



National Council of
YMCAs of Ireland

Annual Report 2023



www.ymca-ireland.net



Chairperson Report

This was the year when we began implementation of our ambitious new strategic plan - reflecting our shared commitment to delivering programmes and service, while emphasising the values of welcome, opportunities, wellbeing, peace & justice.

We continue to support local associations while providing direct services to young people and families across the island. Global justice and climate change also remain high on our agenda as it is a high priority among young people.

As a youth-led organisation, we support young people to grow physically, mentally and spiritually. It has been encouraging to see increased international recognition for the quality, reach and impact of our work.

We are glad to welcome new members of staff, Gordon as General Secretary for YMCA Portadown, Andrew to help the movement become more sustainable, Ian to improve our communications and Alex as our new Chaplaincy Coordinator to strengthen our Christian ethos.

Thank you to the young people, staff, local associations, and volunteers for their input over this past year. We look forward to the work ahead with confidence in expressing our values, measuring our impact, and providing opportunities for young people, their families and their communities.

Jonny Currie
National Chairperson

National Secretary Report

It is very encouraging to present the Annual Report for the YMCA Movement in Ireland in 2022/23, reflecting the collective efforts we have made to have a positive impact on young people, their families and communities.

Our YMCAs continue to engage with young people and families from over 15 locations throughout Ireland, reaching over 25,000 children, young people and their families.

In all of these communities we continue to create inclusive safe spaces where everyone feels welcomed, accepted and inspired by social justice and peace for all. We continue to focus on providing life enriching opportunities for young people, their families and communities. We continue to promote youth development, healthy living and community engagement through our child care, youth work and community programmes. And we continue to focus on global justice, climate change and international development.

A particular highlight of the year was a group of 13 young people, staff and volunteers attending the 50th anniversary celebration of YMCA Europe at the end of June. The team were a credit to the Irish movement, heavily engaged in all the discussions on how we collaborate better and work together to fulfil the YMCA World Vision 2030 in particular the pillars of Community Welbeing, Meaningful Work, Sustainable Planet & a Just World.

We have managed our resources well to ensure our finances are balanced and secure, and the financial statement gives a clear picture of our success in this area in the face of a cost of living crisis.

My thanks to all our young people, members, volunteers, staff, funders & trustees for their support during the year and we look forward to another year of developing the work together.

John Peacock & David Backhouse
National Secretary & Deputy National Secretary



A Year in the Life of YMCA



Launching our new Strategic Plan at our Annual Gathering + AGM in Greenhill
November 22



Santa Claus visits Newcastle in search of a little help from Denise and Holly
December 22



Belfast YMCA celebrate 25 years of their Youth In Government programme
January 23



Staff take part in Neurodiversity Training, challenging our perspectives & strengthening our skill base
February 23



Even the snow couldn't stop our All Island Flourishing Conference with Simon Ward
March 23



New recruits Andrew and Ian join the National Team, alongside Gordon
April 23

A Year in the Life of YMCA



Robyn shares some poetry at the launch of the Carbery Youth Service in West Cork
May 23



Young people, staff and volunteers join the YMCA Europe 50th celebrations in Berlin
June 22



Bringing hope to Cork City with the Groundfloor Racial Justice Street Art project
July 23



Alex takes on the role of YMCA Chaplaincy Coordinator supporting local YMCAs across the island
August 23



Greenhill grows with their latest intake of international volunteers from around the world
September 2023

