



ARDOYNE  
YOUTH  
ENTERPRISE

# Annual Report 19-20



Photo: celebrating the MADE boys – Monkstown Ardoyne Diversity and Empowerment programme.

# Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

## Annual Report 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

### Chairperson's introduction

2019-20 was a very busy year for Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, with many successes and new developments.

With your support, we continued to work hard to develop services, opportunities and strategic gains to youth organisations and young people, and to play a pivotal role in community development and service delivery in Ardoyne, Marrowbone and across North Belfast.

We are widely recognised as a provider 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 interventions to support young people through the holidays and help prevent anti-social behaviour;
- The third year of our Monkstown Ardoyne diversity and empowerment programme for young people;
- OCNNI courses to support emerging young leaders and develop youth workers' capacity;
- Welcoming Newcomers, a programme promoting the integration of new migrants and asylum seekers in local community groups and schools;
- Uniting Communities, Uniting Opportunities and Breakthrough, three new avenues of engagement with young people developed as a result of a strong partnership with Ashton Community Trust, Ardoyne Youth Club, North Belfast Alternatives, YEHA and North Belfast Friendship Club.

Covid 19 brought to an abrupt halt some of our face-to-face work near the end of the financial year, and it has led us to re-evaluate how we deliver our work in 2020-21. However, we are confident that with the strong relationships built over the years

we can deliver an excellent programme of support to young people in Ardoyne and wider North Belfast.

On behalf of the management committee of AYE, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the success of the organisation - local youth providers in Ardoyne and neighbouring communities, 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 community in these challenging times.

Finally, I want to thank the young people of Ardoyne for continuing to inspire us all. We know that this is a very difficult time for you, filled with challenges and anxiety for the future. We want to reassure you that AYE and its partner youth and community organisations have your backs, and that we will do everything in our power to support you. Stay safe!

Yours in community

**Thomas Turley, Chairperson**

# Partnership

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

In 2019-20, we partnered with youth providers, sports clubs, Belfast City Council, BPCSP and the Education Authority to offer a programme of family-friendly activities in Marrowbone Park and outings for young people through the summer.

We ran the third 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 good practice visits.

We worked on community cohesion initiatives, convening youth providers meetings, being active participants in the Ardoyne and Marrowbone Community Festival and providing communications support for community groups in the Urban Village area.

We partnered with North Belfast Friendship Club, building on our Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast programme in order to offer more in-depth, sustained support to new migrants. In this NBSGRP supported programme, we continued to work with youth and community groups across North Belfast to

increase our communities' capacity to integrate new migrants.



Photo: Staff training with Barnardos on Resilience and Adverse Childhood Experiences

We opened up our premises to YEHA and Ashton Community Trust for their Ardoyne based mentoring programmes and supported Ashton's Uniting Communities programme at Ardoyne Youth Club.

## Boards and working groups

### Board member of:

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

### 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

**3,189 hours  
of face-to face  
youth work**

In 2019-20, 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 over 3,000 hours of face-to-face youth work, including:

**1920 hours:** outreach, drop-in and one to one support

**144 hours:** summer intervention programme

**351 hours:** intensive mentoring

**102 hours:** MADE training sessions and social action project

**144 hours:** Uniting Communities and Uniting Opportunities Programmes

**132 hours:** in 5 OCNNI accredited courses in Youth Leadership, Youth Work and Mental Health Awareness training, plus one ongoing course in Youth Work Practice.

**396 hours:** on 11 residentials



Photo: AYE craft table at Ardbone Festival Christmas event

## 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:

- 800+** engagements with young people took place on outreach and drop-in
- 250+** young people attended our drop-in and related activities
- 126** young people engaged in our summer intervention programme (56 on summer intervention trips, 70 in park management programme)
- 21** young people were supported through the mentoring programme
- 6** young people participated in health and well being sessions with TAMHI
- 20** young people took part in our MADE diversity and empowerment programme
- 12** young women took part in our Uniting Opportunities young women's group
- 12** young people took part in a Uniting Opportunities integration group for BAME and other children not usually engaged in youth programmes
- 5** young people hosted a study visit by UMASS students and staff
- 3** young people were shadow volunteers on the mentoring programme
- 3** young persons volunteered to support youth workers on our MADE programme
- 2** young people volunteered to support youth workers on outreach detached
- 16** young people involved in environmental improvements, graffiti removal and grow-programmes at our Flax Street premises and grow boxes in Havana Court.

