



Annual Report

2020



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Chairperson's Address

While I have served in many voluntary roles throughout FDYS, I have acted as Chair for the last few months which has given me a new perspective on the important work of our organisation. I have seen how valuable our work is to the young people and how they develop and grow when supported by our teams of youth workers, volunteers, community workers and early years professionals across County Wexford.

Our Youth Clubs came to an abrupt halt in March 2020, when the global pandemic hit. Up until this point, our teams of volunteers were ably leading quality youth work throughout the villages and parishes of County Wexford. Youth Club volunteers invested their time in quality training, so that their clubs were compliant with best practice guidelines. Congratulations to our volunteers, you are amazing.

2020 was a very important year for FDYS as we were forced to rethink everything, so that we could respond to the emerging needs of young people in a Covid world. This was achieved in a quality way and well done to all concerned on this achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our former Chairperson, Mrs Michelle Sinnott, on her recent appointment as Youth Clubs Activities Co-ordinator. We were sorry to lose you from the Board of Directors but, the Youth Clubs of County Wexford are fortunate to now have your skills and expertise.

We look to an exciting future in a "new world" and commit to adapting to the needs of young people across County Wexford.



Trish Dagg,
Acting Chairperson, FDYS CLG.

Chief Executive's Reflection

There is so much about 2020 to reflect upon. There are the heroes who stepped up when needed, including FDYS staff, volunteers and young people. About our pandemic, there is the anxiety, stress, isolation and loneliness faced by everyone including our FDYS staff, volunteers and young people. However, there is also the opportunity to reflect on the fun, the resilience and the teamwork.

Our mantra for 2020 was "what FDYS does stays the same, how we do it changes". This simple message, in my view never failed to ensure the needs of young people and families were at the heart of everything we did throughout the pandemic.

- Our Early Years Service remained focused on the needs of children and our professional practice adapted to the new environment. Childcare and Montessori teams worked together to keep our children and staff safe.
- Our Youth Work teams introduced digital youth work and refocused on Detached Youth Work. Outdoor spaces were used creatively so that FDYS important work continued in a safer way.
- Community and Family Services with socially excluded groups reached out deep into the community. We visited homes (safely), gardens and beat the footpaths of County Wexford.
- One to One work continued with the most at risk.
- Pop up Youth Cafés were introduced and this model is now replicated across County Wexford.

Thanks to everyone for putting our young people and families first, while keeping yourselves and each other safe.

The whole organisation collaborated fully through the various cluster groups and working committees. This ensured that real decisions were being made at levels closest to the work, and that decisions were informed by our best practices. This subsidiarity meant that FDYS responded quickly to emerging situations throughout the pandemic. New ideas and initiatives permeated throughout the organisation in a creative and innovative way, and the response from our young people and families was astounding. Well done to all.

I thank our teams of youth club and youth project volunteers who delivered the FDYS message of support to the heart of the communities. The Board of Directors showed strong and supportive direction to me during this global pandemic, when no one else seemed to have answers.

Our funders including Dept. Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Wexford Waterford Education Training Board (WWETB), Wexford County Council, Dept. of Justice, HSE, Tusla, HSE Social Inclusion, Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Pobal, Irish Youth Justice Service, Wexford Local Development, Dept. of Rural and Community Development, all showed compassion and understanding. In response to emerging needs, resources were directed to essential works.

On a personal note, I am proud to serve the FDYS Community, to work with an outstanding FDYS team and to call myself an FDYS team member. Together, we have achieved the unimaginable!

Kieran Donohoe

Chief Executive Officer, FDYS CLG



Where we were located in 2020

Youth Services

23 Youth Clubs (rural and urban).

Community Youth Projects in Enniscorthy, Gorey, Coolcotts and Wexford (Outreach - Bridgetown; Music Box)

Youth Information Services from “Youth Info”

Garda Youth Diversion Project – Slaney.

Risk & Resilience (Detached Youth Work Programme - Bunclody; New Ross; Wexford.

Cloister Youth Facility (Wexford Town)

Co Wexford Comhairle na Nog

LGBTI Programme

ROMA Community Inclusion Programme

ROMA Health Advocacy Project

Roma Employment Project

STAR – Supporting Traveler & Roma

Community Childcare

Junglebox Childcare Centre, Wexford;

Wonderland Childcare Centre, Enniscorthy;

School Age Childcare Programme, Coolcotts, Wexford.

New Ross Community Childcare

Bunclody Afterschool Project

Community Services

Community Based Drugs Initiative (CBDI); (Countywide)

Drugs Outreach Programme; (Countywide)

Buncody Traveller Family Support Programme

Traveller Men’s Health Programme

Traveller Inclusion Project

1. COMMUNITY BASED DRUGS

INITIATIVE(CBDI) *(including Education, Prevention Services, Drugs Outreach Services and Family Support)*

The ethos of the FDYS Community Based Drugs Initiative is to reduce the harm of addiction. As a service we focus on harm reduction, drugs awareness, education and relapse prevention strategies. Family support services and SMART recovery groups are also offered. Our service continued to operate during the Covid 19 pandemic. During this time a lot of our work was done remotely via online or phone. In person appointments were and are also available depending on the needs and preference of the client. We continue to support existing clients and we look forward to supporting those in the future.

We have been playing an important role in supporting the HSE’s Substance Misuse Service, completing Initial Assessments, offering support to clients throughout their continuum of care, supporting clients to access counselling, nursing and residential treatment. We have also played a key role in supporting the Opiate Substitution Therapy Clinics and ensuring that clients are able to have access to their medication at all times.

