
Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

Impact Report 2022 - 2023



Chairperson's welcome



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

In the last year, AYE has built on its strengths and experience to advocate for youth services and help organisations coordinate their work in support of young people in a difficult funding environment for the sector.

AYE has continued to develop its expertise in outreach detached youth work and progression routes for young people not normally engaged in youth clubs, while fostering good relations and empowerment in all its youth programmes.

Among our many achievements, I am very proud to report the continued growth of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise as an accredited OCNNI training centre with 218 participants in accredited training. Congratulations to the 190 learners who achieved qualifications, including 15 who are now qualified youth workers thanks to AYE's OCNNI Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice.

I am also very proud of the organisation's work in bringing youth organisations together to develop a coordinated approach to outreach and detached youth work across North Belfast.

AYE is going from strength to strength in its work to support the inclusion of newcomers in the community, another great initiative to be proud of.

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

- **3,225** outreach detached engagements
- MADE group with Monkstown Boxing Club: **22** young people
- Personal development programme at Trinity College: **6** young people
- Emerge outreach groups: **19** young people
- HerVoice young women's group: **9** participants
- **116** mentoring sessions for **20** at-risk young people in partnership with RCity
- **23** young people helped with one-to-one, educational and employability support
- **4** young volunteers supported
- **43** young people referred to local youth clubs and services
- **40** young people engaged in cross-community summer intervention events
- **2** Outreach stalls at community events and **7** Friday outreach stalls providing **280** hot meals for young people

Accredited training

- **21** OCNNI courses
- **213** learners
- **190** achieved their qualification
- **33** qualified at Level 1 and **157** at Level 2 (Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE A to C)
- Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice: **15** newly qualified youth workers
- **10** training partners

Welcoming newcomers

- **204** participants in Small Worlds cultural diversity workshops
- **194** participants in multicultural celebrations and newcomer integration initiatives
- **25** newcomer families supported

Membership support

- **38** youth and community groups supported
- Information exchange: study visits, youth and community providers meetings, eNews and mailouts, Urban Villages communications support, use of facilities, support for community festivals
- Advocacy and coordinated planning through umbrella groups and meetings with statutory agencies
- Courses run for **9** youth and community groups and **1** school
- **19** free places on our OCNNI Youth Work course for staff and volunteers of youth organisations

Supporting young people

In 2022-23, our youth engagement team continued to work hard to support young people in an uncertain climate. 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 **3,225** outreach detached engagements with young people on the streets of Ardoyne, Marrowbone, Hillview and Oldpark and in our drop-in.

Highlights of the year included:

- the Friday outreach hot food stalls which gave us new opportunities to reach out to young people while helping alleviate poverty in the cost-of-living crisis,
- holding information stalls at TASCIT Meet the Neighbours cross community event and Ardoyne Association / NB Housing welcoming event for new residents,
- supporting successful fun days for local people and newcomers with Ardoyne and Bone Festival, Marrowbone Community House and Ardoyne Youth Club.

Group work – personal development, good relations and diversity

Many of the young people we meet while on outreach detached are not involved in local youth services. Where possible, we refer them to youth clubs, sporting clubs and other activities but we also run targeted groups for young people who need support to reengage.

Our Emerge groups this year included **19** young people recruited through engagement on the streets of Ardoyne and Marrowbone.



HerVoice young women's group continued its progression from the previous year, with **9** young women participating, and **7** progressing to other youth activities with partner organisations.

We also ran a personal development programme at Trinity College for **6** young people.



We encourage cross-community youth work and training initiatives. This year, **22** young people participated in a diversity and empowerment programme in partnership with Monkstown Boxing Club. **19** completed the programme. Participants surveyed said it increased their skills and **88%** said it improved

their confidence as well as their knowledge of different cultural backgrounds and their attitude towards other ethnic backgrounds.

Summer intervention programmes

In summer 22, we ran cross community intervention summer programmes with RCity and Monkstown Boxing Club, involving **40** young people.

Our team also helped to organise two family fun days with Ardoyne and Bone Community Festival and Ardoyne Youth Club. These events, held to provide community activities at times where there is a risk of heightened tensions, were enjoyed by over a thousand people and contributed to a largely calm and happy summer in the area.



Encouraging young leaders

We supported **4** young people to volunteer in our youth work and communications activities.