(See page 12 for statistics on young people's participation in accredited training)

**"Hi, I follow your page and the work you do with young people is fantastic. Out engaging with them on the streets each night no matter what the weather is amazing. I salute you all. Especially in these uncertain times when our young ones are struggling with Covid and the rules around it. (...) Keep up the good work for no doubt you are all making a big difference in young people's lives."**

## 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 2019-20, the outreach detached and drop-in service ran five evenings a week alongside our training and empowerment programmes. Over 200 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.

Over 250 young people attended our evening drop-in space.

## Summer interventions programme



In the summer, we extend our outreach work to include times where tensions at interfaces can run high. We engage with at-risk young people on the streets and enrol them in diversionary fun and fitness activities.

Youth providers in the area, with support from Belfast City Council,

The Executive Office and the Education Authority, made a concerted effort to offer family-friendly activities in Marrowbone Park on Saturdays in order to create a safe space for young people and families and reduce anti-social behaviour in and around the park.



Photos: summer programme

We organised woodwork skill activities for young men, brought young people on action packed day trips, organised barbecues in our garden and took turns with other youth providers to open up the park for team sport afternoons and evenings.



35 young people engaged in weekend football matches through our Marrowbone Park Summer Management Programme.

These activities enable our 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.

We extended this programme to targeted outreach programmes in Halloween and Christmas holidays to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour and support young people's health and safety.



Photos: Summer programme

### **Empowering young women: Uniting Opportunities Young Women's group**

In partnership with Ashton Community Trust and New Lodge Arts, we ran a 12-week programme for young women to raise awareness of mental health and explore issues of concern to them. The young women decided to explore risk-taking behaviour and



Photo: Uniting Opportunities Young Women

made a video on young people and alcohol, and how youth clubs can support young people.

This programme combined creative workshops, reflective sessions and physical activity. It was supported by the Department for Communities, T:BUC, Uniting Communities scheme.

## Integrating BAME young people: Uniting Opportunities

Under the same scheme, we started a programme integrating young people from newcomer families and local youths who do not usually participate in youth services. This programme was sadly interrupted by the pandemic. However, the young people had time to develop some digital posters and sounds exploring mental health and well-being.



Photo: Uniting Opportunities group 2

## Good relations and personal development: MADE



Photo: MADE boys

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

**“The MADE project really helped me understand others.”**

MADE participant

Through workshops, site visits and activities, the young people explored good relations, equality and diversity issues and developed their confidence to become active citizens involved in community development and good relations.

The group bonded very well and decided to stay together in the coming year to expand on their learning. We hope to include an OCN in Diversity and Good Relations in their programme.

A film documenting MADE 19-20 is available on [YouTube – Ardoyne Youth Enterprise - MADE Project 19-20.](#)

**“It was good craic and I made new mates.”** MADE participant



Photo: YEHA Aspire programme at AYE

## **Working together: Uniting Communities North, Ashton Breakthrough**

We supported young people to engage with Uniting Communities through Sports and Creativity, a good relations partnership with Ashton Community Trust, Ardoyne Youth Club and North Belfast Alternatives.

We hosted Ashton's Breakthrough Ardoyne programme and YEHA's Breakthrough and Aspire schools programmes, opening up our office, meeting space and garden for their mentoring and group work. YEHA Aspire Project used our main room two mornings a week and worked with 12 unique users from Mercy College.

The Ashton Breakthrough programme rented an office in our building and delivered group work in our meeting room to 30 unique users during this period.

## **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.



Photo: YEHA Breakthrough programme at AYE

The programme 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.

20 young people completed the programme.

In addition, three trainee mentors were able to shadow the programme.

# Giving young people a voice

## Young people advocating for their needs

We supported young people to engage with SIB and Urban Scale Interventions to help develop ideas for services tailored to their needs.

