



Annual Report 2021



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Chairperson's Address

As a volunteer in FDYS, I am always amazed by the range and depth of services

offered by our organisation. I watch with great interest on social media of

developments in many important areas of youth work and social inclusion. It is

apparent that children and young people are having fun, but I know behind it all they

are benefitting greatly from their time with FDYS.

I thank my management team, our staff team, our volunteers and my fellow Board

members. On behalf of the people you serve I want to acknowledge the amazing job

we do in FDYS.

Yours in Youth Work

Emily McCann

Chairperson, FDYS CLG.

Chief Executive's Reflection

On 02 July I celebrated my twentieth work anniversary with FDYS, having started in 2002. It seems like a perfect time to reflect on my time here, to consider the last year for this report and indeed the last twenty years. My job specification outlines the spirit of what is expected of the Chief Executive, so would be a logical place to start the reflection

Operations management is a loose term used to describe the oversight of FDYS activities. Over the last twenty years we have witnessed a surge in positive services and supports for young people across County Wexford, in response to emerging needs. Young people are contributing more to Irish society, and we hope that our services are in at least some small way, supporting this. We are serving more communities, with more services at times that suit young people. We are doing this in innovative and exciting ways, and more young people than ever before are getting involved. Operational staff are leading the thematic cluster groups in the organisation, senior team members are driving strategy in the Management Implementation Team, and the executive team support quality and effective services.

Communication strategies are critical to the effective communication of FDYS key messages. FDYS is a youth work organisation offering social inclusion services to marginalised people and families in need. Young people are at the heart of every FDYS activity, which is right and proper. Children in our early years services are cared for in a unique way, young people benefit from youth work relationships while families and communities are critical in empowering young people to be the best they can be. These messages permeate both within and outside the organisation. We do what we do, and we do it well. That message has been consistent over the last twenty years, and communicated through traditional media methods and more increasingly social media. However, we have learned that nothing beats face to face direct communication with our stakeholders, when we hear and more importantly listen and act on what they are saying. Young people have a voice in FDYS and they are encouraged to use it.

Financial Management focuses on using our limited resources as efficiently as possible. We try to do as much as we can with what we have, and where necessary, seek additional resources. The last twenty years have included very stressful periods when the financial resources just were not there when needed. We faced agonising Wednesday evenings, when we could not be sure that payroll could actually go through at 1201 on Thursday. We always managed to make payroll and fulfil our bills thankfully, but sometimes just within a few Euro. I had set myself a personal ambition of growing the organisation to break income of 3 million euro, effectively trebling our capacity to serve those who need us. We finally achieved this in 2021.

Facilities management of our youth centres and early years facilities has been a strategic priority. We have grown our sites to serve almost every major town in County Wexford, with plenty more to do in rural areas. We have grown early years services to include three major sites in Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford. We have quality youth centres in Bunclody, Bridgetown, Coolcotts, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross, Rosslare (collaboration), and Wexford. Some sites offer more than others, but every corner of FDYS revolves about putting young people and their

families first. Our redevelopment programme has seen some improvements, with more planned.

My team means everything to me. I have committed myself over the last twenty years to supporting dedicated FDYS team members to be the best they can be. Youth and community work is challenging, resources can be scarce, time is always short but together we have always overcome these. There is no luckier executive in the country than me, I treasure the staff team I have and appreciate the generosity of our volunteers. We make FDYS the place it is, and I will continue to show my commitment to you in the coming years.

2021 obviously presented challenges across the globe, but we triumphed! What we did stayed the same, how we did it changed to meet the emerging needs of the communities we serve.

Twenty years is a long time, but if you enjoy your job, you will never work a day in your life. The people around me keep me motivated. My volunteers, my staff team, my management teams, and above all our young people. FDYS is stronger now, because of you! Thank you.

Kíeran Donohoe

Chief Executive Officer, FDYS CLG



Where we were located in 2021

Youth Services

16 Youth Clubs (rural and urban).

UBU Projects in Enniscorthy, Gorey, Coolcotts, Wexford (Outreach -Bridgetown; Music Box), Cloister (Wexford town) and Bunclody.

Youth Information Services from "Youth Info"

Garda Youth Diversion Project - Slaney.

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

Co Wexford Comhairle na Nog

LGBTI Programme

ROMA Community Inclusion Programme

ROMA Health Advocacy Project

Roma Employment Project

STAR – Supporting Traveler & Roma

Intercultural Health Project

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.

Highlight 2021:

As a highlight, the flexibility and commitment of the CBDI team to support the demands on the service and the needs of service users has been notable throughout the pandemic response. In particular, the support given to the HSE SMT in the delivery of the OST clinic, which has been severely disrupted by client having to isolate due to testing positive or being close contacts of positive CBDI staff were available to ensure that clients who were affected by such scenarios were not left without the service and support that they required, and the clinic was able to continue to run smoothly.

