

Welcome to our September 2026 Ezine!

This month you can find updated information on events, training and opportunities for member groups as well as highlights from our organisation.



HIGHLIGHTS!



AMPLIFY PROJECT, NORTH WEST



MEDIA TRAINING - BELFAST



CYBERQUEST
- SOUTHERN REGION

AMPLIFY PROJECT



Amplify is a bold programme focusing on reaching young people aged 14–24 years facing complex challenges. YouthAction NI hosted an Interactive Contact Day with 120 young people and staff members from 7 partner organisations. The focus was on cross-community mixing, relationship-building and social awareness. Young people took part in an interactive quiz encouraging collaboration, communication, and confidence across the wider cohort.

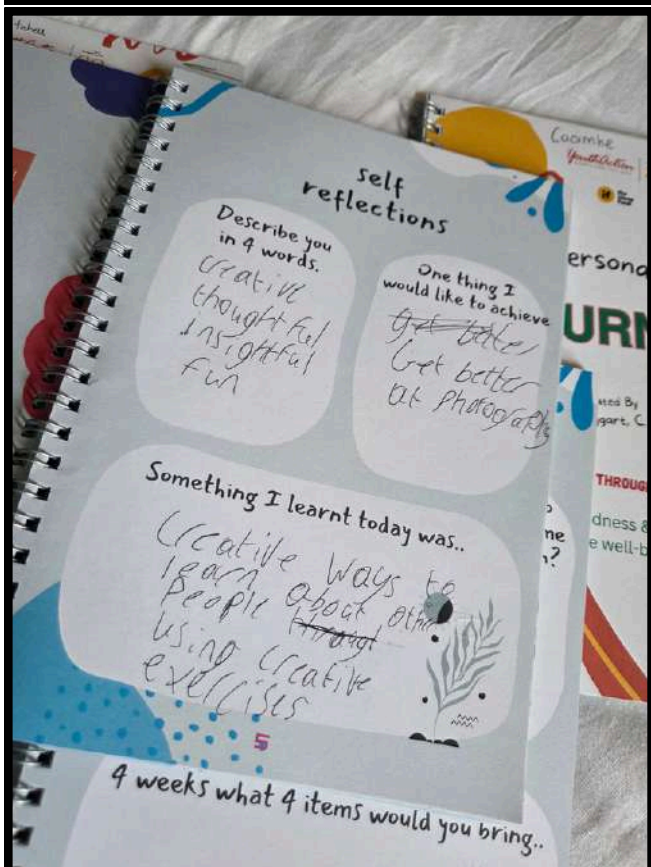
The day also featured the immersive EVAWG-focused experience I AM JANE. This challenged participants to interrogate suspects, uncover hidden truths, and reflect on assumptions and biases. The safe structured space allowed young people to explore sensitive themes while developing critical thinking and emotional literacy.

Young people from our North West, Belfast and Kilkeel groups will be joining the Rainbow Run on Titanic Slipways and attending the Museum of the Troubles and Peace to foster curiosity around the history of the Troubles. The next Interactive Contact Day, facilitated by Coca-Cola will be in November 2026, focusing on employability skills teaching and cross-community relationship building. For more information email markc@youthaction.org



CYBERQUEST PROGRAMME

CyberQuest is a cross border partnership that blends digital skills training with a youth work approach. Participants can complete accredited training and peer led exploration. Over the summer months young people from Newry, Kilkeel, Lurgan and Banbridge built community relationships and developed their ICT and leadership skills. We have established new partnerships with schools, community organisations and member groups helping to expand opportunities for young people across the region. For more information email deborah@youthaction.org



ACCESS TO RESILIENCE PROGRAMME: 'LET'S TALK' YOUTH CONSULTATION DONAGHADEE

In partnership with Donaghadee Community Development Association and community groups an online youth consultation survey was created to hear the voices of local young people 12-18 years. Participants joined together for a 'Lets Talk' Event to discuss the survey feedback and share lived experience.

The lack of youth provision in the area has led to lack of community pride, disengagement and isolation. Young people shared ideas for change and plan to present their findings to Education Authority in October to advocate for better opportunities.



Delivered by
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND**



Membership groups in our North West region took part in a consultation session looking over the new draft youth work policy "Stronger Futures" by the Department of Education. We received excellent input during the session with a good mix of positive recommendations.

One project stated that 'rural youth services are always at the bottom of the list and there is a lack of investment in this area.' The draft policy mentions providing a robust evidence base for youth work delivery.

A local project feels that 'A wide collection of evidence is a better suggestion, potentially using information from universities. This point need more development.'

Overall they stated that budgets are very tight in all departments, but agreed there needs to be a focus on staff development. It was noted that youth programmes support many young people and reduces involvement in crime, but more funding is needed within the youth service. Thanks to all our member groups who took part in this important consultation and all information will be shared with the Department of Education committee.