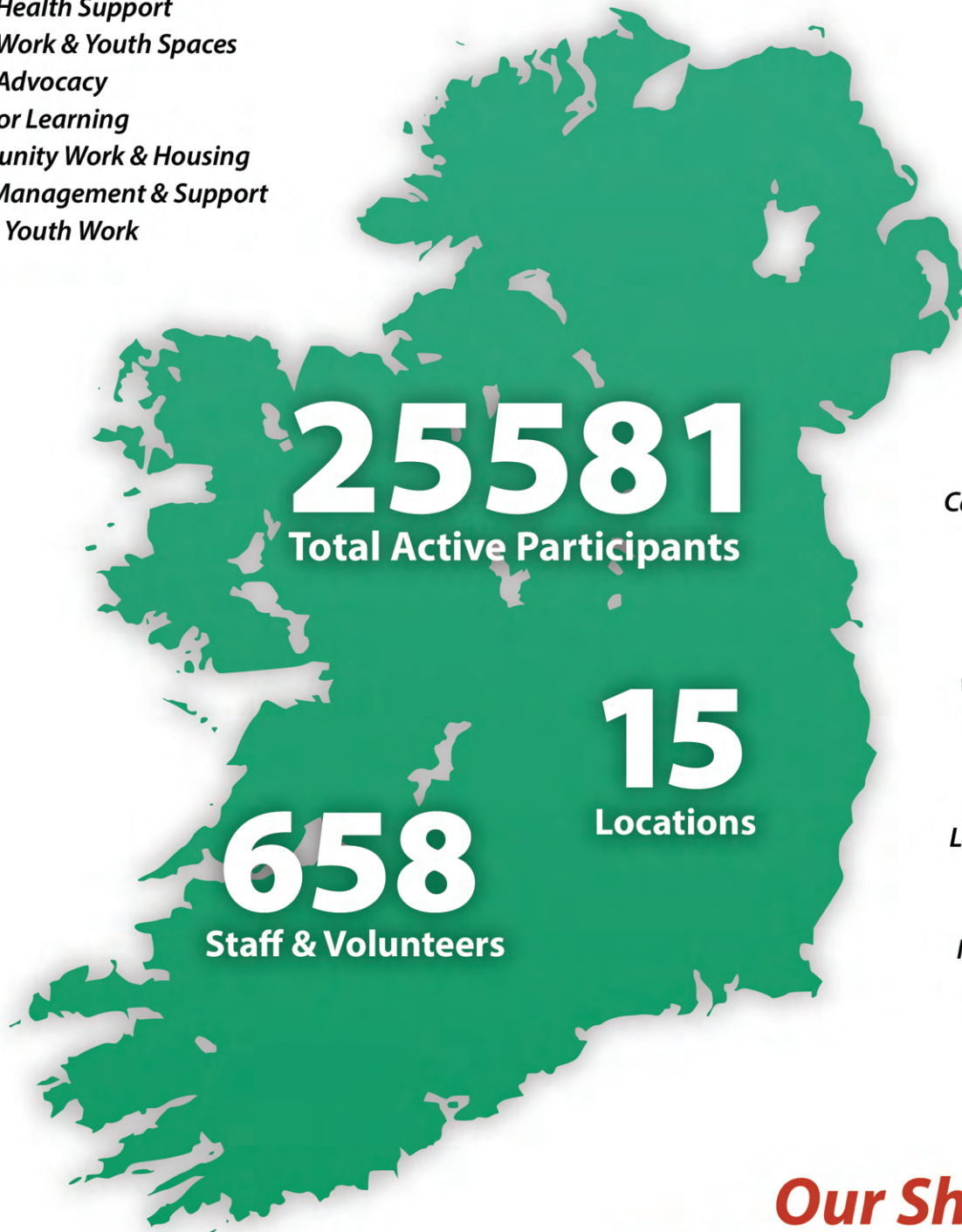


TJ and Ronan receive the ERYICA Award European Youth Information Quality Label on behalf of YMCA Ireland
October 23

The YMCA In Ireland

Reflecting the size and scale of YMCA's work across the island of Ireland

Childcare & Family Support
Youth Vocation & Training
Youth Health Support
Youth Work & Youth Spaces
Youth Advocacy
Outdoor Learning
Community Work & Housing
Local Management & Support
Global Youth Work



***Our Shared
Island Approach***

This information was collected by YMCAs through our Movement Wide Survey from October 2022 to September 2023



Embedding **Welcome** in PAKT West Dublin



keen to see how we could engage with it and embed it in our delivery and work with young people, on the ground, as soon as we could - we felt motivated and energised by the values we read within!

Our first query was how we could bring the strategy to life and give it meaning with young people involved in PAKT (Parents and Kids Together) and so we felt that it would fit nicely within our Objective of Participation. We work on this objective during the term leading up to Easter and this is also the term when we aim to nominate our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). There seemed a natural fit - for the YAC to be elected and come together and for them to be the ones to take the strategy forward into the workings of PAKT.

We applied for Tusla Participation funding, with a hope that we would be able to have some funding available if the Youth Advisory Committee needed resources and with the hope that they could do a workshop on Welcome with our colleagues in Greenhill YMCA, this would also support their development as an advisory committee & further develop their communication and teamwork skills. And where better to feel WELCOME, than in Greenhill YMCA!!!

When the Youth Advisory Committee were nominated (1 person from each PAKT group, age 9 and up) they were brought together to 1 location, on this occasion it was Brookfield PAKT, and following lots of games and icebreakers, they were introduced to the strategy, asked what stood out to them, why would it be important to have a strategy, what does it mean to them etc. They worked on it in groups and we asked them to consider the values (Welcome, Opportunity, Wellbeing, Peace & Justice) and how they had experienced any of them during their time in PAKT.