As with most other projects COVID 19 changed our delivery of work. We now work in a blended manner continuing to see some clients face to face and others remotely. We have found for some people meeting remotely has helped clients to attend appointments that they previously wouldn't have been able to due to transport issues, childcare, elder care, etc. It has also meant that some of the programmes, we facilitate namely through the Better Together and SMART recovery portals people are from around the Country as well as County which for some people has helped with the stigma attached to attending groups and perhaps meeting up with someone you know.

Going forward to the foreseeable future we expect to see more blended groups, more networking with other agencies and a wider audience of participants taking part in supports and programmes offered.

Contact Details

FDYS Francis Street - 053 912 3262
 John Paul 'Neill - johnpaul.oneill@fdys.ie
 Ann Lacey - ann.lacey@fdys.ie
 Val Carley - val.carley@fdys.ie;
 Kelley Hyland - kelley.hyland@fdys.ie;
 086-0297505
 Nicola Green - nicola.greene@fdys.ie

2. COOLCOTTS COMMUNITY YOUTH PROJECT / DROP IN / YOUTH CAFE (including Afterschool Project)

Geographical Areas Covered:

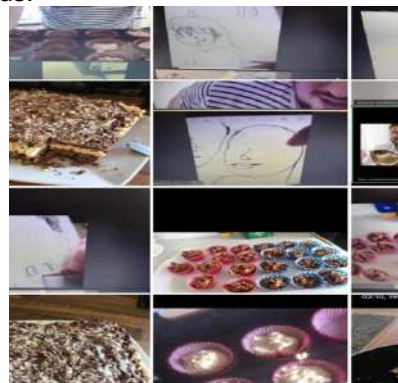
Belvedere, Ashfield Drive, Ferndale Park and the Surrounding Coolcotts Areas
 Core Work: We engage with young people through Youth Led activities and programmes including Youth Cafés, Online Youth Work, Detached Youth Work, Online InterProject Activities, Outdoor Activities and One-to-One Supports.



Pride Rainbow

Schedule:

Coolcotts Youth Project opens four evenings per week, from Monday to Thursday, and on one Saturday per month for extra-curricular activities. We work with young people aged 12 – 25 in small structured groups after school hours. Times of activities change during school holidays to cater to the young people's needs.



Online Baking

2020 Highlights:

Even though 2020 and the arrival of COVID 19 presented many challenges in the Youth Work Sector, it also gave us new opportunities and new ways of engaging with young people through online activities as well as more outdoor work, when the guidelines allowed. Some of the highlights of 2020 included:

Pride Gender



- Our first ever Coolcotts Pride Celebration, which will become an annual event.
- An online Interproject quiz which took part over a number of weeks and included participants from 4 different projects engaging with one another and having a friendly competition.
- We engaged in Detached Youth Work for the first time to re-connect with older teens who were not accessing the online services. This worked really well and will be a service that we will continue. It also gave us a chance to meet members of the community and build relationships with the parents.

Outdoor Bingo



- A new Park in the Area opened giving us a new space for outdoor activities and celebrations.

- We ran a baking programme which engaged both parents and their young people working together in the kitchen and learning to make new treats each week.
- We ran a youth-led Dungeons and Dragons programme whereby one of our young people led the session each week and being online allowed the young people to use their imaginations to create a world and an experience together.



Christmas Competition

Contact Details:

Debbie Roche - debbie.roche@fdys.ie

Eimear McMahon -

eimear.mcmahon@fdys.ie

Kris McGuire - kris.mcguire@fdys.ie

Liz James – liz.james@fdys.ie

Project Mobile - 086 786 0180

3. Creche / Playschool Wexford – JUNGLEBOX



✉ Waterloo Road, Wexford. ☎ 05391 21166 📧 junglebox@fdys.ie

- **Opening Days and Times** : Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- **Referrals** : Yes
- **How to Refer** : Contact Joy Keyes
- **Eligibility Criteria** : Children from 4 months to 5 years of age. Junglebox and Wonderland are Community Based Childcare Centres that have a waiting list in operation.
- **Contact Person** : Joy Keyes



4. Creche / Playschool Enniscorthy – WONDERLAND

✉ Island Road, Enniscorthy. ☎ 053 9237886 📧 junglebox@fdys.ie

- **Opening Days and Times** : Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm
- **Referrals** : Yes
- **How to Refer** : Contact Nicola Dobbs
- **Eligibility Criteria** : Children from 18 months to 5 years of age. Junglebox and Wonderland are Community Based Childcare Centres that have a waiting list in operation.

- **Contact Person** : Nicola Dobbs



Wonderland childcare centre has had a great year despite covid. Our children have still enjoyed all the experiences of creche and playschool that they would of had other years, we all adjusted well to the extra precautions that we're needed on a daily basis.



All children had great attendance, we have had no sickness or flus this year. All staff have been working very hard and keeping up to date with all covid related standards.

We have been so lucky with the weather this year and we have been using outdoor space daily for long periods of time. We got to have our annual school tour & sports day. The children really enjoyed themselves.



Our childcare numbers have been high this year and our September list is full again. We also have a waiting list for both rooms. Childcare is still in high demand and the National childcare scheme is proving to be a big help for parents and the centres.



Overall it has been a very positive year for our children and I feel that it was needed with everything going on with covid, the children got to be children and enjoy themselves daily, I look forward to what the next year brings.

5. Creche / Playschool – NEW

ROSS

- ✉ District Hospital Grounds, New Ross
- ☎ 051 441788 📧 junglebox@fdys.ie
 - Opening Days and Times : Monday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm
 - Referrals : Yes
 - How to Refer : Contact Joy Keyes
 - Eligibility Criteria : Children from 2 years 10 months to 5 years of age.

Contact Person : Joy Keyes

6. BUNCLODY TRAVELLER PROJECT – Afterschool Service

- ✉ Market Square, Bunclody. ☎ 053 93 75570 📧 david.wright@fdys.ie
- Opening Days and Times : Monday – Friday 14.30 to 18.00
 - Referrals : Yes
 - How to Refer : Contact David Wright
 - Eligibility Criteria : Children from 5 years of age to 12 years of age.

