and scope of the work highlighted in the pages of this report.

Not only the youth work sector, but society as a whole finds itself in a time of challenges and uncertainty. And young people have been among those impacted upon the most. In an environment where the percentage of so-called 'NEETs' or those young people not in education, employment or training is the fourth highest in the European Union, and where up to a third of young men find themselves without work, it is clear that youth work is important now more than ever, and can address the need to support those who would otherwise be overlooked and to empower those struggling to improve the communities around them. It is also clear that a strong, independent and united representative body for the sector is vital, now more than ever, to articulate this message and ensure that it reaches the right ears.

In this regard, I believe the *Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work* report by Indecon International Economic Consultants published by NYCI this year will prove to be a powerful advocacy tool. The report shows that almost 400,000 young people are participating in youth work activities supported by over 40,000 volunteers throughout Ireland each year. Moreover, it finds that for every €1 invested in youth work the State will save more than €2 in the long run. The first of its kind, this research will benefit all of us working in the sector, enabling us to demonstrate with hard facts what we all knew intuitively: that not only does Youth Work benefit those participating and their communities, it also makes economic sense.

This major piece of work is just one example of NYCI's work advocating for the youth work sector and on issues affecting young people, and I encourage you to read on for a more comprehensive overview of the campaigns, advocacy and youth work practice development carried out by the Council throughout 2012.

2012 was also the fifth and final year of our current strategic plan, and we have had a particular focus this year on implementing systems for measuring the impact of the Council's work. The extensive range of activities outlined in this annual report reflects not only the hard work, expertise and commitment of NYCI's staff but also an understanding of the need for all of the Council's work to be outcomes focused, and a commitment to meeting the needs of member organisations.

On behalf of the National Youth Council of Ireland I would like to thank the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald, T.D. and her officials in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) for working with us in a constructive manner throughout 2012, and to acknowledge the DCYA for their important contribution to resourcing the work of the Council. I would also like to acknowledge the funding received from the Arts Council, Irish Aid, the HSE, the Department of Environment Community and Local Government, Trocaire and Leargas.

I would also like to thank the members of the Board who have brought their skills and expertise to the work of the Council over the past year. In addition, I want to thank the staff of NYCI under the leadership of Mary Cunningham for their excellent work throughout the year. In my view this report demonstrates the passion, commitment and hard work of the staff, volunteers, youth workers, leaders, and everyone connected with NYCI. We are proud of the work done in 2012, which you will enjoy reading about in the pages that follow, and we look to the challenges of 2013 with energy and optimism.

James O'Leary

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Mary Cunningham Director



At the time of writing we are facing what is being heralded as the most severe austerity budget in living memory. The onset of recession in 2008 has had a very significant impact on the youth sector, with successive budgetary cuts. To date the youth sector has experienced reduction in services, the closure of projects and losses in terms of redundancies. Against this backdrop there is an increasing demand on youth organisations to support young people and their communities cope with the consequences of financial hardship, unemployment and the sense of hopelessness that that generates.

During 2012 NYCI commissioned an independent Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work. The research, the first of its kind in Ireland, was able to reliably capture the extent of the youth sector in Ireland. It estimated that almost 400,000 young people participate in and benefit from the various activities and programmes provided by youth organisations. This represents more than 40% of the total youth population aged from 10 to 24. It also showed that more than 40,000 volunteers supported by just under 1400 paid staff are involved in delivering youth work in Ireland. What an amazing example of active citizenship in action that happens week in week out in almost every community in Ireland.

The results of the research study concluded that 'public funding provided by the State for youth work services represent value for money'. Specifically it estimated that the benefits of youth work exceeds the cost by a factor of 2.2. That means that for every € invested in youth work the State gets a benefit that is more than double that. So whilst for decades we have known about the social benefits of investing in youth work, at last we now have the evidence that investing in youth work makes good economic sense as well.

The research study identified some very alarming statistics on young people in Ireland:-

- 18% of young people in Ireland between 15 and 24 are not in education, employment or training, compared to the EU average of 12.9%;
- Ireland has the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion among under 18s at almost 38% compared with 27% across the EU as a whole;
- 48% of 15 to 19 year olds and 29% of 20 to 24 year olds are unemployed compared to a national rate of 14.7%;
- Youth unemployment rates are increasing at a faster pace than overall unemployment rates since the onset of the recession;
- 53% of young people participating in youth organisations are believed to be economically or socially disadvantaged.
- The figures serve to show the very challenging realities for many young people in Ireland and the environment in which the youth sector in Ireland operates. They also underscore the increasing need for and importance of youth work programmes and activities in addressing the social and economic exclusion among young people. NYCI plans to use this research as the cornerstone of our advocacy work in support of young people and youth work in the coming years.

This annual report outlines how NYCI conducted its business in this the final year of the current strategic plan. It provides a snapshot of the exciting and innovative work we have been doing in our advocacy, research and specialist practice development work. It also informs you of the pioneering work we have been doing in developing rigorous and robust methods to measure the effectiveness of what we do.

Embracing the changes has required the commitment, dedication and hard work of NYCI's excellent staff team. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that and to thank them for their support throughout the year. It has also required the openness and creativity of a very enthusiastic Board of Directors who under the guidance of James O' Leary has given so willingly of their time to provide sound leadership and governance of NYCI during the year.

I want to acknowledge the continuing support of all our funders particularly the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for their financial support which enables NYCI to do what we do.

2012 has seen some significant strategic developments in many of our member organisations. The youth sector has demonstrated its willingness to work collectively to innovate, inspire and look for creative solutions so that we can continue to enhance the lives of young people in Ireland.

The coming years will continue to present young people in Ireland with many challenges. Youth work is a value for money response to some of those challenges. Youth organisations, the staff and volunteers who work in them remain dedicated to doing everything they can to make a positive impact on the lives of tens of thousands of young people. NYCI as their representative body will continue to work closely with our member organisations to ensure that the voluntary youth sector survives and thrives during these turbulent times so that we can continue to empower, encourage and support young people.

Mary Cunningham

ROLE, STRUCTURES AND REPORTS

VISION

NYCI's vision is one where all young persons are empowered to develop the skills and confidence to fully participate as active citizens in an inclusive society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is a membership-led umbrella organisation that represents and supports the interests of voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.

VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NYCI endorses all the values and principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the principles underpinning the Children Act 2001 and the Equal Status Act 2000.

NYCI's work is based on the core values of equity, volunteerism, pro-activity, interdependence, quality, and representation. Its work is also young person-centred, whereby NYCI believes that all young people are citizens in their own right and are of equal value.

STRATEGIC AIMS

In advocating for the sector, NYCI is committed to playing a leadership role in actively raising the profile of youth work, enhancing the status of youth work and young people, and increasing the resources available to youth work.

NYCI embraces the genuine challenge of being representative of voluntary youth work organisations, as defined in the Youth Work Act 2001, and will ensure that its Memorandum and Articles of Association reflects this commitment.

