



Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services

Annual Report 2024



Contents

Page 4 – Cindy O’Shea, Chairperson	Pages 32–34 – Youth Ministry	Page 47 – Youth Clubs
Page 5 – Bishop Crean’s Message	Page 35 – Outreach Counselling	Page 48 – Safeguarding & CSP
Page 6 – About CDYS	Page 36 – CCA	Page 49 – Our Funders
Pages 7–19 – UBU Projects	Page 37 – PPFS	Pages 50–53 – Enabling Our Work
Pages 20–24 – Global Youth Work	Page 38 – IPS	Pages 53–58 – Financial
Pages 25–26 – Up Cork	Page 39–44 LTI’s	Page 59 – Closing Comments from the CEO
Pages 27–31 – Youth Diversion Projects	Pages 45–46 – International Youth Work (Erasmus)	



Cindy O'Shea, Chairperson



It is with great pride and heartfelt appreciation that the Board presents this Annual Report, which reflects a year of resilience, innovation, and unwavering dedication within Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service. At a time when socio-economic challenges continue to affect communities across our region—from the rising cost of living to the persistent impact of post-pandemic recovery—our youth workers have stood as beacons of hope and support for the young people we serve.

The commitment and passion demonstrated by our youth workers this year has been nothing short of exceptional. Faced with increasingly complex issues such as mental health struggles, the rise of anti racist and far right influences, and issues of social isolation, they have continued to show up with empathy, energy, and creativity. Their work is not just about providing services; it is about building relationships, nurturing confidence, and creating spaces where young people feel seen, heard, and valued.

Our youth workers have consistently gone above and beyond, adapting programmes to meet changing needs, incorporating digital tools to stay connected, and championing inclusion and equality in all aspects of our work. They have delivered workshops, organised events, supported families, and, most importantly, built trust with a generation navigating uncertain futures. Their impact is reflected not only in statistics and outcomes, but in the real, everyday stories of transformation—stories of young people finding their voice, gaining skills, and realising their potential.

President of Ireland Michael D.Higgins, at the recent ETBI Conference in Galway acknowledges the value of Youth work and particularly thanks Youth Workers for the vital role they play 'in helping young people to overcome adversity, to discover their capacities, and to imagine and shape a better future, both for themselves and for their communities'

In the face of financial pressures and stretched resources, the achievements of this year would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our funders and partners. We extend our deepest thanks to the Diocese, local authorities, charitable foundations, businesses, statutory agencies and individual donors who have continued to believe in the power of youth work. Your investment has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless young people, enabling us to sustain and expand our programmes at a time when they are needed most.

We also wish to acknowledge the families, schools, community leaders, and volunteers who form the wider network that surrounds and supports our work. Collaboration has been central to our success this year, and we are grateful for every shared goal, every joint initiative, and every moment of solidarity.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to championing young people as leaders, innovators, and change-makers in their communities. The challenges we face are significant, but so too is our belief in the strength and potential of the youth we serve. With the continued support of our funders, partners, and community, and the incredible dedication of our staff and volunteers, we are confident in our ability to meet the moment and grow stronger together.

Thank you for your continuing and valued support, it is much appreciated.

Cindy O'Shea
Chairperson CDYS
June 2025

Message from Bishop Crean, Bishop of the Diocese of Cloyne



A Chairde,

Recent concerns generated by those who viewed ‘Adolescence’ – the Netflix series, have brought into sharp relief the new challenges that this generation of young people face through their engagement in social media.

The most alarming discovery for parents, is that they didn’t know or appreciate what was happening in the lives and minds of their own children in their very own bedrooms.

Social media is a reality in all our lives but even more so for young people. It is part of the dynamic of their lives. Yet no less than any other area of life they need advice, direction and guidance. That relationship is a two-way process of trust and care.

Every generation has a tendency to think they “know it all.” My appeal at this time is to young people and their parents, teachers, coaches. To young people, be open to the wisdom of those who care for you. To your parents, teachers and life coaches not to abdicate your responsibility to try to understand what’s happening.

Underneath all these exchanges are important human and spiritual values. Integrity, honesty and respect are the core of a good and wholesome life. I commend the ongoing work of the C.D.Y.S team who strive so generously to serve those in their care. The Lord calls us to abundance of life in Him (John 10:10). May the bonds of care and friendship continue to enrich each other.

Bishop William Crean
Bishop of Cloyne.

About CDYS

Mission

CDYS supports young people in achieving their full potential in a safe and supportive community.

The core values of CDYS are:

- Meeting young people 'where they are at' with human relationships at the core of our work.
- Respecting and valuing all young people regardless of social, economic or religious background, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or ability.
- Inclusion of all young people while respecting differences and individuality is central to our work.
- Valuing partnership and collaboration with stakeholders and the community is vital in ensuring the best outcomes for young people.
- Supporting our qualified and committed staff and volunteers in their vital work with young people.

CDYS collaborates with statutory, community, and local bodies, leveraging funding to provide services to young people, families, and communities. CDYS is confident that its work is instrumental in achieving positive outcomes for young people and families. CDYS is committed to delivering services that reflect Best Practice models and approaches and contribute to the development of national policy and practice.



Youth Work

UBU

UBU Your Place Your Space provides out-of-school support to young people aged between 10 to 24 years. These supports offer a wide range of quality, community-based activities. Providing place and space aims to enable all young people to realise their maximum potential. CDYS has five UBU Projects in Gurannabraher, Fermoy, Mallow, Midleton and Mitchelstown.

These projects were funded by Department of Education and Youth (DEY) through the Cork ETB.



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth



Gurranabraher UBU at The Hut

The groups and the services that we provide at The Hut are based on an area needs assessment conducted by the CETB. This needs assessment was influenced by local stakeholders such as local schools, community development projects and other services. The needs were also influenced by the young people themselves using a personal development, person centred & global youth work approach. Youth participation in decision making is a key factor that influences what services we provide. Throughout each week at The Hut UBU project, we have a range of groups such as a Homework Support Group, Music Group, Rap – Song Writing & Beats Group, Teen Gym, Art, Traveller Boys Group, Soccer Group and various other youth cafes and groups. Among all these, we have one to one opportunities where young people can attend The Hut to speak with our youth workers around any personal issues including sexual health, mental health & addiction. The youth workers will listen, refer and sign post the young person to other specialist agencies for further help. We also work with young people around employment, education & training. Young people get the opportunity to do their Driver Theory Test, get help with CV's, applications for jobs and more. We also link young people into trainings locally including Safe Pass, Manual Handling etc. As well as all the above, we run various events and trips throughout the year including international projects, Gurranabraher Summer Scheme, Fishing Trips, Global Youth Work Projects, and attend various local events. We are founding members of the Northside Youth Forum that aims to give young people a chance to influence decision making in their local area. We also have our very own Mental Health & Wellbeing programme called 'Mind Your Head'. As well as that, we run a specific Arts project called 'Cork Creates'. Its aim, to provide opportunity for young people and remove barriers to engage with the arts.

We work with approx. 80 to 100 young people per month, not including young people who get the opportunity to participate in our Mind Your Head programme and our Cork Creates Outreach Arts Projects.

Our work locally in Gurranabraher & Churchfield is supported by the Cork Kerry Community Work Department Health Action Zone, Cork City Partnership, Cork City Council, Cork Sports Partnership, Music Generation Cork City, Leargas, Erasmus+, Local schools, Sexual Health Centre.

Gurranabraher UBU at The Hut – Cont.

One of our standout initiatives this year was the Traveller Pride Posters Project, designed to empower young Traveller boys to express their identities through art and self-expression. Cork Creates was invited to collaborate with the young people to develop a Traveller pride poster. The project provided a platform for them to create a series of posters that represented their unique cultural heritage as well as their individual dreams and aspirations for the future. The young participants had the opportunity to explore and showcase their Traveller culture, celebrating their identity in a positive and creative way. Through the creation of the posters, they were encouraged to envision a bright future for themselves, where their hopes and dreams are achievable. This initiative helped them recognize that they have the power to shape their own future, reinforcing the message that "everything is possible." The posters were displayed at local events, such as One World Week, Anti-racism Summit, Seo' Youth Festival, and in community spaces and UBU projects, sparking conversations and fostering greater understanding and respect for Traveller culture. The group had also the opportunity to visit and share the project with the Ombudsman for Children and Youth Work Ireland in Dublin.



Gurranabraher UBU at The Hut – Cont.



Another highlight of 2024, was the participation of one of our younger girl groups in the ETB SEO festival in the Marina Market in Cork in May 2024. The girls' group had spent weeks, with the help of a tutor, putting together outfits from old clothes and scraps to make beautiful ensembles that they showcased on the catwalk of the SEO festival fashion show. They were involved in every aspect, from the design of each outfit, the choosing of colours fabric etc., the sewing and fashioning of hats and accessories, right up to deciding which music they would like to parade their outfits to. They worked very hard for several weeks, including coming in for extra hours to perfect their performances. Their experience of the day was joyful to say the least and their enthusiasm for the project was contagious. They finished that day with the energy and excitement to continue this project, for One World Week in November 2024. We were delighted to lead the development of a very special and unique project during the year. We were involved in the creation of three murals in our area to celebrate young people and youth work in general. The murals show young people who attend the youth service taking part in certain activities. They have proven to be hugely popular in the local community.



CDYS Fermoy is committed to supporting young people in Fermoy and the surrounding areas. We offer both small and large group settings, catering to a diverse range of young people, including focused groups such as the LGBTQ+ community, international protection seekers, and the Irish Traveller community. Our centre provides a range of facilities, including a fully equipped kitchen, music room, sensory room, library space, various counselling rooms, and our main youth café area. Throughout 2024, we undertook several exciting new projects, trips, and activities, and introduced new groups to the centre, all aimed at fostering growth, creativity, and inclusion among our young people.

Throughout the year, our young people took part in various cultural and creative projects. CDYS Fermoy's young people participated in Séo Fest, where they collaborated to create an interactive 3D art piece. They showcased their work at the Marina Market, a proud moment for both the young artists and the community. For One World Week, we produced our own documentary, featuring animations and art created by our young people. This project was a culmination of various workshops, during which participants developed new artistic skills and boosted their self-confidence. In particular, our young people got to voice their opinions and talk about their passions. We showcased their music, dancing and taught them interview skills. Behind the scenes, they learned to use DSLR cameras, tripods and how to edit footage. Our music group had an exciting year, producing original songs and raps, and performing both music and dance at CDYS Fermoy Culture Night and One World Week. Culture Night was a celebration of diversity, with young people performing dances, music, and cooking cultural dishes. We also established the Blackwater Rebel Youth Theatre this year, offering acting workshops that culminated in a play, "Trapped by Fear", showcasing the creative talents of our young performers.



Fermoy UBU Cont.

