

foróige
annual review
2008-2009

**shauna, 16,
inch foróige club,
co. cork**



“ It was a fantastic feeling to be elected onto the Reference Panel to represent the views of the young people of Cork. I feel a real sense of responsibility to make sure that young people have a voice and that our voice is heard - it's an even bigger job now that I have been elected onto the National Council of Foróige and have to represent the views of all of the members of Foróige nationwide! I'll do my best to really make a difference. I've really grown in confidence since I have been a member of Foróige, so during the year I want to promote Foróige to young people and be a kind of youth ambassador to make sure that as many people as possible know how good it is!”



This publication is dedicated to the memory of Flan Hassett, former Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the untimely passing of Flan Hassett, a dedicated Foróige leader and former Chairperson of the organisation's National Council. Flan has had a life long involvement in Foróige as both a member and leader of his beloved Toomevara Foróige Club. His outstanding personal characteristic was concern for other people and he was one of life's great youth leaders. Flan had a deep understanding and belief in the purpose and philosophy of Foróige and lived this out in his everyday life. He was a remarkable man, who was profoundly committed to youth development and was known in his community and the wider Foróige family as somebody who would never give up on any young person, no matter what. He will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to Foróige and the youth of Ireland, at both National and local levels.

May he rest in peace.

foróige in figures

50,000 Young People

5,000 Volunteers

1,138 Big Brother Big Sister Matches

700 Sessional Workers

410 Foróige Clubs

280 Staff

140 Youth Development Projects and Services

30 Voluntary District Councils

1 Foróige

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about foróige, national youth development organisation

Foróige is a leading National Voluntary Youth Development Organisation engaged in youth development and education. The fundamental purpose of the organisation is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society. It does this through community based, carefully structured, learning activities rooted in an innovative curriculum.

Foróige Services

Foróige is the largest and most successful youth organisation in Ireland. It uses a multi-pronged approach in its service provision which enables the organisation to meet the developmental needs of young people in general as well as focusing on vulnerable young people with specific needs.

Foróige Clubs are the basic unit of the organisation, which consist of young people aged 12 – 18 years and adult volunteer leaders. Foróige clubs are 'owned' by the members, allowing them to experience democracy first hand through the election of a club committee and the management and operation of the club in co-operation with adult leaders.

Local Youth Services provide specialised services to, and promote the development of a multitude of voluntary youth organisations. They also provide specialised services to vulnerable young people.

Local Youth Development Projects provide specialised services directly to specifically targeted young people. They assist young people in developing confidence and communication skills and foster participation, collective activity and the voluntary activity of young people within their communities. Big Brother Big Sister is an international one-to-one mentoring programme, hosted by Foróige in Ireland, which matches an adult volunteer with a young person. The basic idea is that a friendship will form and that in turn will promote the positive development of the young person.

Youth Information Centres provide free, confidential information services to young people and adults on a wide range of youth related topics.

Structure of the Organisation

National Council / Executive

The National Council is the governing body of Foróige, which determines its policy and controls the business and affairs of the organisation. One club leader from each county and four reference panel members are elected to make up the council.

From among its members, the National Council elects a National Executive, which meets regularly to discuss the day to day running of the organisation and is accountable to the National Council.

Reference Panel

At Regional Conferences, held in 11 designated regions throughout the country for club committee members, 44 members are elected to form a Reference Panel. This panel meets twice yearly and gives members direct input into the running of the organisation at national level. Four members are elected to the National Council.

District Councils

Foróige Clubs in a particular area may, with the permission of the National Council, form District Councils. Each club may appoint two voting delegates to sit on the District Council. The functions include: exchanging ideas, co-ordinating and developing activities, helping in the formation of new clubs and making representations to the National Council and National Executive on matters relating to Foróige.

