

YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027



Youth Work Ireland
Galway





Youth Work Ireland

Galway





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outlines the key national and international policy framework that currently governs and influences youth work.

In keeping with the core values of Youth Work Ireland Galway, this Strategic Statement aims to be an accessible and inclusive document.

CHAIRPERSON WELCOME MESSAGE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present our Strategic Statement 2023-2027. Youth Work Ireland Galway looks forward to continuing to provide quality services to young people, their families, and communities through our Integrated Youth Service Model of delivery under the direction of the Strategic Statement.

The last few years have been challenging in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic and the funding context of our services to young people, their families, and their communities. This was apparent in our consultations with young people, youth workers and external stakeholders.

However, a Strategic Statement, involves learning from the past but ultimately is forward looking.

As a Board of Directors, we have been proud of our quick and solid response to the challenges of providing a people centred service during the restrictions of the pandemic. Staff and volunteers remained focused on supporting young people through the tough times of lockdown, restricted movements, and times of transition in their lives.

Challenges remain as we emerge from that period of lockdown, limited social interaction, huge uncertainty for the future and return to 'everyday' activities. The priorities in this Strategic Statement show where our efforts will be concentrated for the next few years. These will guide our staff and management in their operational planning, use of resources and funding applications and the Board in their oversight and sound governance practices.

I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Strategic Statement with their time, their thoughts and learning including young people, staff, external professionals, and my fellow Board Members.

Finally, I want to thank our external consultant, Nollaig McGuinness, who guided us through this process, facilitated consultations and wrote our Strategic Statement. It was very worthwhile having an independent person work with management on such an important document for the organisation.

Thank you,

Karen Dunne

Chairperson,
Board of Youth Work Ireland Galway

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the Youth Work Ireland Galway Strategic Statement 2023-2027. The plan seeks to build on the work and the achievements of the organisation over the past five years and under the previous Strategic Statement. That five-year period was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic when as an organisation and society we had to stop and reassess how we connect and support each other. Youth Work Ireland Galway demonstrated its flexibility and adaptability during that challenging period and there are important lessons for us going forward in terms of our services and how we deliver them.

Youth Work is a unique and expert approach to working with young people. It is complementary to but quite different in significant ways from other “social professions”. Youth Work takes a holistic approach to young people with a commitment to an ethic of care and concern for the flourishing of young people. One of the aims of youth work is to explore young people’s feelings, a process of moral philosophising to facilitate the formation of their identity and expansion of their ethical standards with a focus on

the group or collective experience. Young people choose to participate in Youth Work, which speaks to rights, power, and choice on the part of the young person.

Youth Work focuses on young people at that particular moment in their lives when they are developing their awareness, seeking answers and crucially beginning to explore their beliefs, values and choices.



Future Proofing Youth Work

This Strategic Statement comes at a time of change, challenge, and opportunity for youth work both locally and nationally.

At national level an updated Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures will be published setting out a new national policy framework for children and young people from 2023 to 2028.

Youth Work Ireland Galway will work with the local authority and youth work service providers towards the development of a much-needed integrated youth facility in Galway city centre to provide a dedicated hub for young people to continue to provide the model of integrated youth work which is a key feature of the organisation's youth service. Over the coming years Youth Work Ireland Galway will continue to work to strike a balance between delivering both targeted and

universal youth service provision. All of this takes place against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict and war, the refugee crisis, the climate crisis and sense of uncertainty and instability that it continues to create across Europe and beyond, as well as financial challenges and the homeless/housing crisis.

This Strategic Statement was developed in consultation with staff, board members, the young people we work with and external stakeholders of the organisation (full list in appendices). As such it represents a collaborative effort to identify the priorities for Youth Work Ireland Galway over the coming 4 years and set out a pathway to achieve our goals and continue to develop as a youth work organisation.

ABOUT US

Youth Work Ireland Galway originated in a national youth club movement which started in the 1960's. In the 1970's the County Galway Federation of Youth Clubs was formed which eventually evolved into Galway Youth Federation in the 1980's. The late 1980's and early 1990's saw Galway Youth Federation secure resources from state bodies and through EU funded programmes to develop new youth projects and become involved in alliances and partnerships both at local project level and across the city and county.

