



national youth council of ireland
COMHAIRLE NAISÍÚNTA NA NÓG

NATIONAL YOUTH
COUNCIL OF IRELAND

ANNUAL REPORT

2011

**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 EAGRAS 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.**

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of Conduct on Images and Messages.**

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD

FRANCES FITZGERALD, T.D.
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

I am very happy to accept this opportunity to provide a foreword to the 2011 annual report of the National Youth Council of Ireland. The NYCI now represents 54 voluntary youth organisations and plays a significant national role in supporting these organisations in fulfilling their aims and aspirations for the young people of Ireland.

2011 has been a significant year for the youth sector with the establishment of the Department for Children and Youth Affairs. This development opens up greater opportunities for a more coordinated, cohesive and effective approach to addressing the needs of children and young people. As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, I am happy to be in a position to support the work of the youth sector and to work with the sector in a spirit of cooperation and mutual endeavour in meeting the many challenges that lie ahead.

The new Department will be firmly rooted in the principles of early intervention and prevention. The aim will be to more effectively connect and coordinate children's and young people's services locally, while also ensuring quality and consistency in the delivery of services. There is an increasing need for innovative measures to respond to the needs and aspirations of children and young people. As such, my Department will develop and support cross-departmental and interagency activities to support improvement in the lives of both children and young people. This will be implemented through the development of national policy to structure and support quality provision for children and young people. Work is already underway on this important initiative and we will actively seek the views of youth organisations and services to inform our policy position so as to ensure the delivery of enabling and effective structures, services, programmes and supports for young people.

The youth sector has clearly demonstrated its commitment to quality provision through its engagement with the National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF) for youth work. This framework for 'staff-led' youth work services and organisations was launched in July 2010 and implementation commenced on a phased and incremental basis in January of this year and the positive impact of the framework is already evident.

As a natural follow-on to this initiative, my Department is also in the process of finalising Standards for Local Youth Groups. The aim of these standards will be to support volunteer-led youth groups in creating and providing quality developmental programmes and activities for young people in safe and supportive environments and to ensure that there is a connection and continuity with the standards for staff-led youth provision.

I am confident that both of these standards initiatives will ensure and enhance quality provision and practice for young people.

I want to assure you that despite present difficulties, my Department regards the voluntary youth sector, working in collaboration with the statutory sector, as the cornerstone in the delivery of quality services to our young people at both national and local level as well as a welcome partner in the formulation and implementation of policy.

The delivery of quality youth work programmes and services would not be possible without the support of a vibrant and committed voluntary sector. I understand that some 60,000 volunteers are active in the youth sector in Ireland. In this, the European Year of Volunteering, I would like to thank and acknowledge all those involved. It is a significant commitment on their part but I know that they will readily acknowledge the benefits that derive from working with and supporting young people.

Finally, as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, I look forward to building on what has already been achieved in the youth sector by working with all the organisations involved and especially the National Youth Council of Ireland. I believe that by working together we can continue to support our young people and help them to achieve their goals and aspirations and to become active and responsible citizens.

Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

ORLAITH MCBRIDE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that as President I introduce you to the National Youth Council of Ireland's Annual Report for 2011. It has been another roller coaster of a year for the youth sector but one where nevertheless there have been some very exciting developments. Whilst the economic situation remains very bleak, we saw for the first time ever the creation by the new Government of a full Minister for Children and Youth Affairs - which presents real opportunities for us to play a key role in influencing the development of the new policy framework for youth work and the national outcomes for young people in Ireland. Despite the cumulative impact of the recession and cutbacks in funding from a range of sources which has been extremely tough for all those working with young people, the voluntary youth sector has demonstrated its willingness and ability to play its part in ensuring that young people have as many opportunities as possible to grow and develop through the provision of exciting and relevant opportunities and services. We have also demonstrated the value and importance of NYCI as a catalyst for networking within the youth sector and as a strong, independent and united representative body for the sector. It has been critically important over the last year that the voluntary youth sector has pulled together. As a sector we are stronger working together than we are apart. Our collective strength can be seen as a threat by some but it is in times of adversity, struggle and danger that the strong partnership, trust and collective approach built up by NYCI and its members over the last 40 years is essential and we must resist all external efforts to 'divide and conquer'.

On behalf of the National Youth Council of Ireland I would like to acknowledge the constructive relationship we have with the new Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald, T.D. and her officials in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and with Minister Joan Burton, T.D. and her officials in the Department of Social Protection. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to 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, the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, Trocaire and Leargas.

2011 was the fourth year of the implementation of our strategic plan and we have had a particular focus this year on developing systems for measuring the impact of the Council's work. We recognise the need for our work to be outcomes focused and the Council has embraced this agenda. The extensive range of activities outlined in the report reflects the hard work, expertise

and commitment of NYCI's staff. Their commitment to meeting the needs of member organisations is clearly evident. We continued to advocate on a wide range of issues impacting on the lives of young people.

This year we also launched a number of important publications for the sector. These included the 'NYCI Digital Filmmaking Handbook', an Irish language version of the National Volunteer Induction Training Programme 'Starting Out', and the Development Education resource 'A Rich Man's World?'. We also published the youth unemployment action plan 'Creating a Future for Young Jobseekers', which was launched by Minister Joan Burton, T.D.

On a personal note, I am writing this foreword in both my first and last year as President of NYCI. I have recently been appointed as Director of the Arts Council and therefore have to resign my position as President of NYCI. I would 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 along with acknowledging previous Boards who have supported me in the role of President. 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.

I was very proud to be elected President of NYCI. It has been a challenging but very worthwhile journey for me. I have felt it a privilege and an honour to lead such an organisation and I wish the Council every success in the years ahead. The NYCI continues to benefit from the collective strength of its members. We need that sense of cohesion now more than ever. 2012 will be very challenging, but we know the value and importance of the work we do in promoting the well being of young people and helping them to achieve their full potential. Young people have so much to contribute if given the right supports and opportunities and we must all remain focused on these core beliefs because that is the least the youth of Ireland deserve.

Orlaith McBride
President



DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

MARY CUNNINGHAM
DIRECTOR

During the on-going recession one thing stands out. That is that only by working together as organisations and as communities will we develop solutions to our problems, be they financial or social. The on-going funding climate has challenged us to look for creativity, innovation and collaboration in our approach to problem solving. This is where I believe that we can make a great contribution, working with our membership with our long standing experience of working with and for young people.

We know that funding for public services will be reduced further and there will be a greater call on voluntary youth organisations to help young people and their communities cope with financial hardship, unemployment, a sense of hopelessness and their consequences. We have seen our market economy exposed and many are calling for a reaffirmation of the values we stand for. We also know that at times of crisis, individuals and communities can and do extraordinary things. The voluntary youth sector has a long history of supporting young people and is striving to continue to play a crucial role in the lives of young people today. We can do this better, if we do it together.

In 2011, voluntary youth organisations, much as individuals, have been coping with the continuing impact of the recession; budget cuts, a severe squeeze on funding from all sources, redundancies and, worse still, a reduction in services to young people and the closure of some programmes.

Now more than ever NYCI members need support from their representative body. In such challenging times being part of the NYCI community means that our members are not alone. Over the past twelve months NYCI has assisted our members in responding to change, working to ensure that the voluntary youth sector survives and thrives during these challenging times and in the future, so that we can carry on serving young people in communities across the country.

