



GYNG ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Gorey Youth
Needs Group**



**Little Daisies
Crèche**



**Gorey Youth
Services**



**Gorey Training
Initiative**

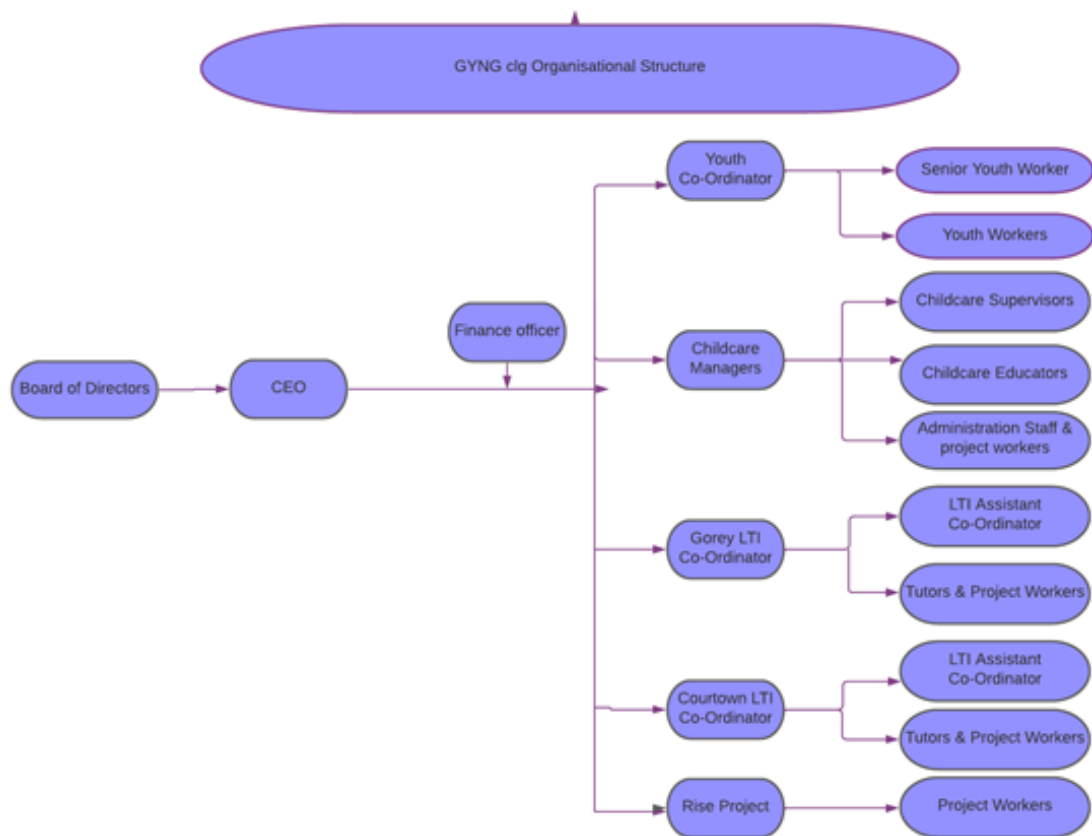


**Courtown
Training Initiative**



**RISE
PROJECT**





2022 Board of Directors

Chairperson
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Mick Molloy
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Helen Blake
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Chris Furlong



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

My first year as chairperson has been a wonderful experience for me. I have always been a huge admirer of the work that the board, management, staff, and volunteers carry out on a daily basis so selflessly, so to be part of that and helping out in any way I can is a privilege.


2022 and the start of 2023 has been very fruitful for the group in terms of progressing several projects. We have seen change in the LTI programme with the loss of staff but with some very welcome new faces joining the group. Our difficulties retaining instructors is an ongoing issue for us and I know Mandi is leading the charge in trying to achieve better conditions.

The group were recently devastated by the passing of one of our students and I really think it hammers home how important it is for us to continue to improve on our supports to the users of our services as I have no doubt the group have saved countless lives in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

We have seen fantastic progress with Sports Campus and Astro turf project and it looks like the Campus will be handed over to the group in the early months of 2024. The potential for the facility is huge, and it could not be in better hands to ensure the community and youth benefit hugely from it.

A special shout out to Mairead Fitzpatrick who did sterling work in successfully applying for a sorely needed building blocks grant which will see us upgrade the energy rating of the building later this year. The project will consist of insulating the building, a solar PV panel system to the roof, and a heating system upgrade which will lead to significant annual savings.

The group have also tendered for the donation of a piece of land close to Oulart Village which includes an old farmhouse and outbuildings. The acquisition of the land would be another huge opportunity for the group to extend and diversify our services in to the wider community.



I would like to thank Mandi our CEO, I see her tireless and very stressful endeavors' first hand, I think she does a wonderful job.

I'd also like to thank all our funders and grant providers.

Finally I can safely say that I've never been part of an organisation with some many people going about their daily work and business for all of the right reasons, which is helping others who are in the most need. It is truly uplifting in what can be very negative and trying times.

Keep up the good work and see you all soon.

Mick Molloy





CEO REPORT

2022 finally allowed for a welcomed return to normal operations after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Gorey Youth Services, Little Daisies, Gorey Training Initiative, Courtown LTI and The RISE Project continued with their hard work, commitment and dedication to their individual projects and those we work with. Although it was a huge relief saying goodbye to lockdowns and seeing restrictions lifted and cultural and sporting activities resume, it is evident that the demand for services and supports increased as society reopened. As we reflect back on a very busy year I can once again say that I am immensely proud of all our staff and how we have worked as a team to get through the most difficult times.

Our staff team exceeded any expectations in their work commitment throughout 2022. No one could have predicted the impact the Ukrainian War would have on the world and on our organisation. GYNG set up their Ukrainian Support Group late March 2022 when Ukrainians fleeing the invasion presented themselves to GYNG seeking supports. The group naturally evolved over the coming weeks with numbers attending rapidly expanding. It is fair to say it did put a huge amount of pressure on staff and resources and compassion fatigue was very evident. At first it was a struggle to coordinate supports but as time went on thanks to collaborations with WLD, Tusla and Wexford Co. Council this became more structured and challenges became less fraught. Once again, this work proved that a multi-agency approach works best for all stakeholders involved. Working collaboratively comes naturally to all at GYNG and we do this with authenticity and ease. We understand the value and the importance of forming good networks, meaningful professional relationships and building partnerships. This in turn ensures much better outcomes for all those who we work with and takes the burden off individual agencies and organisations.

Later in the year GYNG welcomed a new member of staff thanks to additional funding from Tusla. Mariia Kolomeitts, joined our team as a Ukrainian Family Support Worker. Since she commenced employment Mariia has shown her capability and commitment to working with children and families fleeing the war and faced with starting over again here in Ireland. Mariias presence took a lot of pressure off our staff as she brought with her specific language skills, empathy and a true sense of understanding issues impacting Ukrainians settling in Wexford. We would like to thank Mariia for all her hard work throughout a time when her own life has faced so much upheaval.





Gorey Youth Services continued to grow and expand in 2022 under the supervision of our Youth Coordinator Karen McCann and Senior Youth Worker Patricia Salley. Project staff in 2022 included Jade Doyle, Aidan Haskins and Paul O'Toole. Together they implemented a yearly plan in our headquarters here in Gorey but also Riverchapel and Ballyfad. The outreach youth programmes have been warmly welcomed in the areas and we fully intend on expanding these in the future should funding become available. Our Youth services had a successful year in grant applications ensuring that a good variety of suitable workshops, programmes and activities were offered to children and teens in the mentioned areas. Our groups got to work with individuals and external facilitators who are experts in their field such as Stephen Acton, Local Director, Sarah Ruben, Artist, Connor Moore, Musician, Colin Travers, The Bird Man, Loraine Dwyer, Gallivanting tours, Eileen McGrath, Meditation Facilitator, Philip Maher, Self Defence Instructor and many more. One grant that was slightly different in 2022 was the Communities Resilient Grant which allowed GYNG to have access to €3500 worth of Professional Counselling and therapeutic interventions for the most vulnerable we work with. We would like to thank Andre Bolger for advocating on our behalf for the grant to be approved by the Wexford Co. Council. Our Youth Staff engaged with a number of training and upskilling workshops such as Parent Plus Programmes, Rainbow Training, Assist Suicide Intervention, Train the Trainer and more ensuring that they are constantly upskilling so as to offer the best professional and supportive service possible.

CREATIVE Communities Alternatives work continued in 2022. Thank you to Louise O'Byrne and Tusla for providing funding to allow some GYNG staff work on a 1-1 basis with children and teens considered to be at risk. This work greatly benefited those who were referred and who availed of the supports.

The RISE Project continued to go from strength to strength, in its second year of operation in 2022. With further funding from Tusla the RISE Project was able to operate on a five-day week as opposed to a three-day week. This was very welcomed news for the project. John Fortune is finding his niche working with young people at risk of entering care or making the transition out of care.



John has engaged with a number of training opportunities to upskill and bring new skills to the RISE Project and has also used some of his admin time networking with others in the field of Outdoor Adventure Therapy and how it can be used to engage with at risks youths. Referrals are mainly in North Wexford with young people from at least 7 different schools during 2022. The RISE project highlights not only young people who are presenting with behavioural problems but also young people struggling with their emotions and generally not happy with their life for a lot of different reasons. Patricia Salley continues to pick up the work of young females referred to the project. The referrals for females have increased in 2022 and the hope is to secure further funding to allow more contact hours with young people in need. During the year 22 young people benefited from interventions from the RISE Project.