By the turn of the century the need for more specific youth work responses became apparent. Galway Youth Federation by then was providing a listening service for teens whose parents had separated, drug education and sexual health promotion, support to young people from the refugee communities and engaging in international youth exchanges. In 2007, Galway Youth Federation changed its name to Youth Work Ireland Galway, following a federal decision by National Youth Federation to re-brand as Youth Work Ireland. The

following decade saw our services develop and expand further with some notable additions to our range of projects and services such as, shOUT! LGBT+ Youth Project, a dedicated youth counselling service and an increased focus on sustainable development initiatives.

We are a voluntary organisation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. From our centres in Galway City, Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe we provide and coordinate community-based and outreach youth work services and support to young people in a safe environment. Youth Work Ireland Galway is led by the principles and practice of professional youth work. We promote equity, diversity and inclusion. We recognise the right of all young people regardless of gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, ability, socio economic status, marital status, race, culture or ethnic origin to participate fully in their community and wider society.

Our Vision

The Vision of Youth Work Ireland Galway is a safe and secure society where young people can grow, develop and thrive. A society where young people have a voice and are respected. A society where equality and diversity are valued and inequality and discrimination are called out and challenged.

Our Mission

The Mission of Youth Work Ireland Galway is to support, empower and inspire young people to reach their full potential in a manner that is inclusive and supports voluntary participation, is non-judgmental, welcoming and open. We will do this by working in partnership with young people and other relevant stakeholders to provide a safe and supportive environment and range of services to all.

Our Values

The work of Youth Work Ireland Galway is underpinned by a number of core Values that guide and inform all of our work. These Values are based on our collective experience and expertise in engaging with young people and developing services to support their needs.

- Youth-Centred – we strive to see the young person first and foremost in the development of our services.

- Youth Participation – we strive to create ‘real’ youth participation; the type of participation that enables young people to directly influence the development of our organisation and services.
- Authenticity – we strive to be our authentic selves and to support young people to express their authentic selves.
- Collectivism – we strive to work together, to collaborate and to support each other.
- Diversity – we believe in diversity and strive to treat all people equally at all times.
- Joy – we strive to bring joy and fun to our work and to the young people we engage with in our work.

Our Services

Our core youth services are organised into a wide range of different projects and programmes which are located across Galway city and county. These include area-based and issue-based services and we also run a range of different programmes and activities including After School Clubs, Workshops, Summer Camps and creative events and activities.

Through these projects and programmes we provide supports to over 3,000 young people across Galway annually. We employ over 25 youth work staff, have over 30 staff on our Community Employment Scheme and we work with 300 volunteers.

YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Youth Counselling Service

Established in 2012 our Youth Counselling Service is a free and confidential service operating across Galway city and county and is available in-person and online and through both English and Irish. Fully qualified and accredited adolescent therapists offer support, guidance and information in 8 locations in a friendly and safe environment and will work with the young people aged 12-21 years to help them through difficulties they may be experiencing.

CAPE Youth Project

Our CAPE project provides personal development and decision-making supports for 10–24-year-olds including support around understanding and dealing with peer pressure; drug and alcohol awareness workshops through art; and other group activities and discussions. Based in Galway City and open to young people from Claregalway and Oranmore.

shOUT! LGBT+ Youth Project

shOUT LGBT+ Youth Project is a safe, supportive and positive space for LGBT+ young people, questioning young people and allies aged 10-24 based in Galway City and County. The project aims to provide a safe space for young people to develop friendships with peers, and to provide an experience of inclusion, diversity, acceptance, and social justice. The project hosts weekly social groups, activities, one-to-one support, LGBT+ information, resources, and LGBT+ inclusion, education and awareness events.

Comhairle na nÓg – Galway City & Galway County

We coordinate both Comhairlí na nÓg in Galway City and Galway County. Comhairlí na nÓg are local 'youth councils' for young people 12-18 years in Galway City and County. Both City and County Comhairlí have youth committees whose membership represent the views and opinions of local young people which are incorporated into local development policy. Comhairle na nÓg are supported by local Steering Committees and managed by both the City Council and County Council respectively.

