

# ***Ardoyne Youth Club Monthly Report:*** October 2014



## **Content:**

**Page 3:** Introduction.

**Page 4:** Belfast 2 Blanco.

**Page 5:** Young Women's Group & Health and Beauty.

**Page 6:** Youth Work Certificate Programme.

**Page 7:** Youth Committee.

**Page 8:** America Group & Football on Thursday Nights

**Page 9:** U16 Football Team & Mentoring.

**Page 10:** Job Club & Young Men's.

**Page 11:** R City Belfast.

**Page 12:** What is Beautiful.

**Page 13:** Tech Space.

**Page 14:** Tech Space (Continued)

**Page 15:** Mid Night Club.

**Page 16:** Photo's.



*Believe,  
Achieve,  
Succeed*

## Introduction:

Within this report it provides you the reader with an insight into some of the work undertaking by the staff & young people of Ardoyne Youth Club throughout the month of October 2014. We aim within this report to give you a snapshot of some of the work and also highlight the learning outcomes achieved by the young people that participate within the programmes that are on offer to them. As a centre based organisation located in the Area of Ardoyne North Belfast the community in which we work is predominately catholic, however there are various other cultures that live within the community with a small percentage engaging within the centre. The centre is a voluntary organisation, with one Leader in Charge, One project Co-Ordinator, two full time youth worker, a part time administrator, eight part time youth work staff and around eighteen volunteers.

Throughout the youth centre year from September to August we aim to provide the young people that unties the centre with various elements of informal education, looking at enhancing their skills and abilities with a further opportunity to avail of training and access employment. The opening of the centre for the delivery of facilitated group work & programmes mainly takes place between 7.00 - 10.00pm Monday to Friday. Furthermore we open two late evenings a week Thursday and Friday 10.00pm - 12.00am looking to provide an opportunity for young people who don't engage in the normal hours within the centre. many of these young people would be deemed "At Risk" and range from the age of 14-21. This is our mid night programme which has been highly successful, currently within it we are running Dj programme accredited level 2, America and Poland group who are also doing accredited training based at level 2.

Thank you to the staff who have contributed to the report and to the young people whom without participation it wouldn't be possible. please visit our website, Facebook & Twitter for more updates.

[www.ardoyneyc.com](http://www.ardoyneyc.com)

[@ardoyneyc](https://www.facebook.com/ardoyneyc)

Email: [info@ardoyneyc.com](mailto:info@ardoyneyc.com)

**Group:** Belfast 2 Blanco South Africa 2015

**Staff:** Ciaran Gormley (AYC) & Paul Dynes(HYC)

**Numbers of young people:** 12 – 6 Ardoyne YC & 6 Hammer YC ( 7 males & 5 females).

**Description:**

Through the month of October we run weekly sessions on personal development. This was a way to help the young people assess their skills & qualities, consider their aims in life & set goals in order to realise & maximise their potential. We came together as a group & came up with the idea to make two Plaster Paris mask to express their feeling & what they want to change on their journey to south Africa come April, this would be drawn or painted onto their 1<sup>st</sup> mask. The 2<sup>nd</sup> mask would be completed when they get back from their journey, this would be painted or drawn with what they've achieved or changes they made while out in Africa.

**Learning outcomes:**

- Confidence building
- Teamwork/support
- Communication
- Plan, monitor & review progress
- Evaluation of tasks provided



**Group Name:** Young Women's Group.

**Staff Member:** Julieann McEvoy

**How many young people in group:** 8 Females

**Brief description of sessions run throughout the month:**

On the 04/11/14 I met with the group of girls to discuss our programme. We started the night off with doing up a contract, I explained to the girls what way we would run out the programme and we based a discussion on what areas we would include within it. One thing already had in place would be the girls receiving the baby dolls on the 24/11/14 for three weeks. We drew up a plan with what's going to be happening each week in the group and created a rota for when they will receive the dolls and have to have them back. The girls seem to be really excited with getting the opportunity of looking after a life like doll for a weekend. They came up with a new name for the group... YMC (Yummy Mummy Club). Furthermore when we were doing our plans for the next few months for the group the girls said they would like to learn a little about body changes and contraception. So for the new year I plan on getting a girl from the Brook clinic to come out a delivery a few sessions on these topics with the group.

**Learning outcomes of the monthly sessions:**

- Decision making.
- Leadership role.
- Team building.