Contact Details:

FDYS, Francis Street, Wexford - 053 91 23262

JP O'Neill - 085 8053978 –
johnpaul.oneill@fdys.ie
Val Carley - 087 2816231
val.carley@fdys.ie
Ann Lacey - 087 9351754
ann.lacey@fdys.ie
Kelley Hyland - 086 0297505
kelley.hyland@fdys.ie
Nicola Greene - 087 9351765
nicola.greene@fdys.ie

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

Geographical Areas Covered:

Belvedere Grove, 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, Detached Youth Work, Interproject Activities, Outdoor Activities and One-to-One Supports.

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 years in small structured groups after school hours. Times of activities change during school

holidays to cater to the young people's needs.



Highlights 2021:

With restrictions gradually lifting throughout 2021, it allowed us more opportunities to work face to face with young people. Below are just some of the highlights from 2021:

STEAM Workshop. Young people attended a STEAM workshop outside their project where they had the opportunity to use a 3D printer, learn what steam is and how to design gadgets from items at home, followed by a trip to the Steam building where young people got to design their own key rings / pen holders.



Summer activities. Throughout the summer young people enjoyed various fun activities including Outdoor Bingo, Pride in the Park, Multicultural Week, water fights, Community BBQ, End of Summer Dining out trip.



- Podcast. The young people created and recorded their own weekly podcast called 'The LunchBox Podcast', as well as other online activities and games while in lockdown.
- Halloween & Christmas Movie Nights. The young people enjoyed a movie night for Halloween and for Christmas with movies projected on a big screen and connected to a large speaker to give a cinematic experience. Young people also made their own Christmas decorations to bring home.



Coolcotts TAG committee organised a safer internet competition.

- Coolcotts collaborated with the Cloister project to take part in "Darkness into Light".
- Coolcotts marked Suicide Awareness Day on September 10th by designing messages of support on balloons and sharing with the community.



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: 085-1080336

Coolcotts Afterschool Project – Seamus Turner <u>seamus.turner@fdys.ie</u>
Tel: 053 91 43488

3. <u>Creche / Playschool Wexford – JUNGLEBOX</u>

Re-opening of the Childcare Centres after the Christmas break was slow due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We re-opened for essential workers children only, and although all staff where willing to come back a rota was put in place to accommodate social distancing. All staff and children returned in March.

The first half of the year proved challenging especially with the 2nd wave of Covid-19 and staff absence due to illness, but the comradery and commitment from our childcare staff enabled us to continue to offer a quality childcare service.

Although the children were still in pods they enjoyed being with their friends and got to experience a positive environment.



The ECCE children got to go on their school tour to Blackwater Farm before they started primary school, which was very exciting for them. They also got to have their graduation. The children got to celebrate Birthdays, Halloween, and Christmas together. We had a summer camp with teddy bears picnic, crazy hair day, barbeque, and visit from the ice cream man, a visit to Leisure Max and visits to the local libraries.



For Beep Beep Day we had a visit from the local Community Garda, offering advice to the children on road safety and bringing treats for all the children.



Staff training for this year included:

- Paediatric First Aid
- FAR Training (First Aid Responder)
- CPAP Training (Child Protection Awareness Training)
- TUSLA Children's First
- Health & Safety
- Manual Handling
- QQI Level 5 Health & Safety at Work
- QQI Level 6 Child Development
- QQI Level 6 Early Childhood Curriculum
- QQI Level 6 Social, Legal & Health

Three of our childcare staff members also graduated with Honours Degrees in Early Childhood Education & Care from Carlow IT, Wexford.

21166 liunglebox@fdys.ie

Opening Days and Times : Monday - Friday 8.30am -5.30pm

Referrals: Yes

o How to Refer : Contact Joy Keyes

o 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

9237886 ■ junglebox@fdys.ie

o Opening Days and Times : Monday - Friday 8.30am -5.30pm

Referrals: Yes

o 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

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

75570 A david.wright@fdys.ie Opening Days and Times: Monday -

Friday 14.30 to 18.00 o 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



The FDYS After-School Bunclody provides a primary school homework service from Monday –Thursdays from 1:30-5:30 pm for children from the Travelling community.

Afterschool currently has The registered children aged from 5-13 years. We started off in September 2021 creating a Comic Book with author Sarah Bowie. this project was funded by Bunclody Library. The Project included stories written by the children from FDYS Afterschool. The children launched their book on the 17/12/2021 "Stories by the children of the FDYS Bunclody Afterschool project" Bunlcody Library attended Cathaoirleach Barber Ann Murphy. This book can be found in the local library or on the library website.



In February 2022, we had an invite from Bunclody Library to do an air clay project in the local library, the children made the character Paddington Bear. They really enjoyed this event. For the Easter Camp we had lots of fun activities including: an easter egg hunt, a walk to the local GAA pitch and lots of Arts and Crafts.