This annual report tells you the story of how NYCI conducted its business this year. 2011 is the fourth year of our current strategic plan and I am proud of the excellent progress we have made delivering on the implementation plan for 2011, approved by the Board of NYCI earlier in the year. The report sets out our achievements over the past year and provides a snapshot of the breadth of work of the organisation. NYCI has embraced the opportunity to work with the new Government in influencing the policies and practical solutions they are developing especially to address youth unemployment, reduce alcohol related harm and promote and develop youth work. We continue to provide practical support to our members through training events, advice, support and information, briefings, conferences and networking events.

In 2011 we have continued to facilitate opportunities for collaborative working including the on-going work of the Specialist Organisations Network and the creation of the new Spirituality Network for our member organisations. Our member organisations know that we are stronger when we work together and recognise that collaborative work is of great importance. A recent member's survey confirmed that 'NYCI are meeting this need with gusto'. We need to continue to pursue more opportunities for greater and deeper collaboration in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication of the excellent staff team at NYCI. I would also like to record my thanks to the Board members of NYCI who give so willingly of their time to provide leadership and direction to the organisation. I would especially like to record sincere thanks to our President, Orlaith Mc Bride, who brought considerable energy and dynamism to the role prior to her appointment as Director of the Arts Council. We wish her every success in her new and challenging role.

I would also like to thank all our funders, especially the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for their financial support which enables NYCI to do what we do.

Finally, NYCI is very proud of its work and the work of our member organisations. We realise that by working collectively to innovate, inspire and look for creative solutions we can enhance the lives of young people in Ireland. NYCI looks forward to working with our members exploring new approaches in 2012 to harness the creativity of the sector to further develop innovative ways of working.

Mary Cunningham
Director

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.

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.

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.

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.

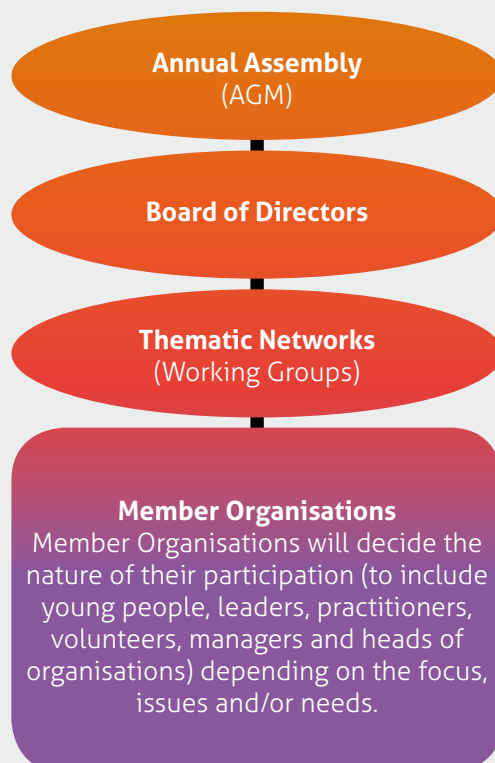
NYCI embraces the genuine challenge of being representative of voluntary youth work organisations, as defined in the Youth Work Act 2001, and will ensure that its Memorandum and Articles of Association reflects this commitment.

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 2011.



BOARD AND STAFF OF NYCI

NYCI BOARD

President

Orlaith McBride

Vice President

John Cahill (Foroige)

Treasurer

Kieran O'Dowd (Macra na Feirme)

Patrick Burke
Michael Collins
Mark Dunwoody

(Youth Work Ireland)
(Pavee Point)
(Church of Ireland
Youth Department)
(Peace Corp Localise)
(Scouting Ireland)
(Catholic Youth Care)
(Involve) {previously National
Association of Traveller Centres}
(Ógra Fianna Fáil)
(ICTU Youth Committee)
(An Óige)
(Young Christian Workers)
(Catholic Guides of Ireland)

Alan Foran
Jamie Gorman
Carmel O'Connor
James O'Leary

James McCann
Lorraine Mulligan
David Owens
Vicky Rattigan
Laura Saunders

International Advisory Committee
Chairperson 2011:

Mark Dunwoody (Church of
Ireland Youth Department)

Policy and Advocacy Committee
Chairperson 2011:

James O'Leary (Involve)

NYCI STAFF

Director
Assistant Directors
Senior Research & Policy Officer
Finance Officer (Part-time)
Communications Officer
National Child Protection Manager
Youth Health Senior Project Officer
Youth Health Project Officer
Youth Arts Senior Project Officer
Youth Arts Project Officer
International Officer
Development Education Co-ordinator
Development Education Project Officer
Development Education Training Officer
Intercultural & Equality Project Officer
Dáil na nÓg Project Manager
Dáil na nÓg Project Officer
Webmaster
Administration Managers (Jobshare)
Administration Officers

Mary Cunningham
James Doorley & Deiniol Jones
Marie-Claire McAleer
Laura Geraty
Daniel Meister*
Olive Ring
Kevin O'Hagan
Siobhán Brennan
Anne O'Gorman
Fiona Smith
Valerie Duffy+
Johnny Sheehan
Elaine Mahon
Alan Hayes
Anne Walsh
Aoife Collins
Aurica Cozneac
Daniel Dunne
Lisa Hyland & Elaine Lowry
Rosie Boyle, Geraldine Mahon

REPRESENTATION


- Active Citizenship Steering Group
- Alcohol Youth Policy Network
- Arts Council - Working Group on Arts Residencies
- BBC+
- Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe – (Mountain Leader Training)
- Causeway
- CDYSB – Youth leadership Training Programme
- Centre for Applied Social Studies (NUI Maynooth) – Advisory Committee
- Children's Law Centre Working Group
- Comhlamh INDEX Magazine
- Comhar (National Sustainable Development Partnership)
- CONCORD
- Conversation on Democracy
- Dáil na nÓg – Steering Committee
- DARE - Development Awareness Raising & Education
 - Youth and Children Working Group
- Dóchas Development Education Group
- End Child Poverty Coalition
- European Economic & Social Committee (Alternate EESC, through CVP)
- 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 Office for Suicide Prevention (Advisory Group)
- National Quality Standards Framework Implementation Group
- National Working Group on Structured Dialogue
- National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC)
- Pobal
- Public Health Alliance
- Public Health Institute of Ireland
- Steering Group for the European Year of Volunteering 2011
- Steering Group on National Internship Scheme
- Steering Group for the National Substance Misuse Strategy
- Stop Climate Chaos Steering Committee
- Tobacco Control Alliance
- Volunteer Ireland Board of Directors
- Wheel Board of Directors
- Youth Education Social Inclusion Partnership (YESIP)
- Youth Employment Action

ADVOCACY



In 2011 the NYCI research, policy and advocacy team continued to implement the key policy priorities contained in NYCI's strategic plan. Particular areas of focus included youth work funding, youth unemployment, educational disadvantage and early school leaving, child poverty, and reducing alcohol related harm.

We have progressed our advocacy work through engagement with the political system, key government departments, structures such as NESC and through the media. The NYCI Policy and Advocacy Committee oversees the policy and campaign work of NYCI.



NYCI policy and campaign work on areas including youth work funding, youth unemployment, educational disadvantage and early school leaving, child poverty, and reducing alcohol related harm continued throughout 2011 with the support of NYCI's Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) which is chaired by NYCI Board member James O'Leary from Involve. The PAC comprises of representatives from both youth policy and youth work practice backgrounds and oversees the policy and campaign work of NYCI.

