

ARDOYNE YOUTH ENTERPRISE



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



Ardoyne Youth Enterprise Annual Report

1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

Chairperson's introduction

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise continues to thrive and deliver in a climate of cuts and insecurity for the youth and community sector.

We 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 reliable and honest broker, as a dependable organisation who always tries, and usually succeeds in 'delivering the goods'.

In November 17, we moved to new premises on Flax Street. This has enabled us to develop our youth drop-in service and to provide better facilities for training courses and community meetings.



In 2017-18, we provided practical support to young people and the community through good relations programmes, outreach detached work and summer intervention initiatives run in partnership with local youth providers and neighbouring communities. We transported hundreds of residents and young people. We resourced and delivered programmes to enhance the skills and foster the personal development of scores of young people. We completed a valuable consultation exercise with the young people of the area and distributed an essential directory of youth and community services. We developed innovative learning opportunities for North Belfast youth and community providers through a variety of experiential and facilitated programmes.

Schools, youth projects, sports clubs, youth development projects and volunteers of Ardoyne and Marrowbone are the life-blood of opportunity for our children and young people. A central element of AYE is its ability to bring these providers together for the benefit of young people and the community.

In the past year, youth organisations and workers in Ardoyne and Marrowbone have delivered tens of thousands of hours of training, teaching, coaching, mentoring, supervising and supporting young people. Our members, management committee, staff, volunteers and workers continue to progress initiatives which enhance childcare, community safety, community cohesion, good relations, child protection and many other issues.

The enthusiasm and determination shown by local youth providers and our own staff in shaping positive change should serve as an example to all, a catalyst for greater collective efforts to help realise the potential of this community and its neighbours.

We view Ardoyne Youth Enterprise as a community resource to be utilised by all. I trust we can continue to work with you to help shape a better future for our young people.

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 would particularly like to remember our good friend and valued team member, Brian Hagans, who passed away in August 2017. His loss was deeply felt throughout the community and amongst his friends and colleagues here and in other youth providers in the community.

Finally, I want to thank our VIPs: the youth of Ardoyne and Marrowbone and neighbouring areas, who have worked with us and each other with great enthusiasm and have given us thoughtful insights that will help to shape services in the area and beyond in years to come.

Yours in community

Thomas Turley
Chairperson

Partnership

In 17-18, the AYE youth outreach team worked in partnership with local youth clubs and community groups, as well as with regional youth organisations, to signpost young people to available services and opportunities and to develop joint initiatives.

We developed MADE, a new diversity and empowerment programme with Monkstown Boxing Club, with support from North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

NBSGRP support also enabled us to deliver:

- Cross-community OCN Level 2 courses in Youth Leadership and Diversity, and Mental Health Awareness,
- Support for intensive mentoring programmes for 20 at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill,
- Facilitating dialogue and planning for a shared youth space,
- Study visits for North Belfast community and youth practitioners to see and hear first hand of successful, sustainable development models at the Locality conference in Manchester and in a visit to youth centered projects in Dublin.

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, we ran another strand of partnership activities to develop capacity in young people and youth providers and strengthen links with our Ballysillan neighbours:

- an Outdoor Challenge in partnership with YEHA and Hammer Youth Club,
- a photography training course for youth providers,
- the publication and launch of an Ardoyne and Marrowbone youth survey,
- Out of Order, a series of films developed by young trainees.

We also partnered in community cohesion initiatives, convening regular meetings of local youth providers, developing a community Christmas video and being active participants in the new Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival.

Boards and working groups 2017/18

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; Ardbone Festival, TASCIT steering group..

Reaching out and engaging with young people

In 2017-18, our youth engagement coordinator and three part-time youth engagement workers ran a busy outreach and development programme for young people, with the help of volunteers and workers in partner organisations.

Altogether, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise delivered, facilitated and commissioned 3,996 hours of face-to-face youth work, including:

**3,996 hours
of face-to face
youth work
in 17-18**

2674 hours: Outreach, drop-in and one to one support

144 hours: Summer intervention programme

180 hours: Outreach and drop-in on Saturday outreach pilot
(40 hours per partner organisation)

480 hours: Intensive mentoring

102 hours: MADE training sessions and social action project

60 hours: Camp craft training and outdoor challenge

90 hours: OCN accredited Youth Leadership training and group work

50 hours: Boys United programme

216 hours: on 6 residential

Outreach and drop-in

The outreach and drop-in service ran Monday to Friday evenings alongside our training and empowerment programmes. This also ran Saturdays during our winter enhanced pilot programme.

An average of 80 individual young people called in to the drop-in each month, to get information, find a listening ear, or simply relax and socialise in a safe environment.

Mentoring

We commissioned intensive mentoring programmes for 30 at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill, run with R-City Project. These included 120 bespoke face-to-face mentoring sessions, four group work activities and two life skills residentials. An additional benefit was the opportunity for a trainee mentor to shadow the programme.