Management/Staff

Foróige employs a full-time professional staff to assist and enable communities and voluntary youth workers in their youth work endeavours, and to work directly with young people as necessary and appropriate.

brian, 15, monaghan neighbourhood youth youth project



“ I was referred to the Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP) because I was having problems at school and was a bit on the wild side. I just wasn't that interested in the work and I got into trouble with the teachers. Things are much better for me now that I'm in the NYP. I really want to get a place in youth reach, so I'm working hard towards that goal. I enjoy being involved in the NYP, I like the groups I'm in and love doing woodwork and art. I'm really making an effort, going three times a week and I'm kind of proud of myself for that cause it's the first time I've really tried at something. My confidence has grown and I'm much more able to speak to adults now and I can voice my opinion in a calm way.”



foreword

by the Minister of State with
responsibility for Youth Affairs,
Barry Andrews, T.D.

As Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide the foreword for Foróige's Annual Report for 2008/2009. The past year has been a significant period for youth work on a number of fronts. From my own perspective, the transfer of responsibility for youth affairs from the Department of Education and Science to the new styled Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is not only a great opportunity to contribute to the on-going work of the sector, but is a clear signal from the Government that a focus on young people and their needs is a particular priority area.

As Minister, my aim will be to give direction and support to a coherent, co-ordinated and cross-sectoral approach to issues that affect children and young people. The role that youth work can play in this respect is crucial and I very much look forward to working with the youth sector in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

2008 witnessed the piloting of the Quality Standards Framework (QSF) initiative for the youth work sector. The concept of standards in youth work is not something altogether new as a number of youth work organisations, including Foróige, have developed and implemented very effective standards frameworks within their organisations. This demonstrates a clear commitment to advancing a quality agenda and that earlier work has helped to inform the development of the QSF. The purpose of the QSF is to improve the quality and efficiency of existing youth work programmes, services and initiatives. I believe that the QSF will help organisations and projects identify strengths and areas for development and that engagement in this process will ultimately result in better practice in addressing the needs of young people particularly those with fewer opportunities. I would like to thank Foróige for participating in the piloting of the initiative and I look forward to the further roll out of the process across the youth work sector in 2009.

2008 also saw the completion of the "Report and Recommendations for an Intercultural Strategy for the youth work sector". It is important that Ireland responds effectively to the challenge of integration and inclusion at all levels. I believe that a multi-faceted approach to this issue is needed and in this context, I am considering the Report and its key recommendations to see how we can best further integrate interculturalism into mainstream youth work.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay particular tribute to all those who work in Foróige for their dedicated work with young people. They play a vital role in offering out-of-school opportunities and experiences to young people that help develop and improve their life skills and enhance their personal and social development. Foróige has consistently met the challenges of modern youth work over its 57 years in operation. This openness to change has been demonstrated by the continued adaptation and development of Foróige's programmes to suit the changing needs of our young people. I believe that Foróige's holistic approach in working with young people encourages them to become active participants in building strong, sustainable and enriching communities.

2009 will be an exciting year with the further roll out of the QSF. However, it will also be a challenging year in view of the prevailing economic and financial climate worldwide. I want to assure Foróige and its members that I am committed to consolidating support for the youth sector in spite of the many challenges that lie ahead.

Finally, I look forward to working collaboratively with the various youth work interests, including Foróige, to develop appropriate, relevant, cross-sectoral policies for youth which have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our young people and I wish the organisation every success in 2009.

Barry Andrews, T.D.,
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs



seán campbell

Chief Executive Officer, Foróige

It has been an incredibly exciting, yet challenging year for Foróige. On a positive note we are working with increasing numbers of young people and have entered into a series of new and valuable strategic partnerships and ventures that will enable us to empower even more young people, no matter what their circumstances, to reach their full potential and enrich communities and families across Ireland.

On the other side of the coin, severe cuts to our main funding streams have made the youth work environment a difficult one, but we are confident that we have put in place a series of innovative cost cutting measures that will minimise the direct effect on the young people that we work with. However, we must all be mindful, that if next year brings similar cuts to those already imposed, it will mean great difficulty for Foróige, the youth work sector and the young people of Ireland.