SAUTI Youth

SAUTI-Youth (Sustainable Accountability Uniting Tanzanian and Irish Youth) is a collaboration between Youth Work Ireland Galway, World Vision Ireland and World Vision Tanzania. The project is a youth led monitoring of local government commitments on Climate Action linking Galway and Tanga (Tanzania). It is led by a young adult Advisory Committee. Young people are provided with skills to monitor their local government's climate action commitment and spending. They are also supported to facilitate dialog with local authorities so that young people's voice is taken into consideration while decisions about their future are made.

Youth Information Service Ballinasloe

The Youth Information Service works with young people from the ages of 12 to 24 based in Ballinasloe and available to all young people in Galway and online to those further away. The Youth Information Service provides accurate, up to date information for young people via a drop-in facility, workshops, publications, talks, individual sessions, the Web, and the Facebook page. The service works on the Youth Information Chat service, which is a partnership between youth information centres around Ireland and SpunOut.

The Junction Youth Diversion Project

The Junction Youth Project is a community based youth support project in East and South East Galway working with young people aged 12-18 who are involved in, or at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour. The Project also works with the families of young people referred and liaise with relevant agencies. Based in Ballinasloe with outreach to East and South East Galway.

East Galway Youth Project

East Galway Youth Project is a community based project supporting young people 10-24 from Ballinasloe and the surrounding areas. The project supports young people in their social, personal and educational development through a variety of activities and programmes including educational supports, creative activities, international youth exchanges and a range of issue/ topic based projects.

Preparing For Life, Ballinasloe

Preparing for Life is a prevention and early intervention project to support mothers to use evidence-based approaches to help their children achieve their full potential. The project team work from pregnancy through early childhood with families, health services, early years settings and schools. The service is currently available to residents in Ballinasloe town. Preparing for Life is a partnership with Tusla Child and Family Agency.

Supported Education Project, Loughrea

Currently a pilot project funded through the Toy Show Appeal and the Community Foundation for Ireland, the Supported Education Project supports young people aged 10 -17 in the Loughrea area who are at risk of leaving school or have left school. The project provides supports to assist participants to remain in school or to return to school.

Loughrea Youth Project

Loughrea Youth Project is a community based project supporting young people 10-24 from Loughrea and the surrounding areas. The project supports young people in their social, personal and educational development through a variety of activities and programmes including educational supports, creative activities, international youth exchanges and a range of issue/ topic based projects. The youth project provides specific youth groups for young people with autism.

Treo Nua Youth Diversion Project

Treo Nua is a community based youth support project in Tuam working with young people aged 12-18 who are involved in, or at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour. The project also works with the families of young people and relevant agencies. The project provides outreach to Headford and Athenry.

Tuam Youth Project

Tuam Youth Project is a community based project supporting young people 12-24 from Tuam and the surrounding areas. The project supports young people in their social, personal and educational development through a variety of activities and programmes including educational supports, creative activities, international youth exchanges and a range of issue/ topic-based projects.

Westside Youth Project

Westside Youth Project is an area-based service that works with young people 10-24 from the Westside area of Galway City. The project supports young people in their social, personal and educational development through a variety of activities and programmes including educational supports, creative activities, international youth exchanges and a range of issue/ topic-based projects. The project is the lead for the Irish Youth Music Awards for Galway and a key partner in the Westside Arts Festival.

Affiliated Youth Clubs

Youth Work Ireland Galway supports 7 different volunteer-led youth clubs across the city and county. The youth clubs meet on a regular basis and provide a wide range of creative, educational and social activities and programmes. The current youth clubs affiliated are Athenry Adventurers RPG Youth Club; Club S Variety Group; Kilkerrin Youth Club; Oughterard Youth Club; Our Lady's Boys Club (OLBC); Q Club; and SOS Congolese Galway Youth Club.