Contact Person : David Wright

2020 has been a strange and a frightening year for everyone. Staff at the FDYS

Afterschool Project Bunclody have completed a number of courses including:



- Hand Hygiene.
- Children First.
- HACCP 1 & 2.
- Fire safety, ACES, LGBT+ & Awareness and inclusion training.
- Communicating with people who have an Intellectual Disability.
- Hidden Harm.
- Care of adults and children with asthma.
- the fundamentals of GDPR.
- Child safety inside and outside the home.
- Manual handling.
- first steps in Ethnic equality and inclusion.
- Intercultural awareness E learning programme.
- QQI Level 6 Community development courses.
- Staff returning to complete level 6 Community studies with WIT.



7. BUNCLODY TRAVELLER FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- ✉ Market Square, Bunclody. ☎ 053 91 23262 📧 sally.murphy@fdys.ie; celine.cash@fdys.ie

- **Opening Days and Times :**
Monday – Thursday 14.30 to 18.00
- **Referrals :** Yes
- **How to Refer :** Contact Sally Murphy; Celine Cash.
- **Eligibility Criteria :** Traveller Families in the Bunclody Area

Contact Person : Sally Murphy; Celine Cash.



Bunclody Afterschool Project Monday to Thursday from 1:30-5:30pm

We provide a service that helps children from junior infants up to sixth class with their homework, projects and create a friendly space for the children to come. The children at FDYS Afterschool Project were all delighted to return to the afterschool. Covid 19 has limited us to 30 children attending the afterschool, but hopefully in the near future we can accommodate all of the children that wish to use our service.

Sally Murphy done some outreach during Covid19 to the children attending the afterschool. She delivered little hampers for the children during Easter and the children were delighted.

Last week we completed the STEM Project for Wexford's Science week, the children really enjoyed this activity, and the children made Art bots and Lighthouses We are hoping to do four more projects in 2021. Currently at the moment some of our children from FDYS afterschool are making recycled Christmas decorations for the FDYS art competition. We have received very good verbal feedback from the school liaison Edel Jordan and the school are delighted with service that we provide here at FDYS.

Drop in & Information Every Friday morning from: 10:00-1:00

We provide a phone call service which helps people with essentials needs such as car insurance, medical appointments, and filling out forms. Due to Covid 19 we are currently getting our clients to drop off forms and coming back at a suitable time to collect the forms. Our service is a great to the Travelling community in Bunclody and we get great verbal feedback from everyone in our community.

The Young Girls group every Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:00pm

Due to Covid 19 our girls group has been put on hold for the moment. We would usually have 15-20 young Traveller girls ages range from 12-16 years. We have the sisters from our parish coming to help out every Tuesday. We create a safe and empowering environment for our young girls. We promote healthy eating and life skills. We also do a lot of fun activities such as arts and crafts, drama, sewing, knitting, storytelling, music and much more!

Sally Murphy delivered little hampers to the young girls group during Easter and assured the girls that if they needed anything that they could call.

8. CLOISTER YOUTH CAFE, Wexford;

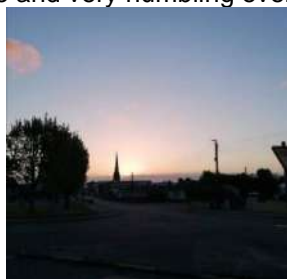


The Cloister youth cafe is an outdoor (AI fresco youth cafe) and online friendly, safe and inviting space for young people to come to be themselves while leaning good life skills and making friends, We offer many different groups depending on the needs of the young people at the time . The Cloister youth cafe adjusted rapidly and very well to Covid 19 restrictions and we swiftly moved all our groups to an

online service so the young people were at no stage without contact to our services and were fully supported through the pandemic .As restrictions eased FDYS invested in our outdoor space turning our beautiful garden into a wonderful Al fresco youth cafe with funky furniture and also a heated covered area so we could meet up safely outdoors but be together, this has been a huge advantage and the young people love it.



A moment which stood out to us this year as a group was taking part in darkness into light, suicide has affected a few families in our group and mental health was prevalent during the pandemic so doing this together as a group was a really enjoyable and very humbling event.



Cloister youth cafe is a 3 day a week project:-
 Tuesday 3 pm - 6.30pm Cafe Alfresco.
 Wednesday 3pm - 6.30pm Cafe Alfresco.
 7pm - 8.30pm online
 Thursday 3pm - 6.30pm Cafe Alfresco
 7pm - 8.30 online.

Contact details julie.dowdall@fdys.ie
 Phone ; 053 9123262
 Mobile ; 0871211185

9. YOUTH COUNSELLING

FDYS counselling service offers 1:1 support to teenagers and young people up to 25yrs old. It is an integrative service using methods such as CBT, Sand and person centred approaches in exploring

issues which may cause stuckness, anxiety and stress in a young person's life.

Highlight:

In 2020 the service worked with many young people with varying issues. The work of the service was very much enhanced and supported by volunteer counsellors who enabled the service to work many more young people and supported FDYS in keeping waiting times to a reasonable timeframe.

Contact Details:

FDYS Youth Counselling Service
 Francis St
 Wexford
 053 91 23262/0879351725
mairead.duffy@fdys.ie

10. YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE;

Highlight 2020:

Online Chat Service

Youth Info in collaboration with Crosscare, Spunout, YMCA Ireland and Youth Work Ireland launched a new unique online youth chat system called the Digital Youth Information Chat Service. The Youth Information Online chat service is the first of its kind in Ireland and had been in the planning for some time, however due to Covid-19 this service was expedited to support young people during COVID-19 lockdown.