We Celebrated Africa Day on the 25/05/22, we had a party and had arts and crafts. We currently have part of our summer camp taken up by The Steam Project "Building things and Exploring light "which included: photography and brick building.

We are also planning a day trip to Wells House sometime in July this year. During the summer we plan to take weekly walks around the local town of Bunclody and visit the Park, GAA pitch, Golf course, nature walks and library. We hope to do some maintenance on our back garden and have the children plant some flowers.



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.

The Family Support Drop-in in Bunclody is every Friday 10-1 pm. We assist the majority of the Traveller Families in Bunclody and sometimes have families coming from Enniscorthy and surrounding areas. We provide an essential service for these particular families including: filling out forms, driver theory applications, medical card forms, passports application, driver license application, social welfare forms, housing forms etc.

We also provide a safe space where an individual or family can come and have a chat and cup of tea. We also make phone calls in relation to their matter. This service has always proven very successful and the feedback we get from the families is amazing, as the majority of the families in Bunclody are illiterate and filling out forms can be frightening for them. This service is a huge part of the FDYS in Bunclody and is hugely appreciated and talked about by all. This service is invaluable to all that use it and is much needed in Bunclody.

This service is a place where everyone is welcome and listened to. We have proven to have gained the trust of the families in Bunclody over the last number of years.

We always ensure to show empathy and understanding to the people that we provide this essential service for. This space creates equality, diversity and inclusion. The older generation of the Traveller community in Bunclody really sees this service as a "GO TO" place for any help they need. Without this service the Travelling Community in Bunclody would have to travel to Enniscorthy or Carlow which is 20-30 minutes away from Bunclody to be assisted with form filling etc....

8. <u>CLOISTER YOUTH CAFE</u>, Wexford;



The Cloister Youth Cafe is a friendly, safe and inviting space for young people to come to be themselves while learning good life skills and making friends, we offer many different groups depending on the needs of the young people at the time.



Highlight 2021:

We have had many great moments during the year one huge one was the investment in an outdoor space turning our beautiful garden into a wonderful Al fresco youth cafe with funky furniture and a heated covered area so we can run groups outside in the fine weather and also, we worked a lot during Covid times here, this has been a huge advantage and the young people love it.



The young people also set up the "Cloister Committee "which meets once a month and plans what they would like to do for the coming month, and they also think of new ideas for the groups. One brilliant idea that came for the cloister committee was the "buddy system "and this has worked so well in the last year. We have 4 young people who are on the buddy list, so when a new person arrives, for the next two sessions it is up to this young person to welcome, introduce and help the new young person feel part of the group from the moment they enter our space.



Schedule:

Cloister Youth Cafe is a 3 day a week project Tuesday 3 -6.30pm

Wednesday 3 - 6.30pm
Thursday 3 - 7.30pm



Contact Details:

julie.dowdall@fdys.ie; nicola.freeman@fdys.ie Phone; 053 9123262 Mobile ;085 8056697

9. YOUTH COUNSELLING

FDYS Youth Counselling Service continued with its support of clients through a blended approach model of face-face, telephone and online. It proved to be a very successful model as for many it allowed for ease of access in terms of geographical locations not being a hinderance.

Many presenting issues were related to Covid 19 in terms of stress, anxiety and coping with the difficulties in living through lockdowns, (affecting confidence, selfesteem and leading to avoidant behaviour)

The service was supported by volunteers and Teen Between support worker, which had a positive impact on shortening waiting times for clients.

Contact Details:

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

10. <u>YOUTH INFORMATION</u> CENTRE;

Youth Info offers a universal information service to all young people across County Wexford. For those with fewer opportunities, we outreach to target socially excluded groups and those experiencing isolation due to geographic location.

Schedule:

The service is available Monday to Friday and usually delivered in the afternoon and evenings.

Highlight 2021:

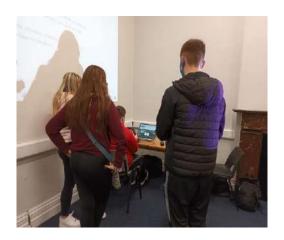
Throughout 2021Youth Info continued to overcome obstacles and adapt to change to reach young people through several social media platforms including, the National Chat Service, Facebook, Instagram, Phone, Website and Twitter providing reliable accurate and up to date information and reassuring young people that there is support available from our services and that they are connected.

In collaborations with UK Youth and Youth Work Ireland Youth Info delivered a state-of-the-art interactive programme on safe driving techniques and methods to young people in County Wexford. The focus of the course was on passenger safety with the aim of increasing confidence around young people speaking up in potentially dangerous situations.

The programme was delivered over three weeks and was presented through classroom instruction to young people ages 13-18 and included:

Consequences of hazardous and distracted driving.

In addition, Youth Info delivered and supported a number of programmes including Info for Work, Info for Life, Employment Rights, Guardianship & Access, Teen Between, Driver Theory, World Day for Cultural Diversity, Suicide Awareness Day, Stand Up Week, and UPS Road Code.