My message is simple – Investing in young people is good for the country and ultimately, for the future of our society and economy.

As an organisation, our commitment to proving that our models of youth work are absolutely and resolutely achieving positive outcomes for young people remains steadfast. In this regard, it is with great pleasure that I announce the establishment of Foróige's Best Practice Unit, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. This, more than any other venture we have entered into over the last number of years, holds within it the ability to revolutionise the way we work with young people and the results we achieve. The Best Practice Unit will spearhead the development of premier quality youth work programmes for Foróige which will be benchmarked against the highest international standards.

There have been many other ground breaking developments in Foróige this year that will allow us to work with increasing numbers of young people in new and pioneering ways. We are partnering the Irish American Chamber of Commerce in developing an international youth leadership programme of the highest standard called the 'Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life Programme' and are working closely with its President and CEO,

Maurice Buckley, to achieve this vision. We are also partnering NUI Galway in the newly established UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement and I want to congratulate our friend and advisor, Professor Pat Dolan, on his appointment as Chairholder. Foróige has also recently taken over the operation and management of NFTE Ireland (National Foundation for Training Entrepreneurship) and are currently putting together a plan to develop and implement the programme throughout the country so that even more young people are empowered to further develop their entrepreneurial skills and spirit.

It hasn't been an easy year for Ireland as a Nation, but with the support and continued commitment of our volunteers, staff, policy makers and other key organisational stakeholders and partners, I am confident that we can continue to grow and develop Foróige into the most effective youth development organisation, not only in Ireland, but also internationally. It rests on all of our shoulders to ensure that the youth of Ireland aren't forced to pay the ultimate price for problems that are not of their making, but to which they form a key part of the solution. Sacrificing the most vulnerable isn't the answer to Ireland's economic problems and we must ensure that our young people aren't deemed to be easy targets.

I want to thank the volunteers, young people and staff of Foróige for making this another successful year for the organisation and I would also like to pay tribute to the out-going National Council and National Executive for their dedication, hard work and support over the past year.

I wish all involved in Foróige every success in the year to come.

Seán Campbell



pat mcLoughlin

Chairperson, National Council of Foróige

In my first year as Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige I have had the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the vital importance of youth work in Irish society. I emerge with a heightened sense of admiration for all involved in Foróige. The volunteers, young people and staff who I have met on my travels across the length and breadth of the country are an inspiration and absolute proof of the irreplaceable value of good quality youth work.

As Ireland begins to consider life under a cloud of economic uncertainty, a silver lining emerges in a renewed enthusiasm for voluntary youth work. I believe that it is no coincidence that Foróige club numbers have started on an upward climb this year and look set to continue along this trend. It is my hope that in this time of economic adversity, communities will come together to ensure the positive development of their young people.

I have visited a number of District Councils this year and wish to put on record my thanks to those of you who welcomed me so warmly. Over the years I have really come to believe that when our District Councils are strong, the Foróige club network is strong. We must work together to make our District Councils stronger, more creative and more active forums. We each have a personal responsibility in this regard.

The undoubted highlight of the year was the permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards held in Croke Park. It was an amazing celebration of youth work, young people and of corporate and community coming together for the common good. It was a proud night for all of us as we honoured 20 groups of outstanding young citizens for making such a positive difference to their local communities.

It has also been a year of much sadness with the untimely passing of three long standing and dedicated Foróige volunteers. Flan Hassett, former Chairperson of Foróige and leader with Toomevara Foróige Club, Co. Tipperary; Jo Hannon, who was a leader in Portlaoise and wife of former Chairperson, Tommy Hannon and Tony Reid, a leader with Loughglynn Foróige Club, Co. Roscommon. Brenda McKenna, former youth officer in Galway and Mayo, also sadly passed away this year. They will all be remembered in our thoughts and prayers and have left their legacy in the large number of young

people whose lives they have touched in such a positive and unique way.