The Youth Information online chat service builds on a long-standing partnership of professional Youth Information providers in Ireland and is a natural extension of what Youth Info does on a daily basis. It is a recognition of both the importance of the online lives young people live and of course the current period which presents huge challenges for young people.

The Youth Information Chat is an easy to use chat service that works just like Whatsapp or Facebook Messenger. It provides young people with reliable, accurate and understandable information.

The service is staffed by professional Youth Information Workers and is available to young people aged 16-25 from 4pm to 8pm Monday- Friday.

Contact Details: Siobhan/Carmel
0858814259/youthinfowex@fdys.ie



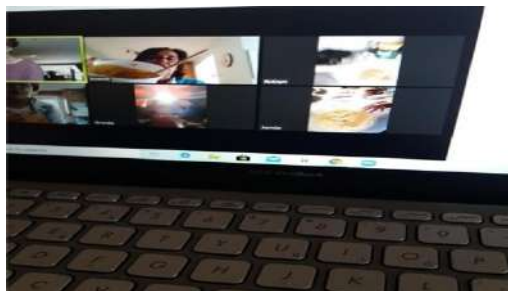
11. WEXFORD AREA YOUTH SUPPORTS

The Young Women's Programme

The Young Women's Programme is based in Wexford town, Bridgetown and surrounding areas. Young women aged between 15-25 refer themselves or are referred into the programme by family support workers, social workers and community and voluntary sector.

Youth Workers offer one to one support and often signpost and hand hold young women to other services and professionals who we feel meet their needs.

Many of the young women who are referred to us do join our groups; the focus of these groups is mainly about personal and social development. They develop positive relationships, gain support from other young women; they learn coping mechanisms and strategies. We support these young women until they feel that they are ready to take the next steps in life.



One of the highlights for the young women's group was getting together over Zoom from our homes, to bake or cook dishes that were easy to make. The

dishes included brown bread, scones, cookies, soups, carbonara and all types of cakes. When we were finished everyone took photos of what they had made and sent them to their WhatsApp group page. Even though we struggled at the start using the online platform, we had great fun along the way.



Contact Details: Maria Brennan FDYS
Francis St. Tel: 053-9123262 email:
maria.brennan@fdys.ie

Music Hub

The FDYS music group provides a safe space for young people who have an interest in music to come and play an instrument, sing, rap or produce music. Young people are also given the opportunity take part in music related workshops, engage in music related activities, and take part in the Irish Youth Music Awards educational music programme.



Contact Details

Maria Brennan Tel: 085 8888388
maria.brennan@fdys.ie
Elaine Goldsberry Tel: 086 1383393
elaine.goldsberry@fdys.ie

Highlights 2020

With Covid 19 things were a little different. After the pre covid selection event for the Irish Youth Music Awards in March, the national event which took place online in October. Through the IYMAs young people took part in online workshops, had access to the creative and music industries and were given the chance to

perform live on the IYMAS Facebook page through IYMAS.

IYMAS Selection event



2020 IYMAS National Day



Rosslare Drop In

The drop in was held every Tuesday and provided a relaxing drop in space for young people aged 15-20 years where they could meet peers, engage with youth workers and gain information where required. Youth workers worked alongside detached workers where detached workers referred young people they met on the street into the drop-in. Young people also engaged in driver theory for a period of 6 weeks. Driver theory was co-facilitated by Siobhan McMahon, Youth information.



12. BRIDGETOWN YOUTH FACILITY

✉ Bridgetown, Co. Wexford ☎ 05391 75287

✉ gemma.cullen@fdys.ie;
nadine.obrien@fdys.ie;

Bridgetown Inbetweenagers

Providing a safe space for young people to meet peers, receive homework support, engage in activities and gain information where require. Young people also engaged in programmes on societal topics such as mental health and LGBTI+ issues.

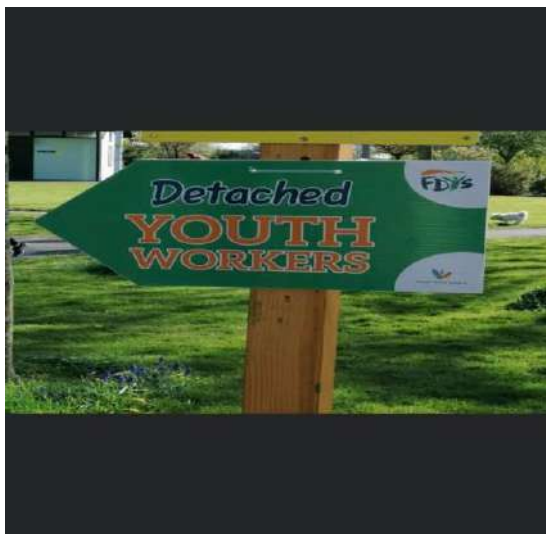
Bridgetown Tea and Talk

From December 2019, Bridgetown Youth Centre started a weekend youth led drop in service, providing a safe space where young people can relax, chat with peers, gain information and receive support where required. Ages range 12pm to 3pm. It switched to digital in 2021.



that they hang out and youth work takes place in locations where young people are, whereas outreach involves signposting and giving information on existing services to encourage young people to avail of these services.