We are also committed to ensuring that all our members have the opportunity to participate fully in the organisation and will promote and encourage interdependent relationships between member organisations and in how NYCI itself operates.

The relationship between NYCI and its member organisations is central to its role in developing good practice in youth work. NYCI will be responsive to the needs of its members and work in partnership with them to ensure that the considerable knowledge, expertise and experience of the collective is brought to the development of programmes.

STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS

NYCI's Annual Assembly is its highest decision-making body and takes place once a year. As well as addressing financial, organisational and constitutional matters, elections are held. The Board of NYCI is the governing body of the Council. It is elected at the Annual Assembly. The Board ensures that the work programme and policies of the Council are implemented. Member organisations then decide the nature of participation in NYCI (to include young people, leaders, practitioners, volunteers, managers and heads of organisations) depending on the focus, issue and/or needs by participation in thematic networks in 2012.



BOARD AND STAFF OF NYCI

NYCI Board

President

James O'Leary (Involve Youth Service)

Vice President

John Cahill (Foróige)

Treasurer

David Owens (An Oige)

Laura Saunders (Catholic Guides of Ireland)

Noel O'Connor (Scouting Ireland)

Carmel O'Connor (Catholic Youth Care)

Vicky Rattigan (Young Christian Workers)

Patrick Burke (Youth Work Ireland)

Alan Foran (Peace Corp Localise)

Kieron O'Dowd (Macra na Feirme)

James McCann (Ógra Fianna Fáil)

Michelle Carew (National Association
for Youth Drama)

David Brown (Church of Ireland Youth Department)

Elaine Nevin (ECO-UNESCO)

Mark Dunwoody (Church of Ireland Youth
Department) (until March 2012)

Patricia McKenna (Macra na

Feirme) (from April 2012)

International Advisory Committee

Chairperson 2012:

Mark Dunwoody (Church of Ireland
Youth Department) until March

Patricia McKenna (Macra na Feirme) from April

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Chairperson 2012:

James McCann (Ogra Fianna Fail)

NYCI Staff

Director

Mary Cunningham

Deputy Director

James Doorley

Senior Research & Policy Officer

Marie-Claire McAleer

Finance Officer (Part-time)

Laura Geraty

Communications Officer

Daniel Meister

National Child Protection Manager

Olive Ring

Youth Health Senior Project Officer

Kevin O'Hagan*

Youth Health Project Officer

Siobhán Brennan

Youth Arts Senior Project Officer

Anne O'Gorman**

Youth Arts Project Officer

Sile O'Sullivan

International Officer

Valerie Duffy (+until March 2012)

Jean-Marie Cullen

Development Education Co-ordinator

Johnny Sheehan

Development Education Project Officer

Elaine Mahon

Development Education Training Officer

Alan Hayes

Intercultural & Equality Project Officer

Anne Walsh

Dáil na nÓg Project Manager

Aoife Collins*

Dáil na nÓg Project Officer

Aurica Cozneac**

Web Communications Officer

Daniel Dunne

Administration Managers (Jobshare)

Lisa Hyland

Elaine Lowry

Administration Officers

Rosie Boyle

Geraldine Mahon

+ Maternity leave cover

* Left 2012

** Maternity leave 2012

REPRESENTATION

- Alcohol Youth Policy Network
- Arts Council - Working Group on Arts Residencies
- BBC+
- Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe – (Mountain Leader Training)
- Causeway
- Centre for Applied Social Studies (NUI Maynooth) – Advisory Committee
- Children’s Law Centre Working Group
- Children and Young People’s Participation Partnership Committee
- Comhlámh INDEX Magazine
- CONCORD
- Dáil na nÓg – Steering Committee
- DARE - Development Awareness Raising & Education - Youth and Children Working Group
- Dóchas Development Education Group
- End Child Poverty Coalition
- EU Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations 2012 steering group
- European Movement Advisory Committee
- European Youth Forum
- Five Nations Alliance
- Gaisce (President’s Award)
- Global Campaign on Education (Steering Committee)
- HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme Advisory Group
- HSE Northern Area Youth Health Partnership
- Irish Coalition of the Global Campaign for Education
- Irish Development Education Association National Council
- Irish Film Institute National Film Education Strategy
- KidsOwn Publishing (Board of Directors)
- Léargas
 - Board
 - Youth Work Service Advisory Committee
 - Grants Committee
- National Children’s Advisory Council
- National Economic and Social Committee (NESC) through CVP
- National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) through CVP
- National Heart Alliance (Irish Heart Foundation)
- National Mental Health Awareness Campaign at National Office of Suicide Prevention
- National Quality Standards Framework Implementation Group
- National Working Group on Structured Dialogue
- National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC)
- Pobal Board
- Public Health Alliance
- Public Health Institute of Ireland
- Steering Group on JobBridge - National Internship Scheme
- Steering Group for the National Substance Misuse Strategy
- Stop Climate Chaos Steering Committee
- Tobacco Control Alliance
- Wheel Board of Directors
- Youth Education Social Inclusion Partnership (YESIP)
- Youth Employment Action
- Youth Work Practice Sub-Committee of NYWAC

ADVOCACY

2012 was another very busy year for the NYCI research, policy and advocacy team as it continued to implement the priorities in this the last year of NYCI's current strategic plan.

As in previous years we worked on important issues for young people and the youth sector such as youth work funding, youth unemployment, youth emigration, active citizenship, child poverty and reducing alcohol related harm. 2012 was a particularly busy year in relation to children's rights with the long awaited constitutional amendment on children's rights being presented to the people for decision.

We have progressed our advocacy work through engagement with the political system, key departments, structures such as NESC and through the media. Our policy and campaign work continues with the support of NYCI's Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) which is chaired by NYCI Board member James McCann from Ógra Fianna Fáil. The PAC comprises of representatives from both youth policy and youth work practice backgrounds. The committee oversees the policy and campaign work of NYCI.

Youth Work Funding

Youth organisations were further impacted by cuts in 2012. These cuts further undermined their capacity to address the needs of young people. In the last five years the level of current funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to the youth work sector has been cut from €73m to € 56.8m or by about 22%. NYCI continued to engage with the Government and the political system in relation to the impact of reduced funding for the youth sector. We consistently highlighted the support which the youth sector provides to young people in this recession and the knock-on impact of cutbacks on young people, youth programmes and projects and on voluntary youth organisations. We also expressed our opposition to proposals to inflict further cuts on the sector which are proposed for 2013 and 2014. While it has long been accepted that youth work makes a significant community and social contribution, we decided in 2012 to quantify the economic contribution of youth work. The independent study which we commissioned Indecon Economic Consultants to undertake on our behalf indicates a significant dividend for the State in terms of investing in young people and youth services. The study which was launched in November found that for every €1 invested in youth work the economic benefit/costs saved by the State are €2.20 over the long term. This study provides strong evidence that



Patrick Dunne, Deirdre Ruane-McAteer and Cathal Manning from Louth at the launch of the NYCI *Vote at 16* campaign.



