



ARDOYNE
YOUTH
ENTERPRISE



Annual Report 18-19

#YoungPeopleAreAmazing

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

Annual Report 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Chairperson's introduction

2018-19 was a very exciting year for Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, as you will see in the pages of this Annual Report.

With your support, we continue to work hard to develop services, opportunities and strategic gains locally to youth organisations and young people. We play a pivotal role in improving community development structures and services in Ardoyne and Marrowbone and across North Belfast.

We are widely recognised as an integral part of youth and community support, as a supportive and dependable organisation that fosters partnerships to enhance services for everyone in Ardoyne and its neighbouring areas.

Some of the highlights of the year:

- A sustained programme of summer engagements and family-friendly activities in Marrowbone Park;
- North Belfast Street Team, a joint outreach winter programme in partnership with Woodvale, Ballysillan and New Lodge youth centres;
- Just Girls, an empowerment programme for young women, and campcraft, a physical well-being programme for young men;
- The second year of our Monkstown Ardoyne diversity and empowerment programme for young people;
- New OCNNI courses to support emerging young leaders;
- Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone, a film series celebrating our community;
- Welcoming Newcomers, a new programme promoting the integration of new migrants and asylum seekers in local community groups and schools;



- A visit to the Lord Mayor's parlour with Nuala McAllistair and the Just Girls Group; Get Your Voice Heard, with Deirdre Hargey, Belfast Youth Forum, Ardoyne Youth Club and students from Mercy and Trinity; the Silence of the Ceasefire Generation with the Children's Commissioner, Victims' Commissioner, Northern Ireland Youth Forum and R-City;
- Study visits for youth workers and community activists.



On behalf of the management committee of AYE, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the success of the organisation, especially local youth providers, our staff and volunteers and also our funders for their ongoing confidence in this project.

I trust we can continue to work with you to help shape a better future for our young people and our community.

Finally, I want to thank the young people of Ardoyne, Marrowbone and neighbouring areas, who keep working together with great enthusiasm and giving us thoughtful insights that will help to shape services in the area and beyond in years to come.

Young people in our communities are often unfairly stereotyped – our experience is that they have much to offer, and that the more we nurture them as a community, the more they will give back. Young People Are Amazing!

Yours in community

Thomas Turley, [Chairperson](#)



In January 2019, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise was awarded a Lord Mayor's Certificate for its youth and community development work.

Partnership



Partnership is central to youth, community development and good relations work.

In 2018-19, we partnered with youth providers, sports clubs, Belfast City Council, BPCSP and the Education Authority to offer:

- in the summer, family-friendly activities in Marrowbone Park and outings for young people;
- in the winter, North Belfast Street Team, a joint youth outreach project with youth centres in Ardoyne, Ballysillan, New Lodge and Woodvale.

We ran the second year of MADE, a youth diversity and empowerment partnership with Monkstown Boxing Club, supported by North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme (NBSGRP). NBSGRP also enabled us to deliver:

- cross-community OCN Level 2 courses for young leaders;
- intensive mentoring for at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill;
- practitioners' dialogue and study visits on prospects for a shared youth space.

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, we ran another strand of partnership activities to develop young people's capacity:

- camp craft in partnership with R-City;
- AYE Matter empowerment events to promote young people's voices.

We worked on community cohesion initiatives, convening youth providers meetings, being active participants in the Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival and developing new projects:

- Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone, a series of interviews of people connected with the area, with support from Urban Villages;
- Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast, a programme to increase our communities' capacity to integrate new migrants, funded by NBSGRP.

Boards and working groups

Board member of:

Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership; North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Partnership; Glenbrook Surestart, Development Trusts NI; Ardbone Festival

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.

Reaching out and engaging with young people

4,021 hours
of face-to face
youth work

In 2018-19, our youth engagement coordinator and 3 part-time youth engagement workers ran a busy outreach and development programme with the help of volunteers and workers in partner organisations.