Under 18 Addiction Counsellors

Accredited Addiction Counsellors based in Galway City, Galway County and Roscommon provide assessment, counselling, and support to adolescents and young people under 18 years of age. Youth Work Ireland Galway provides this service in collaboration with the Community Healthcare West Drugs Service.

Community Employment Scheme

Youth Work Ireland Galway sponsors a Community Employment Scheme to provide supported work experience for long term unemployed to help people get back to work within their community. The Department of Social Protection funds the scheme.



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This section sets out the Strategic Priorities for Youth Work Ireland Galway the period 2023-2027. The Strategic Action Plan seeks to respond to:

- respond to key issues and opportunities identified in the research and consultations
- build on our strengths
- address any areas of weakness identified for the organisation
- ensure that the needs of young people in Galway city and County remain at the centre of our youth work services

The Strategic Action Plan is structured around Priorities, Aims and Actions. The Priorities set out clearly what the main areas of focus and energy will be for the organisation over the coming years. These Priorities are given further definition through the Aims which state clearly what we aim to achieve under each Priority. Finally, the Actions give an indication of the types of initiatives and activities we will undertake to support the Aims. A total of 6 Priorities are identified for the Strategic Action Plan.

YOUTH WORK IRELAND GALWAY PRIORITIES 2023-2027

Priority 1: A Best Practice Youth Work Organisation

Continue to develop Youth Work Ireland Galway as a best practice youth work organisation empowering young people through Youth Work Ireland's Integrated Youth Service model¹.

Priority 2: A Leading Example and Advocate for Youth Inclusion

Continue to lead out on addressing and highlighting the most important and challenging issues facing all young people, particularly young people from minority groups such as The Traveller Community, LGBTQ+, Ethnic and Cultural minorities, religious minorities and young people experiencing social exclusion and isolation.

Priority 3: Developing Youth Participation

Continue to deliver and develop models of genuine youth participation that enables and empowers young people to participate directly in their personal, community and civic life.

Priority 4: Promoting a Global Perspective of Youth Work

Continue to develop a global perspective and connections to youth work at the local level using the Sustainable Development Goals Framework.

Priority 5: Delivering High Quality Youth Work Services

Continue to deliver high quality youth work services that are youth-friendly, accessible, and safe to young people across Galway city and county in dedicated Youth Centres and Youth Hubs.

Priority 6: Strengthening our PR & Communications

Continue to grow the awareness of the organisation and key youth work issues through effective PR and Communications.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES 2023-2027

In addition to our 6 Strategic Priorities, Youth Work Ireland Galway has identified 2 Cross-cutting Themes that underpin the Strategic Action Plan and support the organisation in embedding its Vision, Mission and Values across the plan and the work of the organisation. These 2 Cross-cutting Themes envision a more equal, inclusive and sustainable world and as such should be applied to all aspects of our work. All of the actions in the action plan are proofed against these 2 Cross-cutting Themes, thereby ensuring that they are embedded in the work of the organisation in both a strategic and practical way.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Embedding a commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion across all areas of the Strategic Statement.

Sustainable Development Goals

Working to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure positive outcomes for young people and their communities locally, nationally and globally



DEVELOPING THE STRATEGIC STATEMENT

This section presents the main findings and key messages identified in the research and consultations undertaken for this strategy. The research and consultations were undertaken between July 2022 and into mid-2023 and included four main elements:

- External Stakeholder Consultations
- Focus Groups with Young People
- Consultations with Staff and Board

The findings from each of these elements of the research and consultations are summarised here. These findings are then further summarised into a shortlist of Key Messages for the new Strategic Statement.

External Stakeholder Consultations

Consultations were conducted with a range of external organisations that provide funding to and work closely with Youth Work Ireland Galway in the development and delivery of its range of services to young people as outlined in Section 3. These consultations focused on perceived strengths and any weaknesses

of Youth Work Ireland Galway; key issues facing the youth sector both locally and nationally; and areas of priority and opportunity for consideration in the new Strategic Statement.