The overwhelming response was the importance of Welcome and how they had felt it coming in the door of PAKT, this was true of all the PAKT centres.

We wanted to understand from their point of view, what Welcome means to them, as the basis for how we can ensure it is embedded in the way we meet young people coming in. To explore this and get feedback we asked them to work in groups, with flipcharts and markers - to draw, write, anyway they wanted to express their answers to the following questions:

[continued overleaf]

*Welcome - What does that word mean to you?
Was there a time you did not feel welcome and what could
have been done differently?
Was there a time you felt welcome?
What did you see, What did you hear, What did you feel?*

*They told us "it's a feeling you get", "it is when I am invited
in", "it is when I am asked to make decisions in my club", "it is
in the smiles and faces of the leaders I meet" - another
group recorded that "it is about safety", "kindness", "caring
questions and love".*

*Notably, in the time when they did not feel welcome, it was
very much about the environment - too noisy, people
shouting in the group, not enough space.*

*These responses were so affirming to our work but when we
asked them at the end of the session together what more
we could do to bring welcome into PAKT, the feedback gave
us more to work on. They had ideas such as "assigning a
'welcome buddy' to new members of the groups", and
"designing a welcome pack, including a specific registration
form for the young person themselves to complete." (We
have only ever used a registration / referral form that the
parent completes on behalf of the child.) Wow!!!*

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So these are the next steps for the Youth Advisory Committee. They are heading off to Greenhill YMCA to do some work on the Welcome referral form and Welcome pack in the next few weeks and we look forward to bringing these changes into the way that YMCA PAKT WELCOMES ALL. Watch this space!!!!

Huge thanks to the team in West Dublin who bring the Youth Advisory Committee together three times a year and who facilitate, so skillfully, the needs of young people of varying ages so that their voices are heard and actioned.

Elaine Underwood
Regional Family Support Development Co-ordinator
West Dublin





A place of Opportunity at YMCA Newcastle



As someone relatively new to the YMCA, I have already been amazed by the amount of opportunity provided and fostered by the organisation. Upon graduating from university I was presented with various pathways and different opportunities. I chose to join the YMCA due to the warm and welcoming atmosphere which is found in everything from the staff to the events organised in our Newcastle centre.

The support and encouragement received here has opened new doors I didn't previously know existed, and introduced me to wonderful people with valuable new perspectives. This is just the beginning of my journey with the YMCA, and the opportunities to both complete youth work qualifications through the organisation, and to connect with other YMCA groups and members globally, are just a few examples of ways in which the organisation creates opportunities for staff and volunteers.

Even more than the opportunities created for myself, it is the possibilities created for young people which have most impressed me. As a politics student I have an awareness of the barriers which can prevent opportunities to young people, and strongly believe in working with people and the community to ensure that young people's abilities are made known to them and that opportunities always find them.

This involves everyone from young asylum seekers and refugees in the area, to our magnificent LGBTQ+ council, to our youth council which has carried out inspiring work spreading awareness surrounding youth working rights. I look forward to working further to develop projects in our new hub in Newcastle, using which we aim to deliver on our goal to provide opportunities and connections for everyone involved.

Jack Lenny
Community Hub Support Worker
YMCA Newcastle

Wellbeing for Children with Dublin YMCA



YMCA Dublin provides high quality, affordable and accessible childcare for children aged 6 months to 12 years in inner city Dublin. Our childcare service incorporates full day care, pre-school nursery and school aged provision on both part-time and full-time basis. YMCA Childcare employs 37 qualified staff, and is registered to care for up to 193 children per day.

YMCA Childcare provides a place of wellbeing for children, in line with our shared YMCA ethos of holistic development in mind, body and spirit. Our childcare practitioners operate with a playwork approach, which encourages children to explore, experiment, and interact with their environment through playful activities. Play is a natural way for children to develop social, cognitive and physical skills, foster new friendships, and discover a love of learning.

YMCA Childcare recognises that the child's well-being is further bolstered by loving and positive family relationships. Our childcare service is therefore complemented by a wraparound Family Support service, which provides additional support to those children or parents/carers identified as vulnerable or at-risk. Working with other agencies, such as schools and social services, we aim to equip families with the necessary skills to better cope and thrive, particularly in times of crisis.

YMCA Childcare in Dublin operates on a social enterprise model, with any surplus generated used to, for example, subsidise childcare places for vulnerable families or fund our family support service. YMCA Dublin plans to develop three new 'Community Hubs' in outlying areas of the city over the next five years. Childcare will be at the nucleus of these Hubs, and will be provided with wraparound family support and integrated with relevant youth and community services.