In 2022 John and I applied to the Communities Safety Innovation fund. In October we were notified that our application was successful and GYNG was awarded €28,940 for the Discovery Project. GYNG & The RISE project would take a lead on this project in collaboration with other organisations and agencies working with young people at risk of engaging in behaviour of a criminal nature.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Youth & RISE Staff for all their hard work and to Tusla for the ongoing support and belief in the work of GYNG. A particular thank you to Greg Mullen, Tony Kennedy, Sheila Barrett, Sinead Cronin Daly and Claire McNamara. Also to Louise O Byrne from CCA.

Little Daisies Childcare continues to be the largest Early Years' Service Provider in the area offering a professional, nurturing and caring service to families and children. Childcare services face many challenges and it is good to see that there is now an increase in state funding. However, with more and more children presenting with additional needs and requiring supports from the Access and Inclusion model, plus the costs of resources and energy bills etc further funding will be required to ensure that we and all childcare services can continue to operate efficiently.

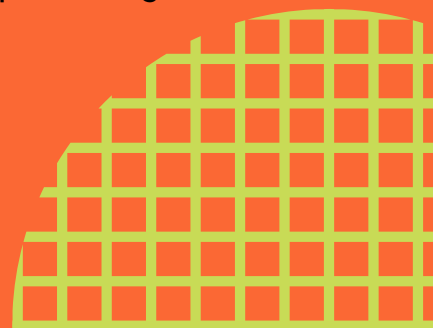
We are immensely proud of our Childcare staff team for all their hard work and caring for the children. We are also proud of our Management, both Brenda and Louise with the help of Supervisors Emma & Gail who always have the children and the staff teams' best interests at heart. The entire team do so much work for all our children and their families and are always willing to go that extra mile. A big thank you to the Childcare team and our CE, Tus, RSS, Reception staff, Caretakers and Sharon & Helen. A special thank you must go to Pobal and Wexford County Childcare for all their continued support.



Gorey LTI had a very busy year in 2022 with the Sports and Recreation programme and the ICT 21/22 Learners graduating on the 21st of July and our incoming learners coming onboard in September for the 2022 programme. Graduation night was a very important milestone for this cohort as they will forever be known as our 'Online Learners' having got through very difficult times throughout Covid and having to adapt to a learning experience on the screen. It was very important to our LTI staff that these learners were given a night to remember and they certainly did. All of us at GYNG are very proud that the learners made it to the end and of the staff for all the support and guidance they gave. In April we said goodbye to our Gorey Coordinator Chris Furlong, whom we would like to thank for all his hard work and commitment and putting up with constant demands for help and assistance with IT issues. Celina Hayden was welcomed as Coordinator and even though she was only in this post for a short while she made a big impact before handing in her notice in November. They both gave so much during their time as Coordinator.

Courtown LTI continued to provide an excellent programme in Courtown/Riverchapel area focusing on pre-apprenticeship trades-based modules. Courtown LTI found its niche early on after five years in operation. These modules make way for a successful programme and learner retention remained very high. For many learners they are far more comfortable in a workshop setting than the classroom. Yvonne & Gordon put a huge amount of effort in designing and implementing a programme based on the learner's interests and this has paid off. New learners commenced in June 2022, a very young cohort they had a slightly rocky start but with the help of their LTI staff and Tutors they turned a corner and continued with their training throughout 22. We would like to thank all the staff for their commitment to their learners and for creating a unique learning environment in Courtown. We would like to give a special thank you to Fran Kennedy and Maria Lindell for their continued support for the programmes and to our staff. Also to Ken Whyte, Director of Further Education and Training for visiting the centre before his retirement in May.

Hard to believe our last AGM took place on 22nd of June, when our Chairperson Annette Gibson stood down after many years of service as Chair, thankfully she remains on our Board as we would be lost without her input. Michael Molloy was elected as our new Chair and since then he has proved his commitment to our organisation, his eagerness to learn about the community & voluntary sector, supporting our staff and keeping an open mind on the future and vision of GYNG and always putting children and young people at the forefront of all decisions and planning. Michael has put a massive amount of work into our Astro Facility, never giving up on the dream even during times when we came close to giving up. Thank you, Mick, for sharing our vision and for all your support and guidance.



We would like to thank each member of our Voluntary Board of Directors, who are always on hand to help and who truly believe and implement good governance of the organisation. In 2022 we welcomed former employee Chris Furlong and local Councillor Andrew Bolger. We are very grateful for your input and expertise. We can't thank you enough and we look forward to the fresh ideas and skills that you will bring to our current Board.

We would like to thank our Auditor Clive for all his hard work and patience with all our projects during 2021 in getting our accounts presented here today.


To the businesses in the local area who donate to our causes, particularly around Christmas time, thank you.

A big thank you to Glynis Currie for all her patience with our staff and management and helping us put together our 5 year Strategic plan. Your patience was tested at times but we really appreciated all your hard work. A huge thank you to Karen for helping us once again this year in pulling all our reports together and getting our AGM report designed and presented so nicely. Thank you, Karen, for everything.

The most important acknowledgement must go to all the babies, toddlers, children, teens and young adults who walk through our doors every day. It is down to you that GYNG exists and it is you that drives us on to want to constantly improve our services. It is a pleasure to see you all grow and to have the energy and light you bring into our centres. We even love the noise and the chaos. So thank you.

Mandi Tighe, CEO





Once again Thank You to our Funders; without your continued support we can not do what we do. We are so grateful for all your guidance and input and we look forward to working with you on an ongoing basis. Our main funders are Tusla, The WWETB and Pobal.

Work of CEO outside of Internal Work;

- Wexford CYPSC - Wexford CYPSC (Children & Young People's Services Committee) is a county-wide committee that includes representatives of all the main statutory, community and voluntary agencies and organisations working on behalf of children and young people (aged 0-24 years) in County Wexford.

- PPFS Sub Group - This is a comprehensive suite of early intervention and preventative services being undertaken by Tusla and its partner agencies.

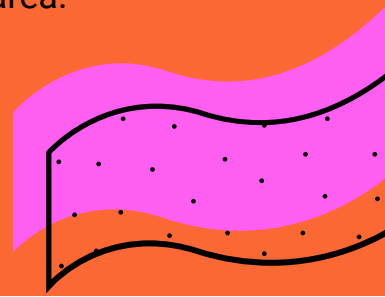
The aim of the PPFS is to prevent risks to children and young people arising or escalating through early intervention and family support.

- Parent Support Champion - The Parenting Support Champions Project is an opportunity to participate in a new national initiative to develop system-wide approaches and practices to working with parents so that together services can support all children and young people in being safe and achieving their full potential.

- Gorey Youth Support Network (CFSN) –GYNG chair the Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) or in the Gorey area it has been historically known as The Gorey Youth Support Network. It helps families experience services as easily as possible in their own area. Every area in the country is different, some have more people living there and some have different needs so different types of services will be needed in each area. Local and emerging needs are discussed.

- Health & Diversity Sub Group, CYPSC Subgroup- responsible for management of Healthy Ireland Initiatives and looking at other Health Promotion and health related initiatives and emerging needs.

- Courtown Riverchapel Policing Forum- A local Policing Forum is to be established in Courtown in a bid to address local issues and highlight needs for the area.



- Courtown Riverchapel Steering Committee – GYNG are represented on this committee, which stemmed from the Community Hub Consultation. A special Thank you to Craig Lang and his fellow committee members as always it has been a pleasure working with you.
- Gorey School Completion Programme- Local Management Committee & Collaboration with Iscoil.
- Cornmarket Project – Steering group
- Slaney Youth Diversion Project
- IPAS steering group – Multi Agency approaches to new communities.

Additional work outside of Primary Duties:

- Astro Turf Project- Still ongoing, some challenges and difficulties regarding Examinership and changes to personnel dealing with project from Trinity Homes. Some progress made with the first draft of the contract being drawn up. Thank you to Michael Molloy for volunteering to help with this project and sharing his expertise to it.
- Communities Integration Fund & Interagency work with Tusla, WLD, and Places of Sanctuary ensuring that families living in our community seeking refuge were supported. GYNG played a positive role in securing and administering funding which allowed children and teens to access the same opportunities as their peers.
- Tusla acknowledged GYNG as an official Ukrainian Community Hub- recognising the volume of work that GYNG carried out in 2022 supporting those fleeing the war.
- CCA- Louise O'Byrne & GYNG this work continued throughout 2022 with GYNG staff committed to ad hoc hours in supporting young people on a 1-1 for the Creative Community Alternatives work under Tusla.





·Tusla and GYNG continued with Tenancy Agreement to allow for Tusla Staff, Social Workers, Community Childcare Workers, Tusla Play Therapist, Educational Assessments, Supervised access etc are now using spaces in GYNG on a very regular basis.

·Outreach work in Courtown/Riverchapel continued, with afterschool's moving from the LTI centre to the new Community Hub. The establishment of Youth Services in Ballyfad/Coolgreany in October was a very welcomed initiative by both staff and the community. Both outreach programmes were a huge success in 2022.

·Family support work- all GYNG staff have noted an increase in family support and need for additional assistance, which we will continue to do and ensure that they are also referred to the relevant services and supports of other agencies.