Our youth engagement team held focus groups of young people to co-design our summer intervention programme, residentials, MADE and Uniting Opportunities programmes. We held a further focus group in the autumn to reflect on the summer programme and how it can be improved in future.

## Young people advocating for their community: Boston college study visit

We hosted a meeting with students and academics from University of Massachusetts, where four young people from Ardoyne, Oldpark and Shankill areas spoke about the legacy of the Troubles.



Photo: UMASS visit to AYE

# Skilling young people and youth leaders

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



Photo: OCN youth work certificates presentation

## **In 2019-20**

**31** youth leaders, volunteers and aspiring youth workers participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in youth work practice

**10** young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in leadership skills

**25** young people participated in OCNNI Level 2 training in mental health awareness

**50** OCN courses participants achieved a qualification, and 12 are hoping to qualify on an ongoing course.

**16** young people were engaged in a social action projects

**5** young people joined us as youth engagement volunteers

**5** sports and community development volunteers supported our summer intervention programme

**3** young people were trained through shadowing staff on the mentoring programme

**5** 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 2019-20, 66 young people and aspiring youth workers enrolled on our courses.

We ran cross-community OCNNI Level 2 courses in Youth Leadership ( 1 course), Mental Health Awareness (2 courses), and our new Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice (2 completed, 1 ongoing).

For this programme, we recruited participants people through outreach detached work, YEHA, R-City, and Ardoyne Youth Club and Rathcoole Youth Centre, as well as across wider Belfast for our youth work qualification.

The Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice, a certificate which qualifies people to be employed as youth workers, proved very popular and we ran three courses this year. 15 participants achieved the qualification, and 12 are enrolled on a course in progress which had to be temporarily halted due to the Covid crisis. We hope to continue this course online as soon as possible.

## **Volunteering in social action projects**

16 young people have been involved in environmental improvements, graffiti removal and grow-programmes at our premises at 11a Flax street and our grow boxes in Havana Court.

# Strengthening the community

In 2019-20

We supported 32 youth and community groups through transport, back-office, administration support, meeting space, logistics, advice or training:

Ballysillan Community Forum, Alternatives Restorative Justice, Our Lady's Primary School, YeHa, the Breakthrough Programme, Believe in Youth, Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network, Lower Oldpark Community Association, Ardoyne AfterSchools Project, North Belfast Friendship Club, Ashton Community Trust Uniting Communities Programme, Feile an Tuaisceart, Feile an Phobail, Ballysillan Youth for Christ, Glenbrook Surestart, Townsend Enterprise Park, Ardoyne Youth Club, Community



Photo: North Belfast Friendship Club Christmas party with AYE

**AYE supported 32 youth and community groups in 2019-20**

Restorative Services Ireland, Holy Cross Pre-School, Safer Neighbourhood Ardoyne Project, RCity, Ardbone Festival Committee, Marrowbone Sunningdale Community Development Project, NBWISP, Jigsaw Counselling, Womens Tec, Holy Cross Boys PS, John Paul II YC, Ard Eoin Chiceams and Start 360.

## 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.

Together with Ballysillan Community Forum, we are putting in place 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 continuing to support us through this transition period.

We had over 200 unique users across multiple hires.

The programme sustained one part-time minibus driving post at approximately 6 hours per week.

8 people registered on the D1 Minibus Driver training, with 2 progressing to theory test level.

### **Strengthening community participation**

We worked together with Bright Ideas North Belfast to seek ideas from young people to improve the community environment in the North Belfast Urban Village area.

### **Communications support**

In 2019-20, 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, North Belfast Friendship Club, Carezone, Women's Tec, Bright Ideas North Belfast etc.

We supported the TedX Youth and TedX Women Urban Villages events, encouraging local groups and residents to participate and we supported a young woman through the process.

### **Urban regeneration**

We have been working with SIB and North Belfast Urban Villages to develop the business case for the development of office, meeting and retail space at the



Photo: Bright Ideas engagement session

development site on 497–501 Crumlin Road which we acquired in December 2018. There have been numerous in-depth consultations with local stakeholders and groups. These have been facilitated by 15 local youth and community workers.