Several new groups were introduced to CDYS Fermoy in 2024. These included a youth council, a crochet group for young creatives, and a Dungeons & Dragons group. Our LGBTQ+ group (Skittles Group) began working on a mural project, with plans for its completion in 2025. The 10–12 age group became an engaging and vibrant part of the centre. This group participated in a variety of activities such as cooking classes, animation workshops, safety talks, parties, and scientific experiments. Some of our IPASS young people went to the Panto in December to see Cinderella. Our main drop-in groups had an in-house Halloween and Christmas party as well as movie days, board game days and ping pong tournaments to name a few! Our one-to-one sessions provided invaluable support for young people with CV writing, work experience, job applications, and more. Several of our young participants successfully secured apprenticeships and jobs after receiving guidance and preparation through these sessions. The work experience programme saw an increase in participation, with young people developing both confidence and new skills.

The summer programmes for the 10–12 club included music and dance classes, trips to the cinema, visits to Craggaunowen and Bunratty, as well as participation in a soccer camp. The girls in this group gained confidence through soccer, while the boys showed a keen interest in history, especially in learning about ogham. Our senior groups participated in outdoor activities, including hiking at Corrin Hill, kayaking and rock climbing at Kinsale Outdoor Centre, and team-building exercises at Ballyhass Outdoor Centre. These experiences helped them build confidence in their abilities and encouraged creativity and teamwork.



The Traveller Group worked with our resident artist to design and paint a mural that celebrates Traveller culture. The mural includes significant cultural symbols such as boxing, horses, wagons, and a representation of an Irish Traveller woman with braided hair. This collaborative project was a powerful way for young people to engage with and take pride in their culture while developing their creative skills. The group also enjoyed various trips, including ice skating and a visit to Ballyhass Outdoor Centre in Mallow. In their group activities, they cooked meals, explored new recipes, went out for meals, and created smoothies, milkshakes, and slime kits. They also worked on practical life skills, such as CV building, housing applications, and applying for apprenticeships.

Fermoy UBU Cont.

In December, we began creating a sensory room tailored to the needs of neurodivergent young people. This space is designed to be calming and adaptable, with sensory resources, books, and toys to support individual needs. The room also features a mural themed around space, co-created by the young people, allowing them to express their creativity in a meaningful way. Alongside this, we introduced a new library space to represent the diverse backgrounds and interests of our young people. The library features a wide range of books on topics such as mental health, LGBTQ+ issues, Traveller culture, and various global cultures, providing a welcoming space for personal development and learning. We created a series of posters that represent different neurodivergences that have QR codes that link to videos on the topic. We also created a new support booklet with resources and contact details for all the services available to young people in Ireland. Our goal at CDYS Fermoy is that every young person can enter the space and feel represented.



Mallow UBU

Mallow UBU works with young people between the ages of 10–24 across two locations in Mallow town, Mallow Youth Centre and The Blue Cube. Mallow UBU provides various opportunities for young people to participate within their local community and to develop personal development and life skills. The majority of the work undertaken is based on ideals of Global Youth Work, the IDEA Code and youth empowerment.

CDYS Boys

This year, we had the pleasure of working with a lively group of boys aged 13–17 who had been getting involved in some antisocial behaviour. By taking the time to understand what they enjoy and where their strengths lie, we were able to introduce positive and engaging activities that really captured their interest. We also set up a weekly reward system to recognise their good choices and teamwork. This supportive approach has helped the boys feel valued and encouraged them to make more positive decisions moving forward. Each week, if the boys demonstrate respectful conduct, cooperation, and a willingness to contribute positively, they earn access to a special reward. These incentives vary, with examples including a trip to the golf driving range or a pizza day at the youth centre.

The golf driving range experience offers a wide range of developmental benefits. It helps the boys cultivate essential life skills such as focus, patience, and self-discipline—areas often underdeveloped in those struggling with impulsivity and anger. The quiet, repetitive nature of golf encourages mindfulness and concentration, offering a healthy and calming outlet for emotional regulation. When enjoyed in a group setting, the activity also promotes teamwork, peer interaction, and communication, all within a structured and supportive environment.

In contrast, pizza days at the youth centre provide a more relaxed, social reward that strengthens group cohesion and creates a sense of belonging. Sharing food and downtime together reinforces the message that positive actions lead to enjoyable, communal experiences, further embedding the values of respect, participation, and accountability.

Together, these rewards are not just treats—they are intentional tools for building resilience, social competence, and positive behavioural patterns.

Ukraine Group



Since starting our collaboration with the Ukraine group in October, we've developed strong relationships with both the youth workers and young people. We've organised a variety of activities, including baking cookies and making pizza, which helped the young people build teamwork skills and enjoy hands-on learning. They particularly enjoyed creating a traditional Ukrainian bread and connecting with their cultural heritage.



The group also expressed their creativity through arts and crafts, painting Ukrainian flags that were displayed in the youth cafe. They added their handprints to a wall alongside other groups, symbolizing unity and shared experiences. These activities have strengthened community bonds, encouraged cultural exchange, and provided the young people with a space to develop new skills and express their identities. The efforts have helped create a safe and supportive environment where young people can explore their identities, develop new skills, and build lasting connections with one another.

Mallow UBU Cont.

Bunch of Cautions Group

This group participated in a weekly cooking activity for five weeks, where they enjoyed cooking a new dish each session. The benefits of this included developing life skills like teamwork, following instructions, and improving their cooking abilities. They also learned about nutrition and the importance of healthy eating.

In addition, the group engaged in board games like Uno and Stop and Bus, as well as playing pool. These activities fostered problem-solving, communication and social skills. The safe, supportive environment provided by the youth workers allowed them to relax, build relationships and feel part of a community after school.

Teen girls Group

The teen girls' group was created in response to a request from a young person already involved in our youth service, who saw the need for a welcoming space where teen Traveller girls could come together, share their experiences, and support one another. Even though the group is still new, the girls have already made wonderful strides in building connections with both the youth workers and each other.

This group enjoys working on their life skills such as baking and cooking together. The group values engaging in art activities while conversing with youth workers and peers. They find that combining art with conversation offers significant benefits as they feel more relaxed and can open up more.

Junior Group

The junior group loves getting involved in a wide range of activities that encourage creativity, teamwork, and plenty of fun. Baking is a particular favourite—they enjoy experimenting with new recipes, expressing their creative flair, and sharing their delicious creations and baking tips with friends and youth workers alike.

In addition to baking, they also enjoy doing artwork creating unique pieces that allow them to showcase their imagination. The group finds enjoyment in friendly competition, often playing games like pool and board games, which not only offer entertainment but also encourage strategic thinking and collaboration. These activities provide a well-rounded mix of creativity, skill-building, and social interaction, contributing to the group's sense of strong friendship. The highlight for the young people in this group this year was meeting up with the young people from the HUT youth project at the Cork Opera House for the pantomime.

During the year the youth project received funding from the Local Creative Youth Partnership and the Tomar Trust. This funding supported the development of art projects, and a personal development group called the "Candid Group."

Throughout the year the young people from the groups participated in various additional community events during the year.

St Patrick's Parade

The Youth Council took part in the St. Patrick's Parade for the second year in a row. Thanks to a partnership with Mallow Arts, the group received a second parade snake, allowing even more young people to join in and celebrate their local festival together.



Mallow UBU Cont.

SEO Festival

The Youth Council participated in the SEO Festival in the Marina Market in Cork. The event raises awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals and encourages young people to develop projects based on that. The young people collaborated with a local artist and developed a card game which acted as a community profile. This allowed young people to highlight issues in their area by playing the game and scanning the QR code.



Summer Camp

The Blue Cube hosted a summer camp for the juniors last year and ran a regular schedule for the senior groups. Our activities included Arts and Crafts, Sport, and Fun and games.

Halloween Walk/Pumpkin Workshop

The Blue Cube collaborated with the County Council and participated in the Halloween Walk at the Castle. The young people dressed up as characters and scared passersby which added to the festivities of Halloween. Before the event a local artist facilitated workshops with the Junior and Senior Groups. During the workshop the young people used clay to make up their own Halloween based designs, such as pumpkins and skeletons.



Santa's Grotto

We hosted Santa's Grotto at the end of the year with the support of our CDYS colleagues and projects and volunteers. Our Youth Council participated in the event and dressed up as Christmas characters, such as The Grinch, Elsa, Elves, Snow White and much more.



Midleton / Carrigtwohill / Cloyne / East Cork UBU

UBU Midleton operates as a Hub and Spoke model, offering access to the Midleton youth centre as the Hub with activities provided in outreach centres in Carrigtwohill, and Cloyne. We operate an open-door policy in the youth centre. All young people are welcome and we work with them to accommodate their needs/wants. We run a needs led service, responding to requests for programmes from parents and/or young people or identified by staff as needs arising in the community. We use a strengths-based approach in our work with young people believing that all young people, given the appropriate supports, can be instrumental in their own personal development.

We work with other community-based projects to best support the Young People and their families of East Cork, such as SECAD, The Gardaí, CDYS ECMP and the YDP. We have engaged in projects with the local family resource centres and Cork County Council and we have regular interactions with local schools, the Cork's Education and Training Boards, Education Welfare Office and TUSLA. We also networked with Youth Work Ireland, National Youth Council Ireland and Leargas on various projects throughout the year. In 2024 we supported approximately 190 individual young people in various activities and projects.

We run Junior Groups in Carrigtwohill, Cloyne and Midleton for 5th and 6th class pupils using art/crafts, board games and food prep to encourage young people to interact, learn new skills, grow in confidence and engage socially with their peers. We do a lot of sustainable development goals awareness work with these groups and they often join in local and national participation events such as One World Week, Youth Voices etc. They have learned to use their voice and join in conversations with older age groups and adults and to understand that they are heard.

In Summer 2024 we ran a weekly transition project for those young people moving from 6th class to 1st year followed by a weeklong camp of games and sports to encourage this group to get to know each other as they will be attending the same schools. Many of these young people attend small rural primary schools and need support to adjust to much larger secondary schools with up to five times the number of students, this can be daunting for them. It is easier if they can at least recognise a friendly face. It is because of this we also run a 1st-3rd year drop in social group weekly after school, to continue to support those who need it.

Some of our other projects include a LGBTQI weekly groups, attended by young people 14-18 years from across East Cork. This group gives some isolated young people a social outlet to mix with their peers in a safe space where they can be themselves, for some of them it is the only space they have. Many of these young people went on to volunteer for the Youth Council, a group who serve as a link between staff and young people in the wider community, bringing arising issues to our attention and creating opportunities for active participation. Again, a focus on Global Youthwork and the goals of equality and equity for all are the basis for a lot of work undertaken in this group.

This group also attended the NYCI Youth Voices in Cork City where, with young people from other agencies and CDYS countywide they explored issues of sustainable development goals. A small group attended a weekend overnight in Leap Co. Cork in preparation for upcoming workshops. Throughout the year we travelled to the City to attend SEO Festival, the Education and Training Board's celebration of youth and partied at UP Cork for Pride Cork where the young people engaged with others from outside of their own communities. In November the Youth Council took part at an event in Cork City for One World Week with young people from across the county, where they looked at how to be agents of change in the world.