YOUTH WORK FUNDING

Youth organisations were further impacted by cuts in 2011 which further undermined their capacity to address the needs of young people. Over the past three years the youth service grant scheme has been cut by almost 20%. 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 worked with the new Department of Children and Youth Affairs in seeking to minimise the impact of the cuts and with other stakeholders in forums such as NYWAC.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

We continued to advocate and campaign for more effective measures to address the needs of young jobseekers. Following the period of research and consultation we published two reports in early 2011. In January we published the findings of our one to one and focus groups with young jobseekers 'The Forgotten Generation'. This detailed the experience and views of young jobseekers and set out a range of actions which need to be taken to better support them. In March our position paper 'Creating a Future for Young Jobseekers' was launched by the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D. This report was a culmination of our research, consultation and deliberation and set out a range of policy proposals to tackle youth unemployment and to keep young people near the labour market.

NYCI spoke at a number of conferences and meetings on youth unemployment during the year such as the OECD 'Building Quality Jobs in the Recovery' conference in Dublin and at the meeting of the Irish Local Development Network. We also contributed significantly to the NESC 'Supports and Services for Unemployed Jobseekers' and the work of NYCI is extensively quoted in the document. NYCI made a submission to the Jobs Initiative announced by the Government in May and hosted a meeting of the European Youth Forum's 'Youth Employment Action'. NYCI is also represented on the steering group for 'JobBridge', the National Internship Scheme.

VOTE AT 16

NYCI continued to campaign for the introduction of a vote at 16 and 17 years old. We welcomed the commitment in the Programme for Government that the Constitutional Convention to be established in the coming months will examine the current voting age. NYCI will be engaging with the convention when it is set up. We are also represented on a European Youth Forum working group which is advocating for the reduction of the voting age at European level.



At the NYCI Youth Arts Showcase 2011: Mary Cunningham, Director of NYCI, Jim Keenihan TD, Minister of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and NYCI Youth Arts Senior Project Officer Anne O'Gorman.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

NYCI continued to support the introduction of a constitutional amendment to enhance the rights of children. We expressed our disappointment that the referendum was not held in 2011, but look forward to Government keeping its commitment to hold the referendum in early 2012.

ARTS

NYCI National Youth Arts Showcase

The Youth Arts Showcase took place on 20th April 2011. Wexford Youth Dance Company, Activate Youth Theatre Cork and Tallaght Young Filmmakers presented live performance pieces and visual arts exhibition pieces were provided by West Cork Arts Centre's Friday Night Youth Arts Group and Kilkenny Arts Office Stop Motion Animation Project. The event was attended by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and 30 other members of the Oireachtas.

The showcase was supported by a wider piece of work including political meetings, submissions and briefings on youth arts. The showcase and wider work is co-ordinated by the Senior Project Officer with support from a working group comprising The National Association for Youth Drama, Irish Association of Youth Orchestras, Children's Books Ireland, Axis Arts Centre, Ballymun and KidsOwn Publishing Company. Expert input was provided by NYCI's Assistant Director for Policy and Advocacy.

CHILD PROTECTION

There are currently 102 member organisations in the NYCI Youth Work Garda Vetting Consortium. In 2011 we processed more than 2500 applications, with an average turn-round time of 8 weeks.

During 2011, the NCYI Child Protection Programme continued to support the introduction of the National Vetting Bureau Bill and made a detailed submission to the Department of Justice on the Heads of Bill.



Stronger together: Young people at the NYCI Youth Arts Showcase 2011.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

NYCI's Development Education Programme is a partnership between NYCI and Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Following on from a year of reflection and planning in 2010 and into 2011, the programme received one-year funding in 2011. The programme continued to give strategic direction to the youth sector for development education. It adopted a whole organisation approach to support youth organisations to integrate development education into their core programmes through the development and piloting of quality standards for development education and targeted support to individual youth organisations. In addition the programme produced a monitoring and evaluation tool for youth work practice.

In addition to targeted support, the programme delivered training, support, resource production, networking, representation and the organisation of events to mark One World Week and the International Day for the Elimination for Racial Discrimination. The programme also supported youth organisations to link their development education work to the roll out of the National Quality Standards Framework. It also facilitated a sectoral response to the Irish Aid thematic review of development education in the youth sector.

One World Week

One World Week (OWW) is a week of youth-led awareness raising, education and action that takes place throughout Ireland every November. During OWW, young people learn about local and global justice issues and take action to bring about change.

This year, OWW ran from the 12th – 20th November. There was a large youth sector response to the call for a theme and 'A Rich Man's World?' was chosen. Participants from the youth work and development education sectors contributed actively to the production of education materials. Training in the use of the resource was delivered nationally to more than 300 youth workers and others working with young people in non-formal settings. A week of local youth led action culminated in young people showcasing their development education activities at a regional level.



Elaine Mahon, NYCI Development Education Project Officer (third from left) and other members of the Dóchas Development Education group.

Intercultural and Anti-Racism Week

March 21st is the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and part of the European-wide Action Week against Racism. NYCI hosted three seminars for youth organisations, migrant-led groups and Traveller organisations, focusing on the role of development education in promoting inclusion and integration for cultural and ethnic minority young people in youth work. The seminars were held in Monaghan, Galway and Kilkenny and there were 52 participants.

Structured Dialogue

NYCI's Development Education Programme was co-opted onto the National Working Group on Structured Dialogue and led a national consultation process around youth participation and youth and the world. Fifty-six young people participated in the consultation in Leinster and Munster. The results of the consultation informed the structured dialogue process in Europe generally and an international youth conference organised as part of the Polish presidency of the EU. Three Irish young people participated in the conference.

EDUCATION

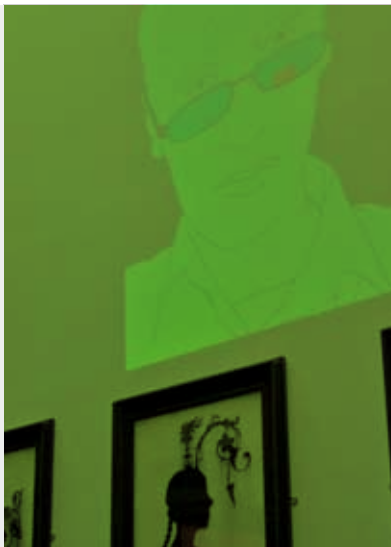
Early School Leaving

Throughout the year we continued to campaign for measures to address the high level of early school leaving in Ireland. The NYCI Senior Research and Policy Officer chairs the CV Pillar Education Linkage Group and Education Bilateral meetings with the Department of Education and Skills. This year the pillar met with the Department of Education and Skills in October to highlight our concerns around the cuts in education.

HEALTH

Alcohol

NYCI continued to participate in the work of the Steering Group for the National Substance Misuse Strategy. The work of the group was interrupted due to the election and the formation of the new Government but has now recommenced. We anticipate that the final report of the group will be published in early 2012. NYCI has primarily focused on ensuring effective recommendations to address the cost, availability and advertising and



Orlaith McBride, NYCI President, Marie-Claire McAleer, Senior Research and Policy Officer and Dearbhail O' Frighil of the youth advisory group at the launch of youth unemployment report 'The Forgotten Generation'.

marketing of alcohol are included in the final report when published. We also visited Scotland in September to be briefed on the proposal by the Scottish Government to introduce minimum pricing for alcohol in 2012. NYCI continued to participate in the work of the EU Commission Health and Alcohol Forum.