13. RISK AND RESILIENCE



Our detached Risk and Resilience Project provides a connection for young people, who, for whatever reason, are unattached to services. It is an opportunity to meet the young people where they hang out, talk with them and provide support. Our key objective is to ensure they are safe and that they know they can rely on us if they need support, advice or information on available service in their areas. The service provides two youth workers who follow a certain route in Wexford Town on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and connect with young people in these areas. We can also offer 1:1 follow up appointments with young people we meet and who may need some extra support on a range of issues. Meeting young people where they are at and building positive, trusting and consistent relationships is key to the work where conversation is the main intervention. Detached youth work combines elements of both detached work and outreach work, detached aims to meet young people where they are at in spaces

Highlight of 2020:

Finding more innovative and creative ways to meet young people during COVID- 19 restrictions was a challenge but also very rewarding. Seeking out ways to connect with young people via digital platforms where face-to face detached work was not possible enabled workers to learn more about engaging young people in ways we did not think about before. Re-connecting with young people once restrictions eased in their usual hang-out spots was definitely one of the biggest highlights, as well as setting up pop-up youth cafes in locations like Min-Ryan Park, where young people could come and sit with youth workers in a safe space at the same days and times each day. Positive and trusting relationships with larger groups of young people were formed, where young people would ask what times we would be there the next day, a huge indicator that the young people felt safe in their interactions with detached workers.



WEXFORD (Elaine Goldsberry/ Emma Whitty) ☎086 464 5573–
 ✉elaine.goldsberry@fdys.ie;
emma.whitty@fdys.ie;

NEW ROSS (Phil McGrath); ☎ 051 420044 / 087 9351754 ✉;
phil.mcgrath@fdys.ie;



BUNCLODY (Sally Murphy; Celine Cash);
 ☎ (053) 93 75570 ✉
sally.murphy@fdys.ie;

celine.cash@fdys.ie **Opening hours:**
 mainly 2pm -10pm Monday to Wednesday

- **Referrals taken:** yes
- **How to refer:** by contacting the project and registering
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Live in a RAPID Area aged 11yrs plus.

14. ENNISCORTHY COMMUNITY YOUTH PROJECT

ECYP - Afterschool Facility, Youth Café. EYDP (Slaney Project) – Funded by IYJS aimed at preventing young people entering or continuing a life of crime.

Contact Details

✉ Island Rd., Enniscorthy. ☎ 053 9234574. ✉ pilar.loring@fdys.ie;
paula.kelly@fdys.ie; terry.oneill@fdys.ie;
hayley.rochford@fdys.ie;

FDYS Your Local Voluntary Youth Service in County Wexford.

- **Opening hours:** 9am to 9pm Monday to Fri., opens Saturday for certain activities.
- **Referral:** yes both self and agency referral
- **How to refer:** ring 053 92 34574
- **Contact:** Pilar Loring / Paula Kelly (ECYP)



In 2020, ECYP Youth groups and sessions were adapted and organised to follow all the Covid 19 health recommendations and guidelines. We divided the groups in numbers according to the restrictions present at the time; and taking in consideration all the young people wishes and needs. Groups were structured to allow the number's restriction: shorter time and more groups on the day.

Groups were facilitated outdoors during the summer, and the activities were also adapted for outdoors provision. Protocols were in place to follow all health recommendations. Individual Youth Support continued face-to-face were it was essential.

Online, digital and telephonic support and contact with the most vulnerable young people continued throughout the year. Facilities and equipment was cleaned and disinfected following all health authorities advice.

One particularly fun initiative of 2020 was our 5 Ways to Wellbeing Campaign on social media. This was certainly youth-lead, where young people daily set each other a challenge campaign on Facebook and Instagram. The initiative was to raise awareness on how to look after Wellbeing and Mental health during the pandemic.



15. SLANEY GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECT

Slaney Garda Youth Diversion Project

The Slaney Garda Youth Diversion Project (GYDP) is a community based, multi-agency project that works to divert young people aged 12-18 years, from becoming involved or further involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. The project seeks to encourage and support pro-social behaviours and good relations between the Gardai, the community and young people.

The Slaney GYDP offers support for young people in education and employment using a strength based focus to engage young people through a variety of mediums and personal interests such as sport, art, music, outdoor activities. The project works with young people through one to one sessions, group work and collaborative work. Referrals can be made by Garda JLOs, schools, youth groups, parents, other organisations or self-referrals.

Templeshannon Outreach Programme 2020

In 2020 the Slaney GYDP delivered a detached model of youth work to young travellers in Enniscorthy. Issues of antisocial behaviour and risk taking behaviour had been reported by the community, gardai and Co. Council. Slaney GYDP collaborated with FDYS Traveller Inclusion Project and met with young travellers between the ages of 12-17 years old in the Templeshannon area on the streets of their local community. Youth workers worked with young people to build relationships and promote appropriate local services. Young people

FDYS Your Local Voluntary Youth Service in County Wexford.

were supported around their mental health and coping mechanisms during lockdowns. Through the delivery of Templeshannon Outreach Programme we have managed to meet harder to reach and marginalised young people while also making more young people aware of services which are available to them.

The Slaney project spent much of 2020 building and maintaining meaningful relationships with young people and parents. Our weekly "Road Safety Programme" was delivered online with young people and phone work with parents featured prominently during lockdown and provided a source of much needed help and support.

Contact Details

Terry O'Neill
Mobile: 087 935 1764
Email: terry.oneill@fdys.ie

Hayley Rochford
Mobile: 085 801 1896
Email: hayley.rochford@fdys.ie

16. THE SHAMBLES YOUTH DROP IN / YOUTH CAFE

✉ FDYS, The Shambles, Mary Street, New Ross ☎ 051 420044 / 087 9351754
✉ phil.mcgrath@fdys.ie;

- **Opening Days and Times** : As agreed with Youth Groups.
- **Referrals taken** : Yes
- **How to Refer** : Referrals taken through school teachers, school completion programme, parents and from other projects as well as young persons counsellor.
- **Eligibility Criteria** : Youth Café Drop In 13-21 years; Drugs Services and Family Support by appointment.