GYNG would like to thank Minister Frank Feighan for his visit in 2022. Our young members loved showing off their skills in the kitchen and their knowledge from the Healthy Food Made Easy Programme. Minister Feighan showed interests in all GYNG projects from our Childcare centre, Youth Services and Youth Training programmes. Lots of discussions were had around health promotion initiatives, community education, food poverty and the importance of keeping Substance Misuse awareness on the agenda. We would like to thank the Minister and also to Siobhan Sinnott from the HSE and Kate and Olga also for arranging this visit

On the 25th of April all at GYNG were delighted to welcome the Ukrainian Ambassador to Ireland, Larysa Gerasko to our centre on Monday to meet with families who have settled in Gorey. It was a great opportunity for individuals to talk with her informally about their concerns, issues and hopes for the future. The day allowed for all our colleagues in other agencies and organisations, volunteers, Counsellors and host families to get together and talk about what's working well and what needs to be done regarding successful resettling for Ukrainian families. Thank you Malcolm Byrne for inviting the Ambassador to Gorey. Thank you to those who came from Riverchapel and Kilmuckridge Friends of Ukraine groups.



Some photos from a visit to Ferns Castle

World Suicide Day

On the 10th of September we marked the occasion for World Suicide Prevention Day 2022.....but the focus was very much on LIVING! ♥

Huge thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the good vibes, glorious weather and each other. 😊

A big shout out to Eileen McGarth for her lovely meditation sessions, Noel and Paul from Gorey School of Art, Joe Smith our Sound Engineer, the beautiful Karen Dunbar, Ciaran and Drowzee for their DJ skills, Alex, Dylan, Ava, the fabulous all girl band Tic Tac Toe.

Some great connections and conversations were had today and we are looking forward to future initiatives and collaborations.

Also thank you to Lisa Nangle for educating us on Social Prescribing and Sarah Rubin for her creativity, Kim Halford for facepainting and Ann Canty for all her help.

A great day and we look forward to what comes next.

The event was very much about living 🌱♥





Gorey Youth Services

Unfortunately 2022 started out with some restrictions still in place, but we didn't let this stop us our groups continued to meet just being mindful of masks and personal space. This was a good way for our staff to safely see our young people and start building back up relationships that were hard to maintain properly in lockdowns.

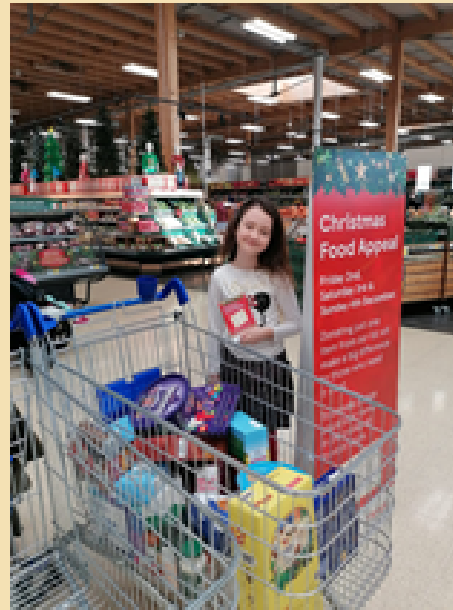
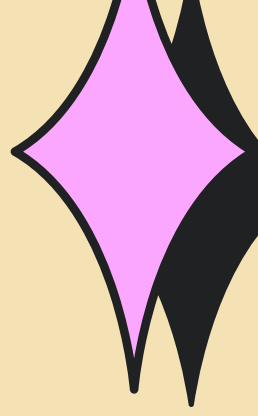
Every year our youth team would do their best to be creative with our groups and this year was no different. The groups took part in such a wide variety as you will see in the coming pages.

Mid Term and Easter activities unfortunately were dominated again by Covid with a number of our staff contracting it and having to self-isolate but as soon as they were well enough all activities were re-scheduled and took place.

Summer project takes place for us every July with much of the work being carried out offsite. The young people were especially happy to be able to meet up and enjoy the company of their friends with no restrictions.

September and a new school year saw a new stream of children and young people joining in the groups keeping the youth workers on their toes. A new batch of faces and names to learn.

The youth section finished up the year the way they have for the last number of years, packing up and delivering hampers for local families and individuals in need. This has started to get bigger each year and last year we delivered over 50 hampers right up to Christmas Eve. This could not be done without the help of both the people and the business's in Gorey and for that we are eternally grateful. A special Thank you has to be given to Tesco Gorey who support us not just at Christmas but throughout the year.



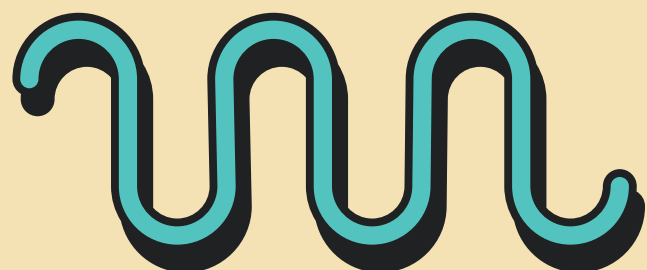
Over the course of the year we have worked with a number of facilitators, too many to mention and would like to express our gratitude to them all. The children and young people loved working with you and are looking forward to doing so again this year.

We also had a number of students on placement with us from TY placement to College Students, we would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication during the time you spent with us.

Thanks to all the staff in the GYNG building and especially Manager Mandi, who as always goes above and beyond for the Youths section every year.

Of course the youth section couldn't function without the hard work and dedication of the Youth Team, Patricia, Paul, Aidan and Jade, thanks for all you do for the young people who walk through our doors.

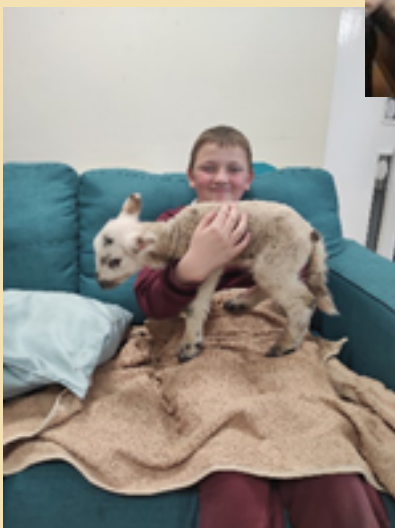
Karen Mc Cann
Youth Co-Ordinator

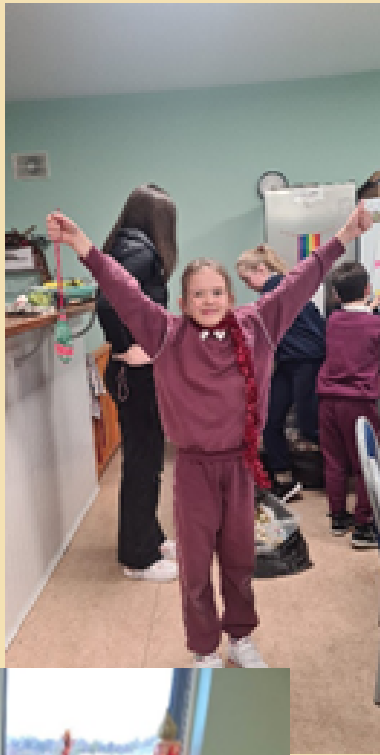


Primary School Groups

Once our primary groups got back into the building they got straight back into doing a variety of activities from team building to science week to a visit from the local farm!

Christmas is always a special time in GYNG but especially so for the primary group who decorated our Christmas tree before they had their annual Christmas dinner.





Garda Youth Awards

November saw two of our young members recognized by the Garda Youth awards for overcoming difficult circumstances, whose commitment deserves recognition. Ceadai from our Gorey Illuminate group received it for overcoming her anxiety to become a member of the Yellow Bellows singing group. Jaime from our Courtown group received it for services to the community.



Iscoil

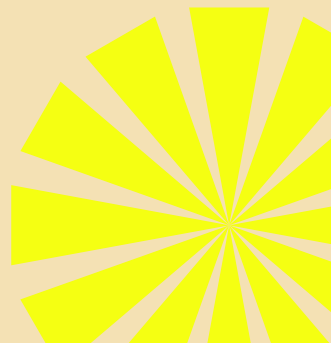
The joint project between GYNG and the Gorey School Completion continued to see great results with 2 of the 3 learners continuing to work away on their QQ3 Level 3 award in General Learning. Both Jack and Shane come to the center 3 mornings a week to work online with the help of tutors and staff. They are on track to complete their award in May 2023. As an add on to this they have been doing a variety of workshops and started with Healthy Eating & Cooking. Both the Brown bread and the Chicken tenders were a huge hit with both lads.