Russell Wilbourne
Childcare Manager
YMCA Dublin





Promoting *Peace & Justice* in Portadown



YMCA Portadown expanded its impactful initiatives to include the Ignite project, targeting 15 young individuals from a local Bonfire, an area affected by paramilitary influence. By engaging these young people in cultural understanding and providing experiences which included attending the National Remembrance Service in London, the project aimed to foster peace, understanding, and respect, promoting justice through education and awareness.

The Ignite project's focus on cultural expression was evident through its workshops on single identity and cultural expression. These sessions provided a platform for young individuals to explore their cultural heritage while navigating complexities surrounding identity in their community.

Recognising the need for diversionary activities during times of heightened tension, the project incorporated various activities designed to divert attention from potential conflicts. These activities served as positive outlets for the participants, offering them alternatives to potentially negative influences in their surroundings.

Moreover, the project's residential experiences were instrumental in promoting teamwork, boosting confidence, and nurturing aspirations among the young people involved. These experiences were pivotal in creating a supportive environment conducive to personal growth and development.

A standout highlight of the Ignite project was the London trip, where the group not only delved into cultural expressions but also represented YMCA Ireland at the Cenotaph during the National Remembrance Service. This significant event provided a sobering experience for the nine boys in attendance, allowing them to pay respects and understand the historical significance of the occasion. Additionally, the trip encompassed tours of London landmarks, including Westminster, the Imperial War Museum, and Wembley Stadium, offering invaluable learning opportunities and diverse experiences.

The Ignite project, through its focus on cultural understanding, diversionary activities, and immersive experiences, not only provided young people with opportunities for personal development but also broadened their horizons, fostering a deeper appreciation for their culture and community amidst challenging circumstances.

Nathan White
Youth Work Manager
YMCA Portadown

YMCA Portadown

In 2023, YMCA Portadown dedicated its efforts to uplifting and supporting the youth, registering and engaging over 330 young individuals in various core services. These initiatives aimed not only to foster personal success but also to prioritise the overall well-being of the youth, recognising the importance of holistic development in their lives. Through a range of programmes and themes, YMCA Portadown strived to create a supportive environment conducive to growth and achievement.

The Friday Drop-in sessions emerged as a cornerstone of YMCA Portadown's outreach, drawing an average attendance of 133 young people during the winter period. These sessions provided more than just a gathering space; they became a hub for interaction, support, and engagement, offering a platform for young people to connect and access vital resources in a welcoming setting.

School-based programmes proved to be a significant success for YMCA Portadown, particularly through the Enable Project at Craigavon Senior High School and the Thrive Project at Killicomain Junior High School. By blending informal educational approaches within formal school settings, these initiatives effectively catered to diverse educational needs, emphasising a well-rounded development beyond traditional academic boundaries.

YMCA Greenhill

Greenhill YMCA has continued to prioritise inclusivity and accessibility, with a strong focus on supporting individuals with additional needs. Notably, efforts were made to improve accessibility, including the installation of hoists in our changing areas and pool, ensuring that everyone can fully enjoy our facilities.

Our team also undertook specialised training to assist individuals with mobility challenges when using our climbing tower. Collaboration with organisations like the South Eastern Health Trust and Foster Network remained crucial in extending support to young people with diverse needs.

Volunteering remains a cornerstone of our operations, and this year, we saw a significant increase in both the number of volunteers and the range of roles they undertook. Our volunteer base continues to grow in diversity, with most continents currently represented.

The YMCA's commitment to community collaboration shone through various partnerships, notably exemplified by the Healthy Kidz programmes. By extending offerings such as holiday camps and afterschool provisions, YMCA Portadown actively contributed to the community's well-being, showcasing a dedication to collective growth and support.

Moreover, the launch of the Accredited Youth Project was a significant milestone. It provided crucial additional tuition to 15 young individuals at risk of failing their Maths GCSE, offering young people a lifeline towards academic success. Simultaneously, another group of 15 youths engaged in a Level 2 personal success and well-being course, aligning with YMCA Portadown's commitment to empowering young people with quantifiable qualifications and skills through a neighbourhood renewal fund.

The DFC Job Start Scheme further underscored YMCA Portadown's dedication to youth empowerment by offering paid employment to two individuals aged 24 and under for a sustained period of nine months. This initiative not only provided employment opportunities but also served as a platform for skills development and professional growth among young adults.

In addition to our commitment to social impact, Greenhill YMCA has taken strides in establishing social enterprises to sustain our youth work. We continued our efforts in Castle Park during the summer months and introduced an ice cream parlour for visitors, contributing to our income-generation initiatives.

