
Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

Impact Report 2021 - 2022



Chairperson's welcome



I am happy to present my second annual impact report as Chairperson for Ardoyne Youth Enterprise.

In the last year, AYE has built on its strengths and experience to help the community emerge from lockdowns and Covid restrictions, manage the continuing impact of the pandemic and community deprivation, and support young people to grow and strive.

Among our many achievements, I am very proud to report the significant growth of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise as an accredited OCNNI training centre, from 128 participants in accredited training in 20-21 to 208 in 21-22, with several new courses developed including Youth Justice, Hair Styling, Introduction to Social Media, Inclusive Youth Work for Young People with ASD, and Safer Finances in partnership with the Northern Ireland Consumer Council. Our staff, volunteers and Board's other great achievements in youth work, community development, good relations, partnership building and membership support also deserve a mention.

I invite you to read all about it in this report.

Sally Smyth

Chairperson, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

The year at a glance

Youth work

- **1,554** outreach detached engagements
- MADE group with Monkstown Boxing Club: **17** young women
- Engage group with RCity: **40** young people
- Personal development programme at Trinity College: **11** young people
- Emerge Tuesday outreach group: **12** young people
- HerVoice young women's group: **9** participants
- **118** mentoring sessions for **20** at-risk young people in partnership with RCity
- **8** young volunteers, **31** participants in community clean-ups
- **30+** young people referred to local youth clubs and services
- **120+** young people attended interface intervention events

Accredited training

- **24** OCNNI courses
- **208** learners
- **194** achieved their qualification
- **20** qualified at Level 1 and **174** at Level 2
- Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice: **16** newly qualified youth workers
- **11** training partners
- **New courses:** Youth Justice, Hair Styling, Relationships and Sexual Health, and a Pilot course in Safer Finances OCNNI Level 2 in partnership with Consumer Council

Welcoming newcomers

- Over **400** participants
- **192** participants in Small Worlds workshops
- Over **200** participants in multicultural events, days out and visits
- **20+** newcomer families and individuals supported through partnership with North Belfast Friendship Club and Family Comfort

Membership support

- Information exchange: **5** youth and community providers meetings, eNews, regular mailouts, Urban Villages communications support etc
- Advocacy through umbrella groups and meetings with statutory agencies
- Courses run for **11** local youth clubs and community groups and **1** school and free places on our OCNNI Youth Work course for staff and volunteers of youth organisations

Supporting young people

Our youth engagement team and mentoring programme surpassed themselves in 2021-22. A few highlights from the year:

Outreach

Our youth engagement team remains very busy with outreach work, engaging with young people on the streets of Ardoyne and Marrowbone, holding information stalls and interface intervention events, helping to minimise anti-social behaviour and ease tensions, support young people through early



intervention and encourage them to get involved in youth clubs and activities.

Altogether, the team had **1,554** outreach detached engagements with young people on the streets of Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Oldpark and in our drop-in.

AYE supported a partnership between local youth clubs to raise funds for a new Empowering Young People Outreach Detached Project. This one-year enhanced outreach programme led by John Paul II Youth Club in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Club and Marrowbone Youth Club provided much needed support. Our team coordinated our efforts with the project to ensure there was no duplication and that more times and areas of the district were covered. We drew on our experience to provide training for the team. Sadly the project has now folded due to lack of long-term mainstreamed funding.

In June 21, we ran a successful family fun event together with Ardoyne Youth Club, with support from Cooperation Ireland through Ashton Community Trust. Our community barbecues in partnership with the Community Foodbank were also very popular.

New groups

We started two new groups this year, grown through outreach and a decision to strengthen our progression routes for young people on our programmes.

Emerge meets every Tuesday, and includes **12** young people who did not previously engage with youth services, recruited through engagement on the streets of Ardoyne and Marrowbone.

HerVoice young women's group had **9** participants working together on personal development, taking up accredited training and supporting each other through exam times, job searches and the many challenges facing young women.

