



Annual report 2016-17

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise Annual Report

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017



Chairperson's introduction

Progress on all fronts this year has been encouraging.

Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum, founded in November 1996, is transforming into Ardoyne Youth Enterprise as was the membership's express wish at the Extraordinary General Meeting of 2014.

We continue to provide a key role in developing services, opportunities and strategic gains locally to youth organisations and young people. Additionally, we have played a pivotal role in improving community development structures and services in Ardoyne and Marrowbone and across North Belfast. It is fair to say that since our first meetings some twenty years ago we have established ourselves as an integral part of youth and community support, as a reliable and honest broker, as a dependable organisation who always tries, and usually succeeds in 'delivering the goods'.

During the past year, we as an organisation have taken a good long look at the kind of services and delivery needed throughout the districts and we have consulted broadly with all our partners and young people to put in place achievable proposals which can provide wins for everybody. As a result of a year-long operational review, we have had to take some difficult and

challenging decisions, which have changed our shape, vision, personnel and priorities.

We have lobbied and secured youth worker posts, transported hundreds of residents and young people, and resourced training and programmes which have enhanced the skills and accelerated the personal development of scores of young people.

And let's not forget the most important element of the organisation - the youth providers themselves. In the past year alone, youth organisations and workers in Ardoyne and Marrowbone have delivered tens of thousands of hours of training, teaching, coaching, mentoring, supervising and supporting the young people of these communities.

It is the schools, youth projects, sports clubs, youth development projects and volunteers of Ardoyne and Marrowbone who are the life-blood of opportunity for our children and youth and we should never be shy in thanking them for that.

If we consider that our members, management committee, staff and local volunteers and workers have also been making huge inroads into initiatives which enhance childcare, community safety, community cohesion, good relations, child protection and any of a dozen other issues, then we can be assured that many more successes lie ahead.

The enthusiasm and determination shown by our local youth providers and our own staff in developing and shaping positive change should serve as an example to all and act as a catalyst for a greater collective effort to help realise the potential of this powerful partnership.

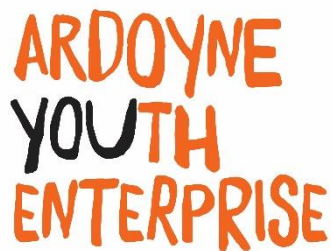
We view our group as a resource and a powerful tool for the community which should be utilised by all. I hope that you will come on board in the coming months and years and help us continue to give cause for celebration.

On behalf of the management committee of AYE, I would like to thank everyone who helped and gave assistance to the organisation during the current committee's tenure, especially to local youth provider groups, our staff and volunteers and to our funders for their ongoing confidence in this project.

Yours in community

Thomas Turley
Chairperson

Evolving to offer better services



In 2016, Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum became Ardoyne Youth Enterprise, and acquired a new look and new logo.

This was just the beginning of a number of changes recommended in a review of the organisation's work started the previous year.

Other changes included:

- the creation of a Youth Engagement Coordinator post and a Communications Officer post to promote the work of youth and community services and provide a voice for young people in the area, and
- the reorganisation of the youth engagement team to provide services better tailored to the changing needs of local young people.



Sadly, the post of administration worker had to be made redundant.

The organisational changes were completed in December 2016, and work has since been ongoing to transform Ardoyne Youth Enterprise into a dynamic organisation able to continue to provide a high standard of service to local young people and to the community in a challenging funding environment.



Developing through partnership

In 16-17, the AYE youth outreach team worked in partnership with local youth clubs and community groups in Ardoyne and Marrowbone, as well as with regional youth organisations, to signpost young people to available services and opportunities and to develop joint initiatives.

We ran our Time 4 Change good relations programme in partnership with Glencairn Youth Initiative, Mountainhill Youth Club, Manor Street Youth Club and Mountcollyer Youth Centre, with support from North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

The North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme enabled us to deliver five other programmes, including:

- support for intensive mentoring programmes for 20 at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill,
- facilitating dialogue and planning for a shared youth space for all the young people in the city,
- 120 hours of training each to 16 young people in leadership skills,
- study visits for the North Belfast community and youth practitioners to see and hear first hand of successful, sustainable development models throughout England and Scotland,
- publishing and distributing a newsletter to showcase the variety and strength of the work being delivered by other community groups working hard on the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme. (40,000 copies were distributed across North Belfast).