Main Findings from External Stakeholder Consultations

- Youth Work Ireland Galway is a very highly regarded organisation by its funders and partner organisations. The organisation is viewed as well-connected within the wider local development and community sector; collaborative in its approach to youth service development and delivery; and containing a high level of expertise, experience and knowledge in youth and wider social issues.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway is viewed as being particularly strong on leading out on important social issues. The organisations is often an early or even first voice to start highlighting and campaigning on key social issues such as LGBT+ youth awareness, climate action, development education, refugee integration and other social inclusion issues.

- Supporting and enabling youth participation is viewed as a strength of Youth Work Ireland Galway. This is demonstrated through projects like the Comhairlí na nÓg and also across the range of youth events, campaigns and other activities delivered on an ongoing basis.
- The organisation is recognised as having a high degree of expertise, experience and connections in the area of European and transnational projects.
- There is a general recognition and concern at the local youth sector being under-resourced with regards to the number of youth workers vis-à-vis need and demand for youth services and also around the need for a new, modern dedicated youth space in Galway city centre.
- The main challenges and concerns facing young people as identified in the stakeholder consultations included youth mental health and mental illness, substance abuse, dangerous and unhealthy aspects of social media, racism and discrimination and growing numbers of young people experiencing poverty, homelessness and marginalisation.

Focus Groups with Young People

Four focus groups were conducted with Youth Work Ireland Galway service users. One focus group was with the shOUT! LGBT+ Project and the two other focus groups were with the area-based Tuam Youth Project and Westside Youth Project.

These focus groups explored how and why participants engage with youth services; what benefit and support they receive from these services; any recommendations they had for how these services can be improved and strengthened; and more broadly, what life is currently like for young people living in Galway.

Main Findings from Focus Groups with Young People

- Participants reported gaining a sense of connectedness and identity by being involved in Youth Work Ireland projects i.e. “finding your tribe” and the strength and reassurance that that can bring.
- Youth projects provide safe spaces for young people - safe spaces to meet and hang out but also safe spaces to talk and seek guidance with challenges they may be experiencing.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway is recognised as being particularly good at organising youth activities and youth events. Some focus group participants also highlighted youth exchanges, both in Ireland and overseas, as being a strong feature of YWOG’s work. The organisation is also strong on advocacy and activism and enabling advocacy and activism with local young people.
- Active PR and communications are an increasingly important element of service delivery and this is one area that participants felt Youth Work Ireland Galway could/should strengthen.

- The main concerns that participants expressed were for their personal safety (particularly members of shOUT! LGBT+); concerns around substance abuse amongst their peers and the significant increase in vaping amongst young people; and the general toxic undertones to the internet and social media and the impact of this has on young people's self-esteem and mental health.
- Participants also expressed an awareness around the importance and value of good quality youth spaces with Tuam Youth Services being identified as an example of what a modern youth space can deliver whereas Galway city as lacking any such dedicated youth space.

Consultations with Staff and Board

Consultations with Youth Work Ireland staff and board members included one-to-one consultations with a number of board members and senior management and a focus group with youth workers. As with the external stakeholder engagements these consultations focused on the strengths and any weaknesses of the organisation; they key issues and challenges facing young people; and the priorities and areas of opportunity for the new Strategic Statement.

Main Findings from Consultations with Staff and Board

- The areas identified as being particularly strong for the organisation included engaging and supporting marginalised young people; a general adaptability and quick responsiveness to working with young people; strong collaborative partnerships with local agencies and organisations; and expertise in European and transnational projects.
- The strengths and benefits to the organisation of being part of a strong national network in Youth Work Ireland is understood and valued by the organisation. The benefits to the organisation can be seen particularly in terms of contributing to national youth work policy development and also having access to best practice resources and organisational tools.
- The importance and value of good quality youth space was consistently identified in the consultations. The organisation is fortunate to have some very good quality youth spaces in the county but the lack of a dedicated youth facility in Galway city centre is regarded as a major gap.
- The organisations main offices in Prospect Hill are no longer fit for purpose with the organisation having outgrown these premises. Identifying a fast, even interim space solution to this problem is regarded as a priority for the organisation in the immediate future.