Fitness and well-being: outdoor challenge

In partnership with YEHA and Hammer Youth and with help from Journey Free, we challenged 22 young people from Ardoyne, Marrowbone and the Shankill to a point-to-point challenge.

20 young people followed the full training programme of camp craft,



canoeing, outdoor cooking and orienteering, supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

When the time came to complete the programme, storm Ophelia was on the way, but 14 participants took up the challenge and completed 40k trekking and canoeing in the Mourne Mountains.



The young people were nominated for an Urban Villages award in sports and fitness.

Creativity: DJ Skills

We participated in a DJ Skills project with Mountcollyer Youth Club and BEAMA, where young people recorded their own DJ Mix.



Good relations and personal development: MADE and Boys United

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

This was funded by North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme. 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.

A film documenting the programme is available on YouTube - [MADE: Ardoyne and Monkstown youths explore diversity together.](#)





We also worked with Monkstown Boxing Club to bring together twenty 12-13 year olds boys from Mercy College and Monkstown in a good relations programme through sports programme, which combined reflection sessions with fun residentials, sampling various sports and engaging in leisure activities together.

The groups bonded well and we agreed to build on this successful partnership in 2018-19.



Summer Interventions

In the summer, we extended our outreach work to include times where tensions at interfaces can run high and ran a programme of activities to provide alternatives to the young people of the area.

Over the 11th and 12th of July and 8th and 9th of August, we actively engaged with at-risk young people on the streets and enrolled them in diversionary fun and fitness activities over a period of six weeks.

We were pleased that there were no recorded incidents of interface violence or bonfires built in the area during these times, and that the young people's physical and mental health benefited from these positive activities.

Saturday night extended outreach and drop-in

We coordinated a joint extended outreach project with New Lodge Youth Centre and Street Beat Youth Project, providing detached outreach and drop-in on Saturday nights from January to March in Ardoyne, New Lodge and Woodvale. We delivered the Ardoyne part of the youth work, and we resourced and ensured the smooth running of the project for the three areas.

Funded by Belfast City Council Policer and Community Safety Partnership, the project helped resolve incidents of community tension and anti-social behaviour in local streets and parks, and provided child protection and harm reduction interventions for at-risk young people. It also offered an opportunity to consult local young people on community safety issues and community inclusion.

The evaluation of the project led to a successful tender application in 18-19 with Belfast City Council for an extended winter outreach programme to be run two nights per week in Ardoyne, New Lodge, Ballysillan and Woodvale, and for a summer intervention programme in Marrowbone Park.



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:

193 young people attended our drop-in and related activities

1,189 engagements with young people occurred on our pilot Saturday night outreach (272 in Ardoyne, 696 in New Lodge, 221 in Woodvale)

667 engagements with young people occurred on our pilot Saturday night drop-ins (242 in Ardoyne, 71 in New Lodge, 354 in Woodvale)

47 young people participated in our summer intervention programme

20 young people engaged in the 40k outdoor challenge

20 young people took part in our MADE programme

20 young people took part in a joint Boys United programme with Monkstown

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

30 young people were supported through the mentoring programme

(see page 13 for statistics on young people participating in training and volunteering)



Giving young people a voice

Out of Order film series

In the spring of 2017, young people from North Belfast received training in filming and editing with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise and GIGA, working on the theme of being young in Belfast.

We worked with GIGA Training and some of the young people to edit their work into seven short films focusing on how labels affect their lives as young



people, young women, people with disabilities, from being treated as second-class citizens to harassment and assault. The series, [Out Of Order](#), was launched in January 2018.

This project was supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

AYE Matter: survey launch

In December 2018, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise published and launched its Listen Up! youth survey.

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, this comprehensive survey of young people living in Ardoyne and Marrowbone was designed in the previous year and completed in the spring. The survey aimed to gauge young people's sense of belonging to their community, their issues and concerns, and identifies priority interventions for youth, community and statutory organisations.

Involving 151 young people and 15 youth workers, the survey provided substantial information for community, youth and statutory providers and decision makers.

We launched the survey report in AYE's second AYE Matter event, with Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People Koulla Yiasouma.

Funded by Urban Villages, the AYE Matter programme is designed to give young people the chance to come together with influencers and roles models and bring their issues to their attention.

The Commissioner addressed the need to involve young people meaningfully at all levels of decision making in the voluntary and statutory sectors. She said:

“ The days of designing and planning laws, policies and services without young people are behind us, and this report reminds us of this.

Not only does it make sense to involve end users in the development of services that affect them, but indeed young people have a right to have their voices heard by service providers and decision makers.

It is clear youth workers in the area are tuned into the needs and concerns of the young people here, and they need support to act now.

I share the concerns that young people have raised, particularly concerning mental health, which is one of NICCY’s priorities. ”



Skilling young people

Skilling the young leaders of tomorrow, providing a pathway into employment

Wherever possible, we support young people to seek training and employment opportunities, and include a learning element in our youth engagement programmes. We also believe in skilling young people through volunteering opportunities.