Youth wings of political parties in NYCI's membership united in a call for a Yes vote on November the 10th. Pictured left to right, Patrick Molloy, President Young Fine Gael and Aideen Carberry.

further cuts to youth work services and supports are not only socially unfair but also financially unsound and this report and findings will form the basis for NYCI lobbying on this issue in the coming years.

Youth Unemployment

NYCI continued to campaign and lobby for effective measures to address the continuing high levels of youth unemployment. In particular we focused on the implementation of the recommendations in our position paper 'Creating a Future for Young Jobseekers' which was published in 2011. We continued to advocate for the introduction of a Youth Guarantee which would guarantee any young person unemployed for 6 months or more an education, training, work experience place to assist them back into the labour market. There are clear signs that the Irish Government is now seriously considering such a proposal which we welcome. We have also been following the development concerning the establishment of Intreo, which will be the new employment and entitlements service. We also engaged with the Department of Education and Skills and FAS concerning the introduction of SOLAS and new Education and Training Boards.

NYCI continues to participate in the steering group for the National Internship Scheme JobBridge, which has assisted 1,000s of jobseekers into employment. We welcomed the decision of Government to undertake an evaluation of the scheme which will confirm many of the positive aspects of the scheme while addressing some of its deficiencies and weaknesses.

Vote at 16

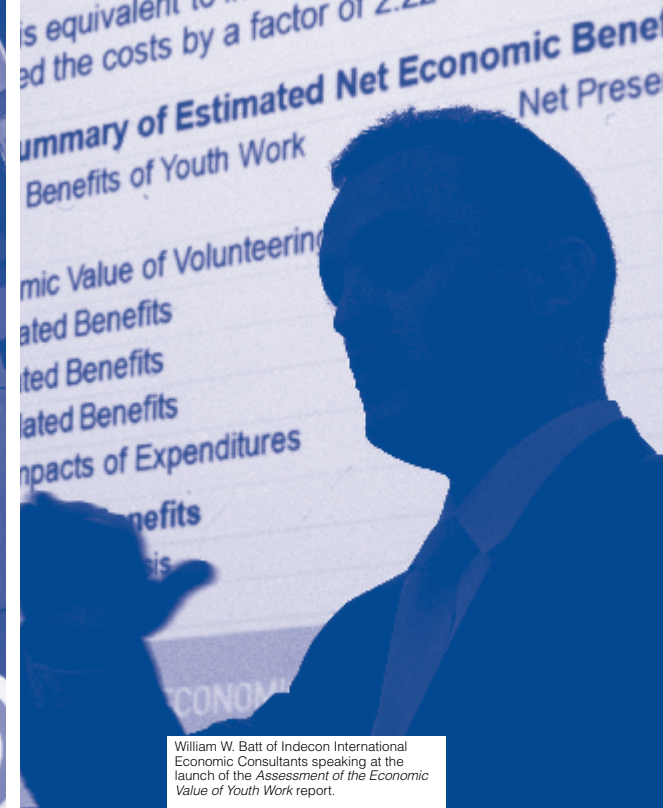
NYCI continued to actively campaign for the introduction of a vote at 16 and 17 years old. We welcome the news that the Constitutional Convention will commence its work soon and the fact that reduction of the voting age to 17 is one of the first two items on the agenda. Our Vote at 16 advisory group continued to be active and produced a number of materials including a campaign video to advocate for the voting age to be reduced. We look forward to the opportunity to present this information to the Constitutional Convention when looks at this issue. We are also represented on a European Youth Forum working group which is advocating for the reduction of the voting age at European level and lobbying EU Parliamentarians on the issue.

Children's Rights

NYCI warmly welcomed the decision of the Government to finally hold the referendum on November 10th and continued to support the introduction of a constitutional amendment to enhance the rights of children. Following the publication of the wording in September the NYCI board proposed to the member organisations that NYCI support a yes vote. This position was supported overwhelmingly by the membership and NYCI played a very active part in the campaign in our own right and as part of the Yes for Children campaign. We developed an App to assist young people to register to vote and we engaged in an on-campus registration drive. We also commissioned an opinion poll which garnered a high-level of media attention. We also provided information and advice



NYCI Director Mary Cunningham, Senator Jillian Van Turnhout and NYCI President James O'Leary launching the *Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work* report.



William W. Batt of Indecon International Economic Consultants speaking at the launch of the *Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work* report.

to member organisations and others throughout the campaign. We welcomed the Yes vote as a very positive step. It represents a significant advance for children's rights as the constitutional amendments will ensure that our political, social care and legal system better respond to the needs of children from now on. But this is the beginning rather than the end of a process, and our work in the coming year will be informed by the need to ensure that the Government bring forward the reforms and provide the resources in the areas of social care and child protection to make the new constitution a reality.

Representation and Submissions

Pre-Budget Submission 2013

In October 2012 NYCI published its Pre-Budget 2013 Submission: *Back the Future* which acknowledges the serious situation which has arisen in relation to the deficit in the public exchequer. The submission called for investment in youth work, measures to address youth unemployment and action to reduce child poverty. The submission also proposed a social responsibility levy on the drinks industry so that those who benefit from alcohol sales also contribute to the costs associated with alcohol related harm.

The National Economic and Social Council

NYCI is one of the four Community and Voluntary Pillar representatives on the National Economic Social Council (NESC). During 2012 NESC worked on, and published reports on, promoting economic recovery and employment, climate change and standards in human care.

End Child Poverty Coalition

The End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC) comprises of eight national non-governmental organizations that have come together with the aim of affecting public policy change to end child poverty in Ireland. NYCI is represented by its research and policy team on the Steering Committee of the ECPC. Throughout 2012 NYCI continued to contribute to the work and development of the broad alliance, aimed at eliminating child poverty.

National Education Welfare Board

NYCI is also represented by its research and policy team on the board of the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB). The various strands of the NEWB, the School Completion Programme (SCP), the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) and the Educational Welfare Service (EWS) work together collaboratively and cohesively to secure better educational outcomes for children and young people.

Throughout the year the NEWB commenced work on the development of Guidelines for schools on the preparation of Attendance Strategies as outlined in Section 22 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000. This project is a significant piece of work and will act as an accompanying document to the Guidelines on Developing a Code of Behaviour. It aims to provide support to schools towards enabling children to maximise their attendance, participation and retention in schools.



Simon Harris, TD, speaking at NYC's EU consultation event as part of the structured dialogue process.

Alcohol Related Harm

The report of the National Substance Misuse Steering committee which began its work in late 2009 was finally published in January 2012. NYC was pleased to have been asked by the Department of Health and Children to make a presentation at the launch of the report. We broadly welcomed the recommendations of the report. The Government had planned to bring forward an action plan arising from the report. Unfortunately there has been limited movement to date, although we hope Government will present its action plan in early 2013. In addition we continued to work with Alcohol Action Ireland and other organisations to advance effective measures, such as minimum pricing to address alcohol related harm among young people.