17. LOCAL VOLUNTARY YOUTH CLUB NETWORK

While FDYS Youth Club activities started the year well in 2020, the pandemic hit it very hard. We immediately set about trying to work out how young people could be supported in a way that protects them, their leaders and that is mindful of the FDYS responsibility to our community. At all times, we remembered that young people rely heavily on their positive relationships with volunteers and on socialising with other members of their clubs. During lock down, rural youth isolation and loneliness was a particular concern of FDYS and we hope, that with the help of our network of volunteers across County Wexford, young people continued to be connected to their clubs and supported by FDYS.

Feedback from volunteers and youth work practitioners informed our decisions and many opportunities were considered to keep club members engaged. FDYS Competitions continued throughout 2020, Online Chat Service remained open, for young people in distress and our 5 Ways to Well Being Support and Advice service was very active.

✉ FDYS, Francis Street, Wexford ☎
05391 23262 📧 fdysyouthclubs@fdys.ie

Opening Days and Times : 9.00am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Night and Weekend Activities arranged by Season

- **Referrals taken** : Yes
- **How to Refer** : Contact Michelle Sinnott for assistance and support in setting up or running a voluntary youth club in your area.

18. GOREY COMMUNITY YOUTH PROJECT

✉ 25 McCurtin Street, Gorey ☎ 053 94 80749 📧 nadine.obrien@fdys.ie; (Nadine O'Brien) 085-8898047;
laura.herterich@fdys.ie; (Laura Herterich)
jamie.brady@fdys.ie (Jamie Brady)
086-0691589



Gorey Community Youth Project works with young people from 10 to 25 years. We run drop in's, specialised youth groups, workshops and programmes. We also offer one-to-one support for young people on an individual basis through referrals or self-referrals. We have youth groups in Riverchapel, youth cafe in Creagh College and a youth group for 5th and 6th class students called the Gorey Inbetweenagers. We also run Tea and Talk every Saturday, a safe space where young people can chat with peers and receive support from youth workers if required. A blended youth work approach was used where young people engaged online and outdoors, in line with government guidelines.



In 2020, youth workers had the opportunity to work with young people residing in direct provision in Courtown. Young people had the opportunity to engage in an online strengths-based youth work programme that focused on building resilience and planning for the future. Topics included relationship building, coping skills, planning for the future and identity and cultural differences.



Riverchapel Youth Group also won the Group Award Category of the Garda Youth Awards 2020. Young people took part in the National Spring Clean in April 2019 where they took part in a litter pick in their local community.

Gorey Community Youth Project



youth worker on a one to one basis to discuss anything they may not feel comfortable sharing in a group setting. This is a great space to signpost young people to other services, to get to know each other better and to work through some, if any, issues they may be having in areas such as coming out, bullying, negative responses, internalised homophobia to name but a few. It is also a nice space to give information and extra resources and supports to young LGBT+ people who may need them and give them information on other services and referral pathways. Both the LGBT+ Wexford and the SOLIDARITY Enniscorthy Group come together online on a bi-weekly basis to plan for future events, meet each other, socialise and build relationships with one another. The young people have named this the LGBT+ Action Group as they also use it as a platform to discuss issues that matter to them and brainstorm ideas to take action collectively.



19. LGBT+ Wexford Youth Support

LGBT+ Youth Wexford and SOLIDAIRTY Enniscorthy LGBT+ Groups offer a safe, welcoming, non-judgemental space for young LGBT+ people up to the age of 24. Young people are invited to come to a safe and open space to be their authentic selves, meet other young people and express who they are, free of judgement and with the support of youth workers and other young people. Both groups offer spaces for young people who are LGBT+, who are questioning their sexual orientation and/ or gender identity and to LGBT+ supporters. Young people do not have to know their sexual orientation/ gender identity and never have to share this if they are not comfortable. One to one sessions with a youth worker are also available where young people can meet a

Highlight of 2020:

Online video groups via Google Hang-Outs meant that groups became more accessible for young people who may have found it hard to access the group in person. This was particularly helpful for young people who have little or no access to transport or young people living in more rural areas, as well as young people who are not out yet and felt more comfortable being in the online environment. Since this, these young people have since joined the group in person after building positive relationships online with their peers. Having an online chat facility opened up for opportunities for young people to choose which form of communication that they are most comfortable with, particularly when engaging in one to one sessions and this will continue to be available for young people when things return back to our new normal. Young people have expressed that they like being

offered multiple ways to engage with us, be it over the phone, online chat, video call or in person.

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20. TRAVELLER MEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

2020 was a difficult year for everyone. It provided many challenges in our work which was usually almost exclusively face to face.

The pandemic obviously meant that this was not possible, which meant we had to adapt and try find alternative ways to engage with the men.

We kept in regular contact by phone and recorded video messages to send to the men also.

We continued to promote the core messages of our programme-Mental Health, Cardiovascular Health and Diabetes while also providing key messages in relation to Covid19. Mental Health suffered greatly during this period and this regular contact became very important in supporting the men. Keeping the lines of communication with the men in place was the key focus for the project and by doing this we were able to remain relevant, useful and helpful for them.

21. TRAVELLER INCLUSION PROJECT



Contact Details:

Robbie Sludds (FDYS Traveller Inclusion Project Worker) 085-8011895
Mary Helen Connors (ECC Project worker) 087-9896680

The FDYS Traveller Inclusion Programme have been committed to supported and assisted families and individuals of the Traveller Community in 2020 throughout County Wexford by focusing on the concepts of social inclusion and identifying a true understanding of their culture by echoing the voices, vision and dignity of the community whilst also empowering individuals and groups to take pride in their unique nomadic ways of life.