<u>Contact Details:</u> Siobhan / Carmel <u>085 8814259 / youthinfowex@fdys.ie</u>

11. WEXFORD AREA YOUTH SUPPORTS

The Young Women's Programme

The Young Women's group met Monday and Thursday mornings using online platforms during 2021. The participants took part in various activities and really enjoyed cookery sessions.



<u>Contact Details</u>: Maria Brennan Mobile: 085 8888388. email: maria.brennan@fdys.ie

Music Hub

Young people from the Music Hub met on Mondays and Wednesdays in Francis Street during 2021. Due to Covid 19 restrictions for most of the year, the garden area and Shack (named by the young people) was used. One of the highlights of the year is that the young people were still able to take part in the Irish Youth Music Awards during summer

months with online platform on National day in September.



Contact Details

Maria Brennan Tel: 085 8888388 maria.brennan@fdys.ie

Elaine Goldsberry Tel: 086 1383393 elaine.goldsberry@fdys.ie



The Shack:

'It's so good to be back together again' Philip, Music Hub



Contact Details: Maria Brennan, Mobile: 085 8888388. Email: maria.brennan@fdys.ie

12. BRIDGETOWN YOUTH FACILITY

■ gemma.cullen@fdys.ie;

Bridgetown Youth Project covered the Areas of Tomhaggard, Kilmore, kilmore Quay, Mulrankin, Rathangan, Duncormick and Bridgetown. We worked with Young People from the age of 10 to 24 years from diverse backgrounds. Our programmes are designed around the needs and the emerging needs of the Young People that attend the groups.



We added three new groups in 2021, a new Women's Group, a Music Group, and a NEETS group. In 2021, we extended our annual Bridgetown Multicultural Fest countywide by inviting all the FDYS Projects to join us. After a week of events in all projects, we came together on the Saturday 24th of July in Francis St to celebrate interculturalism with Young People from 27 nationalities attending our projects around the county.



Rosslare Community Youth Project

Rosslare Community Youth Project is based in Cois Barry Community Centre, Rosslare Strand and covers Rosslare Strand, Tagoat and Rosslare Harbour for young people between 10 – 25 years. We run a Youth Café and various programmes and activities based on the needs and interests of young people. One to one support is also available.

Highlight 2021:

In 2021, we officially opened our Youth Cafe in Cois Barry Community Centre and we have now developed a music group, Inbetweenagers group, junior and senior drop ins.



<u>Contact:</u> Nadine O' Brien Community Youth Worker 085-8898047

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.





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 combines elements of both detached work and outreach work, detached aims to meet young people where they are at in spaces 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.

SEDNESUAY.

FDYS Your Local Voluntary Youth Service in County Wexford.

WEXFORD (Nadine O'Brien, Kris McGuire) ☎086 464 5573 nadine.obrien@fdys.ie; kris.mcguire@fdys.ie

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

BUNCLODY (Sally Murphy; Derek Gilbert); **☎** (053) 93 75570 □ sally.murphy@fdvs.ie:

derek.qilbert@fdys.ie

14. ENNISCORTHY COMMUNITY YOUTH PROJECT

Although the challenges and the impact of covid restrictions, 2021 has been a great year in the Enniscorthy Community Youth Project (ECYP).



Al Fresco Café at the back of the premises hosted many outdoor activities: youth groups, drop-ins, STEAM lab, Health & Wellbeing programme and many more.



Indoor activities also returned safely in ECYP during 2021, including Tea & Talk.

ECYP provides a safe and welcoming environment for young people, engaging those who need it most, and tailoring specific tailored groups for vulnerable communities, such as Roma and LGBTI+.



Young people participating in ECYP in 2021 ranged from 10 to 25 years old, in age and interest appropriate groups and activities that run from Monday to Saturday. We collaborated closely with other youth and family services based in Enniscorthy, like Slaney Project, CBDI, Roma Equality Project, schools and CAMHS, with referral and support services from and to these services.



During 2021 we saw participants numbers increase and new projects germinated, like the Solidary Music Peer Programme with the Music Box, a new Teen Advisory Group and a new Junior group.

Contact Details

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)



15. SLANEY GARDA YOUTH DIVERSION PROJECT

The Slaney Youth Diversion Project (YDP) is a local community-based Project run by FDYS and is one of 110 Garda Youth Diversion Projects nationwide. Currently, there are 2 Youth Justice workers employed in the Project, covering the Enniscorthy Garda District.



First established in 2008, the Slaney YDP is located in FDYS, Island Rd, Enniscorthy and has been working with young people (12-17 years) and their families through risk assessment, key working and care planning methods to encourage young people referred to the Project to move away from behaviour that may potentially lead them into trouble in their lives.