Midleton / Carrigtwohill / Cloyne / East Cork UBU Cont.

Weekly drop in groups are very popular with young people after school, with pool playing, board games, music and food preparation to keep them fed and busy. With Wednesday half days from school this is the only time where we can meet some young people, and it is important in relationship building between staff and young people in the wider East Cork area. It is from here we can identify needs and wants and develop resources accordingly. Everyone is encouraged to take responsibility for the space and to be aware of others who use the youth café. Through discussion and by example young people learn about the sustainable development goals informally and are encouraged to adopt the practices of environmental protection in their everyday lives.

We worked with a large number of young people from Ukraine who are living at Trabolgon in 2024. We use local coach companies to bring young people into the centre for drop ins to promote integration with local young people. These young people really enjoy the opportunity to have a space for themselves and to meet with others. We encourage the use of English language as much as is possible to help with their school time. We supported a young person in accessing a local football team and helped him with membership etc where he is now a valued player.

Throughout the Summer some of the young people took part in a rowing course on the River Lee with Cork Sports Partnership and Bádoreacht Corcaí. We had trips to Fota Wildlife park, The Escape Rooms in Cork City, Day trips to Ballyhass, Coachford and Mallow and Zipit Farren Woods. At the end of the year we took a large group Ice skating to Winterlee Alpine Skate Trail and another group to Wonderlights at Fota.

We're truly delighted to see so many of our older young people considering youth work as a future career, and we're proud to support them every step of the way. This year, it's been a real pleasure to help two of them get started—first through the Department of Social Protection's Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP), and then by providing sessional worker funding. Watching their passion for youth work grow is incredibly rewarding, and we're excited to be part of their journey. One of the highlights for us is seeing both of these young people now attending the UCC Diploma in Youth and Community Work. In addition, with further funding support, we were able to help two more young adults complete a Special Needs Assistant course locally, which has led to both of them securing work in this important field. Supporting young people as they grow—from the time we first meet them as primary school pupils all the way into young adulthood—is one of the most satisfying parts of our work. It truly demonstrates the value of building strong, lasting relationships and being a steady presence in the lives of young people, especially when they need it most.



Mitchelstown UBU

Mitchelstown UBU operates from Mitchelstown Town Hall. Our work is holistic and needs-led, prioritising individualised and group support. We emphasise youth arts, creative groupwork, health-promoting behaviours, and inclusion-focused initiatives.

Numerous Groups operating across the week

During 2024, Mitchelstown UBU engaged in some really interesting activities. These included;

Fashion Project:

Our Fashion Project, led by Claudia Matassa, blended creativity and sustainability to inspire our community. Claudia, a skilled fashion designer passionate about clothes recycling, guided young members in repurposing donated garments from the local St Vincent De Paul shop. Through hands-on workshops, participants transformed pre-loved clothes into unique designs and gained catwalk modelling skills to present their creations.

The project culminated in a vibrant fashion show at the SEO Festival in the Marina Market, following an exhibition at the St Vincent De Paul shop window. Models confidently showcased their designs to music, while Claudia described the creative process and highlighted the talent behind each piece. This initiative not only celebrated the creativity and dedication of our members but also promoted sustainability and the value of repurposing. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive impact this project has made in our community.

Screamland: A Collaborative Halloween Triumph with Le Chéile Cashel.

On Halloween night, 21 young people from CDYS Mitchelstown played a vital role in supporting Le Chéile Cashel to deliver Screamland, one of Cashel's most successful community events. Attended by over 1,800 people, the event provided a safe and engaging evening for families while offering an alternative to anti-social Halloween activities like bonfires and illegal fireworks.

The young volunteers served as scare actors, captivating attendees with their performances, which became a highlight of the night. Their contributions were widely praised and even featured in the local newspaper, showcasing the positive impact of youth engagement in community initiatives.

Le Chéile Cashel committee members were inspired by their dedication and enthusiasm, sparking discussions about future collaborations, including a potential joint event in 2025. This success highlighted the value of youth involvement and strengthened bonds between Cashel and Mitchelstown, creating a model for empowering young people through community-driven projects.

Fundraising for HOPE Foundation

In 2024, CDYS Mitchelstown supported Jennifer Lacey in raising funds for her trip to Kolkata, India, with the HOPE Foundation which will take place in early 2025. Jennifer's journey is being made possible through two key events: a Coffee Morning and a Nitewatch.

The coffee morning, organised by the Youth Council, featured homemade cakes, teas, and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses, raising €500. Nitewatch, an overnight event at the youth centre with games, karaoke, and movies, brought young people together to support the cause, raising an additional €800.

These events showcased the generosity and teamwork of our youth and community, supporting a meaningful cause.

Mitchelstown UBU Cont.

LEAP Residential

In July 2024, six young people from CDYS Mitchelstown attended the LEAP Residential, a three-day programme focusing on creativity, personal growth, and social activism. Held in an inspiring setting, the residential brought together youth workers, artists, and social activists to deliver dynamic workshops that encouraged self-expression and skill development.

Participants engaged in activities such as vocal health and breathing techniques, spoken word poetry, dance, and creative arts. These sessions helped young people explore their talents, build confidence, and connect with others in meaningful ways.

The residential provided a unique opportunity for young people to step out of their comfort zones, develop leadership skills, and gain a deeper understanding of social issues. The immersive nature of the programme fostered a sense of community and empowerment among participants.

LEAP left a lasting impact, with participants returning to their communities motivated to apply their newfound skills and perspectives to create positive change.



Global Youth Work

Global Youth Work seeks to inspire young people to become active global citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to address the challenges within their local communities. The vision was deeply rooted in the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the belief that young people are the key drivers of positive change in their communities and beyond.

Objectives of Global Youth Work

Raise Awareness of the SDGs

- Provide young people with a comprehensive understanding of the 17 SDGs, emphasising their relevance to local and global contexts through projects.
- Inspire young people to see themselves as contributors to these goals, fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership in creating a sustainable future.

Empower Young People Through Education

- Equip young people with the tools and knowledge to advocate for their rights and address social, environmental, and economic challenges.
- Highlight the role of education and awareness in driving societal change.
- Promote Creativity and Innovation
- Encourage self-expression through art, music, and performance, using creativity as a tool to explore and communicate ideas about sustainability and human rights.
- Provide events, such as the SEO Festival, LEAP and branch workshops, for young people to showcase their talents and share their visions for the future.

Bridge Local and Global Perspectives

- Highlight how local actions, such as reducing food waste or promoting inclusivity, tie into global challenges addressed by the SDGs.
- Foster a sense of global interconnectedness, showing young people that their efforts at the community level contribute to larger-scale change.

CDYS has received funding from the Irish Aid for the last 3 years. The Global Youth Work team have continued to build on the theme of "Change is Journey." CDYS received funding from the Local Creative Youth Partnership in 2024. The Irish Aid Project focus is to support long-term development programmes such as One World Week. The aim is to bridge the gap between global issues and local issues through a UBU lense which is called Development Education. A series of events were planned for 2024 which promoted raising awareness of the SDGs, empowerment of young people through education, promotion or creativity and innovation and bridging the local and global perspectives and integrating them into UBU youth work practices.

A key factor in our success in 2024 was the generous funding we received from the Local Community Youth Projects (LCYP), which awarded €24,000 to support CDYS initiatives connected to One World Week. Each CDYS project had a budget to support a wide range of initiatives running for long periods of the time including workshops, materials and other SDG themed activities. This provided equal opportunities and standards across the projects and provision for those who may not normally participate in such activities. The local projects were presented at Cork showcases including the One World Week Showcase and SEO.

Global Youth Work Cont.

LEAP Residential

LEAP was a two-day residential event sponsored by Léargas, held in July at Myross Woods in West Cork. Léargas is an Irish organisation that manages international exchange and cooperation programs in education, training, and youth work, supporting initiatives like Erasmus+ to foster learning, cultural exchange, and development opportunities.

The event was conducted in collaboration with Irish Aid, NYCI, and CLCYP, and facilitated by the Global Youth Work Team at CDYS. Its purpose was to support the five branches of CDYS in developing their projects for One World Week, which took place in November.

Throughout the two-day LEAP residential, the young people participated in various workshops and enjoyed two open mic nights. The workshops covered a range of topics, including Dance and Spoken Word, Trauma Healing Methods and basic training in Logosynthesis, Drama, Art, and Grounding techniques.

Each day featured 2-3 workshops, with energisers and games interspersed to keep the energy high and foster engagement. In total, 20 young people from CDYS participated in the residential. By creating occasions for the young people to come together, we hope to strengthen the network within CDYS and offer consistent support for their personal and social development.

SEO Festival

The Seó Festival was organised by Cork Education and Training Board and held in the Marina Market in 2024. The event brought together young people from across Cork, including the 5 branches of CDYS. In total 61 young people from CDYS were in attendance on the day. Each branch presented a project on the day.

This event supported the awareness raising of the SDGs among the young people through the projects they developed for SEO which was in line with objective 1 (Raise Awareness of the SDGs). A key part of SEO is its discussion panels, featuring speakers from organisations like Concern, Creative Ireland, and the Bee Conservation Project, tackling issues such as climate change, sustainability, and social impact. These conversations gave young people the chance to explore big ideas, ask questions, and think about their role in shaping the future.

The CDYS projects included;

Mallow

Blue Cube Card Game: A card game where young people identify community issues (using element cards) and propose solutions (using action cards). These ideas will be compiled into a video project.

Mitchelstown

Revive & Redesign – Empowering Teens for Sustainable Fashion: A fast fashion awareness programme where young people upcycle clothes from St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), guided by artist Claudia Matassa. The project promotes sustainability, creativity, and ethical fashion practices.

The HUT

Traveller Boys Presentation (TBP) – Traveller Posters: Young people highlighted discrimination faced by Travellers, leading to the creation of Traveller Pride posters to spread awareness around Cork.

Fermoy

Tree of Life: Using recycled materials from local shops, young people are creating a Tree of Life with a trunk made from repurposed materials and leaves crafted from book pages. Other young attendees will have the chance to design their own leaves on the day.

Global Youth Work Cont.

UP Cork

TO BEE or Not TO BEE – Bee Awareness: Raising awareness on the importance of bees in food production. Young people will wear bee-themed slogans as a form of friendly protest for pollinator conservation.

SDG football

The football tournament, held in collaboration with The Hut Youth Project, was a key highlight of One World Week 2024. This activity uniquely combined sport, education, and the SDGs, creating an engaging and meaningful experience exclusively for young people from The Hut.

Each team was named after and represented one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This theme reinforced the educational aspect of the tournament, encouraging participants to connect their gameplay to broader global challenges.

Young people attended a workshop between the matches where they learned about the SDGs through interactive discussions.

During the workshop, teams earned bonus points by answering SDG-related questions in a trivia format. This activity combined learning with friendly competition, enhancing their understanding of global issues. This part of the event met objective 4 (Bridging Local and Global Perspectives).