Altogether, we delivered, facilitated and commissioned 4,021 hours of face-to-face youth work, including:

2600 hours: outreach, drop-in and one to one support

144 hours: summer intervention programme

368 hours: North Belfast Street Team Friday and Saturday outreach and drop-in from January to March in Ardoyne, Ballysillan, New Lodge and Woodvale

351 hours: intensive mentoring

102 hours: MADE training sessions and social action project

120 hours: in 4 OCNNI accredited courses in Youth Leadership, Mentoring and Mental Health Awareness training

396 hours: on 11 residentials (1 residential for mentoring; 1 summer intervention programme, 3 MADE; 2 campcraft and outdoor pursuits training, 4 OCNNI)



How many young people did we work with?

As so much of our work is informal engagement on the streets, it is difficult to estimate the total number of young people engaged. However, we know that:

2,481 engagements with young people took place on our North Belfast Street Team outreach and drop-ins (464 in Ardoyne, 392 in Ballysillan, 574 in New Lodge, 1051 in Woodvale)

90 young people attended our drop-in and related activities

143 young people engaged in our summer intervention programme (diversionary outings and activities and Marrowbone Park Saturday evenings programme)

21 young people were supported through the mentoring programme

63 young people participated in Uniting Communities, a good relations through sports programme run in partnership with Ashton Community Trust, Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and Peace Players International

24 young people engaged in camp craft training (19 completed the programme)

20 young people took part in our MADE diversity and empowerment programme

8 young women took part in a Just Girls empowerment programme

65 young people took part in AYE Matter events (12 in a visit to the Lord Mayor's Parlour, 30 in Get your Voice Heard event, 20 in Silence of the Ceasefire Generation, and 3 young hosts for a study visit by UMASS students and staff)

20 young people took part in a social action project with Homeless Aware



(See page 13 for statistics on young people's participation in accredited training and volunteering)

Reaching out to young people: detached youth work and drop-in



Our youth workers mainly work with young people who do not usually engage with youth services in the area.

In 2018-19, the outreach detached and drop-in service ran five evenings a week alongside our training and empowerment programmes. Around 90 individual young people made use of our drop-in and related activities, to get information, find a listening ear, or simply relax and socialise in a safe environment.

Summer activities and Bonehills animation

In the summer, we extended our outreach work to include times where tensions at interfaces can run high. We engaged with at-risk young people on the streets and enrolled them in diversionary fun and fitness activities over a period of six weeks.

There were no recorded incidents of interface violence or bonfires in the area during these times.

Belfast City Council and youth providers in the area made a concerted effort to offer family-friendly activities in Marrowbone Park on Saturday evenings throughout the summer in order to create a safe space for young people and families and reduce anti-social behaviour in and around the park.



Ardoyne Youth Enterprise coordinated these activities, with help from Ardoyne Youth Club, Belfast Sports and Community Development Network, Belfast Activity Centre and Ardoyne Kickhams. Community groups commented that the park and neighbouring streets had known their most peaceful summer in a long time.

These activities enabled youth workers to engage with young people on their own terms, build trust, initiate useful conversations on positive choices, signpost them to local youth services and design programmes based on their needs and wishes.

Joined up youth work: North Belfast Street Team

From January to March, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise coordinated a joint extended outreach project in Ardoyne, Ballysillan, New Lodge and Woodvale.

Together with North Belfast Alternatives, Ballysillan Youth for Christ, New Lodge Youth Centre and Streetbeat Youth Project, we ran a mix of detached outreach and drop-in on Friday and Saturday nights for 11 weeks and on St Patrick's Day.

The project helped resolve incidents of community tension and anti-social behaviour in streets and parks, and provided child protection and harm reduction interventions for at-risk young people. It offered an opportunity to consult young people on community safety issues and community inclusion. Increased communication between youth teams and with community stakeholders allowed faster responsiveness.

The collaborative approach between the youth teams has endured beyond the timescale of the project.

This pilot project has once again demonstrated its value, and we would like to see it resourced throughout the year.

We commissioned a video on North Belfast Street Team to generate discussion on good practice in joined up outreach youth work: [YouTube - Ardoyne Youth Enterprise - North Belfast Street Team](#).