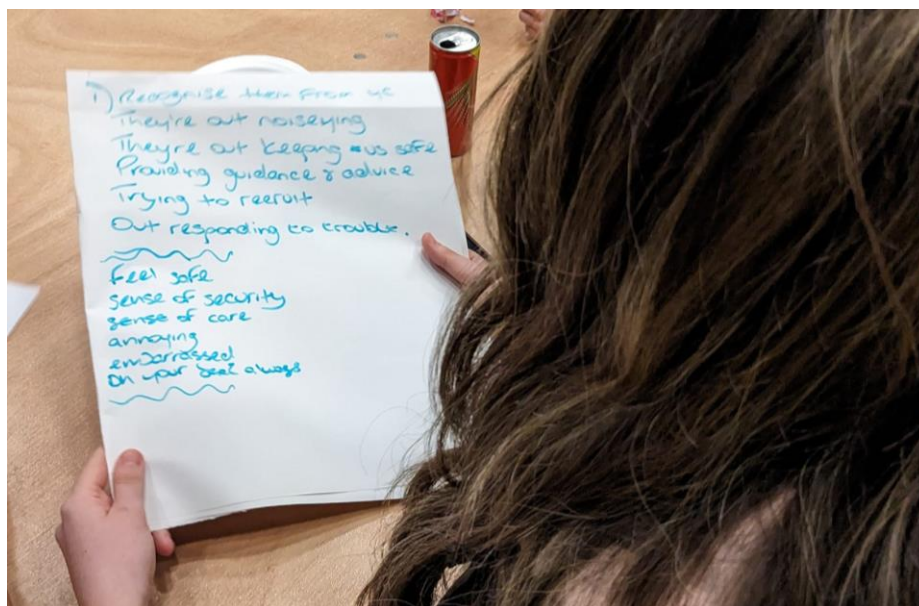
Young people sharing their expertise

In June 22, we facilitated a visit to the area by University of Massachusetts peace studies summer school where young people from Ardoyne and Lower Shankill shared their experiences and hopes with students and tutors on the course. We also spoke about the role of youth and community development in peace building.

In March 23, we held a consultation event with **55** young people aged 13 to 18 to help shape a coordinated approach to outreach detached youth work in North Belfast. Participants included AYE's Emerge group, Ardoyne Youth Club, North Belfast

Alternatives, CCRF's Let Youth Lead and Girdwood Shared Space, RCity and New Lodge Youth Centre.

In a climate of funding cuts to the youth sector, the young people said that dealing with ASB, sectarianism and risk-taking



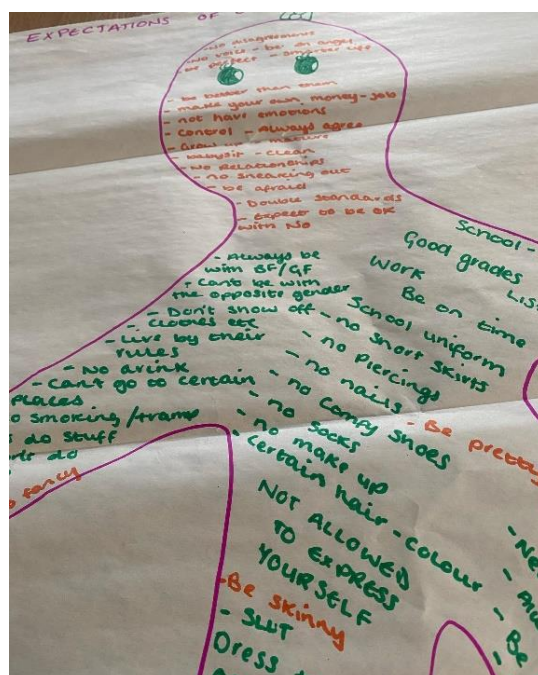
behaviour requires more weekend youth services, more outreach, more diversionary activities and more cross community youth work. Sectarianism, bullying, ASB, risk-taking behaviour and addiction affect young people greatly, more often as victims than as perpetrators, and this was shown in their responses. Their responses also point to a strong awareness of the links with mental health and community issues passed on through generations.

Mentoring

23 at-risk young people from Ardoyne and Shankill areas were referred to a mentoring programme in partnership with R-City. **20** completed the programme, attending a total of **116** mentoring sessions. All the young people said they would recommend the programme to others. As a result of the programme:

- **95%** felt better able to cope when problems arise,
- **95%** felt more able to keep themselves safe,
- **95%** felt more confident and had better communication skills,
- **90%** felt more positive about their future,
- **100%** were not engaged in any offending behaviour during the programme delivery,
- **90%** felt the project fostered better community relationships.

In addition, our youth engagement team provided one-to-one, employability and educational support to **23** other young people.



Welcoming newcomers

A great year for our Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast Programme, with **over 420 participants** in 22-23.

229 participants responded to feedback surveys: **96%** said the programme increased their knowledge of other cultures and **79%** said their attitude towards other beliefs and cultures had improved.