- A general consensus and sense of frustration that the local youth sector is under-resourced was identified in these consultations. There is a general sense that “youth work” is not well defined and well understood and as such may be not properly valued.
- A general consensus exists within the organisations that it needs to strengthen and broaden its PR and communications. The identity of the organisation is regarded as strong so the focus here should be on raising its profile and increasing its communications reach.
- These consultations also identified a range of challenges and issues facing young people including mental health and a widespread sense of growing anxiety in young people; young people presenting to youth services with increasingly complex needs; increases in the rates of school absenteeism; safety and bullying, both online and offline; substance abuse including the increased prevalence of drugs and now vaping in younger people; racism and discrimination

Key Messages for the Strategic Statement

- Taking all the findings from the research and consultations together we can identify a number of Key Messages for the new Youth Work Ireland Galway Strategic Plan as outlined here. Youth Work Ireland Galway and the organisations that it works closely with view young people as being creative, innovative and equal partners both in the work of the organisation and more broadly in Irish society.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway is regarded as a highly skilled, highly competent and collaborative organisation.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway is recognised as an organisation that leads out on important and difficult social issues with and about young people
- Youth Work Ireland Galway operates a best practice model of youth work that is rooted in its core values of genuine youth participation, diversity and collectivism.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway's international work is also regarded as a strength and an area of ongoing opportunity for the future.
- The main issues and challenges facing young people now and over the coming years are numerous and complex and they include mental health and mental illness issues; substance abuse; safety and bullying, poverty; and discrimination.

- Reflecting these main issues and challenges facing young people, youth work services are seeing a notable increase in the complexity of issues and challenges that young people are presenting with.
- Good quality youth spaces are an essential component of effective youth service delivery. High quality youth spaces in the county (e.g. Tuam) are demonstrating their value and impact whilst the lack of any such space in Galway city centre is viewed as a major gap in provision.
- There is a general recognition that the local youth sector is severely under-resourced in terms of the number of youth workers vis-à-vis the need and demand for youth services, and also (in the case of Galway city) in terms of the lack of dedicated youth facilities.
- Youth Work Ireland Galway's overall approach to PR and Communications is one area that has been identified as having scope for significant improvement.
- The issue of youth clubs and volunteers was also identified as an area that merits attention and strengthening if possible given the key role that volunteer-led youth clubs have historically played in youth work and the lack of funding for a dedicated volunteer support worker.



IMPLEMENTATION

Youth Work Ireland Galway will ensure that the priorities and areas of action outlined in the Strategic Action Plan are being implemented through a number of specific measures including:

- Annual Implementation Plan, reflected in project plans submitted to funders.
- Progress reporting at board meetings
- Mid-term Review

The midterm review will enable the organisation to assess overall progress at the mid-point in the Strategic Statement and to make any changes that may be required to speed up and improve implementation of certain actions and projects.



APPENDIX 1 – POLICY CONTEXT FOR YOUTH WORK

Youth Work in Ireland is governed primarily by the Youth Work Act 2001 and is supported by a policy framework that includes a broad range of strategies and programmes at local, national and international level, as outlined here.

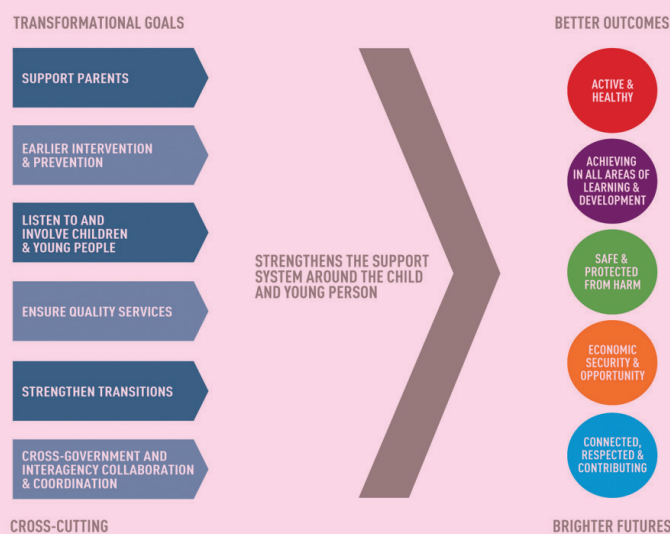
Youth Work Act 2001

The Youth Work Act 2001 provides a statutory framework for the provision of youth work programmes and services by Government, ETB's and by national and regional youth organisations. The Act defines youth work as a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is a) complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and b) provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020 is the main, overarching national policy

framework for children and young people aged 0-24 years. A new Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures policy framework is due to be published in 2023. The purpose of this framework is to coordinate policy across Government departments and agencies to achieve better outcomes for young people as outlined below.



