

REVIEW 2024

Lighting the Way to a brighter future:

Young people leading change
for a fair and inclusive world.

YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Silver

Challenging Inequalities | Promoting Inclusion | Improving Life Chances | Inspiring Youth Activism



Through youth work and youth art methodologies, young people have benefited from:

1. Improved Health and Well-Being.
2. Creative Expression.
3. Life and Work skills and Leadership.
4. Activism and Peace building.

Build and improve young people's health and well-being.

In 2024, 5,463 young people have benefitted from youth work and youth arts programmes that improved their health and well-being. This includes;

IDEAS FUND:

- **574** young people engaged.
- **701** young people involved in research.

Top Three Altruistic Acts as Identified by Young People:

1. Being kind to others.
2. Spending time with family.
3. Supporting someone who is being bullied.

OUR GENERATION:

- **88** young people enrolled in the programme.
- **27** young people completed LIFEMAPS training.

Outcomes and Impact:

The outcomes of the *LIFEMAPS* programme were measured across several indicators:

- **100%** reported learning something new about themselves, their identities, and their attitudes toward others.
- **100%** indicated that trying something new helped them become more open to learning and change.
- **100%** expressed increased empathy toward others.
- **100%** felt more confident in meeting new people.

DON'T BOTTLE IT UP – YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN:

The *Peace of Youth Minds* group launched a new youth-led mental health initiative. The **"Don't Bottle It Up"** campaign was a direct response to the growing mental health challenges faced by young people and aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and advocate for improved access to mental health services.

The campaign was driven by three key aims:

1. **To challenge and reduce the stigma** surrounding mental health and emotional well-being.
2. **To identify and remove barriers** that prevent young people from accessing mental health support.
3. **To advocate for improved funding and access** to mental health services tailored to the needs of young people.

Increase young people's creative expression.

THE RAINBOW SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS:

2,336 participations in youth arts curriculum.

- **400 young people** participated in weekly classes across three terms at the Youth Hub in College Square North, Belfast.
- **78 programmes** developed and amplified young people's creative voices across Northern Ireland, artistic disciplines including performance, dance, music, technical production, digital animation, and creative advocacy.
- **3,567** audience numbers.

ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION:

- **61 young people** participated in Foyle Pride in Derry-Londonderry, Belfast Pride and Enniskillen Pride parades.
- **7 young people** completed an OCNNI LEVEL 2 qualification Introduction to Animation.
- **7 young women** visited the Irish Cultural and Heritage Centre in London as part of International Women's Day.



Improve young people's life and work skills.

93 life and work skills programmes were delivered across Northern Ireland.

YOUTHSTART PROGRAMME:

Consortium Performance

- **96%** of overall targets achieved (2,182 young people).
- **75%** of employment outcomes met (248 young people).
- **113%** of education/training outcomes achieved (812 progressed to further education/training).

OCNNI QUALIFICATIONS:

- **66 young leaders** from 44 youth organisations completed OCNNI Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice.



Demonstrate leadership, activism and peace building.

AMPLIFY PROJECT:

- **74 young people** participated.
- Alongside Ulster University and Hume Foundation research we supported young people to identify 3 key priority ASK's for delivering peace. These are;
 1. *Update the Peace Agreement (End to Violent Organisations).*
 2. *Engage young people in government.*
 3. *Improve relationships between communities.*

GIRLS ALLOWED YOUNG WOMENS CONFERENCE:

- **210 young women** from diverse backgrounds engaged in gender based conversations at the Girls Allowed Young Women's Event at Ulster University.



LIGHT THE FIRE – YOUTH WORK WITH YOUNG WOMEN CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH WORKERS:

- **74** people explored: Sexual health and consent, Women and peacebuilding, Gender-conscious practice, Coercion and Healthy relationships.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

- **325 youth work qualifications** were achieved.
- **25 groups** registered for OCN Levels 1-3 Youth Work training.
- **22 groups** completed with **166 young leaders** gaining accreditation.

LEVEL 4 CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH STUDIES (Ulster University Partnership):

- 2 cohorts (Belfast and Magee) with **16 graduates** (72% completion rate).
- Progression routes included:
 - 4 to study full-time BA in Community Youth Work.
 - 1 to study BSc in Social Work.
 - 1 set up a new business.
 - 3 progressed into new youth work employment.

Investing in our membership

- We invested in 252 communities to embed quality youth work/youth arts to support young people's development.
- 180 members were supported directly throughout 2024.
- Membership support includes: Quality assurance and reporting, Safeguarding, HR support, Finance support, Workforce/Volunteer training, Curriculum and programme support, Governance, Insurance services, Representation and advocacy, Communication, Connection events and Networking opportunities.
- Members have received small grants through Coca-Cola Thank you awards (IYF): €74,000 investment to 8 local groups.
- Irish Youth Foundation (UK) supported 13 local members and community groups with small grants investment of up to £6,000 each.

Building and growing strategic partnership

We built and nurtured various local and strategic partnerships including:

- CROSS-NATIONS Partnership: YouthAction, UK Youth, Youth CYMRU, Youth Scotland and Youth Work Ireland worked on implementing our Cross-Nations Strategy including a leadership retreat with senior and middle leaders/managers.
- CROSS BORDER Partnership: with National Youth Council Ireland developed a Shared Island Youth Forum.
- YOUTHSTART: Consortium of 7 youth work charities investing in youth employability: YouthAction, Include Youth, Springboard Opps, Start 360, Bytes, The Kings Trust and Northern Ireland Youth Forum.
- Peace partnerships including Hume Foundation, Action Mental Health, Youth Work Ireland, YWI Louth, Foróige, Patrician YC, Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Kings Trust, Community Sports Network, Corrymeela Community, Bytes, Integrated Education Fund, YouthLink, YMCA Ireland, Fighting Words Ireland, Community Dialogue, YouthBank International and Peace Players.



Finances

Charitable Income: £1,732,675

Charitable Expenditure: £1,990,638

Raising Funds

We raised **£1,732,675** to achieve high quality youth work/youth arts and value for money outcomes.

We received investment from UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£6m), PEACEPLUS 3.2 Youth Call (£8.1m), EA Regional Strategic (£150,000 per year) and Department of Foreign Affairs (£93,960 per year).

To enable us to meet the needs of young people and communities we need your support. Your donation helps young people to realise their potential and improve their futures.

Donate here: www.youthaction.org

YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND

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