We developed another strand of partnership work to strengthen community cohesion and good relations with support from the Urban Villages Initiative. We started in 2016-17 with programmes focused on strengthening young people and the wider community in Ardoyne and Marrowbone, and planned a programme of activities for 2017-18 with a wider cross-community appeal.

AYE participation in boards and working groups in 2016/17

Board member:

Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (CANRP); North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Partnership; Glenbrook Surestart

Chair of:

CANRP Youth Sub-group

Member of:

Ardoyne Education Task Group; Ardoyne Marrowbone Sports Forum; Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group; North Belfast Family Support Hub; North Belfast Urban Villages Steering Reference Group.

Reaching out and engaging with young people



In 2016-17, 4 part-time youth engagement workers ran a busy outreach and development programme for young people, with the help of volunteers and workers in partner organisations.

Altogether, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise delivered, facilitated and commissioned 5,089 hours of face-to-face youth work, including:

4,192 hours: Outreach, drop-in and one to one support

432 hours: Intensive mentoring

135 hours: Time 4 Change sessions

144 hours: Time 4 Change Residentials

186 hours: Accredited Youth Leadership programmes

The youth engagement team was reorganised and acquired a youth engagement coordinator, to help us develop training and personal development opportunities for the young people we engage with.

The organisational review had found that it was important to provide tailored opportunities for the young people we work with, in addition to signposting them to local youth and sports activities.

**5,089 hours
of face-to face
youth work
in 16-17**

Outreach and drop-in

The outreach and drop-in service ran Monday to Friday evenings, - and on Saturdays during a winter enhanced pilot programme.

An average of 60 young people called in to the drop-in each month, to get information, find a listening ear, or simply relax in a safe environment.

		OD Team Rota - 2016										
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			Hrs
MAY												
STAFF												
Monday	Ciarán			5 to 10pm								5
	Seán			5 to 10.30pm								5.5
	Liam			4 to 10.30pm								6.5
Tuesday	Gerard & Liam			4.30 to 10pm								5.5
Wednesday	Gerard & Liam			4.30 to 10pm								5.5
Thursday	Gerard					6 to Midnight						6
	Ciarán & Seán					6 to Midnight						6
Friday	Ciarán & Gerard					5.30 to 9pm						3.5
	Liam & Seán					5 to 11pm						6
Saturday	Ciarán & Seán					4 to 10pm						6
Sunday												
JUNE												
STAFF												
Monday	Ciarán & Seán			4 to 10pm								6
Tuesday	Gerard & Seán			4.30 to 10pm								5.5
	Liam			4 to 10pm								6
	Ciarán			5 to 10pm								5
Wednesday	Gerard & Liam			4.30 to 10pm								5.5
Thursday						6 to Midnight						6
	Ciarán & Seán					6 to Midnight						6
Friday	Ciarán & Gerard					5.30 to 9pm						3.5
	Liam & Seán					5 to 11pm						6
Saturday	Gerard and Liam					4 to 10pm						6
Sunday												

Mentoring project

We commissioned intensive mentoring programmes for 20 at-risk young people in Ardoyne and Shankill, run with R-City Project.

How many young people did we work with?

As so much of our work is informal engagement on the streets of Ardoyne and Marrowbone, it is difficult to estimate the total number of young people engaged. However, we know that:

- 60** young people, on average, attended our drop-in each month
- 13** young people engaged in the outreach team's hill-walking group
- 3** at-risk young people were supported through our gym mentoring activity
- 82** young people attended our pilot Saturday night drop-in
- 70** young people participated in our summer intervention programmes
- 30** of these young people availed of access to fitness programmes
- 28** young people took part in our Time 4 Change programme
- 12** young people went with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise to a cross-community film night in Girdwood Community Hub

(see page 12 for statistics on young people participating in training and volunteering)

Time 4 Change programme

28 young people from Ardoyne, Glencairn, Mountcollyer, Cliftonville and Ligoniel took part in a six-month programme of personal and social development funded by North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.