We have made remedial repairs to the derelict property acquired by us at 497-501 Crumlin Road, as a consequence of a BCC dangerous buildings notice. Some tiles had become loose, and shutters had been pulled out of their tracks allowing public access to the building). We continue to manage and tend the grow-boxes we installed at Havana Court in 2018, as well as using our outside space at 11a Flax Street to train young people from three organisations in horticulture and maintenance skills.

### **Welcoming Newcomers to North Belfast**

With community partners in North Belfast, we continue to develop our integration programme to increase community capacity to welcome and settle new migrants, refugees and asylum seekers:

- community transport, advocacy, signposting and publicity for North Belfast Friendship Club, a meeting space for people from around the world;
- 9 Small Worlds workshops for schools, youth and community groups, where people get to hear about newcomers' lives and the journeys that brought them here – the last workshop had to be postponed due to the Covid crisis;
- Orientation tours for newcomers where they got to meet local community groups and relax together in a welcoming environment. This year, they attended a Carezone open day, a pizza making session at Grow NI, a tour of Belfast Castle gardens, Botanic Garden's greenhouse and Tropical Ravine.

## **Welcoming Newcomers**

**Small Worlds: 197 participants**

**Orientation visits: 18 newcomers**

**Support for North Belfast Friendship Club: 243 participants**

**Community Transport provided from December to February, in partnership with North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme, Ardoyne GAA and Alternatives RJ.**

**Participating groups:**

**North Belfast Friendship Club, Ardbone Festival, Carezone, RCity, Ardoyne Kickhams, Grow NI, Ballysillan Community Forum, Alternatives RJ, Our Lady's Girls PS, Sacred Heart Boys PS, Ballysillan Youth For Christ, Ardoyne Youth Club, Glenbrook Surestart, Holy Cross Nursery School, Holy Cross Pre-School.**



Photo: Small Worlds workshop

Once again, we were delighted with the warm welcome given by the youth and community groups that participated in the project. We were very impressed by the newcomers' graciousness in teaching local people about cultural diversity and migration issues.

We increased our capacity to support North Belfast Friendship Club by working together with Ardoyne GAA and Shankill Alternatives' LINCS programme to offer a transport service for participants from December to the end of February.

This is the feedback we received from the coordinators of North Belfast Friendship Club:

*"What I would like to say to the funders is that thanks to this initiative, attendance at the Club rose steadily and significantly over the last three months, that most of these new people returned more than once during the funding period, sometimes with friends or family members, and that they enjoyed each other's company that some passed up the opportunity for a lift home in order to take the bus back with other attendees.*

*Speaking as someone who often arrived late, when activities and conversations were already in swing, I would also like to say that the warmth and relaxed, friendly energy in the room in the weeks before we were forced to stop meeting was obvious as soon as I walked in.*

*I hope we can recapture and build on that momentum when the current crisis has passed."*

**Jennifer Cornell**

*"I second Jennie's comments word by word!*

*I would add that AYE's help and continuous support helped the NBFC's members to feel a greater ownership of the project and of the space that R-City give us. To me it's great to see that folks don't wait for Jennie or me to be there to get organised with materials and games and get started, they just get on with it. It's brilliant also that new activities are taking place, like the crafts table.*

*Your presence definitely allowed us to be more informed about events happening in North Belfast, to which some of our members enthusiastically took part. Not to mention your great networking skills: you put us in touch with local community groups, from North Belfast CAN to the GAA club in Ardoyne, who ended up funding two buses as well."*

**Claudia Belloni**

Sadly, the club has had to close its doors due to the Covid crisis but we hope to be able to continue to support it through its necessary transition to an online service.

**95% of participants in Small Worlds workshops said they now understand more about migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.**

**100% of participants in Welcoming Newcomers visits and North Belfast Friendship Club events said they felt more welcome in North Belfast.**

## **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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#YoungPeopleAreAmazing

## Contact us

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

**Phone:** 028 9074 1479

**Web:** [www.ardoyne.org](http://www.ardoyne.org)

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