Drama Workshop

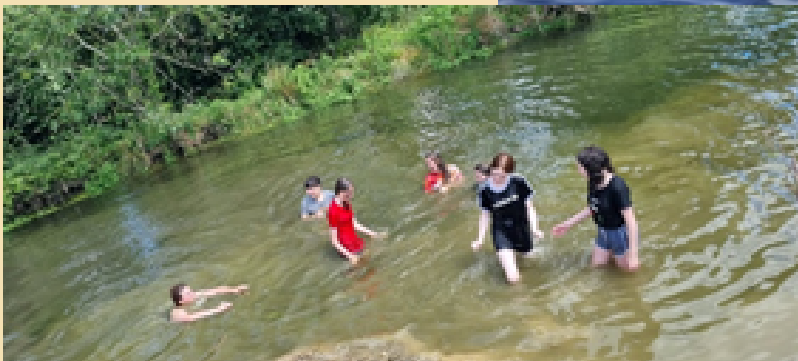
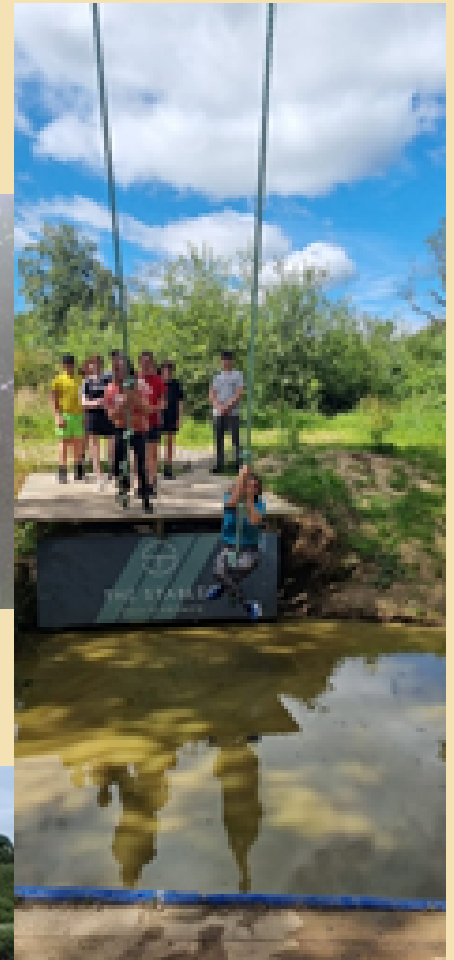
We were lucky enough this year to receive funding from DCEDIY for a Drama workshop with all our children and young people. This consisted of workshops with local Director Stephen Acton in the Gorey Little Theatre, giving them the opportunity to be on stage and get a feel for the art world.

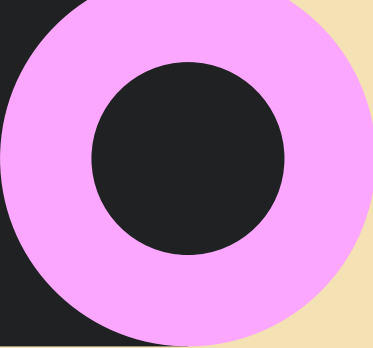
The teenagers then got to travel to the Bord Gais Theatre in Dublin to experience a professional show. They chose School of Rock and have not stopped talking about returning to see another show since.

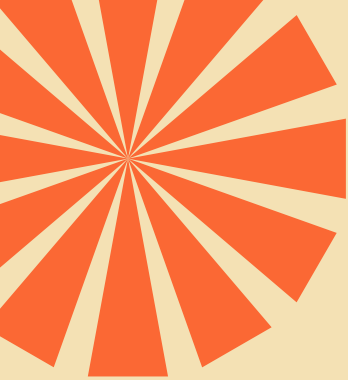


Summer Activities

July in GYNG youth services is summer project time and we spend as much time as possible out in the local community. The young people asked for trips to the beach, bbq's the simipalar things so that's what we did. After the covid restrictions they were just happy to be out and able to mix again.







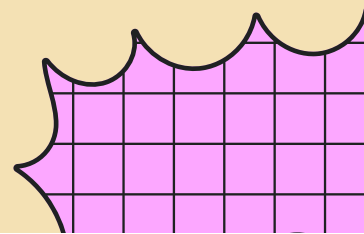
Gaming Group

As 2022 started we were once again able to have the groups in the building. At the start of January Aidan and Joe focused on getting new members in the Gaming Group as many of the members have moved onto college.

In the Gaming Group we were able to start using all the new equipment we had purchased through the Leader Funding. The teens helped to do the last set up of and were very excited to use it.

During the year we had a few workshops in place. These included music, DJ and 3D printing workshops.

At the beginning of September, we set up some pool tournaments and Nintendo Switch competitions (Mario Kart and Smash Bros). We also continued on with 3D printing, PC Gaming, VR and photography.

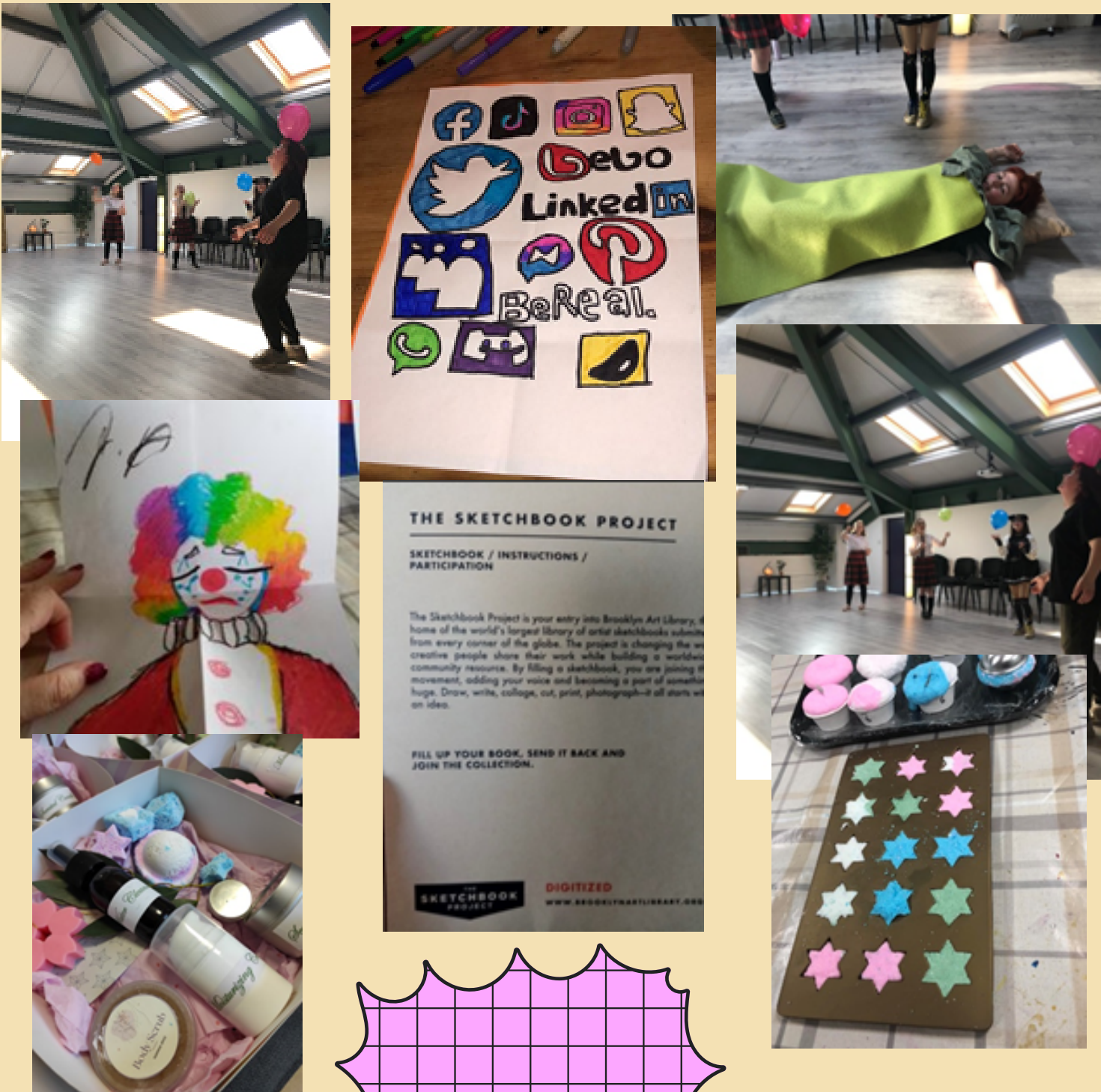


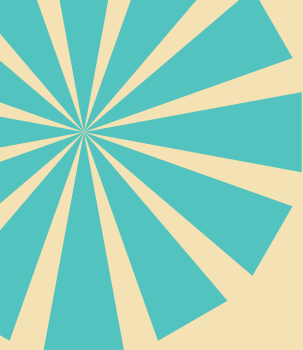
Illuminate Workshop

Our Illuminate group continues to go from strength to strength with us seeing positive outcomes with the young people who have come through the group. This year's young people took part in a number of workshops. The first one was Mindfulness with Eileen McGrath which they thoroughly enjoyed.

An art project was requested for the next workshops, so some research was done and the group started work on a project called "the sketch book project" where the young people create an entry which is then digitalized and kept in the Brooklyn Library.

Then it was time for some self-care and Christmas preparation with Care boxes being made both for themselves and as part of our Christmas hamper appeal.





Openmix

For the last number of years, we have started Pride Month with a visit to the local Gorey/Kilmuckridge District Council where they have allowed our group to raise the Pride flag outside their building. Thanks to Liz Stanley for ensuring that this happens every year, the group really appreciate it.

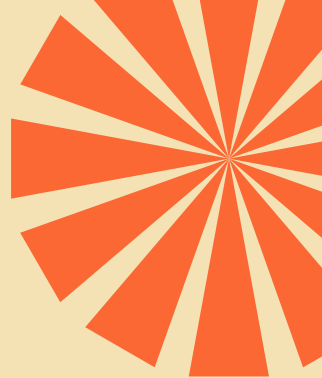


The group decided themselves that they wanted to have a pride Karaoke this year, which was a great success and showed us that we have some amazing singers in our groups. A pride cake was attempted but didn't quite work out but it gave us some good laughs in the process.