Through the Time 4 Change programme of 20 workshops, site visits and activities, this group of young people were able to increase their understanding of equality and diversity issues and develop their confidence and motivation to continue to build good relations amongst all communities.



Summer intervention programme



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

We held an enhanced outreach and detached programme throughout the 11th and 12th of July, with additional workers and volunteers offering a high visibility street engagement presence.

We brought young people to Todd's Leap in Tyrone, held hill-walking activities, a mini soccer blitz, a residential in Carlingford and a go-karting outing.

"Just a message to acknowledge the excellent work of the AYE Youth Engagement Team last night who intervened and prevented a riot from starting at the top of Brompton Park." Councillor Paul McCusker

Gardening project in St Gemma's

32 volunteers, including young people, youth workers, community practitioners and older residents worked together over a period of five months to clear out overgrown vegetation in old St Gemma's grounds and build raised beds.



This was run in partnership with Yeha and Ardoyne Association, with support from Urban Villages.

Unfortunately the raised bed were later vandalised but this project provided a good learning opportunity for future youth and community gardening and regeneration initiatives, both for AYE and for other local organisations.

Saturday night drop-in



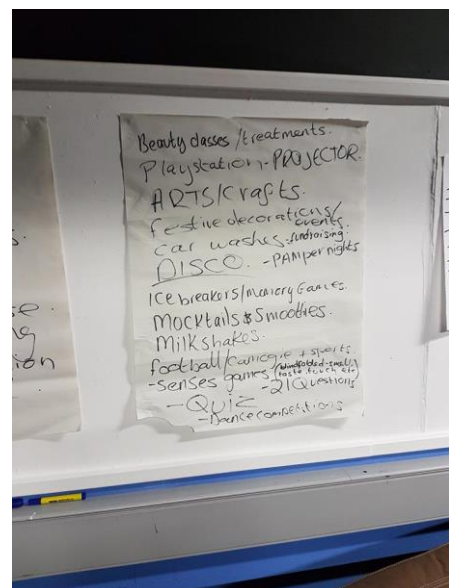
Following consultation with residents near Marrowbone Park, we set up a pilot programme to offer an alternative to young people gathering in the park.

The 6-week pilot programme ran from November 16 to January 17, in partnership with Yeha and Flex Fitness.

Youth workers staffed a Saturday evening drop-in at St Gemma's from 8pm to 11pm for young people aged 13 to 17, and also offered them the opportunity to train at the fitness suite.

13 young people formed a youth sub-committee to help with reaching out and consulting young people, and 10 of them completed an OCN NI level 1 qualification in street based youth work.

Funded by Belfast City Council, the project also provided an opportunity to consult local young people on the types of activities they would like to see developed in the area.



Sadly, there was no funding available to continue this much needed programme beyond the winter, but the evaluation of the project led to a successful tender application in 17-18 with Belfast City Council for a similar project to be run in three areas: Ardoyne, New Lodge and Woodvale.

Cross community film night

In March, the Crumlin/Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Youth Sub Group hosted a movie night at Girdwood Community Hub.



The young people watched the film 'Remember the Titans' and explored the themes of Racism and Sectarianism and the young people discussed how they can relate to these issues.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise and Cliftonville Community Centre coordinated the event, funded by URCity2.

We brought 12 young people from Ardoyne/Marrowbone to this great night out.



Strengthening the community and its young people

AYE Matter

On 1 February 2017, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise hosted its first 'AYE Matter' event, where Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People Koulla Yiasouma met with local Primary 7 and Year 8 pupils to talk about children's rights and her journey to the Commissioner's office.

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



The Commissioner talked with the young people about the importance of having their voices heard on issues affecting them. She said:

"There is nobody better placed than young people themselves "to tell it as it is".

"This is why events like this are so important and I encourage young people to take these opportunities with both hands."