Alcohol Youth Policy Network

Throughout 2012 NYC continued its work as part of the Alcohol Youth Policy Network (APYN), with the research and policy team attending the General Assembly meeting in Frankfurt, Germany in June and presenting at the Youth and Alcohol Conference in Bled, Slovenia in November.

APYN was established in 2008 and brings together national and international youth organisations from across Europe to develop evidence based policy and advocate for the prevention and reduction of alcohol-related harm.

Community and Voluntary Pillar

Throughout 2012, NYC continued to engage with the 16 other organisations in the Community and Voluntary Pillar. NYC met with a number of Government departments, to highlight the needs of children and young people in the context of growing public sector reform and cuts in the public exchequer. We also supported a budget briefing for members of the Oireachtas which was held in October .

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The Child Protection Programme (CPP) was actively involved in a range of important developments relating to the welfare of children and young people which took place in 2012, including those highlighted here:

Children's First legislation

NYCI were invited to present to the Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children on the Children's First heads of Bill. We also carried out consultations with our membership and produced a submission for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on this important legislation.

The Child Protection Manager was appointed by DCYA as Chairperson of the Youth Work Sector Children First Implementation Committee. This Committee is tasked with ensuring the effective implementation of Children First.

Children's Rights Referendum

NYCI was a key member of the Children's Rights Referendum Constitutional Working Group and were represented on a number of themed sub groups. NYCI took a very active role in the campaign which involved mobilising our members, campaigning for young people to exercise their vote and informing young people on the key issues. For more on the Children's Referendum see Advocacy page 11.



NYCI brought together youth wings of major political parties to call for a Yes vote on November the 10th. Pictured left to right, Patrick Molloy, President Young Fine Gael, Aiden Carberry, Chair Labour Youth, Paul Anthony Ward, Dublin organiser Young Fianna Fail, Daniel Meister, NYCI and Adam Douglas, Young Greens.



Young people help out at the launch of the NYCI App for the Children's Referendum, as part of an innovative campaign to engage young voters.

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The Child Protection Programme (CPP) continued to work with youth work organisations and others in assessing and addressing the child protection needs of the youth work sector, highlights in 2012 included:

Certificate in Child Protection and Welfare (level 8)

The CPP also developed the first Child Protection and Welfare Certificate course (level 8) which is accredited through NUI Maynooth.

Child Protection Training

The CPP delivered a variety of training programmes to the youth work sector which are aimed at each level of responsibility in youth work organisations. Youth Work Garda Vetting Consortium

The CPP continued to process Garda vetting applications on behalf of the membership of the Youth Work Garda Vetting Consortium.

Support, Toolkits and Resources

The CPP produced and disseminated a policy toolkit which assists organisations in designing, reviewing and evaluating their child protection policies, and an internet safety website for the youth work sector was also created and promoted.

The CPP continued to provide guidance, support and information to organisations on a wide variety of child protection related issues.

The Child Protection Programme in numbers.

KEY PUBLICATION

IN 2012:

Protecting our Children and Young People An NYCI Toolkit for Youth Work Organisations to design, review and evaluate their child protection policy



Lynn Shanley and Sarah McLoughlin at the launch in UCD by the NYCI an App for the Children's Referendum, as part of an innovative campaign to engage young voters.

34

Training events
(Jan to Sept) - 34

412

Numbers of participants trained
(Jan to Sept) 412

2,158

Garda vetting
applications processed
(Jan to Sept) - 2,158

7,554

Number of visits to
childprotection.ie website
(Jan to Sept) - 7,554

17

“It is always so good to attend the Child Protection sessions you run. I always feel reassured and informed.”

Training Participant

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The NYCI Development Education Programme (NYDEP) continued to work to create an enabling policy environment for development education in youth work and for development and global justice throughout 2012. Highlights included:

Making the Case for Development Education in Youth Work

The NYCI seminar and showcase 'Making the Case for Development Education in Youth Work', brought together young people, youth workers, development educators and national and European policy makers to highlight the value of Development Education.

Irish Aid White paper review

NYDEP facilitated the development of a youth sector submission to the Irish Aid White paper review.

Performance measurement framework

NYDEP contributed to the Irish Development Education Association's working group, engaging with Irish Aid to develop their performance measurement framework for development education.

Representation

NYDEP brought a global justice perspective to the NYCI submission to the DCYA consultation on improving the lives of children and young people and brought a youth work perspective to national and European networks including the Irish Development Education Association, Dóchas, the DARE forum and the Global Education Week network.

TJ and Zen of YMCA Cork skypeing
Zambian youth workers at *Making the
Case for Development Education in
Youth Work* seminar.



Felix Chali, Barefoot Theatre, Zambia, at the
NYCI One World Week central event.



PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The NYCI Development Education Programme (NYDEP) continued to work to integrate development education into the core programmes of youth organisations in 2012 through a range of initiatives including:

One World Week 2012: Bouncing Back and Beyond

One World Week 2012 (10-18 November) focused on resilience at a personal and community level in Ireland and around the world. Local and national events called on communities to take 'steps towards a fairer world'.

Global Justice in Youth Work (FETAC level 5)

NYDEP's FETAC level 5 accredited course *Global Justice in Youth Work* was delivered as both a standalone module and as part of the Liberties College youth work course.

Support and Training

Provided targeted support and training for national youth organisations and regional youth services to embed quality development education in a systematic way using a whole organisation approach

Global Youth Work fora

Successful regional fora in Cork and Dundalk brought together youth workers and development education practitioners to share learning and seek collaborations.

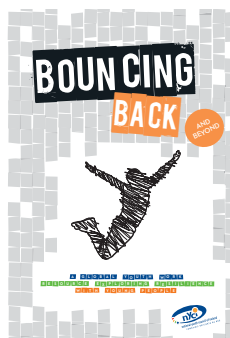
KEY PUBLICATIONS

IN 2012

Bouncing Back and Beyond: global youth work resource exploring resilience with young people
Making the Case for Development

Education Seminar Report

Submission to Irish Aid White
Paper Review process



700

700 youth workers, leaders and managers undertook training in accredited, on demand, targeted, calendar and *One World Week* trainings

15/9

15 young people from 9 youth organisations participated in Youth Advisory Group

600

600 copies of education resource *Bouncing Back and Beyond* produced and disseminated

4

4 national youth organisations and regional youth services adopted whole organisation approach to integrating development education in their work

552

552 subscribers to DE News

55/31/12

Making the Case for Development Education seminar attended by 55 young people, 31 youth workers/leaders, 12 TDs and Senators

10,575

10,575 visits to www.youthdeved.ie (Jan - Sep)

21

“Young people are critically important in building a more just and egalitarian world.”

Joe Costello, TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Trade and Development, speaking at NYC seminar and showcase ‘Making the Case for Development Education in Youth Work’.