I would like to pay tribute to Ray Devlin, who retired as Assistant CEO of Foróige this year after 40 years of dedicated service to the organisation. Ray has seen Foróige face challenge and change and played a pivotal role in shaping the organisation into the leading youth development organisation in Ireland. I wish him well as he sets out on this new and exciting time in his life.

We have made a concerted effort this year to increase our retention levels of older members as it is our firm belief that the longer young people remain engaged in Foróige, the greater the impact on their personal and social development. We have given significant grants to District Councils under the Health and Well-being Programme, which is sponsored by the Wrigley Company and have also held two fun-filled social events specifically targeted at older members in an effort to achieve this goal.

I wish to place on record my admiration for the professionalism and commitment, often above and beyond the call of duty, of the Management and Staff of Foróige and I also acknowledge the hard work of Foróige's National Council and Executive. It is a privilege to work with a group of such dedicated individuals who provide leadership and are deeply committed to Foróige's mission and objectives.

I look forward to the year ahead with great enthusiasm.

Pat McLoughlin

lights, camera, action

older members bash hits roscommon and carlow

It is becoming more and more difficult to retain older teenagers in mainstream youth work and services. With this in mind, the National Council of Foróige decided to run two pilot events specifically targeted at older young people to mark and celebrate their achievements as members of Foróige. The fun filled Oscar themed events were also a testament to Foróige's commitment to providing young people with opportunities for safe socialising in an alcohol and drug free environment.

Wild Wild West

The first older members bash took place in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon on Sunday 15th February 2009. Members came from Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim and Westmeath to attend the gala event. The red carpet entrance was flooded with over 200 young people, who were dressed to impress and greeted in true Hollywood style by the flashing cameras of the paparazzi. The evening began with a two course meal and

excitement brewed as members reached under their chairs to get their mystery ticket and reveal what spot prize they had won. The party really got started when Portlaoise band, Transmitter, took to the stage, playing a mix of rock, indie and pop.

Members only left the dance floor long enough to retouch their make-up and have their pictures taken with movie stars!!! Today FM DJ, Phil Cawley, then took to the decks and had everyone dance 'til they dropped.



Clubin' in Carlow

Foróige members from Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Laois, Kildare, Dublin and Offaly flocked to the fabulous Ramada Hotel in Carlow on Tuesday 17th February for the second gala event. The evening started with a non-alcoholic cocktail reception where the young party-goers got the opportunity to mingle with members of other clubs. They enjoyed a two course meal and the lucky few found Charlie and the Chocolate Factory style 'golden tickets' under their chairs informing them that they were the winner of a fab Foróige prize including mobile phones, infrared clock pens, signed snow patrol and stereophonics cds and much much more!

Transmitter took to the stage again and the band was greeted with cheers from the enthusiastic crowd. Ann Marie Kelly from Today FM then took over and got the young party-goers scrambling to win tons of spot prize with challenges like the best dancer and the hairiest man competition.

The event concluded in the early hours of the morning and busloads of excited members made their way home. Some had met the boy or girl of their dreams, others had learned a new dance and made new friends and some had walked away with a fantastic prize. Most importantly, everyone was asking if there would be one next year!



young people speak out!

On a Saturday in November last, almost 100 young people from Tallaght and the surrounding areas gathered in the new Brookfield Youth and Community Centre for **Speak Out!** a consultation event organised by Tallaght Youth Forum so that young people could have their say on issues that affect them and engage in meaningful dialogue with local opinion leaders and politicians. Isobel Phillips, Youth Worker, Peer Education Programme, Tallaght Youth Service, reports.

The Foróige operated Tallaght Youth Service established Tallaght Youth Forum in 2008 to give young people a voice on issues that affect them and is made up of 18 young people aged between 14 – 18 years. The group decided that it was important to find out the views of other young people in Tallaght and successfully applied to the Local Drugs Task Force for funding to run **Speak Out!** The youth forum then set about planning the day and decided it should consist of workshops to consult with local young people, followed by feedback and a fun event to end.