**Group Name:** Health & Beauty

**Staff Member:** Rachel Stitt

**How many young people in group:** 7 Females

**Brief description of sessions run throughout the month:**

There has been a variety of sessions throughout the month that have focused on different aspects of health and beauty with the main focus being on skin care and make up and the correct application of make up. In the group sessions we have looked at the following so far;

- Skin Care-How to choose the correct skin care products for your skin type, How to cleanse, tone and moisturise correctly
- Foundation-How to choose the correct shade and foundation type to suit your skin type and how to apply it correctly
- Face Shapes-How to determine what face shape they have which helps when applying make up
- Eye Shapes-How to determine what eye shape they have which will help when applying eyeshadow correctly
- Blush-How to choose the correct colour to compliment a make up look and how to apply it correctly

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Application and Cleansing of Skin.
- Products and their purpose.
- Increased skills and Knowledge that will benefit them.
- Communication with others and its importance.

**Group Name:** Youth Work certificate programme

**Staff Members:** Thomas Turley

**How Many Young People in Group:** 10

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

This month has seen the students start the youth work certificate course with George Williams College in London. Some of the areas they have looked at is introduction to Youth Work practice, community mapping and presentation. Within the first three weeks all the students had to complete a mapping exercise within their area of work and build this into a presentation that would be presented to their peers within the group. Prior to the course and alongside it the students are still involved in their work placements which are Ardoyne Youth Club, Hammer Youth Club, Active Communities Network and Sector 3 Solutions. All the students participating will complete a 3 month placement in each of the organisations aimed at giving them a different experience and receive various types of learning and how in the future this can allow them to use the various skills they've gained and apply them to their work. Furthermore some of the students are gaining the opportunity to get their English and Maths through another partner Paragon Training.



**Learning Outcomes of the Monthly Sessions.**

- Informal education and its benefits.
- Community mapping
- Awareness of local delivery organisations within their communities.
- Presentation skills
- Stepping outside their comfort zones.

**Group Name:** Youth Committee

**Staff Members:** Thomas Turley & Megan McFarlane

**How Many Young People in Group:** 12

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

This month the Youth Committee has continued to focus on the shop as a social enterprise project, engaging with younger members to get their feedback on how it could be better. They have also planned an activity where over 40 other members spent a late night at the cinema. The youth committee has made it clear that they want to provide a good service to the other members who access the club, whereby engaging with them around the needs within the club, having a role within programmes and marketing the youth committee so that others are aware. The committee have further looked at how they can take learning from other organisations and how this could have an impact on what they provide for the youth club, therefore visits are being arranged to Belfast City Council, & Stormont to meet some of N.Ireland's politicians with a view to going to London to meet some other Youth organisations that have acted similar to our youth committee. Only into their second month things are quite new and becoming more apparent.



**Learning Outcomes of the Monthly Sessions**

- Dealing with different challenges
- Communication with other agencies
- Organisation and taking responsibility
- Leadership

**Group Name:** America Group

**Staff Members:** Stephen Konrard & Amanda McCusker

**How Many Young People in Group:** 16

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

America group is into its last few weeks the young people are now doing there OCN in young people dealing with criticism. We have also had group discussions around sexual health and peer pressure. The young people now lead the start of the group with doing the team building games, two people have a role each week to come up with ice breakers to start the group, this gives them some responsibility and helps build their confidence. The group continues to run well and the young people continue to enjoy it and are learning a throughout. There will be a presentation night held in Belfast Castle to recognise the young people's achievements and they will receive all their certificates for the courses they have completed date.



**Learning Outcomes:**

- Increased confidence and self esteem
- Gain accredited certificates
- Leadership role
- Better understand of how to deal with different types of criticism
- Support and encourage each other

**Group Name:**Thursday nights Football.

**Staff Members:** Stephen Konrard & Paul Brennan.

**How Many Young People involved:** 50+

Football on Thursday nights is still running well, we are getting good numbers every week averaging up to 50 young people aged 14+. The young people really just enjoy having the freedom of play and having fun with their mates. Some young people have been asking about the chances of maybe starting up a midnight soccer programme I have took their idea on board and said I will speak to joe to see if it's possible to run.



**Outcomes**

- Health and fitness
- Teamwork
- Increased confidence and self esteem
- Football development
- Safe Space



**Group Name:** Football Team

**Staff Members:** Stephen Konrard, Ryan Hamill, Sam McBurney & Paul Headley.

**How Many Young People in Group:** 16

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

The team has been doing well this month, they had a bit of a slow start in September but have now started to pick themselves up and are doing really well and starting to climb up the league table. The team trains two nights a week and these two nights benefit them so much as you can see each young person improving and getting fitter as it goes on, additional to this they play a competitive game each Saturday morning in the South Belfast Youth League The team will be going on a residential next month for some team building.

- Team work
- Improved fitness
- Better communication skills
- Increased confidence



**Group Name:** Mentoring

**Staff Members:** Stephen Konrard.

**How Many Young People in Group:** 2

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

The mentoring programme has been going really well at the minute I have two young people I am mentoring at present. We meet up once a week for a catch up to see how things are going I give guidance and support when needed and help increase the young person's confidence and social inclusion. We have a healthy relationship and as weeks go on you can see positive changes in these young people although they do have their ups and downs but we all do but it's about myself making sure the mentee over comes the lows and picks himself up and focuses on how he can do better and shows the positive sides he has.