INTERCULTURALISM AND EQUALITY PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The NYCI Interculturalism and Equality Programme worked on a range of initiatives in 2012, supporting youth organisations to achieve more equal, intercultural and inclusive communities. Highlights included:

We're here. Hear Us Now!

NYCI held the consultation event, *We're here. Hear Us Now!* with young people on the topic of integration and inclusion as part of the EU Structured Dialogue process. The recommendations made by the young people were brought to the EU Youth Conference in Cyprus by three young people representing Ireland. A report on the experience from Ireland on the guiding issues on inclusion and integration that had been set out by the EU steering committee was developed by NYCI and submitted to them as Ireland's contribution to deepening the discussion and finding policy solutions to issues affecting young people, and migrants in particular, at European level.

Eloise Tan, Marcus Quane and Cyndi Njoki at the NYC1 event, *We're Here, Hear Us Now!*



Participants coming up with recommendations for the EU at NYC1's *We're Here, Hear Us Now!* consultation event.



PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

An active calendar of training and presentations on inclusion issues was reinforced by a number of high-profile collaborations and initiatives including:

EU Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

NYCI partnered with Age Action to run a series of events; 3 training workshops, 2 presentations, we administered a small grants scheme to 14 projects and took part in planning a number of key events for the year.

Access All Areas Diversity Toolkit

The *Access All Areas Diversity Toolkit* in partnership with Youthnet Northern Ireland was launched by the Minister Of Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald.

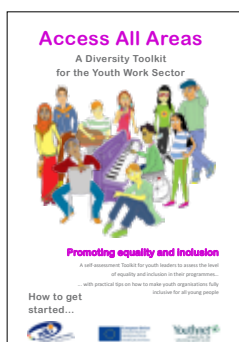
Equality and Inclusion Support Network

The NYCI Intercultural Programme coordinates the Equality and Inclusion Support Network which works on embedding inclusion at a strategic level across the youth work sector.

KEY PUBLICATIONS IN 2012:

Access All Areas: a Diversity Toolkit for the Youth Work Sector a self-assessment tool for youth work practitioners and management committees.

We're here. Hear Us Now! poster. We produced this poster to help initiate discussions with young people across Ireland on the topic of inclusion and integration and to explore community based solutions.



Participants at NYC's *We're Here. Hear Us Now!* display the postcards distributed to youth centres throughout Ireland

13/208

13 new trainings completed;
208 youth workers trained

3/80/75

3 national events coordinated by the programme – launch of Access All Areas (80 participants), EU Structured Dialogue Process National Consultation event with 75 young people and EU dialogue on intergenerational solidarity.

Two more events are planned showcasing good practice in solidarity between generations work – one of which will be on a North-South basis

360/6

360 attendees at 6 presentations made by the Intercultural and Equality programme

3,000

3000 copies of inclusion and integration posters were Distributed to national youth work organisations, regional youth work managers and youth workers for circulation to youth clubs and groups throughout the country.

7,744

7,744 website hits on www.intercultural.ie

700

700 copies of Access All Areas were distributed to national youth work organisations, regional youth work managers and youth workers

“What have I taken to heart? That everyone is different and the difference should be embraced.”

Participant at *We're Here Hear Us Now* event.

25

“Access All Areas is an example of cross border collaboration at its best, bringing together expertise to create something that will have a lasting impact. It will prove to be an invaluable resource for everyone working to make Ireland more welcoming of young people and volunteers from all backgrounds,”

Frances Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, speaking at launch of *Access All Areas*.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The advocacy and campaigning work of NYCI's International Programme encompassed a wide range of issues in 2012. Highlights included:

European Structured Dialogue process

In 2012 NYCI organised two national consultations on the themes of Vote@16 and Inclusion, as part of the European Structured Dialogue process. Three representatives from each fed the outcomes of these consultations into European Conferences attended by key national and European policy makers and resulted in European Council resolutions on the joint recommendations.

European Commission funding campaign
The European Commission has proposed a new European Funding programme "Erasmus for All" for 2014-2020. NYCI joined the international youth sector in campaigning for a separate programme and budget for Youth, which has found support from the European Parliament and Council of Europe.

Vote@16 Campaign

2012 was an important year for NYCIs long-running Vote@16 campaign, with the announcement that the Constitutional Convention would examine the issue of voting age. NYCI led the national campaign to lower the voting age to 16, and engaged in a range of campaigning and advocacy activities including the creation of a dynamic campaign video.

The NYCI campaign also supports a wider European campaign on Vote@16. NYCI was part of the European campaign to get MEPs to adopt a Written Declaration on lowering the voting age. Maria Kelly, the NYCI representative to the European Youth Forum (EYF) expert group on Vote@16, was part of a very successful lobbying mission to Strasbourg where 52 MEPs signed up to the declaration.

Preparations for Irish EU Presidency 2013

Ireland will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU in Jan2013. NYCI has been preparing to ensure that full advantage is taken of this opportunity and youth issues are a priority for the Irish Presidency. NYCI have been working closely with DCYA on the upcoming presidency and have collaborated with the EYF to put a Presidency Project Officer in place.

Participants at NYC's Vote at 16 Youth Conference show their enthusiasm!



Patrick Dunne, Deirdre Ruane-McAteer and Cathal Manning, from Louth at the launch of NYC's Vote at 16 campaign.



PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The International section continued to support NYCI member organisations to include an international dimension in their youth work programmes and get involved in international youth work.

NYCI Consultations - model of good practice

At the Cypriot Presidency EU Youth Conference, the national Structured Dialogue consultation on Inclusion organised by NYCI was held up as a model of good practice and as the most widely representative of young people.

Vote@16 youth steering committee

NYCI's International Programme set up and supported the Vote@16 youth steering committee, this worked on a campaign video and a submission to the constitutional convention.

European Steering Committee on Structured Dialogue

In 2012 NYCI became a member of the European Steering Committee on Structured Dialogue, which prepares for the next trio to hold the European Presidency, Ireland in 2013, then Lithuania and Greece.

International conferences, seminars and events
NYCI youth representatives attended 20 international high level seminars and youth events in Europe, North and South America and Africa.

20

Over 20 events all over Europe and in Africa and north and South America attended by NYCI youth representatives

140

140 young people consulted with in EU structured dialogue process

2

2 new IAC members

29

“I learned a lot in a short space of time and made a lot of potential networking opportunities which would have immense local benefit for all young people”

Hailuu Netsiyanwa – NYCI representative to the Africa-Europe Youth Platform at the Institutional Meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation held in Braga and organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe.

“It was a great opportunity to meet MEPs and discuss and debate the nature of the Written Declaration on Vote@16 with them.”

Maria Kelly, NYCI rep to the European Youth Forum expert group on Vote@16.

YOUTH HEALTH PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The National Youth Health Programme (NYHP) continued to develop the capacity and sustainability of health promotion in the youth work sector in 2012, through a range of advocacy, representation and partnership work, including:

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) submission

As part of the National Heart Alliance a submission was made to the BAI in relation to the Children's Commercial Code.