North Belfast Street team recorded 2,481 engagements with young people.

In a sample survey:

68% said the project had improved their behaviour.

76% felt they had learnt something new.

'Kept me off the drink.'

'Keeps people off the streets.'

'I feel safe and welcome here.'

'Makes you more mindful.'

'Not enough places for us to go at the weekends.'

Youth work partners' feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

'The street support allowed the youth workers to assist vulnerable young people in a time of need and direct them to safety.' Paul Dynes, New Lodge Youth Centre

'We saw a reduction in anti-social behaviour in Ballysillan. A good positive relationship has developed between all organisations that took part. AYE have been great coordinators and were a good support.' Joan Totten, North Belfast Alternatives

'Great to go and support groups in other areas, such as AYE in Ardoyne on St Patrick's Day, and see what their detached and outreach work looks like.'

Team leader, Ballysillan Youth for Christ



Promoting health and wellbeing: campcraft and outdoor training

In our Listen Up survey 2017, many young people had expressed the need for more outdoor activities. In partnership with R-City, we took two groups of young men to the Mourne, where they learnt campcraft and practiced mountain walking and bouldering.

Empowering young women: Just Girls

Young women encountered on detached work expressed the need for more youth work activity directed specifically at them, a safe space for young women to explore their own needs and gain confidence. We set up Just Girls and started with a make-



up course at the young women's request. We followed up with a session on creative approaches to mental well-being with New Life Counselling.

We organised a visit to the Lord Mayor's Parlour where young women met Councillor Nuala McAllister who was Lord Mayor of Belfast at the time. Some of the young women from Just Girls attended, and we also brought young women from Ardoyne Youth Club's Innov8 Programme, YEHA's Aspire group and Women's Tec.

The Just Girls team greatly improved their self-confidence and felt able to integrate into a mixed group for the MADE programme.

Good relations and personal development: MADE



20 young people from Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Monkstown took part in our second six-month programme of personal and social development, the Monkstown Ardoyne Diversity, and Empowerment Programme (MADE).

Through a series of workshops, site visits and activities, the young people explored good relations, equality and diversity issues. They participated in a social action project with Homeless Aware and developed their confidence to become active citizens involved in community development and good relations.

“I knew we would be similar, and not that different which is how it turned out because in the end we’re all just people.” MADE participant



A film documenting the MADE programme is available on [YouTube – Ardoyne Youth Enterprise - MADE Project 2019](#).

Working together: Uniting Communities Through Sports

We supported young people to engage with Uniting Communities through Sports, a good relations partnership between Ashton Community Trust, Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and North Belfast youth organisations.

Supporting at-risk young people: mentoring

We commissioned intensive mentoring programmes for 21 at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill, run with R-City Project. These included 117 bespoke face-to-face mentoring sessions, 12 group work activities and one life-skills residential, a total of 351 hours by five mentors. An additional benefit was the opportunity for three trainee mentors to shadow the programme.

Giving young people a voice

Meeting decision makers: Get your Voice Heard

In January 19, we organised a meeting between Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey, Belfast Youth Forum and young people from Ardoyne and wider North Belfast at Houben Centre.





John Jo McGrady and Megan McConnell of Belfast Youth Forum outlined the Forum's role in keeping young people's needs and priorities on the Council's agenda. Tamera Farrell, a young leader at Ardoyne Youth Club, talked about her journey with the Club and explained how young people can participate in decision-making in their local youth club and community.

Councillor Hargey talked about the role of young people in shaping their city's future and presented Ardoyne Youth Enterprise with a Lord Mayor Certificate in recognition of its outreach work and initiatives to empower young people in the area.



In a Q&A session and 'post-it' consultation, young people set out their views on where change needs to happen in their home and school life, their community and their city. We published the consultation report in ardoyne.org/publications.html.

Advocating for young people: Silence of the Ceasefire Generation



In March 19, we held a panel discussion on children, legacy and peace building, in partnership with Imagine Festival.