Some of the specific highlights of 2020 that were achieved over the year since Covid 19 pandemic were;



The Traveller Men's community Clean-up Drumgoold Enniscorthy 2020



One of the most significant highlights over in 2020 happened over a phone call with the FDYS project worker and a Traveller man in regards to the unsightly condition of the housing estate in Upper Drumgoold Enniscorthy, which was looking very unkept and was also becoming a concern around health and safety issue that was impacting the residents that were residing on the estate. On the weekend of 17th-19th April 2020 Traveller men took on the leadership role of working collaboratively and collectively to do a major clean-up operation by doing the following;

- Mowing and cutting of the grass on the green area.
- Power washing the entire estate.
- Picking up rubbish and waste that was dumped on the estate.
- Constructing goalposts for the young people to play sport on the green.

All the work that was done on that weekend raised the spirits of the community because certain Traveller men took the leadership initiative to get the job done which gave them the sense of pride and accomplishment. The project worker

let the county council know about the huge piece of work that was done on the estate and those in the county council stated that they would like to acknowledge the great work being done by allocating funding to go towards benches, flowers or plants when the covid 19 pandemic has settled.

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about”.

Margaret J. Wheatley

Light a candle for suicide Awareness Day



Suicide is an all too familiar tragedy within the Traveller community. Many families are left with many questions as to why their beloved family member, friend or relation would die by suicide and leave such a dark shadow over their community.

In 2020 the T.I.P. arranged to get 100 candles to 100 families throughout Co. Wexford to help those in the Traveller community remember their loved ones who had passed through suicide over the years. The uptake and engagement from the community was overwhelming and very well received. On September 9th 2020 many families throughout the community in Co. Wexford at 8pm in conjunction with other FDYS projects who were doing similar remembrance pieces to highlight suicide awareness day throughout the county sent in images of pictures with their lit candles and families holding them. These images were beautiful and heartfelt as they stood united showing their support of suicide awareness and their memories of loved ones who have now past.



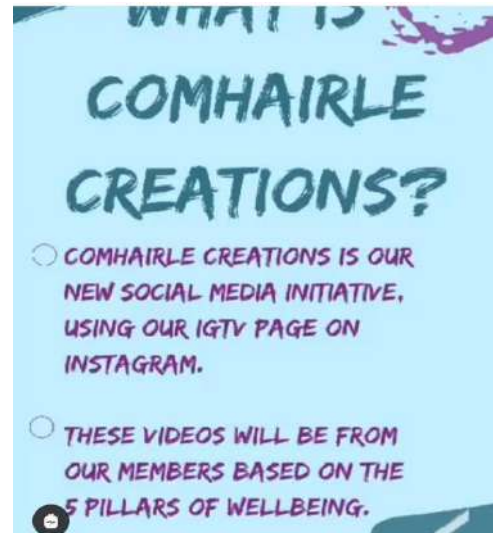
This piece of work received great feedback from the community because it gave them the opportunity to honor their loved ones on this very specific day.



22. CO WEXFORD COMHAIRLE NA NOG



Contact Details: Paula Kelly ✉ FDYS,
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When the restrictions began back in 2020, Wexford Comhairle na nÓg quickly responded by using social media to create a positive online presence. The members came up with 'Comhairle Creations' - which saw some members share how they keep themselves busy and in a positive mindset using the 5 ways to wellbeing. This meant some IGTV videoing, which included skateboarding and baking.





23. ROMA COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMME

Roma Community Inclusion Programme is an umbrella term for 5 Roma projects in FDYS.

Roma Equality Project: In 2020 Roma Equality project worked with Roma Community in Co. Wexford to support them in accessing services in a pandemic circumstances. Most of the services were offered online or through the phone. This impacted greatly on the community, but also had a silver lining as Roma Community were empowered to use technology.

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24. ROMA HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

Roma Health Advocacy Project: In 2020 Roma Health Advocacy Project supported Roma Community accessing health services, sharing health information, sharing COVID-19 information and supporting Roma Community in self-isolation. In 2020 as an impact of this project there was no cases on COVID-19 infections in the Roma Community.



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25. ROMA EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Roma Employment Project was funded by Depart of Justice and Equality and its main aim is to support Roma Community in accessing paid employment. Part of this project is also outreaching to Roma Community in Co. Carlow.
The contact person last year was Liliana Brennan.

26. STAR PROJECT

The Star Project is a pilot project under the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021. Star stands for "Supporting Travellers and Roma" the project supports students and parents from the Traveller and Roma communities in education in both primary and secondary schools. The aim is to improve the overall educational experience for these communities.

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Highlight of 2020 in response to Covid-19 Restrictions

With schools closed in March 2020 for the remainder of the academic year due to Covid-19 government restrictions, the team received a very high volume of contact from Traveller and Roma families who were seeking support in response to school closures. The education workers supported families with their home/school learning needs by supporting parents on the phone with any issues they had with distant learning or school App support.

The team also liaised very closely with families and school personnel to ensure families received food parcels under the school meals programme and had access to school work.

The workers also assisted the schools with identifying families who were in need of technology. The workers arranged for tablets, sim cards to be delivered to the home.

The team also provided support to Traveller and Roma 6th class students who were engaged in the Star transition programme before schools closed by providing support for parents with the enrolment process and devising and delivering transition packs for the students to support them with their transition to secondary school.

The workers delivered 60 educational resource packs for children in non-DEIS primary schools who were engaged with the project to support them with their learning needs.

The team also devised and delivered wellness packs for secondary school age children and outdoor activity packs for primary school children with the overall aim to support families well-being while in lockdown.

Another very positive highlight for the project despite the challenges the pandemic brought on many families, six students from the Roma community completed their leaving certificate. Five of the students continued to third level education with the support of the Roma worker who supported the young people to apply for college, grants, linked with schools re results.

Support during school closures



Mission Statement, Objectives & Principles

MISSION STATEMENT

To work with young people and adults in Co. Wexford, to enable them to gain for themselves, the knowledge, feelings and skills to realise their full potential and, in so far as possible, to empower them to take control of their own lives.