X-HALE

The National Youth Health Programme continued to work in partnership with the Irish Cancer Society on the X-HALE Youth Initiative. This initiative encourages young people to develop their own anti smoking campaigns and messages for their peers.

Partnership

The National Youth Health Programme continued to work in a range of successful initiatives in partnerships with Irish Cancer Society, NOSP, The Sanctuary and the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme among others.

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The NYHP continued to provide a broad-based, flexible health promotion and education support and training service to youth organisations and to all those working with young people in out-of-school settings throughout 2012.

Specialist Certificate in Youth Health Promotion (level 7)

The Specialist Certificate in Youth Health Promotion 2011/2012 (NUIG accredited) was completed with 14 participants graduating. This assists organisations to have greater awareness of and make the links between the Health Quality Mark process and the NQSF.

Health Quality Mark

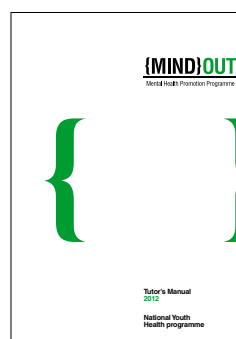
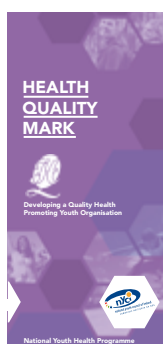
Four new organisations started the HQM process in 2012. The NYHP continues to support the 40 organisations currently at all levels of the award and through the re-monitoring process. The development of the support manual for the HQM is an exciting development to further enhance the quality of youth health promotion in organisations.

KEY PUBLICATIONS IN 2012:

Support Manual for Dealing with Substance Use Issues in Out of School Sector

Health Quality Mark Information Leaflet

Mindout Mental Health Promotion Programme





8,593

8,593 visitors to
www.youthhealth.ie

2

2 new organisations have
commenced the Health
Quality Mark process

26/577

26 Training Events held,
577 participants involved

33

“Thanks very much for such
an insightful two days”

Participant, Mindout Training

“Found it informative and think
everyone would benefit from it”

Participant, ASIST Training

YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMME

ADVOCACY

The NYCI Youth Arts Programme is a partnership approach to promoting and developing youth arts and the programme continued to act as an advocate for youth arts development in Ireland through a wide range of activities including:

[NYCI Youth Arts Showcase](#)

The NYCI Youth Arts Showcase took place on the 14th November 2012. The event platformed examples of the exceptional quality of youth arts activity happening in Ireland and celebrated the contribution of youth arts in the lives of young people and to Irish society. It included live performances by representative groups nationwide including Buí Bolg Youth Group, Young Irish Film Makers, Roscommon Youth Theatre and the Cámara Ensemble (Young European Strings). The showcase offers politicians and stakeholders the opportunity to meet with young people involved in the arts in Ireland, and those who work with them.

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

In 2012 the NYCI Youth Arts Programme continued to work to realise the potential of young people through good quality arts practice in the youth service and the development of appropriate policies and activities at local, regional and national level. Highlights included:

Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme

The Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme extends and enhances opportunities for young people to experience and participate in the arts and encourages artistic collaboration between professional artists and young people. 24 projects were completed from the 2011-2012 and a new round of the scheme was released in November 2012.

An evaluation of the Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme 2005-2011, was carried out to assess its impact and effectiveness.

The first phase of an Evaluation Toolkit for Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme projects was completed in 2012. Its objective is to collate the practice and methodologies which have developed through the scheme and to assess its impact and effectiveness on a project by project basis.

NYCI Certificate in Youth Arts

The NYCI Certificate in Youth Arts is a part time year-long university accredited course of study in Irish Youth Arts Practice and Policy (NUI Maynooth accredited). A new cohort of 13 students from a range of youth arts and

youth work backgrounds commenced on the Certificate programme in October 2012 while the 2011-2012 cohort of Certificate in Youth Arts students graduated in November 2012

Making a Scene! Youth Arts Summer School

The Arts Programme presented a range of trainings including the second year of a three day residential training Making a Scene! A Youth Arts Summer School for Youth Workers (27th-30th June) in University College Cork. The Summer School aims to raise standards of practice, promote practice sharing, and ultimately enable more young people to have high quality experiences of the arts. It was attended by 38 participants from all over Ireland.

YAM.ie

YAM.ie (Your Arts Map), an exciting new website mapping out all arts and cultural events across Dublin created for and by 13 – 25 year olds was formally launched on 3rd October 2012. It was developed through partnership between South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and the National Youth Council and funded by support from the Arts Council's Local Partnership Scheme 2011.

KEY PUBLICATION

IN 2012:

Digital filmmaking handbook
Toolkit for Digital Film in Youth Work



Lord Mayor of Dublin Naoise Ó Muirí and Mayor of South Dublin County Cathal King with Happy Days Performing Arts School at the launch of YAM.ie

13,537

13,537 visitors to
www.youtharts.ie
(Jan - Sep 2012)

110

110 youth workers and youth arts practitioners participated in bespoke and certified trainings

320/24

320 young people impacted on by 24 Artist in Youth Work Residency Projects 2011-2012

1,430
200/286

Yam.ie
1,430 visits,
200 ebulletin subscribers,
286 user accounts from
October to November 2012

37

“I will be returning to my organisation with increased confidence and energy to deliver youth arts”

“The quality of facilitators was amazing. As an artist I also learned so much not only an art skill but methodologies, good practice, etc. Thank you NYCI!”

Feedback from participants at NYCI Youth Arts Summer School 2012 ‘Making a Scene’.

ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Governance and Management

Since the AGM 2011, the Board of NYCI has met eight times, including two residential meetings. NYCI's AGM elected a new President, James O' Leary from Involve Youth Services, following the resignation of Orlaith Mc Bride on her appointment as Director of The Arts Council. Five new members were elected or co-opted on to the Board of 2012. As part of our continuing commitment to improving the governance of the organisation we updated our formal induction programme for new Board members which together with the Induction Handbook support new Board members to be clear about the role and responsibilities they are taking on. As part of our on-going commitment to become better at what we do the Board commissioned an independent analysis of NYCI across the following six fields: activities; results; leadership; people and resources; finances and ambition. The final outcome of the analysis will underpin the development of the next strategic plan and help us focus on activities that achieve real difference, use evidence of results to improve our performance, make good use of the resources we have and be ambitious as an organisation.

Regarding the governance of NYCI it was noted 'The governance at NYCI is among the best that NPC has seen in its experience of looking at charities—which is to be particularly recommended in a membership charity as they often struggle with good governance'. Board attendance has been consistently high throughout the year.

The organisational review begun in 2011 was implemented in 2012. Two Assistant Director Positions were merged into one Deputy Director Position. We also reorganised the internal reporting structures to take account of the reduced number of senior staff.

The small Senior Management Team was replaced by a larger and more representative Strategic Group that meets monthly. The Strategic Group has shown energy, enthusiasm and drive to improve

the work we do and the way we do it. It has also improved communication across the organisation.