Obesity

NYCI continued to work with the Irish Heart Foundation and as part of the National Heart Alliance to address obesity. We made a submission to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland consultation on the draft advertising codes to children on unhealthy foods and drinks. We supported research which highlighted the strong parental support for restrictions on the advertising and marketing of junk food to children and young people under 18.

Young People and Smoking Initiative

The NYCI National Youth Health Programme worked with the Irish Cancer Society to develop a Youth Award Scheme, the X-Hale Smoking Initiative. This seeks to open up an honest debate amongst young people about smoking in Ireland. It aims to empower young people to address tobacco related lifestyle issues by supporting the development of positive youth-led activities, centred on the needs of communities. A successful showcase event attended by a wide range of participating youth groups was held in Croke Park on November 2nd.

Drugs and Alcohol

The programme continued to deliver training on drugs and alcohol using the Putting the Pieces Together Programme and the Support Pack for Dealing with the Drugs Issue in Out-of-School Settings. Work is underway to review and update this support pack.

Irish Youth Health Promotion Bibliography

The health programme completed work with NUI Galway to develop a user friendly bibliography of health promotion research in the youth work sector. The literature was reviewed and evaluated and gaps in Irish research on youth health promotion in the youth work sector identified. This bibliography is invaluable for health practitioners, youth workers and researchers alike and is available to download from www.youthhealth.ie



Top: EIL Stop Human Trafficking event. Bottom: Ireland represented at the World Scouting Jamboree.

INTERNATIONAL

European Youth Policy

Throughout the year, NYCI fed policy ideas and findings from Ireland into European structures. The key policy themes included youth unemployment and youth entrepreneurship. In addition, a structured dialogue process was undertaken with young people, supported by the National Youth Development Education Programme, on the theme Youth in the World, exploring their views of Europe and the world in relation to development and human rights. This structured dialogue culminated in NYCI producing a report and feeding this in at the Polish Presidency Youth Event. Three young people also participated in this event. NYCI are represented on the national working group on structured dialogue and it is envisaged that consultations with young people in this way will continue.

European Youth Forum

NYCI contributed to the work of the European Youth Forum (EYF) in a number of different ways. NYCI is represented on two key EYF-related bodies. These bodies are BBC+ (A collection of national youth councils) and the COMEM (Council of Members of the EYF). We also have a youth representative on the Expert Group on the European Vote@16 Campaign in Ireland and throughout Europe. To date, there is a commitment in the Irish Programme for Government to lower the voting age to 17 years but this is subject to constitutional change and this is a process that has yet to commence. NYCI also lobbied the Irish representatives on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) which was exploring the issue of votes at 16. NYCI is also involved in the Youth Employment Action (YEA) which is a transnational consortium of European Youth Forum Member Organisations aiming to improve the position of young people in Europe with regards to their access to the labour market, enhancing their employability and making them aware of their working rights.

NYCI hosted a meeting of the YEA in March where we shared experiences in different countries and prepared work and activities for 2011.

NYCI has nominated people from member organisations to be part of the EYF databases on health and sustainable development. NYCI Assistant Director for Advocacy, James Doorley was invited by the EYF to take part in a meeting with various stakeholders in Brussels regarding internships as part of a European wide examination of the challenges and opportunities brought about by internships for young people and their mentors.

Youth in Action Funding

NYCI lobbied Irish and European politicians on the issue of securing funding for the Youth in Action programme that is responsible for financially supporting young people and youth worker exchange across Europe. As it stands, the YiA programme ceases in 2013 and is being subsumed into what is called Education Europe for the period 2014-2020.

Participation by Irish Young people and Youth Organisations in International Activities

International opportunities to participate in European workshops and activities continued to be available to Irish young people and youth organisations throughout 2011. Key among these were the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum; the 'How to establish a UN Delegate Programme' event; Warsaw/Polish Presidency focusing on Youth and the World and Youth participation in democratic life in Europe; EU Canada Roundtable on youth policy; the EU China Year of Youth where three young people had the opportunity to travel to China and engage with young people from China and across Europe and experience the Chinese culture. Another NYCI youth representative attended the EU-CoE Symposium on the Recognition of Youth Work and Non-Formal Learning in Strasbourg on 14-16 November.

The International Advisory Committee continued to meet on regular basis and to respond to member organisation's requests for information on international activities and opportunities.

INTERCULTURALISM AND EQUALITY

Diversity Toolkit

The Access all Areas: Diversity Toolkit is a self assessment tool that allows youth workers to assess how their service is responding to issues of equality and inclusion and gives practical guidelines on how to improve their levels of inclusion of all marginalised young people. It is be a web based resource available at www.youth.ie/diversity.

A county wide survey of youth activity in Co. Monaghan was completed and published in 2011. The survey used Access All Areas to identify strengths and weaknesses in inclusive youth work provision in the county. The findings showed a considerable lack of engagement with young people from Traveller communities and young people with a disability, especially physical and sensory disabilities. They also showed that while engagement with young people from minority ethnic backgrounds was quite high, this is because of special, targeted projects rather than being a reality across all youth groups in the county. As a result of this project the toolkit was updated to make it more practical and has proven to be an excellent resource for directing youth groups toward more inclusive practice. Work also began on the development of a version for the island of Ireland with Youthnet Northern Ireland. Six sections

are currently available online in an island of Ireland format.

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. Senior Research and Policy Officer, Marie-Claire McAleer, represents NYCI on the Steering Committee of the ECPC. Throughout 2011 NYCI continued to contribute to the work and development of the broad alliance, aimed at eliminating child poverty. For further information please see www.endchildpoverty.ie.

Sharing Best Practice

The NYCI Intercultural and Equality programme identified twelve best practice steps that should be evident in intercultural youth work and carried out a further research piece looking at intercultural practice in seven key Dublin based or national youth organisations. These were featured in a resource for youth workers published in 2011 called Promoting Quality in Intercultural Youth Work: 12 Steps to Good Practice, Phase 2.

VOLUNTEERING

To celebrate European Year of Volunteering and to enhance, promote and support volunteering among young people NYCI commissioned a qualitative research study on youth volunteering. The aim of this study was to develop a better understanding of the experience, behaviours and attitudes of young people in Ireland towards volunteering.

A key objective of the research was to explore the impact of volunteering on young people, why young people volunteer and why they remain involved. The research also explored some of the structural and attitudinal barriers and obstacles which can prevent young people from volunteering. Those targeted were asked to participate to ensure that policy recommendations are based on the genuine needs of people aged between 15 and 25. This report will inform our work in this area in 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS

2011 was a busy year for the communications section in the National Youth Council of Ireland which worked to support the advocacy goals of the organisation and to support NYCI members. Proactive PR on live issues ranging from youth unemployment to alcohol and young people, to voting age issues and more generated a wealth of coverage. There were over 200 print and broadcast media mentions, including features in all national press outlets, as well as interviews with national and regional broadcasters.

The communications section also continued to provide PR and promotional support for NYCI events including One World Week and the NYCI Annual Conference, as well as ensuring that NYCI had a presence at a number of external events and showcases.

As well as this, a range of promotional and information material was produced as were a number of publications including an Irish language version of the national induction training programme for volunteers engaged in youth work Starting Out and a new version of the Health Quality Mark.

Online Presence and Social Media Platforms

NYCI's web presence was further strengthened in 2011. All websites were updated on an ongoing basis with dedicated websites and monthly e-newsletters for key work areas ensuring ongoing communications with, and support for, members, stakeholders and other target audiences.