Environmental education has also been a priority, with preparations underway for expanding our offering. This includes the development of venues and staff training for bushcraft activities, as well as the creation of a forest classroom to be utilised by visiting groups and local schools. We have also initiated Global Youthwork workshops and explored ways to align our efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, growing our commitment to environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, we have been delivering support to newcomer families arriving from outside these islands, with the aim of fostering a diverse and inclusive local community.

Youth Advocacy

In October, YMCA's West Cork Youth Information service, along with seven other YI providers in Ireland (i.e. Youth Work Ireland, Crosscare and SpunOut projects) piloted the ERYICA European Youth Information quality label award. It was a big month for the YMCA YI staff as the West Cork YI project successfully completed a peer review, at advanced level, for the ERYICA Irish Commission.

YMCA YI staff, as part of the Irish Youth Information Network, also engaged with policy makers, researchers and other national & international stakeholders at a two-day conference on Quality Practice and Innovation in the delivery of Youth Information. ERYICA, Eurodesk Ireland, DCEDIY and ETBs were all represented at 'Infonomics: Facts Matter' in Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction.

The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) is an independent organisation composed of national and regional youth information coordinating bodies and networks. ERYICA is an independent, European organisation gathering 42 national and regional youth information coordinating bodies present in 26 countries.

The European Youth Information Quality Label is a visible sign that certifies that the information has been verified and is reliable. It is awarded to youth information organisations that meet certain criteria. It was developed in the 2019-2020 Council of Europe – ERYICA partnership agreement, to assist young people in finding quality information, in accordance with the European Youth Information Charter.

The Quality Label has been designed together with young people and is linked to a series of quality assessment standards, mechanisms and tools. It's available for public or private non-profit organisations providing youth information services in Council of Europe countries.

"On behalf of the Irish ERYICA Youth Information and Quality Label Commission, I am delighted to inform you that YMCA has been awarded the ERYICA quality label. The quality, reach and impact of the youth information services in West Cork is impressive and inspirational. The young people consulted in the process as part of the youth review element, commented on the number of services that were available to them in Youth Information, and their comfort levels at accessing the services, staff and volunteers. Youth Information in West Cork is truly focused on the needs of young people and is accessible to all regardless of background or identity. Furthermore, it was clear to the Commission that the youth information service is an integral part of your youth services model, and is therefore accessible to all the young people who engage with your projects, clubs and programmes."

Dr Patrick Burke - President of ERYICA and Secretariate to the Irish Commission





Youth Spaces

Youth Spaces Cork Region had a fantastic 2023!

Some of the main highlights of the year included the graduation of our Leaders in Training groups in both the Carbery and Cork city Youth Service. Leaders completed training in group development and processes, facilitation skills, conflict resolution, youth work values and learned how to complete a needs assessment as well as developing a project or action in response to the needs identified.

Carbery Youth Service was launched on 8th May in the new Clonakilty Community Youth Centre. The launch was a great success and it was lovely to see so many from the local community in attendance including Christopher O'Sullivan TD and Michael Collins TD. The young people from the Leaders in Training programme played a central part in welcoming everyone to the centre and Robyn, a young leader spoke passionately about the importance of The Shack for her and for young people in Clonakilty and beyond.

The Cork City Youth Service was part of the Youth Led Anti-Racist Summit in City Hall on 26th May. A group of 10 young people from the GroundFloor project with youth work staff participated in the summit. They also performed a group spoken word piece and an original song written on the theme of racial justice. Leading up to young people's participation in the summit, we hosted artist Helen O'Keefe from Creativity and Change to facilitate art workshops on the theme.

Through the NYCI Artist in Residency Grant Scheme we continued the collaboration with the artist Helen O'Keefe and through a series of workshops and a week long summer school we created a piece of Street Art on the theme of Racial Justice on Drinan St. in Cork. In the words of one young participant "I learned more from listening to people's stories, while I haven't experienced racism, I have experienced discrimination and this makes me feel that I want to build a better future for the next generation. The street art will start conversations that need to be started and I feel that this piece of art will encourage people to treat each other equally. It was really fun learning how to create stencils and spray painting and working with other young people to support each other to tell our stories."

GroundFloor also launched the 'Where I Live' Comic Book on 29th June in YMCA. The comic book was created by a group of young people in the YMCA who participate in the Poetic Power Rangers group. The group of young people worked with the comic book artist Colin O'Mahoney for three months to create the story and the drawings and were delighted to see their work in print and celebrate it.