Speakers were Judith Thompson, NI Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Koulla Yiasouma, NI Commissioner for Children and Young People, Phil Glennon of Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Thomas Turley, Leader in Charge at Ardoyne Youth Club. Catherine Morrison of BBC Newsline chaired the discussion.

Speakers said young people's voices are largely excluded in Northern Ireland peace agreements and proposed legacy bodies. They called for public and community organisations to increase their involvement of children and young people in discussions about the past and in building a positive, peaceful and equal society.

Young participants echoed these views in Q&A time and in interviews for Good Morning Ulster.



Young people advocating for their community: Boston college study visit

We hosted a meeting with 26 students and academics from University of Massachusetts, where four local young people spoke about the legacy of the Troubles on Ardoyne, Marrowbone and wider North Belfast.



Skilling young people

We support young people to seek training and employment. As an OCNNI accredited centre, we provide a growing programme of accredited courses. We also offer volunteering opportunities and on the job training.

In 2018-19

- 7 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in mentoring skills
- 19 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in peer mentoring
- 9 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in mental health awareness
- 20 young people were engaged in a social action projects
- 2 young people signed up as youth engagement volunteers
- 3 young people were trained through shadowing staff on the mentoring programme
- 3 young film makers were trained and employed on 'Speak Up' film series
- 4 young people hosted a visit by University of Massachusetts staff and students



Accredited training

Our accredited courses aim to build a strong pool of future youth workers.

In 2018-19, we ran cross-community OCNNI Level 2 courses in Youth Leadership, Mental Health Awareness, Mentoring Skills and Peer Mentoring. Participants were mainly young people engaging with AYE, R-City, Ashton Breakthrough and Ardoyne Youth Club.

We developed an OCNNI Level 2 Youth Work qualification, to be delivered to its first cohort in 19-20.



Young filmmakers

We trained three young women in interview and editing skills and gave them paid employment and the opportunity to build a strong portfolio of work on our Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone film project.

Kerry Bittles, a young filmmaker on the Speak Up project, went on to study Cinematic Arts at Ulster University. Kerry says:

'Ardoyne Youth Enterprise has been so welcoming, lovely, and helpful and has allowed me and everyone who took part to grow in confidence and try new things. The project was a learning experience for all of us and the videos created have received a great response from the area.'



Rebecca Toolan was both an interviewee and young filmmaker in the Speak-Up project.

She had a Masters in Communications but wanted to broaden her experience. She now works in marketing.

Strengthening the community

In 2018-19

38 members of the community gave interviews for our Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone video project

13 people volunteered for our Havana Court clean-up, in partnership with Marrowbone Volunteer Development Project

3 residents volunteered to help maintain our Havana Court grow boxes

AYE supported 45 youth and community groups in 2018-19:

- transport provision,
- office and admin services,
- research,
- network development,
- fundraising support,
- committee secretariat,
- communications support.

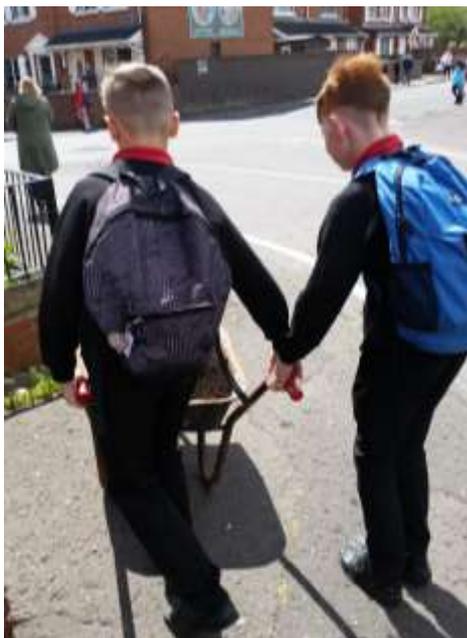
Community Transport

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise runs a community transport 16-seater minibus. The minibus can be hired at a very low price by youth and community groups. 17 groups are currently members of this scheme.