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To complement the roles of the family, community, school and workplace in the overall education of the young person.
- (b) To be the primary provider of community and centre-based services for young people in Co. Wexford.
- (c) To maximise ownership of and participation in the services by *adults* as volunteers and young people.
- (d) To provide a comprehensive range of social education training programmes, aimed at the physical, psychological, social, moral and spiritual development of young people.
- (e) To promote critical awareness among young people especially in the social, cultural and political spheres.
- (f) To challenge, motivate and support community based initiatives and services in their endeavour to promote youth development in discrete geographical areas.
- (g) To develop and maintain partnerships with other providers of services to young people and to speak out resolutely on issues of social justice affecting young people.
- (h) To create an effective organisational and management structure to enable it to achieve these objectives.

PRINCIPLES

We see Youth Work as a planned, systematic, non-formal educational process through which we work with voluntarily participating young people *and adults*. This work is based on a number of clear principles which inform all of our activities.

- (a) We recognise the fundamental importance of volunteerism in underpinning all our work and in particular it provides an important opportunity to harness goodwill and commitment from within local communities.
- (b) We promote an informed and critical social and political awareness and challenge those elements which are detrimental to genuine human development and particularly to the welfare of young people.
- (c) We believe in action based on awareness and participation that gives recognition to both the process and content of Youth Work.
- (d) We encourage and facilitate local initiatives and activities in response to locally identified needs, as well as local control over resources and activities.
- (e) To promote responsibility, co-operation and decision making at all levels.
- (f) We promote the highest possible standards in our youth work practice and in the selection and support of our employed staff and volunteers.
- (g) We seek to achieve an equitable balance in our activities between addressing the needs of large numbers of young people from relatively stable backgrounds with the urgent and absolute needs of young people at risk or with particular problems.

Our Statement of Youth Work Practice

WHAT WE DO

We work with young people and adults in County Wexford to support them in realising their full potential. We encourage young people to achieve a state of personal holistic well-being by balancing the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Our work is young person centred, encourages well-being, promotes equality, diversity and inclusiveness through the provision of quality youth work and takes place in a safe and trusting environment.

Our non-formal education process is delivered through youth work programmes, youth and community support services, childcare and supports for volunteers.

Our work includes but is not limited to the following:

- Bunclody Project;
- Cloister Youth Programme;
- LGBT
- Community Based Drugs Initiative;
- Coolcotts Community Youth Project;
- Drugs Outreach;
- Enniscorthy Community Youth Project;
- Gorey Community Youth Project;
- Slaney Garda Youth Diversion Project;
- Voluntary Youth Clubs;
- Young Women's Education and Development Project;
- Youth Counselling;
- Youth Information;
- Coolcotts Afterschool Project.
- Junglebox Childcare Centre;
- New Ross Community Childcare;
- Wonderland Childcare Centre;

WHY WE DO IT

As a voluntary organisation we value the role and contribution of volunteers in our work. Our young people participate in our

programmes and services voluntarily. We work within the Voluntary Sector with other non-government agencies and community groups.

We identify the emerging needs of young people and strive to comprehensively respond to these needs. We identify gaps in support services and, where possible, try to address them appropriately through FDYS or partner organisations. We are informed by government policy and research, by the desires of young people and by needs assessment.

Our work compliments existing educational and social structures and benefits young people in their holistic development. We advocate and encourage active and meaningful participation on an individual, project, community and societal level. We work to be a positive influence in their lives.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Our youth services and programmes support people aged 11-25 years and those who have a role in supporting the development of these young people. Our childcare services work with children from 4 months to 11 years; our junior youth clubs from 6 years to 13 years; volunteers (over eighteen) and families. We offer our supports to all young people in County Wexford. In particular, we target our needs based programmes to those at risk or most in need or with fewer opportunities. In addition, we offer our services to those with a role in supporting the development of young people (mentioned above) including parents/guardians, teachers, schools, youth clubs, volunteers, other agencies, communities and state agencies etc.

HOW WE DO IT

Our youthwork is a planned, systematic non-formal educational process through

which we work with voluntarily participating young people and adults.

In practice, all FDYS work will:

- be linked to an identified need in the community;
- be in accordance with the principles and objectives of FDYS;
- have defined aims;
- have defined objectives;
- have a youth centred approach;
- be committed to youth participation in programme design and delivery;
- have defined outcomes in a written programme plan (annual, monthly and session plans)
- have a scheduled review of the outcomes relative to the original plan (reflective practice)

We use the following youth work methodologies - group work, experiential learning, creative mediums (including drama, media, sport, music, visual arts, performance etc), role play, skills development through asset based/ strengths based youth work, 1:1 work, process orientated programmes and activities.

Our work is based on our commitment to professional quality standards. It takes place in a confidential and respectful manner, while following FDYS policies and procedures, best youth work practice in line with Government policy/research and legislative exactness.

WHERE WE DO IT

Our organisation is County Wexford based, with facilities in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Bunclody. Our work services all rural and urban areas in the County.

Our organisation is included in various national forums: Youth work Ireland;

National Youth Council of Ireland; Dail naN'Og etc.

We also engage in international work through exchanges and collaborations with youth organisations i.e. EPTO, Learning for Wellbeing, Leargas and Intereg.



Staff List 2020

With great thanks to:

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Becky O'Connell
Carmel O'Brien
Carolyn Brohan
Celine Cash
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Board of
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2020**

With great thanks to:

Ms Michelle Sinnott
Ms Marie Diskin
Ms Patricia Dagg
Ms Eilish Aspel
Rev Barry Larkin
Mr Paul O'Brien
Ms Emily McCann
Rev Conor O'Reilly