Outcomes

- Guidance and support
- Better confidence and self esteem
- Positive change
- Achieve goals
- Respect

**Group Name:** Job Club

**Staff Members:** Megan McFarlane, Stephen Konrad & Paul Brennan

**How Many Young People in Group:** 16

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

Breaking Through Barriers has been running a Job club every Wednesday for the last six weeks we have had some young people come in and apply for jobs and get CV'S written up. Currently this month we have helped 13 young people secure paid employment, 10 in royal mail, 1 JD Sports 1 C4S Security and 1 in Bank Fashion. The young people are really happy they have gained employment and can't wait to get started in their jobs and will be great for them especially coming up to the Christmas period. The young people drop in regularly to the office to get help with interview skills, support and help with course work for tech and school.

**Outcomes**

- Increased confidence
- Employment
- Effective communication
- Learning opportunities

**Group Name.** Young Mens Group

**Staff member.** Paul Toner

**How Many Young people in the group** 8 Young Males

1. Ciaran O'Connor 2. Daniel Haywood 3. Joseph Gouldie 4. Shea McAuley 5. Connor Maguire 6. Sean Og McClennaghan 7. Corey McMullan 8. Emin Cirit

**Brief discussions run out through the month.**

This month the group has met and drawn up a contract while also choosing the topics that they feel are important to them such as Bullying awareness, Smoking, Sectarianism, Racism, Health and Fitness, Community clean up, Cooking and various other topics. The group has completed four weeks which we done the contract. In week one we looked at bullying awareness, followed by cooking session in week two. Week three was beginning to look at the effects of smoking. To date the group has been well attended and all members have made a very good participating and contributing within it and on reflection it continues to go from strength to strength each week.

**Learning outcomes of the monthly sessions.**

- Role Play.
- Awareness on Sectarianism, Racism.
- Health and Fitness.
- Risk of Smoking.
- Community involvement.



**Group Name:** R CITY

**Staff Members:** Joe McNeill & Megan McFarlane

**How Many Young people in the group:** 37- 19 Ardoyne YC 18 Hammer YC

**Session 1-** This session focussed on team building and the dimensions of the group. Young people in groups had to build paper towers then assess each other's performance. Evaluation of the session young people really enjoyed it, they stated it improved their team work and communication skills.



**Session 2-** Role Models. Young people disclosed to group who their role model was and why. It was great to see that young people valued family members and friends so highly. Then young people in smaller groups had to design their perfect role model what skills/ qualities/ lifestyle etc they had. Evaluations told us that some young people didn't like talking in front of group about something so personal although they did enjoy hearing who each other's role models were.

**Session 3-** This is me. This session really focussed on the group getting to know one and other as well as the young person getting an insight into their own life. Young people also wrote a letter to themselves to set future goals which we will open in 6 months' time to find out how many goals were achieved.

**Session 4-** Motivational guest speaker. We invited in a guest speaker to tell his life story which is based on hatred, mistakes, substance abuse, death, perseverance, forgiveness and redemption. Young people were able to relate certain parts of the story to their own lives and felt really inspired after the session.

A further key highlight in this months R City programme was the young people who graduated from the National University Galway in Youth Work Leadership. The young people attended the ceremony at the university where they were present with their certificates due to the completion of the three modules involved in the programme.



**Learning outcomes achieved through the month:**

- Relationship and team development between participants.
- Increased self-esteem and confidence levels
- Ability to assess themselves and other peers

**Group Name:** What is Beautiful?

**Staff Members:** Conor Largey, Amanda McCusker.

**How Many Young People in Group:** 13 young women - aged 15-17

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

The girls part took in a four week team building course within BAC this month. The objectives of this was to introduce new members to the youth club and to bring the group together as one as oppose to the smaller clichés they came in. It was to build trust amongst the girls and a chance for Conor and I to get to know them in an informal fun environment. Within the first week we did a lot of team challenges exploring the need to work together, promoting communication skills and seeing key leaders coming out in the group.

The second week the group did the climbing frames and challenges within two teams. Through this they worked on highlighting each other's strengths and playing to their opponents weakness. This was a good chance to mix the girls outside their normal cliques and to work at breaking the smaller groups within the group. By placing stronger characters with quieter less confident girls the dynamic of the group changed and the girls adapting to communicate and perform as a team as oppose to individuals.