The Theatre Making and Citizenship Cork programme, a collaboration between The Everyman and YMCA Cork Region delivered three fantastic programmes in the Spring, Summer and Autumn with three performances by the different groups of young people on The Everyman stage. Workshops included theatre making, creative thinking, puppetry, circus and clowning, costume design, movement, music, technical theatre and visits to theatre shows and other cultural venues.

Rainbow Folx in Carbery Youth Service and Cork City Youth Service took part in the Cork City Pride Parade with young people and staff in attendance and celebrated Pride at an after party in YMCA Cork on 6th August. There was huge energy and excitement for YMCA to be represented for the first time in Cork Pride and in Clonakilty Pride.

We celebrated Culture Night for the first time in Cork City and took part in Cruinniu na nÓg. Jamming sessions, music workshops and recording sessions took place in The Shack in Clonakilty, The Hive in Skibbereen and in the Cork city Youth Service GroundFloor. The Shack released an original song called 'Beatless Heart' by a group of ten young people who took part in music making workshops delivered in The Shack.

Most importantly, Youth Spaces is about providing young people with opportunities to: Make Friends, Make and Create, Make Progress and Make a Difference. "It's hard not to make friends when you're here." "I'm really happy I came, the support is amazing." "Kindness is giving hope to those who think they're all alone in this world. It's seeing the best in others when they cannot see it in themselves. That's the confidence I discovered here."

YMCA Newcastle

It has been a very busy year for YMCA Newcastle with a lot of changes supporting the organisation to move from youth into the youth and community fields with new initiatives focused on Asylum & Refugee work, Youth Employment, Womens Work and Community Space in support of stakeholder support and works.

The programme has seen a significant investment of time and support with the engagement of 100 hours per week from the Department for Community's Job Start (DFC) scheme giving four young people aged 24 and under paid employment with YMCA for six months to support Asylum & Refugee work, support management of the community centre and create a communications strategy for the YMCA Newcastle.

Youth Health

Our Youth Counselling Service continues to powerfully impact the lives of many of our young people. As usual, a lack of self confidence is present for almost all clients in the service alongside a struggle to find their purpose in life. There is considerable vulnerability and a lack of resilience. The highlight has been the relationships built between myself and the clients and their very positive feedback.

For those who are connected into other YMCA programmes in addition to counselling the umbrella of care is important providing acceptance, a sense of family and a place to belong. Some of my YMCA colleagues have undertaken to ensure there is food in the building and often lunch/dinner is prepared for them. This has made an enormous difference to the sense of community and wellbeing within the building alongside meeting the very real need of hunger.

Our Díon service reports that mental health and in particular, anxiety and social anxiety are featuring prominently in the youth environment. It is quite clear that COVID has taken a toll and has restricted young people's social lives and their interpersonal skills. It has been a feature of the work that young people are increasingly hesitant to socialise in larger groups and express higher levels of social anxiety as a result. While this has ameliorated over the course of the year, there is no doubt that COVID has had a negative impact. Similar patterns are being seen in educational settings right across the board.

The increase in support needs has also seen the development of new role and increased hours Advocacy Officer who moves into a new 30 hour role (Youth Development & Training Officer).

Youth provision and works continue to be at the heart of everything we do and provision continues to deliver six sessions funded by the EA Youth Service per week for young people with key focus on drop ins for young people aged 14 plus, personal and social development youth work. Supporting marginalised young people and those deemed at risk is core with our project being deemed as a safe and inclusive space.

Díon has sought to address this need by adapting a gentle and supportive approach with young people and making our spaces safer, calmer and welcoming.

Client Feedback

"You have been with me through huge changes in my life. I was still living at home when I started coming to you. I always felt safe and comfortable. I felt I could disagree with you - which was good. The service should be featured more in YMCA's public statements. More people need to know about it. I liked the option of in person or online. I recommend the hybrid model."

"It helped me so much. I got stuff off my chest. I'm much more confident now. I'm much more assertive. I have learned to say no when I was a people pleaser before. I never did counselling before and never anything like it online. Wifi was glitchy at times from home. I got very used to it and I liked it."

"It was really helpful to have the space to talk and someone to talk to. Thank you."

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Youth Vocation

What a great year for the Youth Vocation and Training Department which is part of YMCA Ireland. We worked directly with 88 students in the educational programmes for 2022-2023 and 756 engaged in the Integration project. There were three programmes operating: STEP Cork City and Cobh and ELEVATE Special Category CE Scheme based in Cork City working with young people aged between 17-25.