An average of more than 4,000 visits 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 received 120,141 page views and 8,034 PDF Downloads in the year ending September 30th 2011.

New tailored features introduced in response to user needs included the development of an online booking and payment system for NYCI trainings, conferences and other events; the creation of restricted access areas of youth.ie available for project groups; an online interface for searching and requesting items in the development education resource library; and improved data management and survey collection tools.

Inset: Launch of Enable Ireland's 'No Limits Kite Appeal 2011'. Right: Members of the audience enjoying a performance at the NYCI Youth Arts Showcase.





Top: 'A Rich Man's World?' YMCA members meet visiting Zambian youth workers at the One World Week event in Cork.
Bottom: Young people enjoying EIL Intercultural Learning event.

NYCI also increased its presence across social media platforms. As our friends list on Facebook passed 1,000, we began to develop our Facebook 'Fan Page'. This increased the potential audience available to us, while better protecting the privacy of our followers. On Twitter more than 400 people follow our updates, among them many media and other advocacy organisations. Our YouTube channel carries video of recent events, and our mailing lists reach over 2,000 subscribers.

REPRESENTATION AND SUBMISSIONS

Pre-Budget Submission 2012

In October 2011 we published our 2012 NYCI Pre-Budget Submission entitled 'Real Needs and Essential Services' which acknowledges the serious situation which has arisen in relation to the deficit in the public exchequer. However, we highlighted the role of the youth sector in supporting young people through the recession. We also stated that the very welcome decision to establish a

full Department for Children and Youth Affairs and to hold a referendum on Children's Rights would be undermined by cuts to youth services.

The submission called for investment in youth work, education, training and activation measures, and measures to support young jobseekers. It also emphasized the importance of protecting children living in low income households. The submission also suggested revenue raising measures that can also address alcohol related harm.

In addition, we made a number of submissions and contributions to policy reviews and proposed legislation throughout 2011 such as the Vetting Bill, Jobs Initiative and consultation of unhealthy food and beverage advertising to children and young people. Through our advocacy work we have raised and highlighted a number of issues through press releases and interviews with local and national print and broadcast media which resulted in significant coverage for our campaign issues.

The National Economic and Social Council

James Doorley, NYCI Assistant Director, represented the Community and Voluntary Pillar on the National Economic Social Council (NESC). Following the change of Government NESC did not formally resume meeting until June 2011. Following that, it held a formal meeting with the Taoiseach and finalised a report 'Supports and Services for Unemployed Jobseekers' which NYCI contributed significantly to. NESC is currently in the process of agreeing a work programme for the coming years. NYCI also raised concerns at the abolition of Comhar, on which we were represented. The Government plans to integrate the work of this body into NESC.

National Education Welfare Board

During 2011 NYCI Senior Research and Policy Officer, Marie-Claire McAleer, started her second term on the Board of the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB). The NEWB was established in 2002 under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, a progressive piece of legislation that emphasises the promotion of school attendance, participation and retention. 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.

In June 2011, the functions of the NEWB transferred from the Department of Education and Skills to the newly established office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. This new department will focus strongly on harmonising policy issues that affect children in areas such as early childhood care, education and participation, youth justice, child welfare and protection and research.

Community and Voluntary Pillar

Throughout 2011, NYCI continued to engage with the 16 other organisations in the Community and Voluntary Pillar. We 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.

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE YOUTH WORK PRACTICE

2011 saw the continuation of the
implementation of the key objectives of
NYCI's strategic plan, particularly the building
of co-operation between the policy and
practice work areas as well as further cohesion
between the individual programme areas.

This year the practice team focused on the area of evaluation and impact measurement. A number of staff members underwent training in Logic Model planning, the learning from which was then put into practice within the organisation. Each work and programme area subsequently developed models for their areas of responsibility. These were shared as a team and informed the development of an overarching logic model for NYCI's practice work. This preparatory work in turn fed into NYCI's Measuring Impact Project which commenced during the second half of 2011. The training and up-skilling of a large number of staff will ensure that NYCI is in a position to deliver on this project and act as a resource to the wider membership in being able to report on the benefit and impact of their work.

Key successes were recorded across the work areas which can be seen in the various programme inputs in this report. A small number however need to be recorded here.

In Equality and Inclusion, NYCI were successful in accessing new funding under the Grants Scheme for National Bodies. This has enabled us to maintain a staff capacity for this work. The funding is initially for three years (budgets permitting) and will enable NYCI to provide leadership in mainstreaming equality and inclusion practices with member organisations.

NYCI's fourth annual conference for youth workers took place in late November. Entitled 'How do we know it's working?' the conference built on the successes of previous conferences in providing organisations with practical supports to assist their own work and practice. The event also consolidates NYCI's own work on measuring impact and partnership work being undertaken both with member organisations and on a cross-border basis.

Our work on volunteering and volunteer supports also continued with our participation on the steering group for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and our continued representation on the board of Volunteer Ireland.

TRAINING

NYCI continued to provide comprehensive training on a national, regional and local basis. Work was also carried out on the development of integrated training information material for NYCI for 2012. This will ensure that training in all areas of our work will reflect the needs of the youth sector, be delivered in a collaborative and integrated way, avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure the most effective use of resources. A review was also carried out by staff resulting in the identification of new training opportunities for 2012.

TRAINING - DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Development education training was offered throughout the year: both on demand training to individual youth organisations and accredited training. The training provides practitioners with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver quality development education, inspiring the young people with whom they work to act for a more just and equal world. In 2011, training took place during the day and evening to accommodate volunteers and staff of youth organisations and in a variety of regional locations in order to make the training as accessible as possible. NYCI worked in partnership with YMCA to successfully deliver a FETAC level 5 accredited course, 'Global Justice in Youth Work'. The FETAC course also took place in the Liberties College for all first year students as a core element of their studies.

TRAINING - HEALTH

In addition to the Specialist Certificate, the NYCI National Youth Health Programme delivered an extensive array of training courses to organisations. 45 training events took place reaching over 800 participants. Courses were delivered in 'Sexual Health Promotion', 'Mental Health Promotion', 'Drugs and Alcohol', 'Challenging Behaviour', 'Bullying', 'Psychosis', 'ASIST' (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and 'SafeTALK'. The health programme is now a co-ordinating site for the ASIST and SafeTALK programmes.

A pilot project was rolled out with two youth organisations to build resilience and capacity at all levels – organisational/worker/volunteers and young people. In June two network events for youth workers were held which involved two seminars on youth mental health. This was a continuation of the work on the NYCI 2010 conference 'Dealers in Happiness' on the theme of positive psychology. The seminars were held in Galway and Dublin with workshops facilitated by Shane Martin on 'Harnessing the Positive' and Margaret Curran on 'Reconstructing Faulty Thinking in Young People'.

Spiritual Health/Mindfulness

The health programme worked with the Sanctuary in Stanhope Street to deliver a specially designed training course on mindfulness for youth workers entitled 'Moment to Moment'. The aim of the course is to assist youth workers to use mindfulness in their personal lives, and their work practice with young people. The course was delivered over four days in two blocks.

Top: Traditional round table banquet in ethnic village in Guixhou Province. Bottom left: Members of the National Association of Youth Drama take to the stage. Bottom right: Making a scene! Members of Young Irish Film Makers in action.