We also ran a personal development programme at Trinity College for **11** young people.

Diversity, empowerment and good relations

We encourage cross-community youth work and training initiatives.

The Ardoyne and Monkstown boys from last year's MADE programme finally got together for a go-karting session and a residential in Ballintoy, after doing most of the previous year's programme on zoom. We are so proud of what they achieved over two years, including an award in Diversity and Good Relations, but mostly building strong friendships and challenging their preconceptions. Most of the boys have since enrolled on development programmes with RCity, Ardoyne Youth Club etc.

We enrolled a new squad for 21-22, this time a group of **17** young women who partnered with a similar group in Monkstown Boxing Club. The girls achieved much together on their diversity and empowerment programme. Some of them have since progressed on to our HerVoice personal development and youth leadership programme.

We ran two shared history events with young people from Monkstown Boxing Club and RCity for Good Relations Week.

Cross-community summer programmes

In summer 21, we ran several planned intervention summer programmes, including the ENGAGE programme with R-City and a young women's group also with RCity and Active Communities Network. The Engage group alone involved **40** young people.



Enhancing skills, fostering young people's creativity

We ran a drugs and alcohol awareness workshop with a group of young men, and they helped make a great video for Ashton Community Trust on the theme of making your own choices. You can see the video here: [AYE - #OwnYourChoice \(youtu.be/WY_e-UqMHq8\)](https://youtu.be/WY_e-UqMHq8).

A group of young women learned digital fabrication with the NERVE Centre. Massive thanks to Never Centre for this exciting training and for donating digital fabrication equipment which will enable young people to put their learning in practice, and which will greatly enhance training facilities when we move into our new building.

We supported **8** young men to volunteer in our summer intervention programmes, AYE garden and community activities, and **31** young people participated in environmental clean-ups.

Young people sharing their expertise

In June 21, we facilitated a conversation where young people from Ardoyne, Lower Shankill and New Lodge shared their experiences and hopes with University of Massachusetts peace studies summer school. We also spoke about the role of youth and community development in peace building.



We brought a group of young women to a 'Youth Beyond Covid' consultation event, where they reflected on how they coped with the past year, what could have been done better, and what steps should be taken to support them, while local councillors, MLAs and the Children's Commissioner listened and took note. We were proud of their input, and of our youth workers' facilitation at the event.

Mentoring

20 at-risk young people from Ardoyne and Shankill areas participated in a programme of **118** mentoring sessions, in partnership with R-City. All the young people said they would recommend the programme to others. Common areas of improvement reported as a result of the mentoring included:

- improved ability to manage emotions,
- improved relationships/ friendships,
- improvements in overall mental health,
- better understanding of consequences,
- improved communication with parents,
- reduced use of substances,
- more understanding of when to ask for support.

Welcoming newcomers

A great year for our Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast Programme, with **over 400 participants** in 21-22.

Small Worlds

192 joined Small Worlds workshops where members of Belfast Friendship Club shared their stories of migration, asylum and cultural diversity in schools, youth centres and community groups.

Social events

Over **200** people, locals and newcomers together, joined in social events: a fun day for families and local youth groups at Ardoyne Youth Club and Yeha Belfast/ NBWisp community gardens at Our Lady's PS in September, and a multicultural celebration event at Marrowbone Youth Club in March.

Support for newcomer families

We also worked with North Belfast Friendship Club and Family Comfort NI Charity to accompany newcomer families on social outings and signpost to support services where needed.

Partners

We could not have done it without great partnerships so a big thank you to: Community Relations Council, Community Food Bank, Beyond Skin, New Lodge Arts, WheelWorks, Northern Ireland Youth Forum, New Lodge Youth Centre, WOMENSTEC, GRACE Family Centre, R City, Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery, Wheatfield Primary School, Sacred Heart Boys Primary School and many more.