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

Wherever possible, we support young people in seeking training and employment opportunities, and include a learning element in our youth engagement programmes.

We also believe in skilling young people through providing volunteering opportunities.

In 2016-17:

4 young people gained employment as a direct result of our support

8 young people achieved an OCN Level 2 in youth work

16 young people completed a Level 3 Diploma in Leadership delivered by YouthWorks CIC

10 young people completed Level 1 NIOCN qualification in street based youth work funded by Belfast City Council

10 young people completed OCNNI Level 2 in peer mentoring

8 young people participated in film training with GIGA, and **5** of them gained an OCN level 2 accreditation in film-making and production skills

14 young people signed up as youth engagement volunteers

6 young people volunteered in the coordination of a community relations themed movie night.



Youth survey 2017

With support from the Urban Villages Initiative, we developed and commenced a comprehensive survey of young people living in Ardoyne and Marrowbone.

The survey was designed to gauge young people's sense of belonging to their community, their issues and concerns, and identify priority interventions for youth, community and statutory organisations.

It was targeted at users of youth provision as well as those not currently engaged and hard to reach young people.

The process took longer than anticipated, and the completion of the project was carried over into the next financial year.

Promoting local youth and community services

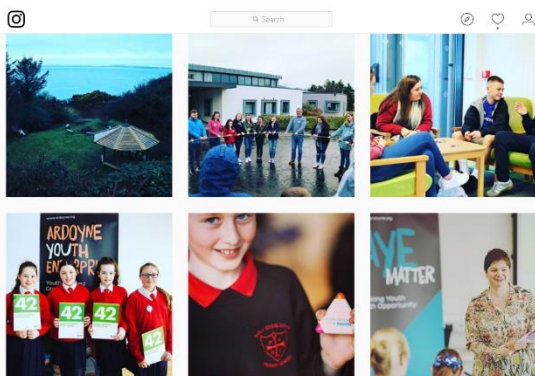
In our engagement work with young people, we found that many were unaware of the great youth and community services and facilities available to them locally.

To encourage young people's participation in the community as well as to support our members and other local youth and community providers, we embarked on a project to publicise the services available.

Our new Communications Officer contacted local youth and community providers groups and included them in an area directory, to be printed and delivered to 3,000 homes locally later in Spring 2017.

**AYE supported
55 local groups
in 2016-17**

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise supported 55 youth and community groups through transport provision, office and administrative support, research, network development, fundraising support, committee secretariat, and office services.



We began to develop new social media platforms to better reach out to young people and promote local youth, community and training opportunities.

Ardoyne Community Transport

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise runs a community transport 16-seater minibus. It can be hired at a very low price by member organisations, including local schools and community groups, for anything from regular swimming lessons for primary school children to a pensioners' trip to the theatre.

17 groups are members of this scheme.

A highlight in 2016 was being asked to drive a group of new migrant families to Castlewellan Agricultural Show.



With thanks to

Our funders

Department for Communities
The Executive Office
NICRC
Belfast City Council
Education Authority

Members of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

Marrowbone Community Association
Glenbrook Surestart
St Vincent de Paul Primary School
Glor an Tuaisceart
Ardoyne Afterschools Club
Crumlin Star FC
Ardoyne Boxing Club
Ardoyne Fleadh
FLAX Foyer
Community Restorative Justice Ireland
Safer Neighbourhood Ardoyne Project
New Life Counselling
Holy Cross Boys Primary School
18th Holy Cross Scouting Ireland
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain
Ardoyne Working Men's Club FC
PIPS Charity
Ardoyne Kickhams
Sacred Heart Primary School
Grace Women's Development Limited
YE-HA
North Belfast Interface Network
Ardoyne Youth Club
Breaking through Barriers

Members of Ardoyne Community Transport scheme

Cliftonville Community Centre
North Belfast Interface Network
Lagan Valley Rural Transport
Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain
Holy Cross Girls
Holy Cross Boys
St Vincent DePaul
Holy Cross Play Group

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



Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

11a Flax Street, Belfast BT14 7EJ

Phone: 028 9074 1479

Web: www.ardoyne.org

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