The winning team received an SDG-themed football and a trophy, symbolising their achievement and connection to the goals they represented. All participants were acknowledged for their efforts, with facilitators highlighting their teamwork, fair play, and engagement with the SDGs.

The tournament fostered teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership skills while integrating the SDGs in a practical, memorable way. By blending sport with education, the activity showcased the versatility of SDG advocacy, demonstrating how even recreational activities can serve as platforms for meaningful learning.

In total there were 15 young people participated in the tournament. This was the first ever SDG Tournament within CDYS and it was suggested to host it again next year with all the 5 Branches of CDYS.



Global Youth Work Cont.

One World Week

The week sought to create a safe and inclusive environment where young people could explore their creativity, learn about their rights, and engage in meaningful conversations about global and local issues. By emphasising collaboration, innovation, and empowerment, the event aimed to demonstrate the power of collective action and how small, community-based efforts contribute to global progress. CDYS hosted branch workshops during One World Week 2024 offering young people creative and hands-on opportunities to explore themes tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each of the five CDYS branches tailored their workshops to reflect their unique interests, ensuring localised relevance and engagement. In each branch, a member of the Global Youth Work team facilitated a workshop on the rights of children in Ireland according to the Ombudsman for children. The young people were shown a picture depicting children's rights and were asked to reflect on which rights they believe everyone has and which rights are not accessible to everyone in Ireland and then were asked to discuss why they picked one over the other. Several branches hosted tote bag-making workshops, where participants designed and decorated reusable bags. Themes for the designs included SDG-related messages, such as "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and "Act for Climate" and were based on Children's rights. The workshop highlighted SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by emphasising the importance of reducing plastic waste and using sustainable alternatives and were in line with the objective 3 (Promote Creativity and Innovation).

One World Week Showcase

The One World Week Showcase is the centrepiece of the week. CDYS had 83 young people and 15 youth workers from all CDYS Branches in attendance at the showcase. Thirteen CDYS projects presented at the event which was presented by young people from three of the five CDYS branches, showcasing their public speaking and leadership skills. Their confident and enthusiastic hosting set the tone for a day of celebration and collaboration. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork delivered an inspiring keynote address, praising the efforts of young people and emphasising the importance of youth engagement in addressing global challenges.

Young people presented their work confidently, explaining the processes and impacts of their initiatives and why they chose these projects and their relationship to them.

The day featured live music performances, with participants singing and playing instruments, including original compositions that resonated with the themes of the week. Young people highlighted themes such as mental health awareness, the importance of education, and community-building. Videos highlighting Erasmus trips and the learning that was involved were shown, followed by outfits made out of recycled material. The Showcase Day was a testament to the creativity, dedication, and talent of CDYS youth participants. It provided a platform for them to share their achievements and fostered connections between branches, stakeholders, and the wider community.



Global Youth Work Cont.

Moss Gardens

Mitchelstown and Cork focused on creating moss gardens, a workshop that connected participants with nature and emphasised the role of green spaces in promoting SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Participants learned about the ecological benefits of moss, including its ability to purify air, retain water, and support biodiversity.

The hands-on activity allowed participants to craft small, portable gardens, fostering a deeper appreciation for natural ecosystems. In total there were 71 young people attended the workshop.

NYCI Collaboration

Early in 2024, we collaborated with NYCI to host the Global Youth Work Learners Network in Cork.

The Global Youth Work Network, an initiative by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), focuses on integrating global perspectives into local youth work, fostering critical thinking and global citizenship among young people.

The session centred around five key themes:

- Building Connection in Youth Work
- Youth Work as a Space for Critical Thinking
- Storytelling and Seeing with New Eyes
- Healing and Well-being in Everyday Practice
- Bringing the Local-Global Connection into Our Work

In total, nine youth workers attended the event, in addition to the Global Youth Work Team and NYCI trainers.

This collaboration also strengthened our proposal to decentralise the Dublin-based 'Young Voices' event, bringing it to Cork and making it more accessible to a wider group of young people.



UP Cork

UP Cork LGBTI+ youth group is a nurturing hub for young people that seeks to promote wellbeing and enhance the quality of life of young LGBTI+ persons. We do this by offering spaces where they can experience inclusion, acceptance, social justice, safety and FUN! through one-to-one support, group support and peer support.

Our mission is to provide a community-based response to LGBTI+ young people by offering them opportunities for active participation and inclusion in addressing issues that affect their lives through personal and social development.

One of the methodologies used in the UP Cork LGBTI+ youth group to challenge hate speech is to defend and promote human rights to challenge stereotypes while promoting counter narratives.

Our activities varied during 2024 to take into account 'where young people are at' and the supports they need from social opportunities to activism.

During 2024, the young people of UpCork have consulted with Cork CYPSC about the services in cork to contribute in the improvement of resource allocations to young people in their area. Our 18+ Young People all registered to vote together. The young people took part in an online safety workshop focused on inspiring and navigating change online. We were invited to join the SPARK Youth Arts Festival focusing on Inclusive youth arts practice in Ireland.



UP Cork – Cont.

We held movie nights with informal screenings of thought-provoking films that spark conversations on social issues and personal growth. We also hosted pizza parties which are fun, casual gatherings where participants can enjoy food, build relationships, and strengthen the sense of community. We engaged in art projects, from collaborative pieces to individual creations, these projects encourage self-expression and creativity as well as creative exploration through non-goal-oriented art activities that let participants enjoy the creative process without pressure for a finished product. Young people engaged in media projects in video creation, podcasting, and social media campaigns to promote diversity and important causes and community projects where they actively worked on initiatives that make a positive difference in the local community. The young people in the project were involved with cultural projects celebrating diversity and promoting understanding through collaborative events and performances. We provided and hosted educational workshops on active citizenship, leadership, and social justice, empowering youth to make informed, positive contributions.

UpCork participated in local and national events, such as the Anti-Racism Summit, the Save the Bees initiative, and One World Week, to raise awareness and advocate for social change. These activities help young people develop important skills, gain confidence, and connect with their communities, all while fostering creativity and promoting social change.

During the past year, we have engaged with 143 young people, learners, and families through our project. We are grateful for the ongoing support of organisations like the Gay Project, BelongTo, and NYCI, which have been instrumental in our success.

Some of our standout moments in 2024 include: Pride Celebrations, One World Week, Out & Outstanding Awards and BelongTo 2FM Radio Interviews during Stand-Up Week, which became one of the year's most memorable events

Three of our young people travelled together to Dublin to take part in individual radio interviews on 2FM with BelongTo in the RTE building. The interview was about their experiences, being members of the LGBT community. They spoke about support, discrimination, and on how to be respectful towards other people within the LGBT community, e.g. asking what pronouns a person uses, or using inclusive language.



Youth Diversion Projects



Có-mhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Youth Diversion Programmes (YDPs) are community-based multi-agency crime prevention initiatives that seek to divert young people involved in crime or antisocial behaviour and support wider preventative work within the community and with at-risk families. These projects facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility. They are funded by Irish Government and the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF+ Programme 2021–2027 and strongly supported locally by An Garda Síochána. CDYS has three YDPs; Feabhas (Cobh), Mallow and CDYS Mobile covering all North and East Cork. Each young person involved in a Youth Diversion Project goes through an assessment process to identify their individual needs and strengths. This allows the project to tailor a programme of activities specifically to meet the needs of the young person. This assessment focuses on several areas in their lives e.g. education/employment, recreation, drug use etc. We aim to highlight young people's strengths and to support their educational achievements or focus on their employability prospects, while on the other hand, through specific programmes respectfully challenging their negative belief system.

Mallow YDP

Throughout 2024, we worked with 34 referrals, which included referrals from 2023 as well as new referrals in 2024. We also helped support past referrals and friends of referrals or young people known to the project. We engage with young people in helping them achieve their driver theory test, involve them in art, cooking and baking, pool tournaments, Gaisce, daytrips, social farming, and the Bádóireacht Youth Programme. Six participants attended the martial arts programme run by SBG Cork.

The project organised a day trip to the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois. The day was a success and enjoyed by all the young people who attended. It was their first time attending this event. They learned about farming and machinery. This trip tied into a the social farming project from earlier in the summer. Two young boys attend a farm once a week for twelve weeks doing various tasks such as gardening, cleaning, painting, baking and caring for animals (dogs, cows, chickens, sheep and a horse).

We encouraged and supported three young people to achieve their learner driver permits and went on to complete their initial driving lessons

The Mallow Youth Diversion Project organised an awards night for nine young people who participated in Social Farming (2 young people), Gaisce (3 young people) and Meitheal Mara 6-week rowing programme (6 young people). Two young people who participated in Social Farming also participated in the Meitheal Mara.

Youth Diversion Projects

Mallow YDP Cont.

A very informative presentation was delivered by Martin Finn of ADHD Ireland to the staff of CDYS and to parents enhancing our knowledge and informing our practice.

We also offered support and space to the mothers of referrals and organised health, fitness and yoga classes. This gave them the opportunity to set aside time for themselves and to mix socially. Classes were always followed by a discussion and learning forum about issues encountered by the parents.

We are grateful for the wonderful support we receive from our project committee, chairperson Garda Inspector McGuire, our Juvenile Liaison Officer Garda John Hurley, Garda John Fitzgerald (Community Garda), Tracy O Connor (Probation services), members of the project referral committee and project committee. We are grateful to Social Farming Ireland and to Avondhu Blackwater who funded the social farming project.



Youth Diversion Projects Cont.

Feabhas Cobh YDP

We adopt a non-judgmental, person-centred approach when working with young people, aiming to help them make better choices regarding crime and antisocial behaviour. Recognising that each young person has unique needs, our approach is tailored to them individually. We encourage participation in more positive leisure activities, such as sports, art, and music, and engage in discussions about their career interests, exploring the different pathways available to pursue those careers.

Over the past year, some of the activities we've offered include music lessons, driver theory test preparation, go-karting, mosaic workshops, bowling, DJing workshops, and art classes. During 2024 20 young people and four families have been involved in the project.

Some of our achievements in 2024 include placing an early school leaver into the STEP programme at the YMCA and facilitating counselling for a young person with severe childhood trauma.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the support we have received by An Garda Síochána, The Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre, Tusla, Cobh Family Resource Centre, Cobh Youth Services and the home school liaison officer at Carrignafoy Community School.



Youth Diversion Projects Cont.

Mobile YDP (North Cork)

The Mobile Youth Diversion Project works on a needs-led, child-centred approach, prioritising intervention work that diverts young people from the criminal justice system while promoting social and personal development. The project also provides family support, ensuring a holistic and wrap-around approach to supporting the families.