Small Worlds

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

Social events

194 people, locals and newcomers together, joined in social events: a multicultural fun day at Marrowbone Community Hub to celebrate Good Relations Week, a hurling demonstration for newcomer families at Ard Eoin Ciceams and a trip to North Belfast Lantern Festival.

Support for newcomer families

We supported 25+ newcomer families participation in events and information sessions.

Partners

We could not have done this without great partnerships with Community Relations Council, Belfast Friendship Club, New Lodge Youth Centre, Ballysillan Community Forum, Alternatives Restorative Justice, Springboard Opps, Trinity College, Deanby

Youth Centre, RCity, Streetbeat Youth Project, Cliftonville Integrated Primary School, Limestone United, Our Lady's Primary School, Family Comfort NI, North Belfast Friendship Club, Rainbow Refugees NI, Community Food Bank and Ard Eoin Ciceams.

What they said:

'A lovely inclusive event.'
'Need more events like this in the community.' (Participants in Multicultural Fun Day at Marrowbone Community Hub)
'Good to meet people from different countries and get to know how they feel about this country.' (Small Worlds participant, Ballysillan Community Forum)
'It was a true privilege to hear the stories from the members of Belfast Friendship Club. This session was facilitated to encourage openness and honesty. Perceptions were definitely challenged and helped to give a new perspective. Very educational day, I took away a wealth of knowledge!' (Small Worlds participant, Springboard Opps)



Strengthening youth and community through training

In 2022-23, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise completed **21** OCNNI courses for **213** learners for young people, volunteers and youth workers in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Club, North Belfast Alternatives, Marrowbone Youth Club, BCTNI, New Lodge Youth Centre, R-City, Corpus Christi Youth Centre, The Blue Houses, GRACE Family Centre and Trinity College.

In order to deliver employability skills and personal development learning for different ages and abilities and to offer progression routes for learners, we ran courses at:

- Level 1: Peer Mentoring for Young People, Personal Motivation, Exploring Feelings and Emotions,
- Level 2: Award in Youth Work Practice, Hair Styling Skills, Safer Finances, Drug Awareness, Youth Leadership, Relationships and Sexual Health, Mentoring Skills and Techniques, Mental Health, Peer Mentoring.



assessment support, internal verification and administration. Contact us to discuss requirements, arrangements and costs: communication@ardoyne.org.

What they said:

'Young people were very happy to find out that they can add their OCNs to their CVs and that they are equivalent to GCSEs. This makes them keen to do well on the course and encourages good learning on the topic. They look forward to seeing their feedback. It gives them a confidence boost and pushes them to do better.'

Youth worker, Ardoyne Youth Club

'The course has made me more confident in my barbering abilities'. Learner in OCNNI Level 2 Hairstyling Skills

'This course gave me the foundational knowledge to be able to deliver effective practice to my young people.'

Learner in OCNNI Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice

Massive congratulations to the **190** learners who completed and achieved their certificates, including **15** who are now qualified youth workers thanks to OCNNI Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice.

AYE can offer courses for youth groups in wider North Belfast, providing tutors (or support for in-house tutors),

Supporting members & partners

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, North Belfast Interfaces Working Group; North Belfast Local Advisory Group.

In 2022-23, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise supported members and partners through:

- advocacy, information exchange and promoting the work of over **38** members and partners in youth and community providers meetings, eNews, regular mailouts and through participation in working groups - NBSGRP, Urban Villages, Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbouring Partnership, TASCIT, Family Support Hub, North Belfast Interfaces Working Group etc,
- advocating for local community groups to receive additional revenue funding from Urban Villages to enhance the capacity of their newly developed premises,
- advocacy on behalf of North Belfast youth organisations to help mitigate funding cuts,
- study visits for youth organisations to Nil By

Mouth in Glasgow and Wallsall Youth Service in Brighton and North Belfast-wide consultation events with youth workers and young people to plan new approaches to collaborative cross-community work and meaningful outreach detached youth work,

- communications support including gathering stories from youth and community groups in Ardoyne and Ballysillan for Urban Villages magazine Focus,
- courses for local youth clubs and community groups and free places on our OCNNI Youth Work course for staff and volunteers of youth organisations,
- support for youth and community events and poverty reduction initiatives in partnership with Ardoyne Youth Club, Community Food Bank, People's Kitchen and Ardoyne and Bone Community Festival.
- meeting and youthwork space in our offices and garden for local groups.

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





ARDOYNE
YOUTH
ENTERPRISE

Linking YOUTH with opportunities to
build stronger communities



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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.

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