Based on the need and risk factors of our target group, Slaney YDP works in conjunction with An Garda Siochana and offers a wide variety of activities which include one-to-one support, family support, education and training programmes, sports, art, music, woodwork, cookery, group activities etc.



Highlight of 2021:

Through on-going outreach and detached work which took place in 2021, the need for an early intervention programme with regard to young travellers became apparent. A new development named "P.A.T.H (Pre-Adolescent Traveller Holistic) Programme was developed.

The focus and aim of this collaboration between Slaney YDP and Traveller Inclusion Programme (T.I.P) is to foster a sense of community for the young people, while giving them a safe space where they can socialise and develop on a personal level.



Our broader aim is to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote a greater sense of belonging within the community. The P.A.T.H. Programme focuses on young traveller boys between 8-12 years old, using an early intervention approach to engage the young males in community services with a positive and relationship building focus.

Contact Details

Terry O'Neill (Youth Justice Worker):

Mobile: 087 935 1764 Email: terry.oneill@fdys.ie

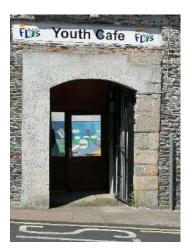
Hayley Rochford (Youth Justice Worker)

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.
- o Referrals taken: Yes

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- 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.



Covid 19 restricted any group gatherings indoors in 2021. A lot of the work carried out was online and involved 1-to-1 information sessions and Driver Theory training.



Whilst observing social distancing measures, mask-wearing, and hand hygiene, Detached Youth Work was carried out in early April and as a result, it was decided to set up the POP-UP Café in Pearse park 2 evenings per week. This proved to be a great success with a high uptake of engagement with the youth of New Ross. This had a greater impact on the delivery of youth information, sign-posting and linking young people to relevant supports.



17. LOCAL VOLUNTARY YOUTH CLUB NETWORK



This year we had 11 youth clubs re-open, and these were operational as much as possible when circumstances allowed. We saw two new clubs open in New Ross - a mainstream youth club with approx. 55 members and a club for young people on the spectrum with up to 30 members.

Clubs carried out regular activities and some even managed some trips away to Leisuremax, etc. Ballygarrett did a food collection for Ukraine!



In September, we hope to have all 17 clubs re-open and to restart all inter-club activities. We will be using the YWI feel good activity packs going forward from September and there are lots of plans underway for activities for 22/23.

Contact Details:

For information on youth clubs contact

Michelle Sinnott 087 2490122 or at michelle.sinnott@fdys.ie.

□ FDYS, Francis Street, Wexford
 □ 05391 23262

- o 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 and Oceanpoint Courtown.

Contact details are Anna Keogh 0830178549

anna.keogh@fdys.ie; and Laura Herterich 0860620922

laura.herterich@fdys.ie

Gorey Community Youth Project is running drop in youth cafes, special interest groups and holiday programmes from our two premises on McCurtain Street in Gorey town and Oceanpoint in Courtown. Our Youth Workers are available for individual referrals, after school groups, and collaborations with other youth and community services in the wider Gorey area.



Highlight 2021:

In 2021, Gorey Community Youth Group opened a new youth space in Courtown for young people in the local area. Courtown Youth Group were successful in the Investing in Children's Membership Award which demonstrates a commitment to dialogue with young people that leads to change. It ensures young people have a voice and are listened to.





19. <u>BUNCLODY AREA YOUTH</u> <u>SUPPORTS (BAYS)</u>

The BAYs project was established in November 2021. BAYS stands for Bunclody Area Youth Supports. This project is UBU funded and is open to young people between 10 and 20 years in Bunclody and surrounding areas.



There are 4 targets within this divide by age with 10 to 14 and 15 to 20 year olds and rural or urban setting. In November we established our first group a collaboration with the local Art Bank which

has young people who regularly attend. We have continued to grow in 2022.



<u>The Young Girls group every Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:00pm</u>

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!

Contact Details:

Derek Gilbert – 083 2073848 derek.gilbert@fdys.ie Sally Murphy – 086 4555916 sally.murphy@fdys.ie Jennifer Davidson – 086 4557759 jennifer.davidson@fdys.ie

20. LGBT+ Wexford Youth Support

FDYS LGBT+ Orbit/ SOLIDARITY group is a safe, inclusive, non-judgemental and welcoming environment for young people to connect with each other and be their true, authentic selves. Young LGBT+ people who are in, out, questioning or who are just figuring it all out are invited to come to have a cuppa once a week to chat, hang out and create some amazing LGBT+ projects. We always work towards making change on matters that are important to them, where their voices are heard and where a listening ear is always available, free from any judgement. No young person ever has to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity if they are not comfortable and all young people understanding are respectful,

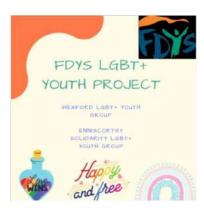
welcoming to any new young people that join. We always get particularly busy at this time of year preparing for all things PRIDE, planning awesome activities and getting creative.