Through the year the group has worked on a variety of programs and projects including youth mental health.

Stand up week started this year with a visit to Educate Together secondary school to do a presentation to the young people, which was both informative to the students and also the staff. During the week the young people then decorated the building with rainbow flags, banners in preparation for our Annual Pride Gig. This has become a staple on the GYNG youths calendar and it was great to be able to have it back in our "SPACE" music room. Our resident band took lead along with some young people from the area and also young people from the Vault youth club in Arklow.





Tuesday & Friday Hangouts

Our Tuesday and Friday hangout give the young people a chance to pick what they would like to do each week, this can vary from baking to games to arts & crafts. And of course the computer and music room is always open.

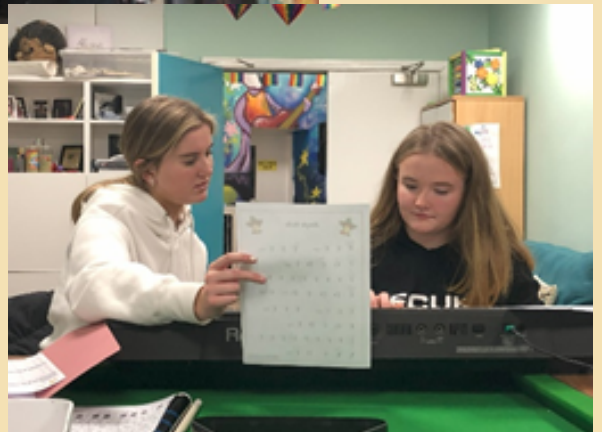


All the groups get the opportunity to have a Christmas dinner, some choose to go out but some picked ordering in a take-away so they could save themselves for the “proper” dinner on Christmas day.



Music Group

September saw the start of a dedicated music group on a Friday evening, which local bands have enjoyed getting to use the equipment and having a set space to practice in. We also had a local Gaisce student Abbie Kinch giving young members of the group piano lessons.



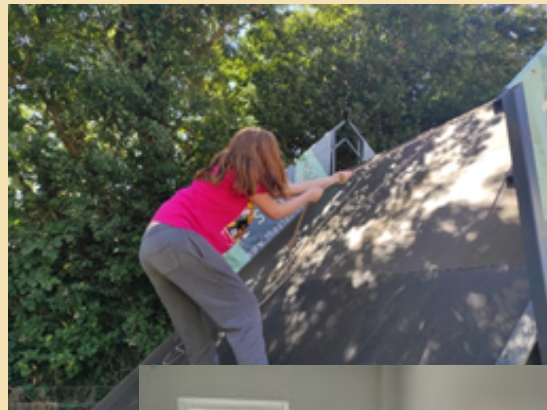
Courtown

2022 was our first full year in the Riverchapel complex, in the brand new community hub. We started the year in our last lock down, we delivered a create your own comic book pack for the primary school groups.

For the teens we continued on with some online workshops, including gaming and taskmaster. In February the lockdowns were finished and we could finally get back to a normal group structure.

In the first couple of months we created badges, gorged on pancakes and generally just had a bit of fun that everyone seemed to be missing because of covid. During Easter break our young people did some preforming with Currid school of performing arts, and thoroughly enjoyed. We finished the school year with various outdoor activities including manhunt and football, before we started on Summer program which involved all of the youth groups from all of our locations.

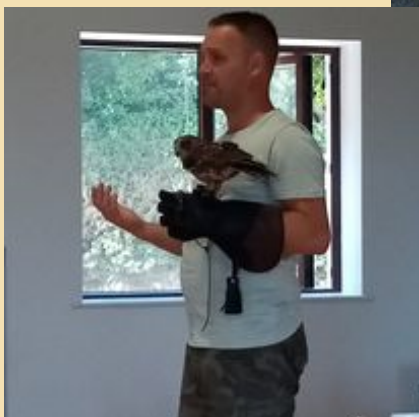
In September we returned to the Riverchapel hub to start again with new people coming to both the teen and primary groups. During the midterm Gallivanting tours came and did a workshop around Samhain. Finally leading us in to Christmas and all the festive activities.



Ballyfad

When 2022 first began we just had a teen group up and running. We did monthly activities with a drumming workshop with Conor Moore from sound out rhythm during the February midterm. By March we had started a primary group after some consultation with parents. Both groups really took off and our staff utilized the natural surroundings to their advantage when facilitating a group especially during the warmer months.

We returned in September to an even larger primary group. In November we did some science week activities including launch Bottle rockets which our members enjoyed so much that we ended up doing it for 2.5 hours. Christmas came around soon enough and everyone enjoyed some Christmas dinner and festive cheer.





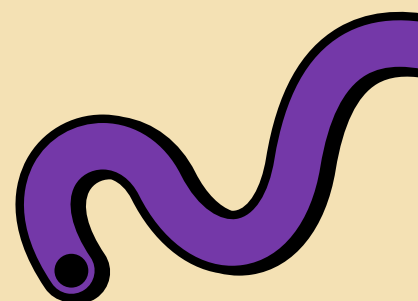
The art workshop however brought out some local rivalries 😊

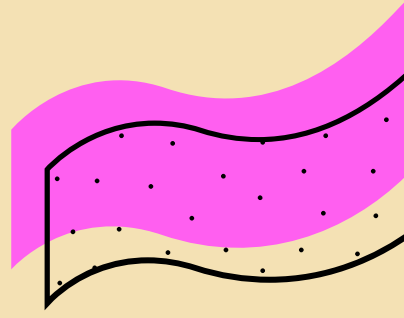


Parent & Toddler

As with our main stream groups our parent and toddler were one of the worst hit during covid and had to remain online the longest. However, after a short stint in the local Girl Guide hall we managed to get them back into the centre to resume normal activities.

A special thank you to Ann and Jess for all their hard work and making sure that everything runs smoothly in Parent & Toddler.





Staff training

Every year the youth staff thrive to take part in as much upskilling as they can, this can be a challenge, however the youth team managed to do the following during the year:

Gaisce Leader Training – Karen & Tricia

Teni Training – All Staff

Belong to – All staff

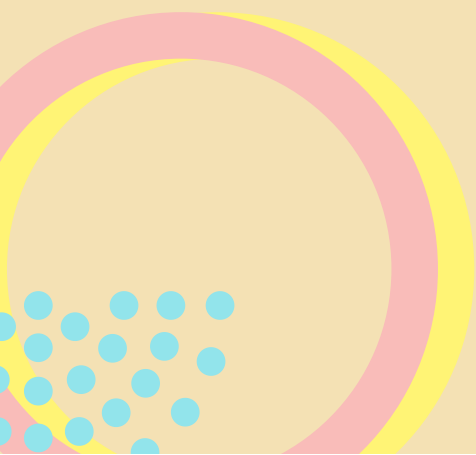
HACCP – All staff

Suicide Awareness Training – All staff

Livingwork Start – Tricia

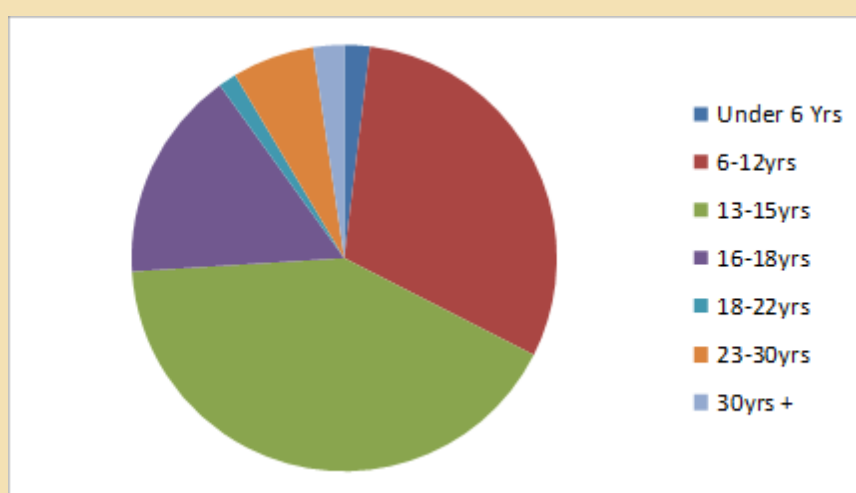
Leave no Trace – Tricia

Active Consent - Tricia



Youth & Community Services Statistics Jan - Dec 2022

Service	No.s Attending	Under 6 Yrs	6-12yrs	13-15yrs	16-18yrs	18-22yrs	23-30yrs	30yrs +
Courtown Primary Group	25		25					
Courtown Teens	26			22	4			
Courtown Homework Club	6		6					
Gorey Gaming Group	38			25	13			
Openmix	30			23	7			
Illuminate	29			21	9			
Tuesday Hangout	8			8				
Friday Hangout	116			74	42			
Music Group	14			8	6			
Gorey Primary Group 3rd & 4th Class	40		40					
Gorey Primary Group 5th & 6th Class	58		58					
Ballyfad Primary Group	45		45					
Ballyfad Teen Group	21			14	3			
Summer Project Primary	32		32					
Summer Project Teens	43			33	10			
Drumming Workshops	9			9				
Parental Support	28					8	10	10
Parent & Toddler Group	33	14				2	8	7
Music Generation (Friday Jamming)	7			4	3			
Drama Workshop	52		32	20				
Theatre Trip	18			15	3			
1-1 Work	28			12	16			
Self Defence Workshop	10			10				
Park Clean Up	10		8	2				
Iscoille	3			3				
Ukrainian Support	29					3	11	15
Ukrainian Event	65	4	6	5	2	5	16	27
	823	14	221	300	116	10	45	17





Little Daisies Crèche

Managers' Report

What another eventful year 2022 has been in Little Daisies Childcare. Louise and Brenda Little Daisies managers would like to thank all the Childcare Educators on their continued support and dedication during the year. We understand that having qualified, skilled and passionate educators is one of the greatest contributors to children's developmental and educational outcomes. Therefore, we would like to acknowledge our appreciation of all our childcare educators who are a credit to themselves & Little Daisies for all their time, motivation and dedication to the children who attend our childcare service. We could not have achieved the positive learning outcomes of this year without our excellent Childcare team who even on days that have been a struggle & challenging still smiled and ensured the happy family friendly environment that the children thrive in within Little Daisies.