In 2017-18

- 3 young people gained employment as a direct result of our support
- 11 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in youth leadership
- 11 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in diversity awareness
- 8 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in peer mentoring
- 8 young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in mental health awareness
- 29 young people were engaged in social action and environment projects
- 2 young people signed up as youth engagement volunteers
- 3 young persons volunteered to complete 'Out of Order' a film making project

Planning for the future: school leavers day

On GCSE results day in August 17, we teamed up with training providers to offer 'Planning for the future', an information session for young people who may not have achieved the grades they wanted or were not sure what they wanted to do next. Part of the Ardoyne & Marrowbone Festival, it was open to all school leavers.

Participating organisations included Prince's Trust, Springboard, Ardoyne Association, Ashton Community Trust Core Project and YEHA.



Training young leaders and youth workers: OCN courses

We worked hard to become an OCN NI accredited centre, and were delighted to receive the accreditation in November 2017.

This allowed us to run cross-community OCN Level 2 courses in Youth Leadership and Diversity for 14 to 16 year olds, and Mental Health Awareness and Mentoring for 18 to 25 year olds interested in youth work.

Strengthening the community

Communications support

Our Communications Officer provides communications support to our members and Urban Villages partners, through publicising their activities on social media and in the Urban Villages magazine FOCUS, which is distributed to households in Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan.

We convene regular meetings of youth and community providers in Ardoyne and Marrowbone to coordinate our services.

We ran a DSLR photography course for youth and community groups with support from the Urban Villages Initiative. We provided photography services for Ardoyne, Marrowbone and Ballysillan groups, including Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival, TASCIT, Ardoyne Association events.

Ardoyne and Marrowbone do Jingle Bells

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise got together with schools, youth and community groups to make a youth and community music video. The film was premiered at the Drive-In movie at the Ardbone Community Festival's Christmas event.

The video celebrates unity and community spirit, and puts young people at the heart of the community. Participating groups were: Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, Ardoyne Afterschools Club, Ardoyne Youth Club, Marrowbone Youth Club, Flax Foyer, Ardoyne Association, Glenbrook Surestart, Lawrenson Toal School of Irish Dancing, North Belfast Friendship Club, Holy Cross Boys Primary School, Holy Cross Girls Primary School, Holy Cross Nursery School, Mercy Primary School, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin and Sacred Heart Boys Primary School.





Havana Court mural



With support from Northern Ireland Housing Executive, we embarked on an environmental project in Havana Court, as part of a wider youth work and community cohesion programme.

The first phase was a mural by North Belfast artist Michael Doherty, celebrating sporting and entertainment achievements by young people from Ardoyne.

The next phase of the project is to paint fences and build grow boxes around the mural.

AYE supported 53 local groups in 2017-18

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise supported 53 youth and community groups through transport provision, office and administrative support, research, network development, fundraising support, committee secretariat, and office services.

Ardoyne Community Transport

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise runs a community transport 16-seater minibus.

It can be hired at a very low price by member organisations, including local schools and community groups, for anything from regular swimming lessons for primary school children to a pensioners' trip to the theatre.

17 groups are members of this scheme.

In 2017-18, we provided transport to 10 youth and community groups.

Promoting local youth and community services

In the winter of 16-17, we had embarked in a youth and community services directory to encourage young people's participation in the community as well as to support our members and other local youth and community providers. The directory was printed and delivered to 3,000 homes locally in Spring 2017.

We revamped our website and revitalised our social media platforms to better reach out to young people and promote local youth, community and training opportunities.



With thanks to

Our funders

Department for Communities
The Executive Office
NICRC
Belfast City Council

Education Authority
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Halifax Foundation NI

Members of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

Marrowbone Community Association
Glenbrook Surestart
St Vincent de Paul Primary School
Glor an Tuaisceart
Ardoyne Afterschools Club
Crumlin Star FC
Ardoyne Boxing Club
Ardoyne Fleadh
FLAX Foyer
Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Safer Neighbourhood Ardoyne Project
New Life Counselling

Holy Cross Boys Primary School
18th Holy Cross Scouting Ireland
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain
Ardoyne Working Men's Club FC
PIPS Charity
Ardoyne Kickhams
Sacred Heart Primary School
Grace Women's Development Limited
YE-HA
North Belfast Interface Network
Ardoyne Youth Club
Believing in Youth

Members of Ardoyne Community Transport scheme

Cliftonville Community Centre
North Belfast Interface Network
Lagan Valley Rural Transport
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain
Holy Cross Girls
Holy Cross Boys
St Vincent DePaul
Holy Cross Play Group
New Lodge Youth Club
Ashton Centre, New Lodge

Mercy Primary School
Marrowbone Community Centre
Ardoyne Youth Club
Ardoyne After Schools Club
Glenbrook Sure Start
Community Restorative Services
Ireland
Star Neighborhood Centre
Montague Day Centre

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](#)