Also, if a young person wants to speak to a youth worker on a one-to one basis, they are more than welcome. Some young people like to avail of this if they want to chat about things going on for them that they do not want to discuss in a larger group or if they want to get to know the youth workers before coming into the larger group space. Above all, it's an LGBT+ safe space where ALL the fun is had!

Groups running:

Wexford LGBT+ ORBIT Group runs every Thursday in FDYS in Wexford Town Enniscorthy SOLIDAIRTY LGBT+ Group runs every Wednesday in Enniscorthy on Island Road

Bridgetown LGBT+ ORBIT Group runs every Wednesday from June 1st in FDYS, Bridgetown!



Highlight of 2021:

LGBT+ groups from FDYS in Wexford wanted to come up with an awareness raising campaign around the time of Pride in-keeping with the theme of inclusion and diversity in the local community. They made a plan to create LGBT+ friendly stickers to give to local businesses in Wexford Town to put in their shop window to show the LGBT+ community they are welcome and accepted in their shops. In June, after attending the Pride Flag Raising at the Co. Council building, young people visited local businesses to explain what it means to be inclusive and steps they can take to show this, and offered each business a sticker to show their support



Contact Details:

Contact Emma if you want to join any of these groups (emma.whitty@fdys.ie or 086 464 5573)

Contact Paula if you want to join Enniscorthy LGBT+ Group (paula.kelly@fdys.ie or 089 481 3144

21. TRAVELLER MEN'S HEALTH PROGRAMME

The core elements of our work is to advise, give information and signpost where appropriate, within the Traveller Health Chronic Conditions Programme.



Covid 19 restricted any group gatherings in early 2021. A lot of the work carried out was completed through a mix of phone and online, and involved 1-to-1 information sessions, Driver Theory training, and advocacy around medical cards and housing issues.



When restriction allowed, and adhering to regulations, group work began to resume. began with physical activity We programmes such as walking groups and outdoor soccer groups. The soccer groups were run in 5 different locations around the New Ross, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Bunclody, and Courtown. The programme soccer was run collaboration with Wexford Healthy Ireland and had a total combined number of 120 participating. Traveller men participants also supported programs such as Traveller Pride Week, and World Suicide Prevention Day.



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Denis O'Connor

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22. TRAVELLER INCLUSION PROJECT

The Traveller Inclusion Project aims to work with the Traveller communities throughout County Wexford to build Traveller capacity by providing support, information and referrals through culturally appropriate needs-based services and programmes such as;

- Supporting Capacity building and inclusion in decision making fora.
- Supporting Traveller families in Co. Wexford
- Linking pre-school with early childhood education opportunities
- Engaging young Travellers in youthwork activities
- Education and Training
- Health and wellbeing
- Discrimination and racism
- Advocacy and assessing services
- Cultural Identity
- Identifying the importance of Gender Equality and LGBTI

The project workers role is to work with the Traveller community by providing services, programmes and activities to address the needs of the Traveller community as they arise and continue to be identified.

A community development approach is being used to work collectively and collaboratively with other services within the FDYS such as the Traveller men's health, Garda youth diversion programme, Youth Info. Other external services are also working very close with the Traveller community such as W.W.E.T.B., Wexford Local Development, Wexford County Council, St. Vincent de Paul, Community and family services and childcare services.

Key Developments 2021:

The year of 2021 was a very similar to the previous year of 2020 due to the ongoing unpredictable Covid 19 pandemic. However, like the previous year of 2020 Traveller Inclusion Programme the continued to stay focused and committed to reaching out to the Traveller community in Co. Wexford. Through phone contact, voice messaging, what's app and other Traveller friendly media services that messages could be delivered with clarity and understanding around the covid

pandemic concerns but also ensuring members of the community that we were very much determined to support and advocate on all matters that may be of concern to them in regard to any issues that may be affecting them through these very uncertain times.

Since the incipiency of 2021 there have been challenges for the T.I.P Programme in regard to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, the project has remained vigilant and steadfast in engaging, empowering and supporting members of the Traveller community in Co. Wexford with the focus being on leadership from within the community and it is with great pleasure we have reached this goal in many areas of the community from individuals, groups and family members from around the county.



P.A.T.H Programme

The Traveller Inclusion Project and Slanev Project started to work collaboratively on an early intervention programme with young Traveller males between the ages of 8-12 years that are from the community. Through detached collaborative that has been ongoing work between T.I.P and Slaney GYDP we identified an at-risk cohort of YP who would benefit hugely from being involved in a youth programme. The YP we have identified are at risk of early school leaving, discrimination, poverty, social exclusion, abuse, domestic violence and the strong possibility of getting involved in antisocial criminogenic behaviors in the future.



