



Galway City Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group
Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 4.30pm via MS Teams

1. Welcome & Introductions

Deirdre Bermingham, Youth Work Ireland Galway / Galway City Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator
Caitriona Morgan, Galway City Council
Angela Breslin, Galway City Council
Orlaith Lawless, Galway City Council
Cathal Clancy, GRETB
Irene Murphy, Youth Work Ireland Galway
Brenda Kneafsey, EPIC
Lee Anna Ward, Galway City Community Network / Galway Traveller Movement
Manuela Heinz, NUI Galway

Apologies:

Morgan Mee, CYPSC
Nicola Kerrigan, GRETB

A welcome and introductions were given with above apologies for the meeting noted.

2. **Minutes Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group meeting on 22nd September 2021:** Minutes were agreed and it was noted to include Cathal Clancy as he was in attendance at the meeting on 22nd September.

3. **Comhairle Coordinators' Programme Report:** This report covers the period from September up to December 2021 and was circulated by email before the meeting. Deirdre went through each of the items included on the report as follows:

- From September to date committee meetings in person, using the outdoor space in the Ardilaun Hotel and then moved to the Atlantic Language College. An accessible meeting space to accommodate the committee is a big issue and hope to continue to meet in person while it is possible. It was hoped to host a welcome meeting in early December 2022 but given current public health guidance that will not go ahead. Final committee meeting will take place on 13th December 2022. Four of our current committee will be stepping back due to exams in 2022. Ruby will be stepping down from her role as National Executive representative as her two year term will be completed following Dáil na nÓg (which has been postponed to March 2022). The new representative will be chosen at the committee meeting on Monday 30th of November.
- The committee are continuing to work on the topic of mental health and invisible disabilities. The coordinator attended a workshop on mapping Galway City and how accessible it is for people with disabilities (both physical and invisible) from this we have created a link with Access 4 All Galway and discussed the possibility of an Access 4 All Galway Youth Committee. This is something the Comhairle Committee will try to support. Some committee members have met researchers in NUIG Child & Family Research Centre to work on the focus group on invisible disabilities. We will begin promoting the focus group with young people in the coming weeks and

hope to carry out in early 2022. At the AGM, we carried out workshops on 'Accessible Galway/Youth Facilities- Physical and Sensory Accessible Youth Spaces' and a mental health workshop 'Mental Health - Design a mental health toolkit'. We will be hosting a podcast interview with members of Galway County Comhairle na nÓg on body image and impact on Mental Health in December.

- On the 1st October some committee members participated in a virtual Sleep Out for Simon with young people from Youth Work Ireland, Galway. The committee have also participated in CVA (Citizen Voice Action) workshops with the SAUTI Youth Project in October and will participate in activities that relate to the topic around accessibility. As part of the Development Fund to engage stakeholders, the committee had planned an in-person event for November, but this has been postponed to 2022. The committee presented on the work of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg to the CYPSC on the 19th November. The outreach education officer in Galway City Museum is linking with the committee on an exhibition called Treaty 100, looking at Galway connection with the Anglo Irish Treaty. A draft survey has been designed as part of the stakeholder engagement plan, which will reach out to organisations who we hope to engage with as part of the work of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg committee. We hope to be able to share the survey in early December.
- The coordinator will participate in digital facilitation training on the 10th and 17th December. The Comhairle na nÓg Annual Report for 2021 and the Funding Request for 2022 have been issued with completion in early January 2022.

- 4. Feedback from Comhairle na nÓg AGM and discussion on Topic for 2022:** The AGM took place on the 11th November, it was online again this year as recommended by the DCEDIY. All secondary schools in Galway City participated in the AGM. The topic voted for the committee to focus on was Accessible Youth Spaces. We will continue to work on the previous topic. Goodie bags were sent out to all young people who participated in the AGM. A letter will go out to all schools to thank them for their continued support. Thank you to the Youth Workers who supported the AGM and co-facilitated the workshops with the committee members.
- 5. Feedback from National Executive:** Caitriona advised that an email had been received on the Recruitment of incoming National Executive members 2022-2023, noting the time frame and nomination form that had been sent onto Deirdre. Deirdre has been working on this and has advised that Leo is the new representative. Caitriona welcomed Leo and thanked Ruby for all her work.
- 6. Comhairle na nÓg 2022 Funding Request & Comhairle na nÓg 2021 Annual Report:** Caitriona advised that she had received notification from Pobal on 2022 funding and 2021 annual report. The information has been sent onto Deirdre for her attention and they will be requesting funding of €25,000 for 2022. The deadline for both to be completed and returned online is Friday 14th January 2022.
- 7. GRETB Local Creative Youth Partnership:** Nicola Kerrigan from GRETB presentation was circulated to all committee members before the meeting. As Nicola was unable to attend the meeting her colleague Cathal Clancy gave a brief update on the partnership, process, next steps etc.
- 8. A.O.B & Information Sharing:** Caitriona noted that Galway City Council has been approved funding of €264,910 under the Community Activities Fund and online applications will be opening on 4th January 2022. She also advised members that Aishling Colreavey has since left Galway Autism Partnership and

has now taken up her role as Healthy Galway City Co-ordinator and we will be contacting Galway Autism Partnership to seek a replacement and join the committee. Finally she referred to the recently hosted Youth Climate Justice Fund, outcomes from this event and information on this would be circulated after the meeting.

The next meeting of the Galway City Comhairle na nÓg Steering Group is provisionally scheduled to take place on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4.30pm.