In 2024, the North Cork Mobile Youth Diversion Project worked with over 20 young people aged 12–17, providing guidance, support and targeted interventions. The staff provided a high level of advocacy for the project participants to assist them in areas of their lives where they required further support, such as school or mental health. The project staff also assisted five young people in getting employment or returning to education in 2024. The project workers worked with six young people to prepare for the driver theory tests, and encouraged young people try different sports and explore pro-social interests in 2024.



Notable events in 2024 included an engaging group trip to the Watergrasshill activity centre and a karting trip in Cork City. Two young people to complete their theory tests and got their provisional driving licences with the support of the project. One of the young people got a theory test score of 40/40, which was an outstanding achievement and highlighted the work that he had put in. Additionally, one young person completed their safe pass and is now in employment. A project participant who had been out of the education system for over a year worked tirelessly with the project workers and external tutors. He sat his junior certificate exams in June 2024.



Youth Diversion Projects Cont.

Midleton/Fermoy Mobile YDP

We use a person-centred and non-judgemental approach with our young people and meet them where they are at. Our focus is building a relationship with the young people and taking time to get to know them as a person. We learn the young person's strengths and implement activities to help with this. Sometimes young people get involved in activities which they never thought to try and end up enjoying it. We also work holistically with every aspect of a young person's life, sometimes working with the family and school. These approaches allow us to have an overall view of the young person and helps to foster change within their life.

In the last year, we have covered a multitude of activities with our young people. Among these activities were regular attendance at Thai boxing in Samson MMA in Cork City, Mixed Martial Arts in SBG Cork City as well as regular attendance at gyms in Midleton, Fermoy and Carrigtwohill. During mid terms and our Summer programme we took part in trips to Ballyhass lakes in both Mallow and Dripsey, Emerald Park, Karting and Paintballing in Watergrasshill, a tour of Blarney Castle and rowing on the river Blackwater.

In the past year we introduced short term groups that included a chess club, river rowing in the Lee with Meitheal Mara and Drugs Alcohol and Sexual Health (DASH) programme. Our young people also took part in a one day workshop with actor Shane Casey from the Young Offenders.

In addition, we had a young person involved in an art exhibition in the MY Place Community Centre. The remit of the exhibition was to take a black t shirt and redesign the T shirt in any way the artist desires and enter it into the public exhibition.

These activities are on top of the regular contributions we make to assisting young people with driver theory tests, CV and interview prep, job applications, Safe Pass course, first aid and manual handling. We also continue to support young people in their journey through education and training.

In 2024 there were 68 formal referrals to the YDP in Midleton/ Fermoy. We also engaged with five families as part of the family support service offered as part of the YDP.

We have worked closely with the UBU projects in Midleton and Fermoy who support young people engaged within our project. We are continually supported by our JLO's Pat Hegarty and Paul Murphy and hope to build a relationship with the wider Garda community in the future.

The project staff would like to thank the Department of Justice and the European Union for their continued support, which helped many young people and families in 2024. The staff also wish to thank our Juvenile Liaison Officers John Hurley, Pat Hegarty and Paul Murphy, Project Committee Chair Inspector Maguire, An Garda Síochána members, Referral Committee contributors, the CDYS board and management, CDYS colleagues, and community stakeholders, including schools, Tusla, and the CETB, for all the support during 2024.



Support for Young People and Families

Youth Ministry

Working with young people always has been and always must be central to the Church's mission and task. Pope John Paul II repeatedly accentuated the importance of young people and ministry with them. Just like Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus, the Church therefore must become the "travelling companion of young people". (Pope John Paul II, WYD 1995). It is a task that is very different from what it used to be. Our young people are subject to so many social and cultural influences that are far removed from the spiritual and moral values that lie at the heart of the Gospel. Therefore, it is important to look at youth ministry as a comprehensive phenomenon which includes the ministry that happens within the family, in the schools and within the general coming together of the community. This project is funded by the Parish of Mallow and during 2024 it supported over 594 young people and 100 families in the Mallow area.

CDYS Youth Ministry offers a variety of programmes:

- Pastoral support for families
- One to one support for young people
- Confirmation Retreats across the Diocese
- Assistance with Confirmation Preparation & Ceremony
- Pope John Paul II Award – Co-ordinator of the Award for the Diocese
- St Aloysius Faith Camp – Mallow
- Support & guidance of other Faith Camps & Summer Camps when required.
- Work involving young people e.g. November Remembrance Masses/Mass for World Day of the Sick.
- Nativity Play involvement of young people.
- ACTivate Club – weekly club for young people with Autism.
- Lourdes interviews for young people wanting to volunteer for the Diocesan pilgrimage.
- Christmas Food Appeal/distributing these hampers during the Christmas season.
- Mallow Parish Pastoral Council.



2024 was a busy year delivering Confirmation retreats to young people around the Diocese – Gael Scoil in Mallow, Scoil Mhuire Buttevant, Lisgriffin N.S, Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Scoil Chlochair Mhuire & Carrigtwohill Community N.S in Carrigtwohill & Gaelscoil in Cobh. The young people explored their many gifts & talents in a fun way.

The ACTivate Club had a busy year with their favourite trip to the Aquadome in Tralee. Many evenings were spent being creative in Arts & Crafts but most importantly tasting the many treats that were baked/cooked in the kitchen. The older group attended the Cork Sexual Health Workshop which ran for 4 weeks.



Youth Ministry Cont.

In collaboration with various CDYS projects, we successfully assisted 93 families through the distribution of food hampers for the Christmas Food Appeal. These hampers were made possible by the generous contributions from Tesco Food Appeal Mallow, local schools, parents, and volunteers. The 12th Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony was held in Mallow Community Youth Centre on 17th October 2024. 63 young people from across the Diocese received the award. It was a great achievement for the young people, their families, their schools and local parishes and the support was shown with a massive crowd on the night. Schools represented on the night, included St Mary's Secondary School Mallow, The Patrician Academy Mallow, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal Blarney, St Mary's Secondary School Charleville, C.B.S Charleville, Presentation Secondary School Mitchelstown, St Mary's Secondary School Macroom and Colaiste Mhuire Buttevant & St Mary's High School Midleton. St Aloysius Faith Camp was held in July 2024 with 52 young people participated in the camp, and we were delighted to have over 30 leaders and junior leaders from Mallow Parish Youth Ministry-CDYS, the Pope John Paul II Award & the Mallow CDYS Youth Council participants help over the week. It was a privilege for the St Aloysius Faith Camp that we had Sr. Lois from the Nano Nagle Centre who came daily to deliver Catechesis to all the groups. We were very fortunate to have Sr Ita who gave freely of her time to give the young people the opportunity to have Adoration every day where they had quiet time to sit and talk to Jesus. Every day finished with Mass, to which we are very thankful to Fr Greene, Fr Carvill, Fr Lynch & Msgr. O'Brien.



Youth Ministry Cont.

Both the JP II Award Ceremony and the St. Aloysius Faith Camp were marked by a profound sense of sadness due to the absence of our dear colleague, Sharon Doody, whose dedication and selfless volunteering made these events truly special in the past.

Sharon was not only a constant presence but the heart and soul of these events, giving tirelessly of her time and energy to ensure their success. Her commitment to these events was unwavering, and her impact was felt by all who had the privilege to work alongside her. Sharon volunteered her time, effort, and love for these events year after year, making them more than just gatherings but meaningful experiences for everyone involved both the young people and adults. Her spirit of service, kindness, and community was evident in everything she did. We were delighted to have Sharon's family present during our final Mass in the St Aloysius Faith Camp where a presentation of flowers was made to her Mum along with a candle that had been burning throughout the week. At the JP II Award Ceremony, Sharon's family were presented with the JP II Award Papal Cross for Sharon's commitment to the Award.

Youth Ministry rely on the dedication of volunteers to help run programmes & activities. The ACTivate Club volunteers, the Pope John Paul II Award Committee, St Aloysius Faith Camp volunteers & junior leaders & students give so freely of their time each week/and a week in July to run the activities. The retreat team are always busy in the preparation and delivery of the retreat programmes. A special mention must be given to Bishop Crean for his continued support to Youth Ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to offer a genuine thanks to the priests of Mallow Parish for their commitment and support to the youth project. Finally, a special word of thanks to Sr. Ita for her continued support of the St Aloysius Faith Camp.



Therapeutic Services



CDYS Outreach Counselling Service

Tusla fund CDYS Outreach Counselling in North Cork to people that cannot otherwise afford to pay for full cost counselling. Prioritisation is given to CDYS and TUSLA Network referrals. It is a service targeted to 13–18 year olds but is not strictly limited to this age range. It offers short term, solution focused preventative counselling. It consists of one counsellor and psychotherapist, working in Mallow and Mitchelstown.

Young people with a broad range of issues are supported. In most instances, young people avail of treatment for issues of anxiety, depression, relationship issues, self-esteem, grief and loss, school related issues and trauma. A space is offered to young people to discuss issues and deal with problems which might otherwise be left unresolved. In doing this, the young person is empowered believe in themselves and have an experience to find their voice again. A time to feel that they are not as powerless to change things as they may think.

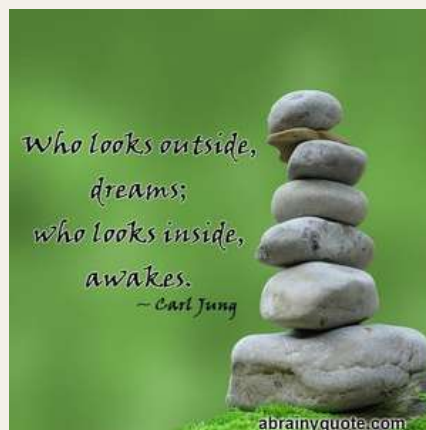
Parents are part of the work as much as possible with a strong focus on the parent adolescent relationship as well as the relationship of the adolescent with themselves. Space is offered to parents to deepen their connection with their adolescent and work together to find solutions

Theories applied include Polyvagal Theory, EMDR, Family Systems Theory, Gestalt, CBT, IFS, mindfulness-based stress reduction integrating resilience and coping skills.

In 2024, 352 hours of counselling were offered with 276 hours attended and 80 of these hours included parent support work.

43 clients received counselling. 12 of these in Mitchelstown and 31 of these in Mallow.

The service looks forward to another year of providing and encouraging young people with hope, possibility and their own capacity for healing.



Play Therapy

Our Play Therapy for children has continued to be very busy with our therapist holding clinics on Mondays and Tuesdays, children as young as 4 yrs old have accessed this service. 72 sessions took place in 2024, supporting 12 young people.

Art Therapy

Art Therapy for 12–18yrs is funded by TUSLA and sessions are held on Wednesday afternoons, young people from all over East Cork access these services. 18 young people attended 108 sessions during 2024.

Creative Community Alternatives



Creative Community Alternatives (CCA) is an initiative funded by Tusla, whose support allows us to make a real difference in the lives of children, young people, and families in our community. The goal of the CCA project is to offer alternative, community-based solutions for children and young people who are at risk of entering care or are already in care. These young people often face complex challenges, including abuse, neglect, family separation, substance misuse, mental health struggles, and socio-economic difficulties. By providing strength-based, trauma-informed, and wraparound support, we help them and their families build resilience and thrive within their own communities. Our approach is holistic and tailored to the needs of each young person and their family. Through collaborative planning and personalized support, we help develop problem-solving skills, coping strategies, and confidence. We also focus on creating connections within the community and strengthening family support networks to ensure lasting change.