In Little Daisies we are renowned for our quality childcare providing a positive family friendly learning environment to the children of our Gorey community. Through our strong partnership with parents' ethos, it was vital in 2022 that we also continued to provide supports to the family as a whole, evidently in the wrap around parental supports requested and provided to parents who avail of our service inclusive of practical family supports involving food parcels, uniform supports, childcare fees, emotional support, engaging with multi agency's to gain access to services for children with additional needs, domestic abuse supports, housing concerns of homelessness, advocating on behalf of the child/parents with local schools when English is not the first language or the child may require additional supports when transferring to primary school, public health nurses, social work department, Barnardo's, speech therapy to name a few. Little Daisies will go above and beyond to ensure every child's/parent's voice has been heard and their needs met as best we can within our role of providing a safe, quality childcare service.

Louise Cahill & Brenda O Connor, Childcare Managers

Staffing Structure

Brenda O' Connor - Childcare Manager

Louise Cahill - Childcare Manager

Supervisors – Emma Dunne, Gail Molloy

Childcare Practitioners

1. Sarah Adams- Preschool Room
2. Emma Dunne – Baby Room leader
3. Bernie Ivory - Baby Room
4. Sue Byrne- Baby Room (Sick Leave)
5. Tanya Cullen - Toddler Room/ room leader
6. Mary Dunbar – Baby Room
7. Bronwyn Murphy – Toddler Room
8. Nicole Costigan- Preschool Room
9. Áine Hennessy – Ecce Room/After school room leader
10. Martina Byrne – Ecce Room
11. Lily Gethings- Toddler Room
12. Martha Kehoe- Baby Room
13. Cliona Grace – Baby Room
14. Helen Cooper - Ecce room
15. Tina Mordaunt- Toddler Room
16. Pauline Price- Afterschool
17. Judit Olah-Toddler room
- 18 Vanessa Byrne-Toddler room
19. Janette O'Sullivan-Toddler room
20. Nicole Brauner- Preschool Room
21. Margaret Earle – Reception
22. Michelle Tierney- Reception
23. Galina - Reception
24. Sharon Murphy-Cleaning staff
25. Helen Blake- Cleaning staff
26. Jimmy Hall- Maintenance
27. Martin Brickley- Maintenance

We also have a relief panel of fully qualified childcare practitioners: Adele Rapple, Sadia, & Danielle Lynch.



St Patricks Day 2022

Gorey annual St Patricks day parade we here in Little Daisies had our own in house parade. The children made hats, badges, flags to enjoy the festivities. The excitement and proud look on all the little faces.

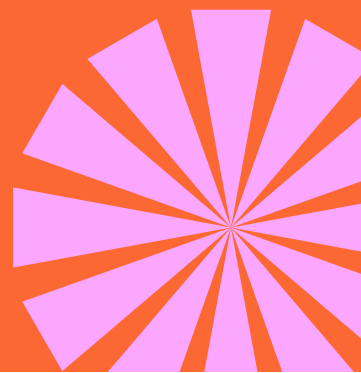


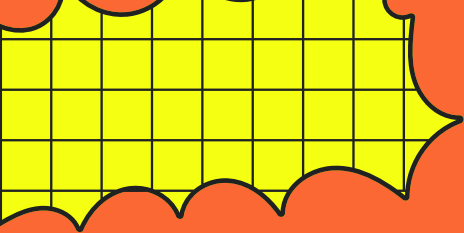
Graduation

Another year of for our graduation of 2022. Ecce teachers and both managers ensured the children would still enjoy their graduation in a safe manner.

The weather was on our side this year again so we held the event out in the sunshine.

A big thank you to all the Pre-school and ECCE teachers for all their hard work preparing the children for their graduation.
They were little stars on the day.





Our Annual school tour to Kia Ora farm, the children were delighted to return to the farm in 2022.



Halloween 2022



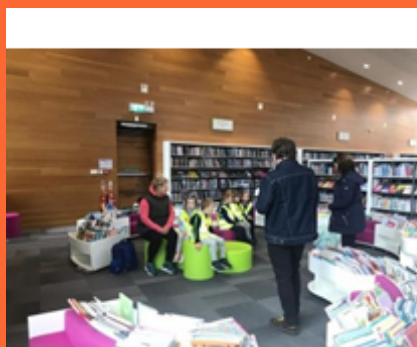
Community Inclusion

As Part of our community inclusion plan our ECCE group travelled to Cranford on to join St. Aidan's Service and Gorey Rangers soccer Club for a soccer match. The children had a great day and very excited about travelling on the bus. They were so proud of their medals. Experiences like these help children to learn the importance of empathy for others.



Transition to Primary School

The children walked to Gorey library to collect their Library Packs (My Little Library).



Christmas 2022

Christmas this year but one step closer to our normal we enjoyed the festivities within the centre for the children and childcare educators.

Great excitement and fun was had with the return of operation Ho Ho for all the children. We would like to thank all the staff and students of the LTI for all their hard work and dedication to make the day so enjoyable.

A big thank you to Billy Molloy for his help as Santa and his daughter Lily who was his little Elf for the day.



This year the children got to perform a Christmas concert they really enjoyed singing for their families.



STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Childcare Educators Staff Training/Achievements

Little Daisies provide ongoing learning and development opportunities to staff. This is essential to ensuring our team continues to grow, build capabilities and deliver high-quality practice. In 2022 we had eight staff members trained in FAR first Aid training.

Little Daisies New wheels

Little Daisies Childcare invested in a 6 seater buggy for the babies & toddlers to enjoy exploring the town they have gone on many an adventure from the park, train station, tesco, Courtown road to name a few places. You would never know where you would the buggy and it has caused may a passer-by to stop to chat to the children.



Childcare room Projects developments

Little Daisies has continued to grow and develop over 2022, with the wide range of activities each childcare room have enjoyed during the year we have selected a few to show you all below.





Gorey Training Initiative

2022 saw a return to full time classroom learning. The 2021-2022 class graduated in July 2022, with a joint graduation with Courtown LTI. This was a fabulous celebration, with lovely words from our CEO, the Chairperson of the Board of GYNG and from our Adult Education Officer, Fran Kennedy. The graduates of 21/21 received QQI level 5 certification in EBusiness or Sports and Recreation, with additional ITEC certification for the Sports group – a huge thank you to Matt Dunbar in facilitating this, and to Peter Hayden for his advice on the same. A highlight of the night was the return of Former Coordinator, Chris Furlong, to present to ICT group with their certificates. Of the 20 students who started in September 2021, 16 received full major awards, two received 5+minor awards, and two early completers received 1 minor award, which is a credit to their hard work. In addition to the certified modules, they covered topics like digital photography and social media brands, Driver Theory testing, Mindfulness and Gym Programme Design.

Sports and recreation

- 3 progressed onto VTOS Wexford for Sports Massage and ITEC
 - 1 is now a mother
 - 2 in full time employment.
- 2 are in part time employment.
 - 1 continued to BIFE.
 - 1 could not be contacted

EBusiness

- 3 progressed to VTOS Gorey
 - 3 into full time employment
- 1 into part time employment, to start another course in September
 - 1 Unemployed
- 1 is engaging in training services
 - 1 could not be contacted



The outcomes speak for themselves and show the benefit of Local Training Initiative programmes. The bond that builds up between staff, tutors and learners is a huge part of this. This can not be underestimated. For Gorey Training Initiative, the outcomes from both our programmes are not measured just in terms of academic achievement, but also in terms of building confidence, lifelong friendships, increased social awareness and a sense of belonging and pride in the local community. GTI continues to maintain relationships with previous learners, and it is a joy to see how they have progressed, to be informed of engagements and celebrations or to meet their new babies. Two of the learners of 2022 now sit on the Board of GYNG. We have many now in full time or part time employment. As always, the door to GTI and GYNG remain open to all.

Some of the extra-curricular activities from the year included organising and facilitating Sports Days in St Kevins NS Tara Hill, Little Daisies Childcare, and soccer events with St Aidan's.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



GTI VS CARDAI 2022

The Classes of 22-23 started in September. We had originally started out with eight learners on the Sports course, by the end of October this had increased to ten, and of that ten, all of them will come out with major awards. We only had one learner who left the programme early having completed no modules. On the ICT programme we started out with seven learners and all seven achieved major awards. Extra curricular events organised included soccer games Versus the Gardai in Castletown GAA complex, Bowling and Crazy Golf, Career Fair in Gorey Community School – thank you to Scott and Seb for representing the learners. One of the biggest highlights of the year was Operation HoHoHo, which saw the return of the Christmas door challenge (won of course by the LTI/Accounting staff office). This Operation HoHoHo was possible one of the best to date, simplifying the event and keeping the children as the focus.