National Youth Strategy 2015-2020

Ireland's first National Youth Strategy stated aim is to enable all young people to realize their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood. The strategy sets out a broad range of objectives and priorities that are aligned to the five national outcomes of the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures framework.

lives. The strategy identifies a number of priority areas for action including young people having a voice in the development of education, health, legal and other systems affecting them.

Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025

Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of all groups in society over the coming generation. A healthy population is a priority and asset for all societies and the Healthy Ireland framework envisages an Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and where health and wellbeing are understood to be responsibility of all public bodies, agencies, groups and individuals.

Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027

The Youth Justice Strategy is designed to *provide a developmental framework to address key ongoing challenges, as well as new and emerging issues in the youth justice area.* It considers a wide range of issues relating to young people at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system, including early intervention on preventative work, family support, court processes and diversion from crime.

National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision- Making 2015-2020

This national strategy focuses on the participation of young people in decision-making processes and seeks to enable their voice and participation in decisions affecting their everyday

LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020

Ireland's LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy identifies LGBTI+ young people as a marginalised group and proposes a series of cross-governmental measures designed to address the main challenges they face in their everyday lives. Ultimately the strategy strives to support the full inclusion of LGBTI+ young people in Irish society and to build a more inclusive Ireland for all.

European Youth Information Charter 2018

Since 1993 the European Youth Information Charter has provided a best practice framework in the form of values, principles and guidelines for the provision of youth information and youth counselling services. The Charter has been updated several times to reflect cultural and political changes in Europe and in 2018 the ERYICA (European Youth Information and Counselling Agency) developed a new toolkit to assist youth organisations to integrate the Charter and its principles into their services.

EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027

Designed around 3 core principles of Engage, Connect and Empower the EU Youth Strategy seeks to foster youth participation in democratic life. The strategy focuses on supporting social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to play an active and fulfilling role in society.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDG's

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for global peace and prosperity and a healthy planet. At the heart of the Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which recognise that ending poverty and inequality and supporting economic growth must go hand-in-hand with efforts to tackle climate change. The active engagement of youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving a more sustainable model of development and the integration of the SDG's into local plans and strategies is seen as a key approach in achieving this.

Galway Roscommon Education Training Board Youth Work Plan 2021-2024

Under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 the Education and Training Boards are given a key role in the overall coordination, resourcing and monitoring of local youth services. The GRETB (Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board) Youth Work Plan 2021-2024 sets out the organisations vision and plan for the development of youth services in the region under four Strategic Goals which are *Quality Youth Work Provision, Strong Governance, Promoting the Importance of Youth Work and Networking, Connecting & Collaborating*.

Galway County Local Economic and Community Plans and Galway City Local Economic Community Plans

Putting People First - Action Programme for Effective Local Government sets out an ambitious framework to empower local government as the main vehicle for public services at local level. A key component of this framework are the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP's) by each Local Authority which set out broad-ranging 6-year plans for the economic, social and cultural development of their areas that are to be developed and implemented in partnership with local agencies, organisations and communities.