We take a relational approach to our work, offering activities that promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Outings to local amenities like the Mallow Riverwalk, Ballyhass Adventure Centre, Doneraile Park, and the Donkey Sanctuary in Charleville are just some examples. We also provide home visits and use dedicated CDYS spaces like the Blue Cube in Mallow to ensure young people feel supported in safe and welcoming environments.

In 2024, CCA provided support to 53 young people, empowering each of them to stay connected to their communities and family support networks. The team is incredibly proud of this achievement and delighted with the progress made by every young person, who embraced the opportunities offered through our program and grew in confidence and resilience along the way.

This work wouldn't be possible without our many community partners. We are especially grateful to our own Activate Club, which has given young people a wonderful opportunity to connect with their peers and build meaningful relationships.

There were so many highlights in 2024, but one really stands out. A young person we supported was facing significant challenges, including anxiety, disengagement from education and instability in their living situation. Through CCA's consistent and compassionate support, they developed the skills to manage their anxiety, re-engage with school, and rebuild relationships at home. Their hard work and resilience ultimately led to an extraordinary opportunity to pursue higher education abroad—a proud moment for her and the entire team!

Looking ahead, we are committed to continually improving our services. Maintaining core community spaces like the Blue Cube and ensuring we have the resources to meet the needs of our young people remain key priorities.

With the ongoing support of our funders and community, we look forward to another year of supporting young people to reach their full potential.

Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) & Meitheal Project

The Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) & Meitheal Project is an initiative funded by Tusla, dedicated to supporting children, young people, and families through early intervention and family-focused services. By working closely with parents, children, and community organizations, the project helps prevent risks from escalating while fostering well-being, empowerment, and skill development to help families thrive.



The project uses a collaborative and needs-based approach to provide tailored, high-quality support at the earliest opportunity. Through the Meitheal case coordination process, professionals from different services come together to address the unique needs of each family, ensuring open communication and partnership. The focus remains on protecting the health, rights, and well-being of children and young people, while empowering families to overcome challenges.

A variety of activities are offered to promote connection and personal growth. Family events and workshops foster a sense of belonging, while one-to-one support and home visits provide personalized care. Skills-building workshops and multi-agency collaboration ensure families are equipped with practical tools and resources.

Over the past year, the project supported 93 families, tailoring support to meet their individual needs. This personalized approach enabled families to build resilience, navigate challenges, and grow in confidence. Families were empowered to become stronger and more active members of their communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tusla for their continued funding and support. We also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of local services and practitioners who work alongside us to ensure the success of the project. Their dedication has been key to delivering effective and impactful support.

One of the year's success stories is a young girl with complex needs who had become completely isolated and disengaged from all services. She was spending all her time in her room. Her family were really struggling with the situation and felt helpless. With the consistent support of the family support team, she gradually regained confidence, starting with small activities like coming out of her room for a chat, going for a hot chocolate and then she made the leap to start coming to the Blue Cube to do activities like baking. Over time, she began attending the CDYS Activate Club and she is now re engaging in education in the form of school tuition at the Blue Cube. Her transformation has been remarkable, highlighting the positive impact of tailored support.



IPS (International Protection Service) Family Support Project.

The IPS Family Support Project is funded by Tusla and aims to support families and young people navigating the complexities of integrating into a new culture and community. Through early intervention, personalised support, and empowerment, the project helps families build confidence, develop skills, and access resources that allow them to thrive in Ireland.



The project takes a holistic, needs-led approach, focusing on both individual and group work to address the unique challenges faced by families and young people. Individualised support ensures that families receive tailored assistance, while group work promotes social connection, cultural integration, and a sense of belonging. All activities are guided by a strengths-based, trauma-informed framework to provide meaningful support. The project also uses the Meitheal Family Support process which is a collaborative, strengths-based framework to bring together families and professionals, ensuring coordinated and early intervention support for children and young people.

The IPS Family Support Project delivers a blend of individual and group-based activities. Individual support involves personalized engagement with families, helping them navigate systems, access services, and overcome barriers to integration. Group work focuses on young people, offering programs designed to build connections, enhance social skills, and support cultural adjustment. Workshops, social outings, and peer-led initiatives provide safe spaces for learning and growth while fostering a sense of community and belonging. For example, the team actively engages young people in baking and cooking activities, using these as a platform to build confidence, develop life skills, and foster social connections. These hands-on sessions provide a fun and relaxed environment where young people can explore their creativity, learn new skills, and gain a sense of accomplishment. In 2024, the IPS Family Support Project worked with families, helping them address challenges, access resources, build resilience, and take meaningful steps toward integrating into Irish society. During the year, the project began expanding its group work offerings, providing additional opportunities for young people to engage and integrate into their communities. Plans are in place to further enhance spaces used for workshops and group activities, ensuring they remain welcoming, inclusive, and accessible for all families involved.

The IPS Family Support Project has expanded across North Cork and we now have practitioners based in CDYS locations in Fermoy and Mallow allowing us to engage with more young people and families in need of support.

We would like to acknowledge the dedication of local organizations, schools, and community services that partner with us to provide comprehensive support for families and young people. Their collaboration has been instrumental in helping families build brighter futures.



Education & Training

CDYS, in collaboration with the Cork Education and Training Board, ran two Local Training Initiatives (LTIs) in 2023. These courses are alternative education pathways delivered in a supportive and vibrant environment. The LTIs provide a balance of practical and academic studies that include invaluable periods of work experience. All young people can access additional supports available within CDYS, e.g., international opportunities.



East Cork Music Project (ECMP) LTI

The CDYS East Cork Music Project is a local training initiative that has been in operation since 2011. Thanks to a passionate group dedicated to boosting music education and the arts for young people aged 16–24 the project is still going strong. The project was born out of a clear need for an alternative way of looking at education for young people. This music and arts educational hub in East Cork has allowed learners to thrive in an educational setting outside of the mainstream school. Learners come to this project from all walks of life each with their own experiences. Most of our learners are with us because their differences weren't accepted or supported in traditional schools. Here at ECMP we help to support our learners to embrace what makes them different and use those differences to their advantage. ECMP work with learners to give them life skills and qualifications to go further in education or employment.

The underlying framework of the project is rooted in a critical social education model for youth work, incorporating aspects of community education. The project has gained a strong reputation among local youth as a welcoming inclusive environment for learning and enjoyment, where the learners are able openly express themselves without fear of judgement. The staff at ECMP foster a caring and empathetic workplace where the learners feel they are able to speak openly and come to them should any problems arise.

There are currently 16 learners on the project. 9 learners are taking our QQI Level 4 course and 7 learners are taking our QQI Level 3 course.

The QQI Level 3 course is designed to give learners a foundation of general learning which can then be built upon in the Level 4 and onwards. Our level 3 course is the equivalent of a Junior Certificate in mainstream school.

Modules on the QQI Level 3 General Learning course include:

- Communications –Personal and Interpersonal skills –Career Preparation –Art and Design –Drawing
- Music Appreciation –Mathematics –Word Processing

Modules on the QQI Level 4 Employability Skills course include:

- Communications –Career Planning–Mathematics –Workplace Safety –IT Skills–Work Experience
- Customer Service –Art and Design –Drawing –Music Appreciation.

Each learner is also able to avail of one-to-one counselling from ECMPs amazing in-house counsellor.



Some of our highlights of 2024/2025 so far include:

Our First Art Exhibitions

This year our learner put together an Art Exhibition to display the art work that they had been working hard on all year. During this event the learners were able to showcase their stunning work, the turn out for this event was great. People from all over the local community attended where they were greeted by the learners and offered tea, coffee, and sandwiches. The local Men's Shed, our neighbouring CDYS projects, local artists, friends and family all came to see the exhibition. It was a great opportunity for our learners to display their artwork and they also gained an insight into what goes into hosting an event like this.



Back in November we had a special guest come into the learner to give a workshop on resilience. This workshop was held by Shane Casey aka Billy Murphy from the Young Offenders. Shane was great with our learners, he spoke about his own personal experiences some of which our learners were able to relate to. He spoke about the importance of seeking help when you need it, and how embracing the things that make you different is how you become more resilient.



Our Christmas Gig 2024

Even though the focus on music has changed slightly this year, the Christmas gig is still one of the biggest events that we hold each year. This year our Christmas gig was held on Wednesday the 11th of December at 7pm in MyPlace in Midleton. We had performances from members of both our Level 3 and Level 4 courses, with only 2 months to prepare an entire 90-minute concert the learners did extremely well. They sounded great but best of all they all had a great time. We also had special guest performers which included past pupils and ECMP staff. The local community came out to support us that evening, we had a full house we even ran out of seats. It was a great experience for everyone involved.



Trip to Fota Wildlife Park

Just before Christmas we took all the learners to Fota Wildlife Park, it was cold but the rain stayed away. To keep warm we asked the park rangers to release the tigers so that we had a reason to run....they said no. Overall it was a great day out and everyone left with a little souvenir.



Good Lives Macroom LTI

'The Good Lives Project' is a local training initiative at CDYS Macroom and is a partnership between the Cork Education Training Board (CETB) and CDYS

The project aims to provide people outside of mainstream education the opportunity to engage in a range of learning activities to further training, education or employment options. We undertake a youth work approach to equip people with skills and a self confidence that will allow them to identify and pursue areas of interest, aspirations or dreams. In essence, we work to a philosophy that believes everyone has an interest and value in something. By assisting them to identify and work towards those aspirations this will in turn empower them to become engaged with the process, increasing their sense of self, personal value and motivation.

Staff focus considerable time and energy on each participant to create a clear and achievable progression path beyond the programme. We encourage the use of sports, fitness, health, well-being and nutrition, social and therapeutic horticultural practice with participants to explore their interests, skills and competencies, that in turn will point to a progression route.

The demographic of participants has changed recently and we are seeing a greater uptake among non Irish at entering the course. Their main need is improving their English literacy skills. The modules utilised on the course provide reading, writing and conversational skills that are designed to meet their English learning needs. The nature of the course delivery provides a calm and confidence building experience for the students. For staff and tutors, taking time with the students to ensure the material is being understood despite language barriers is important. We want each student to achieve their best.

Modules include Teamwork which equips participants with the skills to effectively participate in teams, learning about group dynamics, group theory and managing conflict. Teamwork in the kitchen is critical for creating the best food experiences. Nutrition, as the importance of the link between food and human health is becoming increasingly evident and so learners will be educated to a high level in the science of food as it pertains to human nutrition and health.