As this is my last AGM report, I would like to thank all of the staff within GYNG and the learners for making my time so enjoyable. I have never, and likely never will, worked in such an amazing environment with such an amazing group of people.

I would like to thank Mandi, CEO and powerhouse, and Mairead our finance officer for all of their invaluable help throughout the year. I would like to Maria Lindell, our Community Training Officer in WWETB, Edel Finan and her replacement Niamh Keegan, WWETB Literacy support and WWETB in general for funding the programmes. A huge thanks goes to Assistant Coordinator Matt Dunbar who goes above and beyond for the learners, tutor Jennie Frizelle, my predecessor Chris Furlong, and last, but not least Yvonne O'Connor, coordinator of our sister project in Courtown for all of her help, advice and cooperation. I would like to thank WLD for their continued support. The very best of luck to my very able replacement, Kate Murphy – continue to bring your energy and flair to GTI.

A final word of thanks to our voluntary management committee who work behind the scenes to make everything within GTI and GYNG possible. The work that has been achieved over the last year is incredible. The future is bright, and to steal Courtown LTI's motto – Anything is possible.

Celina Hayden
Former Coordinator of Gorey Training Initiative.





Courtown Training Initiative

2022 in Courtown LTI started with the group of learner's midway through their level four major QQI award.

These learners are twelve months in Courtown now, and well settled into their course. In February we took part in the second '5k everyday LTI challenge', with the Gorey LTI learners taking the trophy for 2022.



After all the restrictions of the past couple of years of the pandemic, it was great to see this group fully returned to the centre and taking part in lots of practical based training, including the newly added Welding and Barbering.

Again, for the first time in a couple of years, these learners where able to do work experience, giving them valuable exposure to and time in real employment. We where delighted that two learners got full time jobs directly from this work experience, one learner working as a beauty therapist in a local award winning 5-star hotel and the other as a sales representative in a well-established car dealership.

In July 2022, we bid farewell to this group of learners after eighteen months with us. A fantastic group of young people. Five of this group progressed to Gorey LTI on the sports and IT courses. We held a joint graduation with Gorey LTI in the Ashdown Park Hotel. It was a wonderful night of celebration of the huge achievements of these young people.

Summer 2022 saw a new group of learners join Courtown LTI. From July to December these learners completed their QQI Level 3 Major award in Employability skills. New skills in nail manicure, blow drying hair, welding, paint and decorating and floor and wall tiling where learnt.

Some learners took part in a soccer match with Gorey LTI against the local gardai in Castletown, a very enjoyable evening.



Learners took part in the STEPS programme, supported by Wexford Local Development. Building resilience and coping with change, this was a great resource for the learners.

Learners did Barista training, receiving a certificate, a highly employable skill.
o finish up 2022, we had our annual Christmas dinner for all the staff and learners in Courtown LTI.

I would like to thank the dedicated staff team in Courtown. We lost two valuable staff members 2022, tutor Celina Hayden who moved on to coordinate Gorey Training Initiative. Celina is responsible for a lot of the learners in Courtown staying on the course, she was hugely adaptable in her approach and support of the learners.

Catherine Cleary finished with the programme in summer 2022. Officially Catherine supported the learners in literacy, but she did so much more, both herself and Celina could be found baking in the kitchen, a listening ear, organising books and equipment to support the learners. Both huge support to myself and Gordon. Thank you to Celina and Catherine.

Special thanks to Gordon O'Shea, (Assistant Coordinator), Tara MacNamee, Stephen Sheridan, Vivienne Perry (can make Maths interesting!) and Niamh Keegan our new adult literacy tutor.

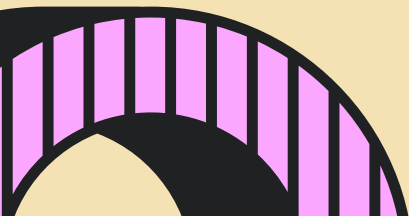
I would like to thank the board and staff of Gorey Youth Needs, particularly Mandi Tighe and Mairead Fitzpatrick, for all the invaluable support of Courtown Training Centre.

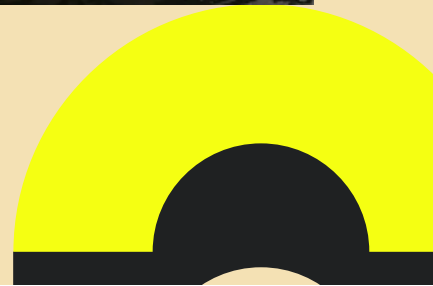
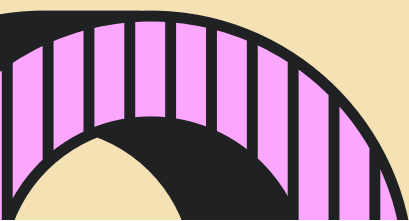
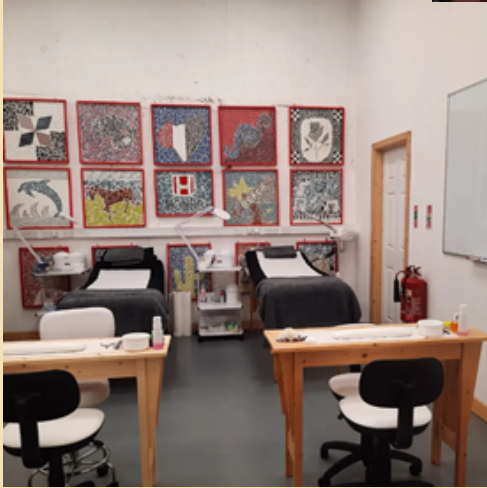
To Maria Lindell and Fran Kennedy from WWETB for their support and continued funding.

2023 will see Courtown Training Initiative start its six year. The continued focus will be on providing a welcoming safe place for young learners to try practical trades-based modules, with the opportunity to re-engage in education as a positive experience.

Yvonne O'Connor
Coordinator, Courtown Training Initiative.









RISE PROJECT



"The RISE project was a great lesson to my family. It gave my son lots to look forward to; it helped him come out of himself. Thanks to

John and the time and confidentiality he gave my son, he was able to transition from a frustrated, insecure teenager to a confident, upbeat, positive young man. It was also great support for me as a mother to have someone to share my concerns with, knowing that they could make a difference in my son's life."

- Mother of a 15-year-old VIP, after 10-week intervention



2022 - Numbers at a glance :

No. of VIPs accepted from Tusla referrals:

11 male + 3 female

No. of VIPs who engaged in weekly sessions: 22

No. of successful Brief Interventions (<3 months) 7

No. of refusals to engage: 1

No. of VIP cases closed successfully 10 (7 male + 3 female)

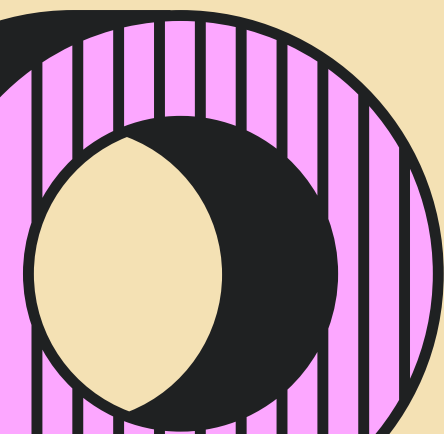
No. of referrals on waiting list (end of year): 0

No. of active cases (end of year) 12 (10 male + 2 female)

Followers on the 'RiseProjectGorey' Facebook page:

203 (+34)

Followers on the 'RiseProjectGorey' Instagram profile: 262 (+64)



Timeline of the RISE project 2022:

1st January Expansion to 5-day week

10th January 8 current VIPs re-engage

Jan - March 6 additional VIPs started

- Emergency 4-week brief intervention & referral to local youth services

April – Sept 8 weekly VIPs continue to engage

- 2 VIPs begin activities for Gaisce President's award

- 1 VIP completes the Defense Forces Challenge for the President's award

- 9 VIPs successfully released and cases closed

- 4 new VIPs started, including 2:1 crisis case

Oct – Dec 2 new cases opened, bringing total active cases to 13 (10 male + 3 female)

- €29,000 funding secured from the Community Safety Innovation Fund from Department of Justice for the Discovery Project, a new multi-agency initiative to be rolled out in 2023.



ADDITIONAL WORK IN 2022:

RISE project workers were well placed to occasionally provide some casual assistance to siblings and parents of VIPs in areas such as educational support, referrals to education, parenting support, etc.

This early-intervention, preventative work was regarded by all as a worthwhile relationship-building exercise with Social Workers, VIPs and their families.

One brief intervention was of particular value to Social Workers who had no other resources available for a crisis case in Clonroche. John facilitated four weekly sessions, establishing links with Youth New Ross, New Ross YouthReach and the local apprenticeships coordinator.

Another important intervention involved a young Afghan man who is a 'disputed minor', speaking no English and living in an adult Direct Provision facility with minimal resources and interventions. RISE staff have helped securing English language classes and have made links to further education and employment once he turns 18 in 2023.

Three of our VIPs started with YouthReach in 2022 and our links with Gorey and Arklow YouthReach remain strong. One of these was a re-engagement after a previous engagement failed. Two of the three remain engaged at the end of the year – the other has moved on to employment.