TRAINING - INTERCULTURALISM AND EQUALITY

The intercultural and equality programme continued to run a successful training programme in 2011. The focus in 2011 was to deliver training on demand rather than as scheduled events. Several trainings were adapted to meet the programme's new focus on promoting the inclusion of young people, staff and volunteers from a number of minority backgrounds. For example, the programme delivered very successful trainings on 'Tackling Racism', 'Sexism and Homophobia' and 'Embedding Diversity in Youth Work'.

We also contributed to training development in collaboration with a number of other bodies including City of Dublin Youth Services Board and Youthnet.

ARTS

Certificate in Youth Arts 2010/2011

The Certificate in Youth Arts is a part time, year-long university accredited course of study in Irish youth arts practice and is the only course of its kind in Ireland (accrediting body: NUI Maynooth, Department of Applied Social Studies). The certificate aims to introduce those working in the non-formal education sector to the concepts, principles and practice of youth arts using a context and practice approach.

The ultimate aim of the course is to further develop and enhance arts practice in youth work, so that more young people have the opportunity to experience arts in a non formal educational setting as makers, creators, participants, audience members and critics. It also aims to ensure that these are high quality experiences and to promote the best practice for working with young people developed by the youth work sector and how this can influence and contribute to arts practice in Ireland.

The course was delivered in seven modules via a mix of presentations, group discussion, small group work, personal assignments, guest tutor inputs and site visits.

Publications

NYCI Arts Programme developed and published Guidelines for Digital Film in Youth Work – a handbook for using film with your youth group, and re-edited and republished Creating Magic – a handbook for organising arts projects in youth contexts.

Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme

The Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme provides the opportunity for a professional artist to work with a youth group within a particular youth work setting. The aim of the award is to encourage artistic collaboration between professional artists and young people. The scheme was re-configured for 2011/2012 and was offered twice during this funding year with calls for applications in May and September. The 2011/2012 scheme saw an increase in applications for both the residency and the development award and a number of new art forms and organisations were awarded funding for the first time. A call for tenders to evaluate the Artist in Youth Work Residency Scheme was announced in late May. Aims of the evaluation include an examination of the scheme and its current model of engagement to determine if it still retains its innovative and creative approach, and where it fits in with contemporary best practice methodologies.

Breaking the Rules! Youth Arts Summer School for Youth Workers

The arts programme's first residential training, 'Breaking the Rules! A Youth Arts Summer School for Youth Workers' took place from the 15th-18th June 2011 in University College Cork. The training comprised of three days of art form training. After three packed days of hard work, the group came together to celebrate and share their projects with an inspiring showcase on the final night which saw giant puppets tell stories, beautiful art works presented, a silent conversation between masks, and a film that brought the house down!

'Breaking the Rules!' was aimed at youth workers looking to develop practical skills, ideas and techniques for using creative approaches for working with young people. 45 participants attended the summer school from across Ireland and the majority of those who attended were youth workers and those working in the youth work sector. Evaluations undertaken report that 100% of participants who completed evaluation forms would recommend the summer school to a colleague and all would return to the summer school next year.

CHILD PROTECTION

The NYCI Child Protection Programme continued to deliver a wide range of training programmes to the youth work sector throughout 2011. These trainings included the 'Child Protection Awareness Programme', 'Training for Trainers', 'Designated Person Training', 'Board of Management Training' and 'Policy Training'. Work was also started on the development of a specialist certificate in child protection, which will be accredited by NUI Maynooth.

The National Volunteer Induction Training Programme 'Starting Out'

The Child Protection Programme provided a number of briefings on The National Volunteer Induction Training Programme 'Starting Out'. This national programme for volunteers engaged in youth work practice provides a framework for the content and learning outcomes for training volunteers. The Child Protection Awareness Programme fulfils the child protection training component of this programme. This will help to ensure consistency and a standardised programme of child protection training for the youth work sector.

The rollout of the 'Designated Person Training Programme', which was developed and piloted with the assistance of a specially established working group including representation from the HSE, proved to be a very significant and successful training programme. It is aimed at those in an organisation who have responsibility for dealing with child protection issues, and particularly in the reporting of child protection concerns to the statutory services. A more condensed version of the training was also developed for volunteer club leaders who have a role in child protection and was piloted in the autumn.

Body Right Programme

In conjunction with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the NYCI Child Protection Programme and the NYCI National Youth Health Programme provided training to a group of youth workers on delivering the 'Body Right Programme' to young people. This programme was developed by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and is a sexual violence awareness and prevention programme for young people. It can be used as part of an existing relationship and health programme in youth services and is a very valuable resource to youth workers who work with young people on these issues.



Top: Young people on hand to launch NYCI publication 'Creating a Future for Young Jobseekers' with Joan Burton, TD, Minister for Social Protection. Bottom: Street action on images and messages in development as part of One World Week.

Support and information provision

The NYCI Child Protection Programme (CPP) continued to give support, advice and information to an increasing number of organisations. A feature of these services in 2011 was the increasing numbers of organisations who chose to rewrite and update their child protection guidelines and policies with the assistance of the CPP. The Child Protection Programme also provided information and advice to the sector on the implications of the updated Children First document and the implementation of the revised code.

DÁIL NA NÓG

Dáil na nÓg is the National Youth Parliament of Ireland for people aged 12-18 years. It gives young people from around the country an opportunity to represent the views of those under the voting age of 18 at a national level, and to work for changes to improve the lives of young people in Ireland. Delegates are elected to Dáil na nÓg through their local Comhairle na nÓg (youth councils run by each local authority).

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) funds and oversees Dáil na nÓg. The National Youth Council of Ireland has organised Dáil na nÓg on behalf of and in cooperation with the DCYA since 2003.



Left: Excitement builds at Youth Music Awards. Right: Opening ceremony of EU-China Year of Youth event.

National Dáil na nÓg Sitting

Dáil na nÓg 2011 took place on November 18th in Croke Park, Dublin and brought over 200 young people together from all over Ireland to discuss issues that concern them, question adult decision-makers, and propose and vote on recommendations for change. It was hosted by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. and chaired by two young people. A number of policy makers also attended the event to take part in a questions and answers session with the young people (chaired by Eddie D'Arcy of CYC) and a variety of organisations working with young people hosted information stands on the day.

This year the theme that the young people discussed was 'Strengthening the Voices of Young People through Comhairle na nÓg'. The young people came up with specific 'actions' in their discussion groups to improve Comhairle na nÓg locally and nationally, while also strengthening the voice of young people. Later in the day all delegates voted on these actions to identify key priorities, and also had an opportunity to question the Minister and policy makers about these issues. It was a successful day with very positive feedback from the young people involved.

Dáil na nÓg Council

Dáil na nÓg is not just a one-day event. Since the last national event the Dáil na nÓg Council (to be named Comhairle na nÓg National Executive from December 2011) has met regularly throughout the school year to take action on the two key issues identified by young people at Dáil na nÓg 2010: body image and exam pressures.

In July 2011, the Dáil na nÓg Council published a report detailing the findings from its consultation with young people in Ireland, in cooperation with the National Council for Curriculum Assessment (NCCA) to find out how they



Left: Participant speaking at SpunOut event. Top right: Members of Ballyfermot Youth Service at One World Week celebrations. Bottom right: Youth participants Noel Griffin, Jacinta Fay and Paddy Hennelly with Jim O'Donovan of OMCYA at European Union Hungarian Presidency Youth Conference in Budapest

thought the Junior Cycle could be improved. The report was launched by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the Minister for Education. Key findings included:

- Young people involved in the consultation want less compulsory subjects in the Junior Cycle and a wider choice of subjects.
- They would also like to have less emphasis on exams and more on project work, and would like to change the junior cycle to two years and the senior cycle to three years.