The third week was restricted to indoor wall climbing in Click and Climb do to the weather, although this was not ideal for our group as it was mostly individual work the girls encouraged one another to climb higher and to challenge themselves. It also promoted a lot of conversation as there was a lot of standing about. Finally the girls completed wet caving challenge. This strongly promoted team building skills and communication, it also relayed heavily on the girls encouraging those who felt trapped inside the cave. Overall the four week course brought the group together as a whole and set the foundations of their What is Beautiful course beginning.



**Learning Outcomes of the Monthly Sessions:**

- Team Building
- Leadership
- Communication
- Introduction to AYC and group work

**Group Name:** TECHSPACE AYC

**Staff Members:** Gareth Gilvary  
Sean McMullan

**How Many Young People in Group:** 12

**Brief Description of Sessions Run Through Out the Month:**

Each weekly session looks at the various stages and processes involved in a particular digital media making environment i.e. videography, graphic design, sound construction, photography or print design. At the beginning stages of the project, and after team collaboration and trust and friendship building exercises, the group began to focus on a in issue, or 'global injustice', that they believed was relevant to their lives in North Belfast (e.g. homeless, poverty, bullying, social exclusion, mental health, physical health, disabilities, etc.)

This was achieved through generalised discussion and simple questions i.e. things that happened in their day, week or month. From this, further and deeper (also relevant) questions were posed about some negative ongoings in each of their surroundings. Things that are currently overlooked, or things that go un-noticed to most people on a day-to-day basis. These discussions, mixed with theme relevant exercises (role plays, short videos, team games and one word topic thoughts) all allowed for further points at group discussion.



After the discussion area was covered, sessions have then moved from the topic end of things to exploring and 'introducing/familiarising' each young person with their own imagination & creativity. This was achieved by setting out some exercises. Two ends of a spectrum were explored. The first - with guidance. Each person was given an exercise booklet that they were to fill out with individual responses - such exercises included personal poems, favourite objects, creating a 5 line life story, one word to describe me, etc etc. The Second Method - zero input. This is where we provided the young person with an iPad - to create both an image collage that illustrated their relationship with the Youth Club, and also to pick any inanimate object throughout the club, and to, through video, give it life and personality.



Our overall focus is to provide the Young People with a voice, through digital mediums, both expressing their views but also highlighting a global injustice in their own words, sound, imagery & video. By keeping the group the

Our main aim is to empower the young people, providing them a platform to voice their own opinions on a global injustice and allowing them to raise awareness on an issue they feel is relevant to them and their peers.

### Learning Outcomes of the Monthly Sessions:

- Software editions that are high end, such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro X, iMovie, Logic Studio, Adobe After Effects & Soundtrack Pro.
- Technology engineering
- use of iPads and video and camera equipment
- There is also a huge emphasis on outing the 'learn by showing' and pushing the 'learn by doing' approach, where we the Educators and group leaders vow never to teach a young person by using their mouse to solve the problem for them, but instead asking them questions to enable them to answer their own problem.



**Group Name:** Midnight Programme October (Thursday and Friday 10pm-12am)

**Staff Members:** Stephen Konrad, Paul Brennan, Megan McFarlane, Cathy McGuinness, Caitlin Ewing, Amanda McCusker, Conor Largey, Joe McNeil & Thomas Turley.

**Young People:** 50 each evening.

### **Brief Outline of Programme throughout:**

During October we had a number of great nights in the midnight programme. Starting out we had an Acoustic night whereby we link in with some local artist who played throughout the night and then provided the opportunity for a Q&A. The Artist included Aidan Logan, Jamie Brown and Ryan McCabe. At the end all three came together to put on a final performance and get the young people signing along. Further to this we had guest appearances from comedians Tim McGarry (Da from Give my head peace) and Shane Todd giving young people an insight into stand-up comedy, writing jokes and the life of a comedian. Young people also had some great one to one time and a Q & A session to finish. During October we also invited actor Ciaran Nolan (Shay O Prey from 'Pulling Moves') into the midnight club to meet young people. Ciaran talked about the work he has done throughout his career and also informed young people of his upcoming shows. Ciaran spoke in depth about the one man play he acts in 'Man on the Moon', this play has a high focus on suicide and mental health with comedy in it therefore it will have a huge impact on our young people and we will look to getting the play in the Youth Club in the near future.



The programme also had a night out to the cinema which was organised by our Youth Committee, we had 41 young people at the cinema watching a horror movie for Halloween and all involved had a great time. Drop in is imperative to the success of the programme as it enables young people to develop relationships with staff and other peers, watching young people interact with friends and peers is key for staff to monitor their development outside of a group work setting. Young people also really enjoy playing pool, football, PS4 in refurbished senior room, eating pizza and interacting with staff.



### **Learning Outcomes for the Month**

Improved relationships with others  
Greater respect for difference  
Increased sense of belonging  
Improved communication between young people and adults  
Increased confidence and self esteem



*Believe,  
Achieve,  
Succeed*