What they said

about Small Worlds:

'I got to learn about different people's issues and what they lost and had to leave behind.' (Engage AYE RCity)

'Was brilliant learning about other cultures and some heart breaking stories tonight.' (Northern Ireland Youth Forum)

'I had a lot in common.' (Wheatfield Primary School)



Strengthening youth and community through training

In 2021-22, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise completed **24 OCNNI courses for 208 learners** for/in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Club, New Lodge Youth Centre, R-City, Girls Brigade, Black Mountain Group, Spectrum Centre, Grace Family Centre, Trinity College, Harmoni, Consumer Council and North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

In addition to our Youth Work Level 2 Award, Youth Leadership and Mentoring Skills, Personal Motivation, Exploring Feelings and Emotions, Mental Health Awareness and Diversity, we were really excited to offer new OCNNI courses, including:

- Introduction to Social Media for a women's group at GRACE Family Centre,
- Youth Justice for learners at Trinity College,
- Hair Styling for young men involved with Ardoyne Youth Club, AYE and Marrowbone Youth Club,
- Inclusive Youth Work for Young People with ASD, a new course for youth workers from New Lodge Youth Centre and Ardoyne Youth Club,
- Relationships and Sexual Health for young people in Ardoyne Youth Club and North Belfast Alternatives' Urban Villages partnership,
- and a Pilot course in Safer Finances in partnership with Consumer Council for 30 young people engaged with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, Ardoyne Youth Club and New Lodge Youth Centre.



Massive congratulations to the **194** learners who completed and achieved their certificates.

We expect that 22-23 will see continued expansion of our training programme. AYE can offer courses for youth groups in wider North Belfast, providing tutors (or support for in-house tutors), assessment support, internal verification and administration. Contact us to discuss requirements, arrangements and costs: communication@ardoyne.org.

Supporting members, partners and community

In 2021-22, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise supported members and partners through:

- information exchange, advocacy and promoting the work of over **45** members and partners through **5** youth and community providers meetings, eNews, regular mailouts and participation in working groups - NBSGRP, Urban Villages, Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbouring Partnership, TASCIT, Family Support Hub, etc,
- communications support including gathering stories from youth and community groups in Ardoyne and Ballysillan for Urban Villages magazine Focus,
- courses for **11** local youth clubs and community groups and **1** school and free places on our OCNNI Youth Work course for staff and volunteers of youth organisations,
- training and support for Empowering Youth People outreach detached workers,
- support for area youth and community events, distributing grow kits to local families and newcomers in partnership with Groundworks NI,
- office and storage space for Ashton Breakthrough and North Belfast Friendship Club, youth work space in our community garden for local groups.



We continue to work towards the development of a Youth & Community Hub at Ardoyne Road, including a working group for Ardoyne and Twaddell area to avoid duplication of services.

Board member of: Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership; North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Partnership; Glenbrook Surestart.

Chair of: Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Youth Sub-Group.

Member of: Ardoyne Education Task Group; Ardoyne Marrowbone Sports Forum; Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group; North Belfast Family Support Hub; North Belfast Urban Villages Steering Reference Group; TASCIT steering group.



ARDOYNE
YOUTH
ENTERPRISE

Linking YOUTH with opportunities
to build stronger communities



Contact us

Address: Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, 11a Flax Street, Belfast BT14 7EJ

Phone: 028 9074 1479

Web: www.ardoyne.org

Follow us

On Facebook: Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

On Twitter: @ayebelfast

On Instagram: ayebelfast

On YouTube: Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

With thanks to our members and funders:

Members: AMH New Life Counselling, Ard Eoin Ciceams, Ardoyne YC, CRJI, Glenbrook Surestart, GRACE Family Centre, Holycross Boys PS, Holycross Preschool, John Paul II YC, Mindskills, Marrowbone Community Association, NBIN, PIPS, RCity, Safer Neighbourhood Ardoyne Partnership, St Vincent de Paul PS, YEHA

Funders: Belfast City Council, DfC, Education Authority, NICRC, TEO, The Urban Villages Initiative.