The Council also carried out research on body image issues. They trained as peer researchers, designed questionnaires on body image and supported young people in the Comhairles around the country to take part in the research. The results of this research were analysed at the end of 2011 and the young people will publicly launch the report of these findings in early 2012.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Zambia Exchange 2011

A group of four Zambian youth workers visited Ireland to coincide with One World Week. As part of the visit the work placement/shadowing dimension of the visit was extended to a week, in order to facilitate greater sharing of learning between organisations. An evaluation of the exchange also took place.

Networking and Representation

In 2011, NYCI focused its representative work on key networks in the development and development education sector, in particular Dóchas and the Irish Development Education Association. NYCI continued to represent Dóchas on the Development Awareness-Raising and Education (DARE) forum of CONCORD at European level and is Chair of the Youth and Children Working

Group and also continued its co-ordinating role for Global Education Week in Ireland via the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

HEALTH

The NYCI National Youth Health Programme (NYHP) continued to facilitate youth organisations and youth serving agencies to promote and inform healthy lifestyle behaviour. This work is achieved through the development of programmes and interventions specifically for and with youth organisations throughout the country along with the provision of training and support for workers and volunteers who implement these programmes. This work is wide in scope and in 2011 included:

- Building the capacity of youth organisations and youth serving agencies to promote and inform healthy lifestyle behaviour.
- Developing specific issue based health promotion interventions supported by resource production and trainings.
- Advocating for the adoption and implementation of evidence based policies and actions which would promote healthier lifestyle choices and behaviour amongst young people.

Strategic Review of the NYHP

A strategic review to consider the work of the programme in the context of the current realities of the youth sector and identify appropriate outcomes and priorities which will achieve the greatest impact was initiated in 2011 and will provide outcomes and recommendations for the direction of the NYHP in 2012 and beyond.

Specialist Certificate in Youth Health Promotion

The Specialist Certificate programme which is accredited by NUI Galway, commenced in October with 20 participants. Participants will develop a greater understanding of the National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) for youth work and the application of quality health assurance systems to their organisation.

Health Quality Mark

The Health Quality Mark (HQM) is a set of quality standards in youth health promotion and takes the form of an award conferred on organisations that satisfy agreed quality criteria. This year saw the Health Quality Mark criteria reviewed to support the NQS process. A support manual was also produced for organisations undertaking the process. The aim of the HQM is to recognise and acknowledge quality health promotion in youth organisations. 37 organisations currently hold HQM awards at various levels.

INTERCULTURALISM AND EQUALITY

Equality and Inclusion Support Network

In 2011 NYCI set up an Equality and Inclusion Support Network. This group is a network of champions from member organisations who support the mainstreaming of equality and inclusion in their own organisations and in the wider youth work sector. The role of the network is to:

- Identify current practice in youth organisations
- Identify gaps in provision and needs of organisations
- Identify the resources and supports required
- Share experience and examples of practice and policy



Brigini full of energy at Catholic Guides Ireland Centenary Day.

- Identify future actions for NYCI and the network
- Identify opportunities to influence policy at national and organisation levels

Ongoing support to the youth work sector on inclusion and equality issues

The Intercultural and Equality Officer continued to provide ongoing support to individual youth workers, youth work organisations and others. The programme also communicated through the intercultural website answering frequently asked questions, explaining issues relating to equality and interculturalism, making publications and resources available and outlining training programmes.

All Ireland collaboration

In 2011 NYCI continued to support increased collaboration in youth work across the island of Ireland. This collaboration involved:

- Continued development of Access All Areas into a resource for the island of Ireland
- Collaboration on the development of Equality and Inclusion Support Networks
- Development of a framework for Quality Inclusive Practice for volunteer led groups
- Running a practice seminar in cooperation with Youthnet on Working with Parents for the island of Ireland.

In addition a workshop entitled 'Equality and Inclusion Practice' was run in partnership with Youthnet at the YESIP All Ireland youth work seminar 'Creating a Framework for North South Cooperation in the Youth Sector'.

ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Governance and Management

Since the AGM in 2010 the Board met seven times, including two residential meetings. NYCI's AGM elected a new President, Orlaith Mc Bride from NAYD and eight new members to the Board of NYCI. As part of our continuing commitment to ensure best practice in corporate governance, we developed further our formal induction programme for new Board members which, together with a revised induction handbook, we believe will better equip them to play a full role on NYCI's Board. The Board development programme continued during 2011, this year there was a particular focus on maximising Board performance through enhanced participation and improved communication. Previous work on succession planning as part of the Board development process was required in practice, when in August Orlaith resigned as President of NYCI following her appointment to the very prestigious position of Director of the Arts Council. John Cahill, then Vice President was nominated as acting President until the AGM. Board attendance has been consistently high throughout the year.

NYCI commissioned an organisational review in March 2011. The purpose was to determine any requirements for reorganization that would enhance the effectiveness of the organisation, to further align our resources with our strategic direction and priorities, recognising the current to medium term funding environment in which we operate. The review has produced a number of recommendations for the Staffing Sub-Committee of the Board to consider.

Secure and Manage the Optimal Budget

In 2011 NYCI faced the same challenges as our member organisations with further cuts to our funding. We embarked on a further review of all budget lines. The freeze on recruitment to core funded posts continued together with the third year of a freeze on increments for all staff and cost were required to enable the organisation to operate within its reduced means. We continue to focus on developing high levels of financial awareness and budget management competence for staff, in 2011 there has been a particular focus on reducing levels of deferred income.

As the year ends we are facing the same financial uncertainty as our member organisations.

Implement and Monitor Business Plans

The integrated planning model which began in 2008 was continued in 2011. The corporate implementation plan was approved by the Board in early 2011 and the Senior Management Team continues to report progress against that plan to the Board on a quarterly basis. NYCI also commenced a significant project on Measuring Impact with support from New Philanthropy Capital. The project, once completed, will determine one set of measurable outcomes for all the work of NYCI together with a measurement framework and a set of indicators. NYCI staff members have also received training on the logic model and we will review our current planning processes to ensure that there is an appropriate fit with these new developments.



Top: Fun and games at World Scouting Jamboree. Bottom: All action at the National Association for Youth Drama's National Festival of Youth Theatres.

Membership

The voluntary youth sector finds itself in a complex and contradictory situation. More and more young people are looking for youth work opportunities and as many struggle to cope with the challenges facing them we have an even greater responsibility for their well-being. But we struggle to fulfil our objectives without the necessary support. NYCI's mission is to support the voluntary youth sector to reach its full potential, so that, in turn they can encourage and support young people to be the best they can. NYCI and its member organisations need to continue to work as agents of change for and with young people with both passion and enthusiasm. NYCI's members are our strength. They are the source of our authority and they inform every aspect of how we work.

The Specialist Organisations Network under the chairmanship of James O' Leary, CEO of Involve, met quarterly through 2011. The National Quality Standards Framework was a particular focus for the network this year. The membership of the network has increased over the year and members report that it provides the support, information and confidence that they need to do what they are doing better. A response in a recent membership survey stated that 'collaborative work is of great importance in the current climate and NYCI are meeting this need with gusto'.

The Policy and Advocacy Committee continued to meet regularly throughout 2011 and is reported on elsewhere in this report.