Deadline: 30th October 2026

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON STRONGER
FUTURES: A NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH WORK
POLICY STATEMENT | DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

**CLICK
HERE!**



DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS HUB



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



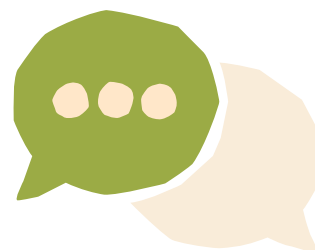
European Union



UK Government

After a taster day in Youth Action NI's Communications Hub in Belfast two groups of young creatives have begun media training. They will explore topics through podcasting, storytelling and film making.

For more information email thomas@youthaction.org



The Rainbow Factory production of 'Newsies' was a huge success! Over 40 young people were involved on and off stage, building teamwork and performing arts skills. 24 cast members completed Bronze Youth Achievement Awards, tracking key learning during their summer experience!

For more information email: vrf@youthaction.org



**UPCOMING PANTO SHOWS- DECEMBER 2026
RAINBOW FACTORY THEATRE, BELFAST**

For more information email: boxoffice@youthaction.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

YANI CON will provide the chance for young people to express their love of pop culture and connect in a safe space. Young people can build relationships through activities involving everything movies, comic books, TV shows and games!

★ Scan QR Code to register. For more information email: ryan@youthaction.org



YANI CON



Have fun with others in superhero style with our Youth Comic Convention embracing all of pop culture- designed by nerds & geeks for nerds & geeks!!

Connect with others through passions of Comics, Movies, TV shows & Gaming!

Cosplay
-Dress as your favourite character!

Video Games & Card games!

Design Comics, Stories & Art!

Comics in our Superhero Hideout Cafe

Refreshments will be provided!

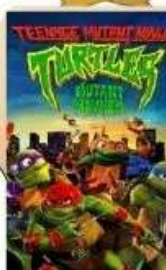
Location

Youth Action Northern Ireland
14 College Square North
Belfast, BT1 6AS

Open to ages
16-24 years

Contact

ryan@youthaction.org to sign up or scan QR Code



CRITICAL YOUTH RESEARCH HUB

A series of thematic workshops for youth workers, researchers and activists to engage in conversation and critical thinking, whilst exploring issues, ideas and research that shapes youth work, peacebuilding and civic society today.

CO-EXISTENCE IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES



Facilitated by:

Ivan Gusic, Associate Professor in Political Science at Uppsala University, whose research explores peace-building and co-existence in societies emerging from war and armed conflict.

WEDNESDAY

30

SEPTEMBER

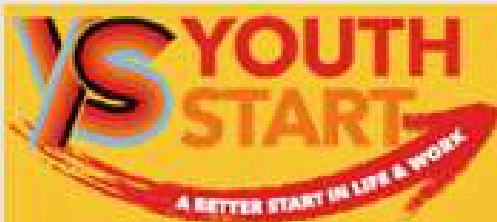
12pm–1pm

Lunch provided

YOUTHACTION NI

14 College Square
North, Belfast
BT1 6AS

To register email
donna@youthaction.org



YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND



BIG SKILLS DAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2026

MALDRON HOTEL DERRY/ LONDONDERRY

10AM- 3PM

Interactive practical workshops and team activities
to build your skills for work!

- Meet local employers
- Find out about jobs
- Learn to do a good application
- Improve your interview skills
- And much more...



Registration starts at 10am with a free breakfast.
Free lunch also included!

To register for our big skills day contact denise@youthaction.org



Keeping Children & Adults Safe Training: Module 2 Integrated

Thursdays: 15th & 22nd October 2026



Both dates have
to be attended

6pm - 9pm

To register:
please contact
Donna Salt

donna@youthaction.org





YOUTH WORK TRAINING

OCNNI Level 3 Certificate In Youth Work Practice

A course for young leaders, volunteers and paid workers who want to develop knowledge, confidence and skills in practice based Youth Work.

Thursday evenings
4.30pm - 7.30pm
Youth Action NI
14 College Square North,
Belfast BT1 6AS

Starting 22nd October 2026
– February 2027

An OCNNI Level 2 Certificate
In Youth Work Practice is a
requirement for this course.

Course fees:
£425 members rate /
£500 non-members rate

*If cost is a barrier, let us know
as some small grants are available
for a contribution to the overall cost*

For more info contact Mary Jo Reid:
maryjo@youthaction.org

*Empowering Young People
Stronger Communities*

SAFE IN THE CITY THE PLAY

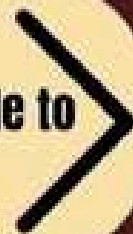
Discover your talent, build
confidence, and shine on stage.

STARTING
OCT 26

PERFORMANCE
FEB 2021 @
YOUTH ACTION THEATRE

**No experience
required. Just bring
your passion.**

**Scan the QR code to
register**



FOR AGES 11+

Weekly meetings
on Mon / Wed

Donegall Pass Youth
Centre



SAFE
IN THE CITY