The process to develop our next Strategic Plan began during the year involving a range of internal and external stakeholders. This process has been supported by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC).

Secure and Manage the Optimal Budget

In 2012 NYCI faced similar challenges as our member organisations with further cuts to almost all of our funding lines. Three staff members in one programme were reduced to a four day week. The freeze on increments for all staff continued for a fourth year. The late payment of monies from a range of funders and the unwillingness of our bank to provide a short term overdraft resulted in a major cash flow crisis for NYCI in June when without urgent action on behalf of one funder we had insufficient funds to pay salaries.

We continued to focus on improving our internal budget management, meeting regularly throughout the year with budget holders to ensure effective and efficient management of the resources allocated to us.

As the year ends we are aware that the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure is proposing further cuts to youth work funding in 2013 and 2014.

Implement and Monitor Business Plans

The Measuring Impact project begun in 2011 strongly influenced the planning process for 2012. The development of a Theory of Change that identified one set of measurable outcomes for all the work of NYCI formed the cornerstone for all our planning this year. We moved away from the Integrated Planning Model we had used for the past four years to Logic Model Planning for 2012. This was a very steep learning curve for everyone involved. The support and guidance of the Board was critical throughout the planning process and they were finally able to approve the plan in early 2012.

The Measuring Impact project continued through 2012 and with the continued support of NPC we developed an Organisational Measurement Framework and a comprehensive set of measurement tools. The tools were 'launched' internally in early September and have been widely used in quarter 4 of 2012. The willingness of the staff of the NYCI to embrace this major change in how we plan, put into action, measure and evaluate our work has been crucial to the successful implementation of this project. We continued to report progress on the annual work plans to the Board.

We will continue to implement the framework during 2013 and will identify in the coming year how we can best share our learning in the area of measuring impact and outcomes focused planning with our member organisations.

Membership

NYCI continued in its mission to support the voluntary youth sector to reach its full potential so that youth work organisations, in turn, can encourage and support the young people they work with to be the very best they can. There was a particular focus in 2012 on improving collaboration across the membership. NYCI organised a workshop on Collaboration in March. The event was well attended and the workshop report was disseminated widely. Whilst NYCI was enabling member organisations to look at the theory of collaboration, a number of our members were putting it into practice. 2012 saw the successful merger of Ogra Chorcaí and Foroige and a recent announcement of the merger of Catholic Youth Care (CYC) and Cross care.

The focus on looking at how we can work together better will continue as the demand for youth work opportunities increase, whilst the resources available to respond to that need continue to come under extreme pressure.

NYCI's member organisations continue to be our strength and our source of authority. It is vital as the representative body for youth organisations in Ireland that our membership is truly representative of the diversity of youth work across the country. To ensure that we are delivering on that, the Board of NYCI reviewed our existing membership criteria and have proposed a significant change to our Constitution for consideration by the AGM in November 2012. The Specialist Organisations Network continued to meet regularly throughout 2012. Elaine Nevin, CEO of ECO-UNESCO was elected as Chair during the year. The National Quality Standards Framework continued to be a particular focus following the role out of the NQSF with the first cohort of national organisations in 2012. The Network also commissioned a scoping paper that

would set out to identify the best model for youth work provision in Ireland. The research was carried out during 2012. The network held two roundtable discussions to review the conclusions of the research and a final report will be published in early 2013. Membership of the network has grown during 2012 and members report that it provides information, support and networking opportunities that are essential to help them do what they are doing better.

The Policy and Advocacy Committee met regularly throughout 2012 and is reported on elsewhere in this report.

The Spirituality Network established under the guidance of Vicky Rattigan from Young Christian Workers struggled to gain traction during 2012. The purpose of the network was to facilitate networking and co-operation between organisations whose youth work is underpinned by faith based values or organisations who take a holistic approach to the development of young people including the spiritual dimension. We have reviewed the situation and are proposing a different approach in 2013. We are currently developing a 'Soul Matters' development programme which will offer training days for youth work practitioners who are interested in addressing the issue of young people's spirituality.

Structure and Work Practices

2012 saw a number of maternity leaves requiring significant re-organisation within key areas of work. Our Communications Officer who was on sabbatical resigned from NYCI and we were pleased to confirm her temporary replacement in post. We also said farewell to our Senior Project Officer in Health Promotion who moved to take on a key role in the Irish Cancer Society. Following an open recruitment process we were delighted to appoint the Health Promotion Project Officer to the senior position. We are currently in the process of recruiting to the Project Officer post.

During 2012 we also identified Mondays as office based days for all staff to facilitate internal meetings such as staff meetings, planning meetings, project meetings and so on. Whilst due to external demands it has been impossible to have 100% attendance, it has worked sufficiently well for us to continue the practice into 2013.

We continue to strive to meet the needs of our members and were very encouraged when the recent independent analysis process found that NYCI is seen as 'very responsive' to the needs of its members. We continue to offer a wide range of training, supports, events and networking opportunities. We continue to reflect on how we can become more effective in meeting the needs

of our members and making the best use of the resources available to us. We are committed to using the results from our impact measurement processes to improve what we do and the way that we do it and appreciate that this is noted by our members. In response to the recent review a member organisation noted that 'NYCI has a willingness to continually look at things, to see how they can be improved, and sets an example to the sector in that respect.'

Improved Information Systems

NYCI continues to embrace new technology and innovation. We continue to use social media to promote the work of NYCI and engage more broadly. We have built up a growing following and increased engagement through both Twitter and Facebook.

The online booking system for training and events introduced last year continues to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our service. We now use this process to support the implementation of our impact measurement tools.

This year for the first time we developed an App to support a major voter registration and voter mobilisation initiative during the Children's Referendum.

NYCI is also encouraging the wider youth sector to look at the opportunities that digital media presents as a tool for working with young people. To this end Screenagers our Annual Conference for those working in the youth and community sector, academics and policy makers explored the use of ICT, digital and social media as tools in youth work through practical hands-on workshops providing take-home skills applicable to work with young people, and innovative case studies of successful nationwide programmes.

Communications

The excellent work of our communications team in 2012 has led to substantially increased profile for both youth issues and NYCI during the past year, with a 55% increase in media mentions in January to September 2012, compared with the same period in 2011 (169 days in the media in comparison to 124). The primary focus continues to be on supporting the advocacy work of the Council. Our communications team played a key role during the Children's Referendum campaign developing and disseminating a wide range of communications for a variety of audiences. We continue to build strong links with the media and are increasingly recognised as the 'go to' organisation on a number of key issues that impact on young people. NYCI's web presence was further strengthened

in 2012. An average of more than 4,000 visitors per month were provided with comprehensive information on NYCI's work and supports available, upcoming events, trainings and opportunities, and the large selection of sector specific toolkits and resource downloads available online. All NYCI dedicated sites saw high levels of interaction, and the main NYCI portal Youth.ie saw page views increase to 130,823 in the year ending August 31st 2012. Communications has continued the important role of supporting our member organisations by ensuring the provision of accurate, relevant and timely information to them. We continue to be both reactive and pro-active in our external communications. We continue to review how we can make our internal and external communications more effective.