We encourage learners to be active participants in their own community. The overall desired outcome of community development learning would be for the learners to continue their involvement in the community and not feel isolated or marginalised. Personal Development, begins with self-awareness, helping the learners to achieve their full potential by making positive changes. The "Work Experience" module provides the students with opportunity to engage with local businesses for a short work placement period. This gives them a chance to upgrade their CV's, practice interview skills and gain confidence in their ability to gain employment.



Good Lives Macroom LTI Cont.

Additionally, we incorporate 'Safe Pass Course', 'First Aid', 'Manual Handling', 'Child Protection Training' and any other course that meet the learners needs' of that particular year.

We also seek to include sustainable development goals (SDG) in our work, SDG 4 Quality education: We consistently promote healthy and sustainable lifestyle choices (target 4.7). We encourage and provide a safe space for appreciating cultural diversity and promote sharing of those cultural differences. SDG 13 Climate Action: We promote sustainability awareness and human impacts on the environment in our classes and extra activities. We provide opportunity to interact with nature and how to protect it through our recycling awareness, sustainability module, work experience module and horticulture module. SDG12 Responsible consumption and production: Again, our recycling policy develops responsible recycling awareness amongst our learners. As part of Food Cloud we help reduce food waste and instead gets utilized within the centre and community. Through our horticulture module learners are taught how to grow their own food even in small spaces.

SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing: The ethos of SDG 3 is integral to the Good Lives program, "To promote well-being for all". Promoting a safe learning and sharing experience is what the program aims to achieve. To give the participants the opportunity to grow their knowledge, confidence and social interactions to benefit themselves and each other is the point of this program. Watching the learners develop new skills, seeing their satisfaction at applying those skills is good for the learners but also good for the facilitators.



We mostly cater for young adults over the age of 20. We had seven learners this past year. Environmentalist and Heritage Specialist, Mr. Ted Cook who provided fascinating insight into Irish culture and connections to nature on a number of community walks. Pat Buckley and all at Men's Shed who assist in any area that we require. Aindrias Moynihan and his office for their continued support of the learners and the project as a whole. Frances Doyle of Secad who rolls out sessions to prepare C.V.'s and Interview Skills. Our Psychotherapist Marina Lynch who delivers wholesome workshops in wellbeing and emotional regulation. Community Gardaí, in particular Orla Doyle for her continued support and Michael Kelleher for use of the Community Bus and drive if required. Linkage Programme Officer Des Holton who continues to support the programme through referrals and work placement. Majella O'Riordan who delivers workshops on wild food and the holistic balance of human wellbeing with natural ingredients. Maria Walsh for her testing, yet relaxing, yoga classes and the staff at the Macroom Community Gymnasium for providing fitness classes and access to their facilities.

Good Lives Macroom LTI Cont.

Some of the highlights of 2024 included;

'Meet the clubs day' held by The Lions Club proved very successful in getting our name out into the community this past year. We hold various workshops requested by the learners, 'Herbs for Health', 'Well-Being', 'Encaustic', 'Mosaic' and 'Wreath making' to name a few.

Our food and nutrition module brought us many delicious meals during the year. With such a mix of backgrounds we got to experience varied cultural dishes. The time to sit down and enjoy these dishes as a group led to much storytelling and forming group rapport. It added to the learning experience through the year.

One of our students was an ear, nose and throat surgeon from Ukraine. He could not find employment in Ireland due to his English levels. His time with us saw a huge language comprehension and spoken improvement. This enabled him to progress into further English training and he plans to sit his medical English exam in 2025.

We had a very good collaboration with Macroom School of Art. This provided learning through art and culminated in an exhibition in Macroom library and Kool Café. The highlight was a short movie which is available to view on Youtube. This is a collaboration we will continue in the future as the students really enjoyed the experience.

The learners also enjoyed some trips which enhanced their learning. We went to Praxis Care in Midleton to view their holistic garden area. Our horticulture tutor organised this with us and we were lucky with a beautiful sunny day. We got a tour of the gardens and polytunnel areas. Each student was kindly given a plant to take home and a lesson in "potting on" plants.

We had a trip to Cork city to visit the Crawford Art Gallery and the English Market. The junior exhibition was very impressive and the messages of protecting the Environment and ending war to bring peace was well received by our students. For some it was their first time visiting the English Market and they loved the energy there.

We also visited the Iniscarra hydroelectric dam. We got a full tour of the premises and explanation of the history and significance of the project to Irish electricity development during the 1950s. Again we were lucky that it was a calm sunny day which meant we were able to walk along the top of the dam and experience the view high above the River Lee.



International Youth Work

Erasmus+ Project 2024: A Year of Growth and Opportunity



Introduction

2024 has been a remarkable year for CDYS in the realm of international collaboration and learning, thanks to our active participation in the Erasmus+ programme. Through various projects, exchanges, and training opportunities, we have broadened the horizons of both our youth and staff, reinforcing our commitment to lifelong learning, cultural exchange, and skill development.

Key Achievements

Empowering Young People Through International Exchanges

This year, CDYS successfully facilitated multiple youth exchanges across Europe, offering young people the chance to engage with diverse cultures, develop new skills, and enhance their confidence. A total of 105 participants with few opportunities, travelled to Portugal, Finland, and Hungary, where they engaged in workshops on sustainability, mental health and wellbeing, equality & Inclusion along with digital literacy, and social inclusion. The impact of these exchanges has been profound, with participants reporting increased self-confidence, stronger teamwork skills, and a greater appreciation for cultural diversity. A key highlight of each of the exchanges are the cultural evenings, showcasing traditions from their respective countries. These events featured music, dance, food, and storytelling, creating a vibrant atmosphere for participants to celebrate their heritage and bond with their peers.

In their own words they had this to say

"It's been one of the greatest weeks of my life. I got to experience and meet so many new people and places I never would've been able to experience without an Erasmus trip"

"This youth exchange opened my eyes to a future with travelling and helped me make friends anywhere I go"

Staff Training and Development

CDYS staff benefited from Erasmus+ training courses designed to enhance their professional skills. Through participation in specialised workshops in mental health supports and resources, and innovative youth work methodologies, our staff returned with fresh insights and best practices that have directly improved our local youth services.

Community Engagement and Multiplier Effects

One of the standout successes of the Erasmus+ initiatives this year has been the integration of newly acquired skills into our community projects. Participants of international exchanges have taken an active role in local projects, sharing their learnings through peer-led workshops, storytelling sessions, and awareness campaigns. This has amplified the positive impact of Erasmus+ far beyond the individuals directly involved.

Success Stories

- **Youth Leadership Growth** – Several young participants have emerged as community leaders, inspired by their Erasmus+ experiences. Many have continued their involvement in CDYS through volunteering and advocacy roles.
- **Sustainable Practices Implementation** – After attending an eco-awareness training in Hungary, a group of participants initiated a sustainability project within CDYS, promoting waste reduction and environmental responsibility in our centres.
- **Stronger European Partnerships** – Our collaborations with partner organisations across Europe have strengthened, setting the stage for even more ambitious projects in the coming years.

Erasmus+ Project 2024: A Year of Growth and Opportunity



Looking Ahead

Building on this year's successes, CDYS aims to expand its Erasmus+ involvement in 2025 by increasing the number of youth exchanges, offering new training courses for staff, and exploring strategic partnerships that align with our mission. We remain committed to providing transformative experiences for young people and professionals, ensuring that the benefits of Erasmus+ continue to enrich our community.

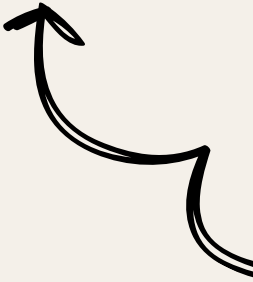
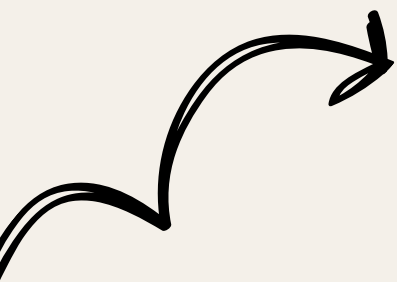
The Erasmus+ programme has been instrumental in advancing the goals of CDYS, fostering personal growth, professional development, and cultural understanding. We are immensely proud of the achievements of our participants and look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.



Youth Clubs

CDYS had eight youth clubs affiliated with the organisation during 2024. CDYS provides support around affiliation, insurances, garda vetting and safeguarding as well as club activities and support around grant applications.

CDYS - Play as your Please
CDYS - FriendS Youth Club Club Midleton
CDYS - FriendS Youth Club Mallow
CDYS – Lismire Youth Club
CDYS – ACTivate Youth Club
CDYS – Kinsale Youth Community Café
CDYS- ACTivate Club Mallow
CDYS – East Cork Comic Con & Youth Group



Safeguarding and Vetting for the Diocese of Cloyne 2024

The Diocese of Cloyne funds Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service to provide Safeguarding and Vetting Coordinator Services to the Diocese of Cloyne for the 46 parishes within the Diocese. The Safeguarding and Vetting Coordinator is an employee of CDYS. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator provides specific administrative as well as organisational support to the chair of the Cloyne Diocese Safeguarding Committee in the execution of their functions and maintains all records, files and data bases pertaining to Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Services, including training, preparation of parish and external audits, enquiries or other relevant information that normally resides within the CDYS office. It also maintains personnel files on all trained and vetted representatives in the Diocese. The Safeguarding and Vetting Coordinator role also acts as the Diocesan signatory pertaining to all vetting and reference checks in the Diocese and maintains and updates a database and record of all vetting applications and correspondence. This function is carried out in line with clear guidelines and procedures on Garda vetting within the Diocese of Cloyne.

Highlights from 2024 include:

The delivery of five safeguarding trainings across the Diocese of Cloyne during 2024

Processing of 414 Vetting applications.

Management of the Parish Audit process within the Diocese.

Furthering the development of standardised vetting practices across all Dioceses in Munster in line with the requirements set out by the national vetting unit.

Risk assessments for three Faith Camps in Mallow, Fermoy and Mitchelstown.

Community Service Programme (CSP):

Mallow Youth Centre & Big Blue Cube Gouldshill

Funded through Pobal (a state-sponsored organisation with responsibility for administering and managing Government and EU funding aimed at promoting social inclusion and addressing social disadvantage) the Community Service Programme together with CDYS CLG supports five full-time employees across management, administration, and maintenance at Mallow Youth Centre and the Big Blue Cube, Gouldshill.



The CSP aims to support community-based organisations such as CDYS CLG to provide local social services through a social enterprise model. In particular, the CSP aims to tackle disadvantage by providing a co-funding contribution towards the direct salary costs of a number of full-time positions for individuals who have been unemployed for a minimum of six months; in the case of CDYS CLG a manager, two administrators and two care-taking staff (two staff members are non-nationals and another is a member of the Traveling Community). In addition to providing employment, the programme also provides the opportunity for supported staff members to avail of various employability-enhancing training initiatives. Over the last number of years two former staff members supported by the programme have progressed to careers in the civil service.