The aim was to put a 6-week programme to give the youth workers a chance to explore and identify the many ideas and concepts that these young people may have come accustomed too because of their understanding of what it is to be a Traveller young person and what is their expectations of becoming a Traveller in the future. It was hoped that by delivering this programme we may have the young people develop a critical understanding of their social reality in regard to the controversial topics that are present in their community that may be restricting them from being individuals and leaders in the community when it relates to ĹGBT, education, consent employment. This programme is still ongoing on a weekly basis where parents are dropping their young people off every week without hesitation and every young person is engaging still.

ECC Places

A further 6 young people signed up and enrolled in 5 ECCE Places in Co. Wexford and started in September 2021. Five young boys and one girl will be attending the following premises:

- Teach Sproai Taghmon
- Junglebox Enniscorthy
- Temple Shannon community childcare
- Bellefield early years centre
- Coish Cein Bunclody

On acknowledging and observing the young children that are at present and finished ECCE places it is very clear to see that their confidence and social interactive skills have improved immensely. These improvements are all noticed amongst their own parents and

grandparents who are delighted with their young progress from attending creches.



However, there are challenges with most parents not wanting to send their young people to the ECCE places because of the attachment issues the mothers have with letting go of their young people for fear of feeling isolated and lonely. If there was a programme that the mothers could go to when their young people are in school, it will help them come to terms with the attachments and also give them a purpose whilst their young are in the ECCE places.

Another stumbling block is around the registering of young people in advance into ECCE places when they are travelling away. The location of the ECCE facility is also very important the closer the premises is to their home the better as some find it more comforting, and others do not have any means of transport to get their young people to some ECCE places that could be a few kilometers away.

Suicide Awareness Day 2021

World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10th each year to promote worldwide action to prevent suicides. The rate of suicide in the Traveller community is 6 times higher than that of the wider community in Ireland.



FDYS Your Local Voluntary Youth Service in County Wexford.

The FDYS Traveller Inclusion Programme planted a tree outside of the community house in Upper Drumgoold to commemorate and acknowledge those who have passed in the Traveller Community in Co. Wexford over the years. The names of loved ones and family members were wrote down on a yellow ribbon and tied to the tree to be prayed for and blessed.

On the night of September 10th a priest by the name of Father Jim Finn a parish priest form Crossabeg/ Ballymurn arrived on the estate an hour before the actual event to meet members of the community to engage in conversation and to be acquainted before the blessing of the tree ceremony. There was a great turnout on the night from the community itself and other families outside of the community who also would have experienced suicide in their own families over recent times.

The prayers and blessing of the tree started at 8pm. The priest spoke compassionately and respectfully to the people who turned out for the event and ensured them that he would continue to pray for all those people who have lost loved ones through suicide and, encouraged the community to talk to someone if they felt alone in times of darkness and grief.



The event on the night had a very profound impact on the community as it had never been done in their community of Co. Wexford.

Anne Michelle Connors local resident of upper Drumgoold stated that, "It was such a beautiful ceremony to be held for the Traveller community and those of the wider community who came on the night to pray and understand that suicide affects everyone and that there are no barriers in communities when people we love die by suicide".



Contact Details:

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

23. <u>CO WEXFORD COMHAIRLE NA</u> NOG



Contact Details: Paula Kelly ⊠ FDYS, Island Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. © 053 9234574 / 089 481 3144

■ paula.kelly@fdys.ie

Wexford Comhairle na nÓg worked on their survey during 2021. The topic was mental health and specifically improving awareness of services, young voices being heard on mental health and a peerto-peer workshop.

531 responses were gained, and a comprehensive survey summary written and printed. This was distributed to all schools and services.



We had a team building day and continued to use our social media platform for positive messages.

Not Around US Campaign formed a part of work being carried out through Healthy Wexford, which Wexford Comhairle na nÓg assisted with.

The National Executives were successful in gaining government funding to assist with Youth Travel Card.



24. ROMA COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMME

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

Roma Equality Project: In 2021 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.



25. ROMA HEALTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

We are currently supporting over 600 people from the Roma Community in the process of accessing health services and health information. What we hope for the future is seeing people from the Roma Community accessing health services and health information on their own.



Highlight 2021:

One of the best moments from 2021 was organising a Roma Sports Club with

FDYS Your Local Voluntary Youth Service in County Wexford.

funding from Healthy Ireland. We would meet once a week in a park in Enniscorthy and have activities related to a different sport each week. We had up to 16 young participants.



Contact Details:

Laurentiu Ion, 0858581207, laurentiu.ion@fdys.ie Mona Fusteac, 0860570612, mona.fusteac@fdys.ie

26. ROMA EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

The aim of The Roma Employment Project is support members from the Roma community gain full time paid employment through education and training/courses.

The Roma Employment Project is funded by The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Staff support members from the Roma community in the following areas.

- Promote employment through organising training/courses.
- Offering support in regard to CV, job application forms, Cover letters and interview techniques.
- Liaise with Employers in regard to potential employment.
- Link in with the Department of Social Protection in regard to upcoming employment initiatives.
- Accompanying participants to Employment/ career seminars.