There were many highlights to the year. A brand new training kitchen was installed in Cobh YMCA which will allow young people to learn new skills through cookery. Donations for the training kitchen facility were received from Cobh Active retirement, Cobh Credit Union, Cobh Lions Club, Cobh County Council and the HSE Lottery. We would like to sincerely thank all of the sponsors for their contributions, this space will benefit the YMCA students in terms of their wellbeing and will develop new skills in the area of health, nutrition and diet. Cobh Chill on the Hill, Carbery Group Limited and Aldi Food Cloud have been extremely supportive in assisting with some basic food supplies to our students who are most vulnerable to food poverty and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their kindness and support.

The students organised and hosted an event called Y-Talk to create awareness around youth mental health, a project funded through Leargas. Small local events were held throughout the year such as the coffee morning hosted by students from ELEVATE. The YMCA students assisted the Cobh Lions Club in their local medication initiative. There has been continued support from our local community organisations this year: Cork County Council funded paint from Relove Paint and Tesco has accepted the YMCA as part of the Blue Token local charity in their Cork City store.

The big event of the year was on the 5th of July 2023 when 25 YMCA students graduated in the City Hall Cork, in the presence of family and friends, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Mick Finn, Management and Staff of the YMCA, representatives from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Cork Education and Training Board. This was a prestigious event hosted by the Cork City Council to celebrate academic and personal achievements and highlights of this event were published in the Evening Echo.

The total number of young people engaging in the Integration Project is 756 with an age range between 10-2. 330 young people engaged between September and December 2022 - The initial rapid response phase of this project came to an end on 31 December 2022. 416 young people engaged between May and September 2023- The Project was re-established in May 2023 to support Ukrainian young people integrate longer term into their local communities. All of the young people are living in accommodation centres within the Cork Region.

The project remit is to help the Ukrainian young people integrate into their local communities. By signposting the young people they were supported into secondary and further education. The young people were provided with information and opportunities linking them with other services including youth spaces and clubs provided by the YMCA and other UBU projects. The project works in partnership with the SECAD employment officer who supports the young people into gaining employment, facilitating and co-ordinating a wide variety of activities, tailored workshops, events and trips.

The highlight of the year was a Ukrainian concert provided by the Ukrainians for Ukrainians and hosted in the City Hall. It was a very emotional event where they were given the opportunity to openly express both their grief for their homeland and their great pride in their homeland as well knowing they have a safe space and a warm welcome as they await the outcome of the war.



Family Support

In 2023, the Family Support programme (PAKT) in the Greater Dublin Area and in the Cork Region was working on the objective of Participation. Young people explored how they can participate more in their club, in their school, in their family and in their

As part of this objective our Youth Assembly Committee met and explored the YMCA value of Welcome. This committee had a young representative from all our club sessions of Celbridge, Crumlin, MacUilliam and Brookfield. The voice of the young people was heard as the group explored this YMCA value. In West Dublin plans for the summer term were done early at the end of this quarter to ensure that the ESC SDG project was fully incorporated and supported by all staff in all the centres.

Another one of our PAKT objectives was to encourage further participation in our afterschool club, in our family and in our community. The STEM pringle game was a great activity in the PAKT clubs together with some centres making pancakes for the older people in our community. Our three German ESC volunteers presented their placement project to the West Dublin and Cork teams which concentrated on 3 SDG's (Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well being and Responsible consumption and production) The plan has activities for all ages of our PAKT kids together with family events for the whole family and this was rolled out over the year.

One2ONE Child Mentoring continued on a weekly basis giving important service to young people aged between 9-12. Parent Mentoring also continued weekly where parents from the communities of MacUilliam and Brookfield have a weekly safe space and time with a volunteer mentor.

In 2023 we organised the roll out of neurodiverse training sessions to all of YMCA Ireland, with on average of 28 participants attending the online training. Step 2 of the Neurodiversity project saw nine parents (from all our PAKT centres) come to understand neurodiversity and learn skills on how to deal with their neurodiverse child/ren. Step 3 of this project saw the children of the parents who did the training started weekly sessions with an OT. Parents have really valued this input as most of the children have no additional support outside the school system.

A Community Memorial concert took place at the end of this quarter where the whole community came together to support a grieving family and their neighbours who experienced a tragedy last September. This was Brian Murtagh's idea before he retired and he returned to do a wonderful job as MC for this emotional event. YMCA organised visiting choirs from the Amish communities of Waterford and America. Our Soulworks choir (another YMCA initiative) under the direction of Joshua Murtagh also sang and provided music at the event. YMCA also provided seeds of hope for each attendee to bring hope and sow to remember the young people and their family.