Our Funders



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth



cetb
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Chorcaí
Cork Education and
Training Board



Erasmus+



Cork
County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF CLOYNE



MALLOW
PARISH
Diocese of Cloyne



Enabling Our Work

CDYS Structure

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service was initially established in the 1960s when it became a collaboration of youth clubs across the Diocese of Cloyne. Since then, CDYS has worked to respond to the evolving needs of young people in the communities across the diocese, regardless of social, economic, and religious backgrounds.

CDYS Charity Objective: To provide community-based youth services, with an emphasis on the disadvantaged, and to assist their spiritual, emotional and social growth and development.

Organisation Type: A company limited by guarantee.

Company Registration Number: 397125

Charitable Tax Exemption Number: 16840

Charity Registration Number: 20061555

Registered Address: Mallow Community Youth Centre, New Road, Mallow, Co. Cork P51XEX9

CDYS Board

CDYS is governed by a voluntary Board with a maximum of ten members. Our current Board members have skills in the areas of Accountancy, Audit & Risk, Youth Work, IT, Community Development, Education, Youth Justice, and Facilities Management. All Board members work voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration as required by the Charities Act, 2009. They are entitled to reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses in the discharge of their functions as Trustees. The CEO of CDYS reports to the Board and is not a member.

CDYS held nine Board meetings during 2024 in addition to the Annual General Meeting which was held on 3rd July 2024. The following table outlines the attendance by Board members at its meetings during 2024.

Name	Attendance
Cindy O’ Shea	9 out of 9
Richard Dempsey	6 out of 9
Sean Ryan	9 out of 9
Tim O’ Callaghan	8 out of 9
Barry Linehan	8 out of 9
Emma Brennan	9 out of 9
Cormac Nyhan	3 out of 4
Rebecca Jeffers	0 out of 7

Enabling Our Work

Our People

CDYS employed, on average, 46 employees during 2024 and was supported by many volunteers throughout the year in our work with young people and their families. We are delighted to see that our volunteer numbers have continued to rise during this past year.

The Community Services Programme, based in Mallow, provides much-needed community service at Mallow Youth Centre and the Big Blue Cube.

CDYS supports TÚS, Community Employment, WPEP and J1 Schemes, with participants getting the opportunity to engage in further education and training. Scheme participants support the work of CDYS in various areas, including youth work, administration, caretaking and maintenance.

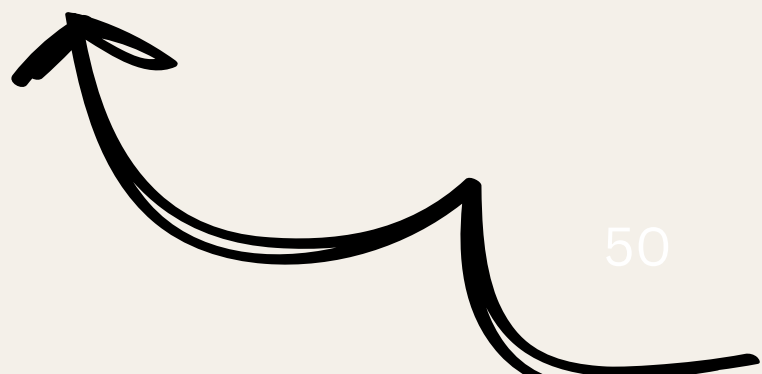
We were delighted to support the training of students as part of work placement modules from MTU, UCC, Cork College of FET – Mallow Campus, UL, Mary Immaculate College.

Some CDYS staff members moved on from their positions in 2024 and while we were disappointed that they have left the organisation, we sincerely thank them for their work with CDYS and we wish them the very best of luck in their new positions.

Training

CDYS seeks to foster an environment that encourages and supports self-directed learning and development. CDYS values ongoing training for our staff, scheme workers and volunteers to ensure they are fully equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to provide our young people and families with quality services.

Throughout 2024, CDYS participated in online and in person training, provided by our funders and arranged by CDYS on topics that emerged in the course of our work. These included; Safeguarding, Non Violent Resistance Programme.



Enabling Our Work

Employee Self Care

CDYS strongly believes that a positive workplace and culture are extremely important to positive mental health among its staff team. External supervision is available to the staff team to support them in their roles, where needed. Two self-care events were held during 2024, both events offered different activities and approaches in the management of self-care.

In May 2024 CDYS engaged in cooking and baking, enjoying the ability to 'switch off' and engage with each other on practical tasks. Our second event saw CDYS using its problem-solving skills, peer support and encouragement to solve clues and riddles.



Compliance

CDYS stated its compliance with the Governance Code for 2024. During the year, several specific actions were undertaken in relation to governance, including a review of governance policies, safeguarding policies and GDPR compliance.

CDYS is an integrated youth service affiliated with Youth Work Ireland. CDYS is committed to and works to ensure that it is compliant with all relevant legislation. CDYS is compliant with the requirements of each funder, service level agreements, DEPR and value-for-money ethos. CDYS regularly receives compliance visits and audit requests from our funders, which we welcome as they provide an opportunity to strengthen our practice and process.

Enabling Our Work

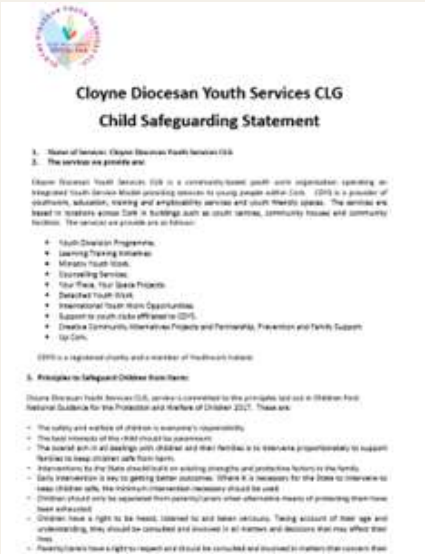


External Audit

As a funded organisation, CDYS is subject to external audits by our funders. In 2024 we underwent two audits and were delighted with the learnings from these experiences and the opportunity to make changes to our processes.

Risk

To ensure the safe and effective delivery of our services, CDYS reviews risks on an ongoing basis. Risk is a standing item at every CDYS Board meeting. CDYS monitors and manages identified risks through its Risk Management Policy, Risk Appetite, Risk Register, and Risk Guidelines for staff. These were reviewed and updated during 2024.



Safeguarding

CDYS has an obligation to ensure compliance with legislation regarding safeguarding. CDYS is committed to effective and safe practices across all elements of the organisation, e.g. recruitment, supervision, trips, transport, etc. During 2024, the safeguarding policies and practices of CDYS were reviewed and updated. CDYS rolled out risk assessment training in relation to safeguarding to ensure all staff were aware of and trained in these. During 2024, eleven Child Safeguarding Awareness and two risk assessment trainings were delivered to staff, volunteers, scheme workers, students and youth clubs across the CDYS territory. We trained 100 individuals in our updated policies and procedures during 2024 and will continue to build on this work in 2025. A new process for risk assessments was introduced and successfully implemented by the team during the year. CDYS established a new team of safeguarding trainers in 2024 with two staff members joining the training team. CDYS also completed 179 vetting applications during the year.



Promotion of CDYS

CDYS worked to increase the awareness of CDYS, its projects and work during 2024. We streamlined our social media postings and worked with Youth Work Ireland to gain further recognition across the federation for the work of the member youth services.

Financial

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the profit and loss account, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2024 and of its loss for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 17 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Financial cont.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

Financial cont.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Carmody (Senior Statutory Auditor) For and on behalf of
Carmody Kelly & Associates
Chartered Accountants Ireland and Statutory Audit Firm Kilrush Road
Ennis Co Clare

29 July 2025

Financial cont.

Profit and loss account
Financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Income	4	3,001,652	3,016,855
Administrative expenses		(3,214,071)	(3,092,266)
Other operating income		8,824	8,824
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year		(203,595)	(66,587)

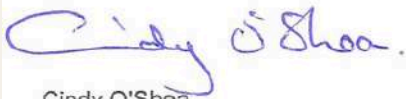
The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

	Note	2024 €	€	2023 €	€
Fixed assets Tangible assets	9	137,427		121,340	
			137,427		121,340
Current assets Debtors	10	17,768		9,230	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,282,975		1,256,590	
		1,300,743		1,265,820	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(764,280)		(500,851)	
Net current assets			536,463		764,969
Total assets less current liabilities			673,890		886,309
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13		(32,640)		(41,464)
Net assets			641,250		844,845
Reserves Other reserves	18		31,778		31,778
Surplus and deficit account	18		609,472		813,067
Total funds			641,250		844,845

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services CLG

Balance sheet (continued)
As at 31 December 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 29 July 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Cindy O'Shea
Director



Barry Linehan
Director

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

Closing Comments from the CEO



At the start of 2024, CDYS suffered an unimaginable blow, with the sudden death of one of our youth workers Sharon Doody. Sharon's death has had a profound impact on the young people she worked with, her CDYS colleagues and the wider community. I am extremely grateful to the community and everyone who expressed their condolences to CDYS and their offers of support. As we tried to make sense of Sharon's passing, we focused on her love of working with young people and families to soothe our sorrow.

CDYS encourages and seeks the inclusion of all young people regardless of circumstances or background. Life can be challenging at times, and we are extremely proud of all the young people and families we have worked with throughout the year. We appreciate your sense of humour and 'giving it to us straight'. Thank you to all the young people and families, you keep us grounded and focused on our work

We finalised the next CDYS Strategic Plan 2024-2028 during the year. The aim of this plan is to allow us to be flexible, responsive and innovative while remaining true to our purpose and values. Progress will be measured through on-going engagement with young people and evaluation. In total, CDYS worked with 3002 young people throughout the year, and while numbers are an important measure of the work of CDYS, they simply do not illustrate the depth and breadth of work undertaken with young people and families. I sincerely hope this annual report has provided colour for the youth work, education and training and family support provided by the organisation during 2024. A huge thank you goes out to all the staff, scheme workers, volunteers, and students who undertook placements with the organisation during the year for their hard work, innovation and persistence in delivering quality youth work and family support to our communities.

CDYS is extremely grateful to our funding partners who have been extremely supportive of CDYS during 2024. We really appreciate the funding, support and continued advocacy for resources to deliver quality youth work, education and family support services and we look forward working with you in the year ahead.

The CDYS Board is committed to strong governance procedures and processes, which enable the organisation to carry out its work with young people and families. Significant work has taken place over the past two years and we are beginning to see the fruits of this labour. Much work has been done to streamline and consolidate practices and processes within the organisation that replicate Best Practice, including Governance, GDPR and Safeguarding. We are committed to transparent Best Practice in our work and will continue to build on this for the coming year.

Overall, my second year as CEO of CDYS has been a very good one. I have had great support settling into the role from everyone in the organisation and I look forward to another productive year ahead in 2025.

Sincerely





GO TEAM