In April 2018, we acquired a new bus, thanks to a joint Ballysillan Ardoyne Community Transport development programme (BATS) which includes a minibus in each area and training for drivers to operate the scheme. Due to a change in regulations, every driver needs a D1 licence and MIDAS insurance, a slow but necessary process. We are grateful to Urban Villages for supporting us through this transition period. In 2018-19, we provided transport to 94 unique users from local youth and community groups.



Environmental work



We embarked on the next phase of our youth mural in Havana Court project. We built and maintained grow boxes with support from local residents and schoolchildren.

We worked together with Marrowbone Volunteer Development Project, Ashton volunteer programme and Belfast City Council to organise a clean-up of the square, and paint surrounding fences.



13 volunteers participated in this initiative, and three residents continued to maintain the grow boxes throughout the summer.

We developed the caged area around our office into a gardening and outdoor meeting space for youth work and community events.



Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone

In July 18, we launched Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone, a community cohesion project to develop short films about some of the people who make Ardoyne and Marrowbone a good place to be.

The series has 36 interviews so far, where residents and workers associated with the area tell us what they think about the area and the community, what they love and what they would like to change, their memories and their dreams for the future.



You can watch it on our Facebook page: ArdoyneYouthEnterprise, or on YouTube: [Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone](#).

Communications support



In 2018-19, we convened bi-monthly meetings of Ardoyne and Marrowbone youth and community providers to coordinate our work.

We increased our use of social media platforms to better reach out to young people and promote local youth, community and training opportunities.

We publicised the work of our members and Urban Villages partners in our AYE eNews, on social media and in the Urban Villages magazine FOCUS which is distributed to households in Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan.

We provided photography services for Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Ballysillan groups, including Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival, TASCIT, Flax Foyer, North Belfast Friendship Club, Peace Players, YEHA and Carezone.

Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast

With community partners in North Belfast, we designed a programme to increase community capacity to welcome and settle new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers:

- community transport and publicity for North Belfast Friendship Club, a meeting space for people from around the world, in partnership with Ardoyne and Marrowbone Festival;
- 10 Small Worlds workshops for schools, youth and community groups, where people get to hear about newcomers' lives and the journeys that brought them here;
- orientation tours for newcomers where local community groups got to open their doors and present their services;
- hosting a meeting with South African visitors from Ardoyne Youth Club's Belfast to Blanco project.

We were delighted with the warm welcome given by the youth and community groups that participated in the project.

Welcoming Newcomers

Small Worlds: 219 participants

Orientation visits: 51 newcomers

Participating groups:

North Belfast Friendship Club, Ardbone Festival, R-City, Shankill Women's Centre, Ballysillan Youth for Christ, Cliftonville Youth Club, Ashton Breakthrough, YEHA, Colaiste Feirste, Mercy College, Holycross Boys PS, Connected Futures Programme, Ardoyne Association, Wolfhill Healthy Living Centre, North Belfast Advice Partnership, Ballysillan Community Forum, Bunscoil Ben Madigan, Holycross Girls PS, Vine Centre, Ardoyne Community Centre, DfC EURES team, visits to CCRF, Cliftonville Community Centre, North Belfast Men's Shed, Women's Tec, Duncairn Centre, Grow NI and North Belfast Women's Information and Support Project.



Community development: study visits



As part of a programme to discuss the possibility of city-wide youth services, we brought 16 youth workers, community workers and Councillors to three super centres in with Youth Zone in Manchester, to see examples of sustainable models.



We facilitated cross-border arts sites visits and social enterprise sites visits for youth and community partners.

Interface survey

We met with Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) and North Belfast Interface Network (NBIN) to help design a survey aimed at young people that analyses their views on 'peace walls' and interfaces.

Ardbone Festival

We actively participated in Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival. We contributed three events in the summer - a film on nurturing resilience in young people, a Small Worlds workshop and a barbecue to launch the Speak Up films. We supported a festival



event for North Belfast Friendship Club at R-City. We held an arts and crafts children's stall at the Christmas festival.

With thanks to our funders

Department for Communities

The Executive Office

Northern Ireland Community Relations Council

Belfast City Council

Education Authority

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Halifax Foundation NI



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