In January 2011 NYCI established a 'Spirituality Network' under the guidance of Vicky Rattigan from Young Christian Workers. This network is designed primarily 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



High fliers! Members of the National Association for Youth Drama: National Youth Theatre.

spiritual dimension. The network has met three times throughout the year; the focus to date has been on sharing information.

Structure and Work Practices

In 2011 our Youth Arts Project Officer moved to London and we are currently recruiting a replacement. We also said a temporary farewell to our Communications Officer who took a one year sabbatical to focus full time on her writing. During 2011 our primary focus has been on continuing to meet the needs of our member organisations. We offered a wide range of supports, events, training and networking opportunities to our members. The organisational review examined the current staffing structure of the organisation as well as reviewing current methods and ways of working. We are committed to making whatever changes are necessary to ensure that we are most effective in meeting the needs of our members and making the best use of the resources available to us.

Improved information systems

NYCI has continued to embrace new technology and innovation. In 2011 we ran our first ever web-based live seminar series in youth arts and ran two online information sessions on our Artists in Residency scheme. The interest and response has been very encouraging and we plan to explore further opportunities to use these methodologies in 2012. We continue to use social media to promote the work of NYCI and engage more broadly and have built up a growing following of individuals through both Twitter and Facebook who are interested in our work.

We have also developed and recently rolled out an on-line booking system for all our training and events to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of this process.



Communications

The primary focus of the Communications function within NYCI continues to be supporting the advocacy work of the organisation. Alongside this is the important role of supporting our member organisations through the sharing of relevant information. We continue to be both pro-active and reactive in our external communications. We are currently reviewing how we can make both our internal and external communication more effective.

Collaborative Working

I am delighted to report that NYCI has been actively involved in working collaboratively with statutory colleagues here and with the voluntary and statutory youth sectors in Northern Ireland to identify areas for enhanced co-operation. We jointly organised a cross-border conference in April 2011, with the support of the Peace III programme, to explore the possibilities for creating a framework for North/South co-operation in the youth sector. Four themes emerged including Equality and Inclusion, Workforce Development, Measuring Impact and Raising Quality Standards. Work has continued throughout 2011 and NYCI with our sister organisation in Northern Ireland, Youthnet, jointly organised a major conference with the theme 'How do we know it's working' in late 2011.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010

2010 was the third year of NYCI's current strategic plan and despite a significant decrease in both our incoming resources from charitable activity and from generated funds, NYCI continued to deliver on the work-plan approved by the Board.

2010 was the third consecutive year with a decrease in the finances of the Council. Income dropped by 8.5% to €1,947,176 and expenditure fell by 6% to €1,925,565. Although income has decreased we are fortunate to have been in a position to maintain a level of activity in all our key areas of work in 2010. The reduction in funding from all sources required NYCI to implement immediate 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 2010 are consistent with those experienced by our member organisations and the broader community and voluntary sector as a whole. Once again I recognise that this situation will 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.

For the 2010 financial statements NYCI voluntarily implemented the reporting requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP) 2005.

Finally, the NYCI and its work would not happen without financial support of external sources. I would like to record the Board's thanks to our funders for their continued support during the year and we look forward to working with them through 2011 and into the future.

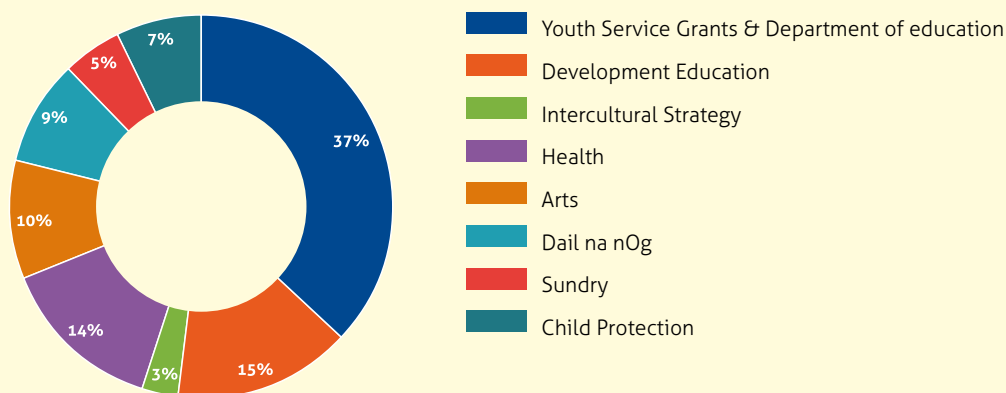
Kieran O'Dowd
Honorary Treasurer

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND

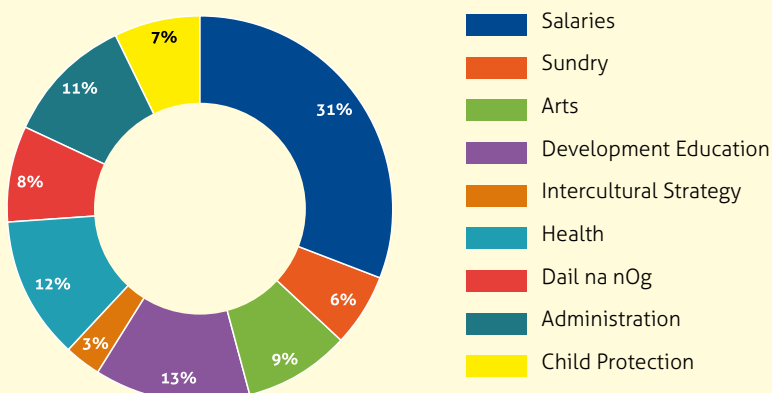
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 December 2010

	Restricted Funds 2010	Unre- stricted Funds 2010	Total Funds 2010	Total Funds 2009
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from charitable activities;	1,902,909	-	1,902,909	2,078,114
Incoming resources from generated funds;	-	44,267	44,267	51,093
Total incoming resources	1,902,909	44,267	1,947,176	2,129,207
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	1,850,831	-	1,850,831	1,979,114
Governance costs	-	74,734	74,734	68,366
Total resource expended	1,850,831	74,734	1,925,565	2,047,480
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	52,078	(30,467)	21,611	81,727

INCOME 2010



EXPENDITURE 2010



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2010

	2010 €	2009 €
Fixed assets	280,021	291,817
Current assets	731,967	838,046
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(567,604)	(696,806)
Net current assets	164,363	141,240
Total assets less current liabilities	444,384	433,057
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(91,216)	(101,500)
Net assets	353,168	331,557
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds		
Unrestricted income funds	126,146	156,613
Revaluation reserve	78,469	78,469
Restricted funds	148,553	96,475
	353,168	331,557

On behalf of the board

John Cahill
VicePresident

Kieran O'Dowd
Honorary Treasurer

**These financial statements were approved by
the board on the 14th October 2011.**

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
- HSE Community Games
- 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
- Involve
- National Committee for Diocesan Youth Directors
- No Name Clubs
- Ógra Chorcaí
- 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
- Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative
- Enable Ireland
- Glencree Youth Group
- IntroArt
- Irish Family Planning Association
- Irish Deaf Youth Association
- Irish Wheelchair Association
- YWCA of Ireland
- Youth 2000
- Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
- Presbyterian Youth and Children's Ministry
-



national youth council of ireland
COMHAIRLE NAISÍÚNTA NA NÓG

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