GYNG's youth groups have been a good source of alternative engagements for our VIPs. Some have joined the gaming groups, anxiety group and the local drop-in group in Riverchapel.

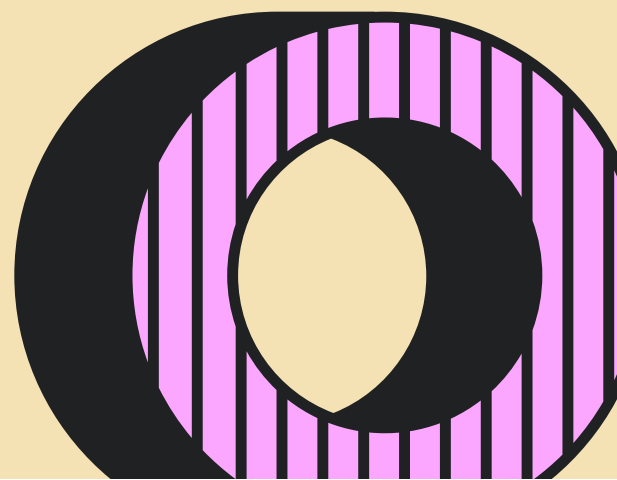
Staff training & achievements:

NCFE (UK) Level 3 Advanced Bushcraft Award - The Woodcraft School Rescue Emergency Care Level 3 First Aid

Trail Cycle Leader - Cycling Ireland Triple P Adolescent program

HSE Suicide Bereavement Training

Gaisce – President's Award Leader training



GAISCE PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

2022 was the first year that staff have been able to deliver the Gaisce President's Award to VIPs during their work with the RISE project.

Two VIPs took on the Bronze Award and had almost completed all their requirements at the end of 2022. Activities have included learning to swim / water confidence; Charity shop work; Guitar lessons; Dog walking with NWSPCA and the challenge of walking the entire east coast of Co. Wexford.

Shortly after beginning the Bronze Award, one VIP was accepted onto the 4-day Defence Forces Challenge, run by the Irish army in Athlone, the Curragh camp and the Slieve Bloom mountains.

This VIP has been inspired by this experience to join the Irish army to fulfil his dream of becoming a civil engineer.



RISE PROJECT VIP TAKING PART IN THE 4-DAY 2022 GAISCE DEFENCE FORCES CHALLENGE

OTAP Network:

Through networking with other Adventure Therapy providers, John was invited to get involved in setting up the Outdoor Therapeutic Adventure Providers' Network, the first of its kind in Ireland. Eight member organisations from across the country met in Galway in November 2022. Atlantic Technical University are also involved in a research capacity.

Funding was secured by one of the member organisations from the Training Links programme from The Wheel, with a view to establishing a nationwide network of providers to share ideas, experience and best practice.

The RISE project is the only member organisation based in the southeast of Ireland. Other organisations are based in Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo and Donegal.

Planning is under way for 2023: three regional roadshows for member organisations, a series of online learning seminars for multi-agency networking with other professionals (e.g. social workers) and the 1st annual conference in November 2023.



Information on the RISE project:

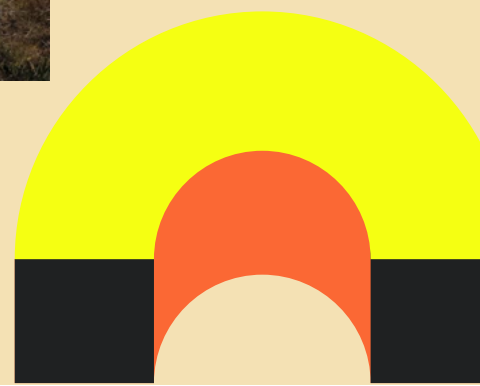
RISE is the new project being delivered by Gorey Youth Needs Group since March 2020. This project has been solely funded by Tusla Child and Family Agency to work with young people aged 12 to 17, who might be deemed 'at risk' and are living in the North Wexford area. The main aim of the project is to work with young people and help them find solutions that work for them, in order to make positive changes to their lives.

Referrals are made to GYNG management from Tusla Social Workers only. GYNG and RISE staff can work closely with Social Workers to ensure the best possible level of care and outcomes for young people.

RISE employs both male and female Social Care Workers, experienced in Residential Care, Youth Work and Adventure Therapy. Evidence-based, client-centred practice from a combination of disciplines is at the heart of what we do. RISE staff can begin work with either male or female young people at ratios of 1:1, 2:1 or 2:2 and this can be changed as relationships develop and/or needs change.

RISE staff are happy to take questions and enquiries or give further explanations on work practices or our model of care. If you have a young person who might enjoy the RISE project, contact John Fortune for more information: john.fortune@gyng.ie or 085 8545 255.

- Excerpts from information document supplied to Social Workers



FEEDBACK FOR THE RISE PROJECT IN 2022:



"You. The RISE project. You are amazing. I love working with you."

- the RISE project's first VIP, May 2020 to June 2022

"I wish every young boy who is struggling had someone like John in their lives. I hope the RISE project continues to help other families, and recruits more workers with the same care and attention for you as John has."

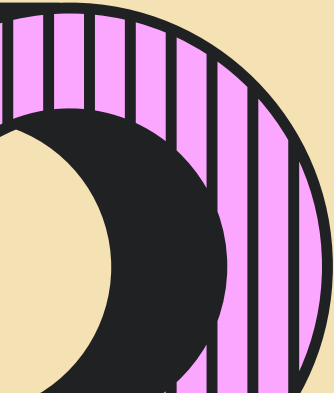
- Mother of two VIPs, 2022

"Drug use; Appearance; Self care; Work experience."

- VIP, via feedback form, in answer to the question: "What changes have you made as a result of the RISE project?"

"I'm not as closed off as I used to be; I'm more open to talking and I'm having more up days than down days; I'm more positive and I've made lots of good plans for my future. I've a good plan put in place; My relationship with the RISE worker was brilliant. We got on really well, we had good laughs and also had good talks; Yes, I would recommend the RISE project, they are brilliant and they really do help."

- VIP, via feedback form, after 18-month intervention





Since I began work in Gorey Youth Needs as their Ukrainian Family Support Worker I have worked with a number of groups and projects. Part of my role is to meet with Ukrainians to help their contemporaries and encourage them to provide their services on a volunteer basis. To attract more and more specialists such as - Counselling and Psychotherapy, speech therapist, and teachers to offer their services within their community..

Working outside the office I have been visiting accommodation centers, and Ukrainians who are living in host families or private houses. Helping Ukrainians to get access to social services (help with translation) – access to medical care, social welfare (Intreo Centre), Bank and Visiting schools.

Individual support for Ukrainians is also part of my responsibilities (Family support, Managing Child Behavior Problems, Youth support.).

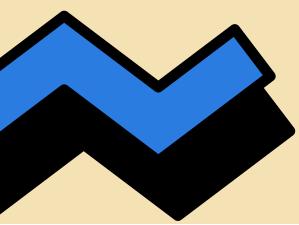
Each week we hold the Women's support group meeting in the Gorey Family Resource Centre, the main purpose of which is to promote positive mental health support and help to socialize in new conditions. At our meetings, women communicate and exchange impressions about their life. This conversation relaxes them and prepares them for further work. We do art therapy as it is a simple but effective technique for releasing feelings that a person does not understand when under stress. This technique simultaneously relaxes and fills the mind with new forces.

Some of the events and entertainment organized since starting:

- Master class on making a Ukrainian traditional wreath in August 2023 during 21-24th in Gorey Library.
- 3 days Halloween art camp for children aged 3-12 years, during October 2022 mid-term break in Gorey, Courtown, Kilmuckridge.
- December 19th St. Nicholas' Day - this is Ukrainian Santa Claus - Family Concert and gifts for children. Irish families were invited so they can familiarize themselves with Ukrainian traditions.
- Family Event - Ukrainian Christmas on January 7, 2023.

Mariia Kolomiiets

Ukrainian Family Support Worker



Acknowledgments

During 2022 Gorey Youth Needs Group received support from a number of agencies and individuals, whom we now wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to;

- TUSLA
- Wexford Municipal District
- Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District Council
- WWETB
- POBAL
- Pobal Better Start Mentoring & support Program
- Gorey School Completion Program
- County Wexford Childcare Committee
- IT Carlow Wexford Campus
- Warren Hill Construction
- Gorey Guardian & Gorey Echo
- FAI Local Development Officer
- Paul Buckley, JLO
- Pat Cody & Evelyn Redden, Gorey Garda Station
- Gaelscoil, Gorey
- Eileen McGrath, Mindfulness & Meditation Facilitator
- Michael & Clare from Heart Space
- VTOS Gorey
- Sports Active Wexford
- Tesco Gorey
- WLD
- Gorey School of Art
- Gorey Youth Support Network (GCFSN)
- Clive Curran Accountants
- Gorey Rangers CE Scheme
- Gorey Community School
- St. Kevins CBS
- Educate Together, Gorey
- St. Josephs CBS
- Bunscoil Loreto
- Leinster Rugby
- St. Aidan's Services
- Aontas
- Smith & Byrne
- Leader Funding
- All the local Business who have supported our services over the year.



Our Vision

Supporting children, young people and families in our local community.

Our Mission

Working in partnership with a shared goal of building upon individuals' strengths and those of the wider community, through our childcare, youth and community education services.

Our Values

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Inclusion | An organization where all are welcome |
| Identity | Accepting everyone as they are |
| Inspire | Support every child and young person to reach their potential |