Participants attending Wexford JobFest in regard to employment opportunities.

- 1:1 meetings to understand the employment needs of the participants.
- Link in with a multidisciplinary team in regard to employment prospects.
- Promote ESOL classes in order to combat a language barrier to gain employment.



Level 1 Barrista training completed by participants, completion of level 2 will commence shortly.

Contact Details:

Name: Frances Stafford Phone No: 086 0695313 Email: frances.stafford@fdys.ie

Name: Brendan Stoica Phone No: 086 4645640 Email: brendan.stoica@fdys.ie

27. 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.

Contact Details:

Emma Plesca Education worker Phone- 0867853708 Email- Emma.Plesca@fdys.ie



28. INTERCULTURAL HEALTH PROJECT

The FDYS Intercultural Health Youth Project works with groups of young people living in IPASS centres in the Southeast and young refugees seeking asylum.



The aim of the project is to provide a safe space for young people and to identify the needs of the young people, their strengths and to help them to reach their full potential. This is done through group work activities and one to one appointments depending on the needs of the individual young person.



We endeavour to provide a service that supports the young person while having fun in the process.

Contact Details:

Jamie Brady 086-0691589 jamie.brady@fdys.ie



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 <u>Youth Work</u> 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 <u>local control</u> <u>over resources and</u> activities.
- To promote responsibility, cooperation 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 complements 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 In particular, we target our Wexford. needs based programmes to those at risk most in need or with fewer opportunities. In addition, we offer our services to those with a role in supporting young development of people (mentioned above) includina parents/quardians, 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 2021

Alex Petrovics Alexandru Petrovici

Ann Lacey
Becky O'Connell
Brendan Stoica
Carmel O'Brien
Carolyn Brohan
Celine Cash

Daiana Fusteac Debbie Roche Denis O'Connor Eimear McMahon Elaine Goldsberry Emma Plesca **Emma Whitty** Frances Stafford Gemma Cullen Hayley Rochford Jamie Brady John Caulfield John Paul O'Neill Julie Dowdall Kelley Hyland Kieran Donohoe Kris McGuire Laura Herterich

Maria Brennan Mary Helen Connors Nadine O'Brien Nicola Greene Pat Breen Paula Kelly Phil McGrath Pilar Loring Palacios

Laurentiu Fabian Ion

Lilianna Brennan

Lisa Clancy

Mairead Duffy

Robbie Sludds Sally Murphy Siobhan McMahon

Stacey James Suzanne Roche Terry O'Neill Valerie Carley Junglebox /

Wonderland Childcare Centre / New Ross / Coolcotts Afterschool / Bunclody Afterschool:

Veronica Murphy Vicky McHugh

Aileen Campbell Ann Long April O'Brien Ashley O Rourke Bernadette Cleary Bernie McConville **Bridget Morrissey Brittany Purcell** Catherine Saunders Chanelle Kenny Clare Carr **David Wright** Dawn Purcell Deirdre Doyle Dorah Odunlami Edel Kirwan Eileen Murphy Eleanor O'Connor Esther O'Brien Helen Fenlon Jess DeGaye Joy Keyes

Kathleen McDonald Kiera Walsh Lynn Furlong Lyndsey Murphy

Marilyn O'Brien
Martina Wall
Mary Purcell
Nicola Dobbs
Ornella Luggoo

Ornella Luogno Haja

Rose Sheils Samantha Murphy Sarah Flood Seamus Turner Shirlie Murray

Stephanie Kavanagh

Trudy Power



CE Programme – Wexford/Enniscorthy

Carolyn Brohan / Nicola Managan (Supervisors)

Alison Kavanagh Anthony Phillips Donna Treacy Elizabeth James Kyle Walsh Paul Flanagan Peter Doyle Stephen Curran Colm Murphy

CE Programme – Junglebox

Caroline Kelly (Supervisor)

Colm Hendrick Eleanor O'Connor **Emma McGuinness** Jess De Gave Kiera Walsh Megan Farrell Roza Polrolnik Sarah Byrne Shannon Kehoe Marion Kealy Tara Davis Sinead Breen Margaret O'Brien Bronwyn Murphy Darren Flynn Fionnuala Leahy Clara Murphy

In October 2021, the two schemes amalgamated: FDYS Scheme

Caroline Kelly / Nicola Mangan (Supervisors)

Colm Hendrick Eleanor O'Connor Emma McGuinness Jess De Gaye Megan Farrell Sarah Byrne Tara Davis Roza Polrolnik Sinead Breen Margaret O'Brien Bronwyn Murphy Marion Kealy Stephen Curran Paul Flanagan Alison Kavanagh Elizabeth James Kyle Walsh

FDYS Voluntary Board of Directors 2021

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
Mr Matthew Colgan

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