Collaborative Working

NYCI is strongly committed to working in collaboration with others. Throughout this report there are numerous examples of us working in co-operation with others. I would like to highlight just a couple of further examples. In the youth sector NYCI has continued to work collaboratively with statutory colleagues here and with voluntary and statutory colleagues in Northern Ireland on areas that enhance co-operation. Youthnet, NYCI's sister organisation in Northern Ireland has shadowed the Measuring Impact project from inception to implementation and at the time of writing we have commissioned a mapping exercise of the youth work workforce North and South. NYCI continues to contribute to the effective working of The North/South Education and Training Standards Committee for Youth Work. A revised criteria and procedures document is about to be launched. During the Children's Referendum campaign NYCI worked collaboratively with a wide range of other organisations including the Children's Rights Alliance, Barnardos, Campaign for Children and the ISPCC as part of the Yes for Children coalition. We also worked closely with UNICEF to develop a toolkit for young people to help raise their awareness of rights. By pooling our efforts, expertise and resources we worked together to successfully deliver a Yes vote on the 10th of November.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report 2011

2011 again saw a fall in the Council's incoming resources. Although income has decreased we are fortunate that we were in a position to maintain a level of activity in all our key areas of work. Strong financial management ensured that we matched our incoming resources effectively with our spending, resulting in the Council recording a very minor deficit for the year. The reduction in funding from all sources required NYCI to implement a range of cost reducing measures in all aspects of the organisation's pay and non-pay costs.

The very tight financial constraints within which the NYCI have had to operate in 2011 are consistent with those experienced by our member organisations and the broader community and voluntary sector as a whole. This situation will likely pertain for the foreseeable future. NYCI recognises that future years will be very challenging for us all and is committed to ensuring that through best practice and good management we spend our funds wisely while continuing to deliver on our charitable objectives. NYCI also recognises that good management requires planning and despite the financial constraints, resources were made available to begin work on the renewal of the Council's strategic plan, which work will continue in 2012.

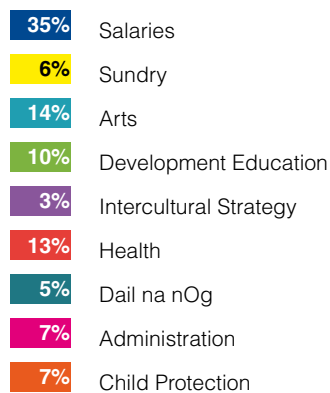
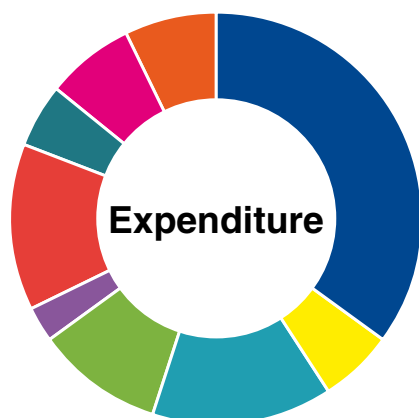
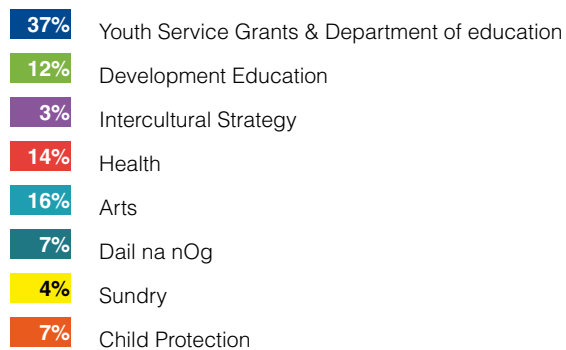
NYCI could not operate without the continuing financial support of external bodies, who fund both our administration and our programmes. I would like to record the Board's thanks to our funders for their continued support during the year; we look forward to working with them through 2012 and into the future. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our membership, who face difficult and uncertain times but who have nonetheless remained positively engaged with the work of the Council. Finally, austere financial times cannot but have an effect on our staff and I would like to pay tribute to their loyalty to the aims of the Council and their work in ensuring that these aims have been effectively taken forward in 2011.

David Owens
Honorary Treasurer

Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 December 2011

	Restricted Funds 2011	Unrestricted Funds 2011	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2009
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from charitable activities;	1,857,986	-	1,857,986	1,902,909
Incoming resources from generated funds;	-	37,807	37,807	44,267
Total incoming resources	1,857,986	37,807	1,895,793	1,947,176
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	1,823,100	-	1,823,100	1,850,831
Governance costs	-	73,288	73,288	74,734
Total resource expended	1,823,100	73,288	1,896,388	1,925,565
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	34,886	(35,481)	(595)	21,611



Balance sheet

at 31 December 2011

	2011 €	2010 €
Fixed assets	273,222	280,021
Current assets	505,764	731,967
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(345,518)	(567,604)
Net current assets	160,246	164,363
Total assets less current liabilities	433,468	444,384
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(80,895)	(91,216)
Net assets	352,573	353,168
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds		
Unrestricted income funds	90,665	126,146
Revaluation reserve	78,469	78,469
Restricted funds	183,439	148,553
	353,168	352,573

On behalf of the board

James O'Leary
VicePresident

David Owens
Honorary Treasurer

**These financial statements were approved by
the board on the 25th July 2012.**

These accounts have been extracted from the statutory financial statements of the National Youth Council of Ireland. The auditors KPMG expressed an unqualified audit opinion on these accounts.

A copy of these accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

MEMBERSHIP

Members

An Óige
BelongTo
Boys Brigade
Catholic Guides of Ireland
Catholic Youth Care
Church of Ireland Youth Department
Club4U
Dept. of Youth and Children's Work of
the Methodist Church in Ireland
ECO-UNESCO
EIL Intercultural Learning
Exchange House
Feachtas
Foroige
Girls' Brigade Ireland
Girls' Friendly Society
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (Youth Committee)
Irish Girl Guides
Irish Red Cross Youth
Irish Secondary Students Union
Junior Chamber Ireland
Macra na Feirme
National Association for Youth Drama
National Association of Travellers' Centres
National Committee for Diocesan Youth Directors
No Name Clubs
Ógra Chorcaí (merged with Foroige in 2012)
Ógra Fianna Fail
Ógras
Order of Malta Cadets
Pavee Point Travellers Centre
Peace Corps Localise
Scouting Ireland
Spunout.ie
Voluntary Service International
YMCA Ireland
Young Christian Workers
Young Irish Film Makers
Youth Work Ireland

Affiliate Members

Amnesty International
Enable Ireland
Irish Family Planning Association
Irish Deaf Youth Association
Irish Wheelchair Association
YWCA of Ireland
Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
Presbyterian Youth and Children's Ministry