Crumlin PAKT found a new location in a secondary school after losing its home part way through the year. PAKT has been very much welcomed into this community and our PAKT staff and kids are settling in well. Celbridge PAKT continues with three clubs and family support happening on a weekly basis. Meitheal involvement is high in this community. Weekly PAKT parent drop-ins have been attended well in both MacUilliam and Brookfield communities together with Parent Mentoring sessions an additional support for community parents. ONE2ONE child mentoring continues too on a weekly basis together with Soulworks in MacUilliam and Celbridge. Daily afterschool clubs in West Dublin are happening with every member of staff covering gaps due to lack of volunteers which is the norm in the summer term.

Finally, on a sad note, in August, Joy Cantwell-Moore, our dear colleague and friend passed away after a brave struggle with cancer. Joy was central to YMCAs work in the Cork region and beyond. She most recently worked as the Family Support Development Officer for the Cork Region. The PAKT team are devastated by the loss of Joy and we continue to pray for her husband and her family.

Funders

We would like to acknowledge the support of our funders and donors



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



County Down
Rural Community
Network



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council



Finances

Summary of ROI (CLG) 2022 Audit

Period January 2022 to December 2022

Total Income: €740,511

Total Expenditure: €750,132

Loss of €9,621 (this includes depreciation of €14k)

General reserves had an actual gain of €4,379

(after adding back €14k depreciation)

Reserves (General, Capital Reserve, Revaluation Reserve) €726,071

All other accounts showed marginal surplus, deficit or balance

Reserves	2022	2023	Difference	Comments
Unrestricted				
Capital	€25,244	€20,491	€4,753	
Capital Reserve	€452,839	€461,347	(€8,508)	
Revaluation Reserve	€247,115	€252,607	(€5,492)	
Restricted Reserves	€873	€1,247	(€374)	
Total	€726,071	€735,692	(€9,621)	Includes (€14,000) Depreciation

Summary of ROI (Trust) 2022 Audit

Period January 2022 to December 2022

Total Income: €1,134,151

Total Expenditure: €1,133,924

Surplus of €227

Counting back €1366 depreciation, added €1593 to reserves

Other departments showed small surpluses or marginal losses and were in line with budget projections

Reserves	2022	2023	Difference	Comments
Unrestricted				
General	€277,982	€226,649	€1,333	
Designated	€98,168	€98,168	€0	
Restricted	€85,321	€86,427	(€1,106)	
Total	€411,471	€411,244	€227	Includes (€1,366) Depreciation

Summary of NI (CLG) 2022 Audit

Period March 2022 to March 2023

Total Income: £1,708,900

Total Expenditure: £2,028,634

Deficit of (£319,734)

Depreciation £169,895

Capital Grants £7,500

Reserves	2023	2022	Difference	Comments
Unrestricted Reserves	£706,803	£732,335	(£25,532)	
Designated Reserves	£138,010	£191,758	(£53,748)	
Restricted Reserves	£3,379,027	£3,619,481	(£240,454)	
Total	£4,233,840	£4,543,574	(£319,734)	Includes (£169,895) Depreciation

Visit ymca-ireland.net/accounts for our full detailed accounts

Governance

Our compliance related information

Names of Directors of National Council of YMCAs of Ireland Ltd for 2022/23:

L Young, J Currie, R Earl, G Kirk, H Dunne, L Dunne, J Irwin, J McNicholas, D Wiggins, K Graham, D Nutt, C Cupples, L Somers, M Taylor, K. O'Mahony, B. Austin

Names of Trustees of The National Council of Ireland YMCA Trust for 2022/23:

L Young, R Earl, C Meikle, J McNicholas, G Lightbody

No of National Executive Meetings held in 2022/23 : 7

Date of 2023 AGM : November 25 2023

Registered Address of National Council of YMCAs of Ireland Ltd

National Centre Greenhill YMCA
Donard Park
Newcastle
BT33 0GR

Company No NI 15660

HMRC Charitable Tax Ref.: XN45820

Charity Registration Number NIC105739

Registered Address of The National Council of Ireland YMCA (ROI)

11/12 Marlboro Street
Cork City
Cork
T12 HN4V

Charity Registration Number 20001124

Revenue Charity Number CHY728

Auditors for National Council of YMCAs of Ireland Ltd & National Council of Ireland YMCA Trust:

FPM Accountants Ltd
Unit 1 Building 10
Central Park
Mallusk Road
Newtownabbey
BT36 4FS

YMCA Ireland TCAN: 313282

Tax Registration Number: 8234018T

YMCA Ireland is signatory of the Dochas Code of Conduct on Images & Messages

YMCA Ireland is compliant with the Governance Code