Youth Work Ireland
Galway

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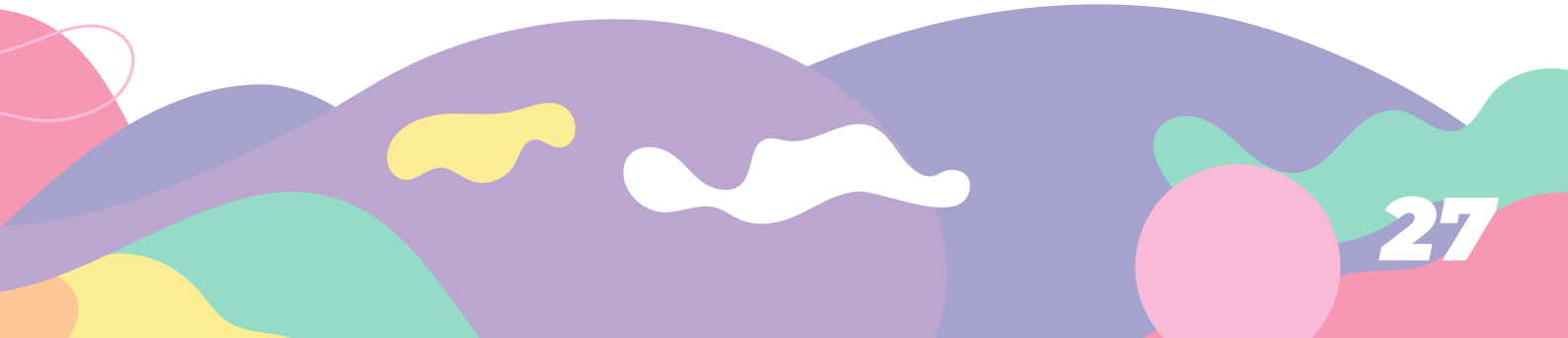
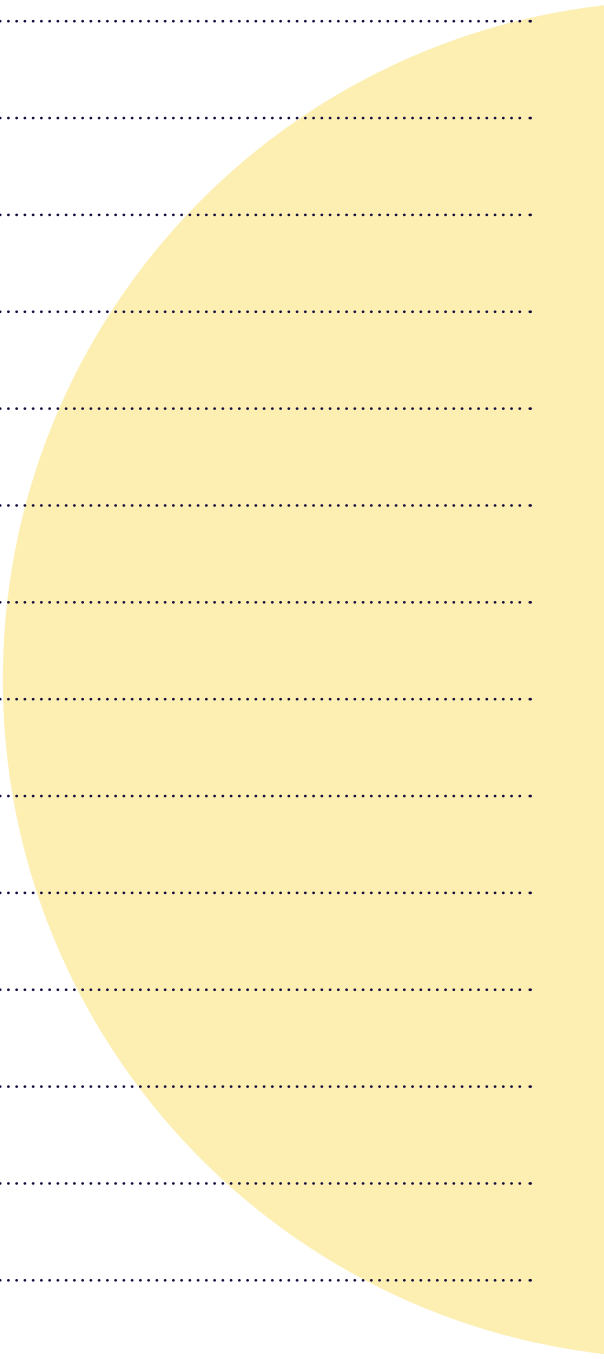
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Youth Work Ireland Galway