The next step was to decide on the topics that would be most beneficial to discuss at the seminar. The forum brainstormed to come up with issues that they felt affected young people in Tallaght and then drew up a questionnaire which was sent to 100 other young people to narrow it down to six main topics which were:

- » Young People's Rights
- » Drugs and Alcohol
- » Mental Health
- » General Health
- » Antisocial Behaviour
- » Integration/Inclusion

Tallaght Youth Forum members were trained in facilitation skills and worked with youth service staff to develop the content of each workshop.

Participants on the day were divided into workshops by age and interests, with each workshop co-facilitated by members of Tallaght Youth Forum and staff and volunteers from Tallaght Youth Service. Groups discussed and debated the topics, before deciding on the main issues and priorities for addressing these issues.



In relation to drugs and alcohol, the groups agreed that both were easily available and used by young people locally. The majority did not want to see a change in the law, but would like the laws to be more strictly enforced. Youth groups, counselling and support services were all seen as beneficial, with more education and alternative activities needed.

Concern was voiced about cuts to funding for education and local facilities. Although most participants were happy with the education system, there was a need for more education on rights, racism, mental health and drugs and alcohol. There was a worry that budget cuts will affect extra-curricular activities and that subject choices and opportunities at school may become limited.

The young participants did not feel that they are listened to by politicians and opinion leaders, but there were mixed views on whether the voting age should be lowered. Some felt that many young people do not understand the voting system and are not mature enough, while others put forward the view that as young people have to live with the results of

the vote, they should be allowed to have a say. A suggestion proposed to address this was for more young people to involve themselves in community groups where they can be heard.

In relation to mental health and inclusion, young people felt that bullying, peer pressure, isolation and suicide were the main concerns, and that encouraging young people to take part in youth groups and talk to people who can help would be priorities.

After a well deserved break for some food all the groups came back together to hear the issues and recommend actions from

their workshops. Invited guests, including local TDs and representatives from the HSE, Local Drugs Task Force and RAPID were also present to hear the feedback and respond.

The day wound up with a fun filled interactive digi-quiz with some great prizes to thank the young people for taking part.

Feedback from the event has been very positive. Tallaght Youth Forum are now working on the findings and recommendations from **Speak Out!**, and a full report from the event will be published.



bridging the gap

the donegal integrated project

Donegal Integrated Youth Project, which is funded by the Health Service Executive, is an innovative project that enables young people, referred through the social work teams in Donegal, to integrate into the wider community. The word 'Integrated' stimulates thoughts of 'inclusion', 'joined together', 'combined', 'incorporated' and these concepts are at the core of the Integrated Youth Project. Eimear O'Connor, Foróige Project Leader in Donegal, reports.

The Donegal integrated Project enables young people, along with their families, to address a wide range of issues which are prevalent for them. It increases their capacity to integrate fully into all aspects of life, as well as realising and achieving their full potential.

The staff of the project facilitate direct interventions for targeted young people, particularly those 'at risk', and their families. These interventions are needs and strengths led to enable the young participants to develop their capacity and inner strength to reconnect and integrate into their community. The project provides specialised developmental programmes to enable young people to learn new skills and to deal with the difficult issues they face in their lives in constructive and resourceful ways.

As well as specific needs led programmes, the young people are supported by the project worker to integrate into the wider community through involvement in sports, youth clubs, youth projects, youth cafés and special interest groups such as drama or music. Young people, on a needs led basis, are also linked in with other services in the community. This approach aims to aid the development of participant's knowledge, skills and attitudes which in turn enhance their self-confidence and promote empathy with the ideas, attitudes and feelings of others. Each young person has an individual plan developed to meet their specific requirements. The plan examines the needs, strengths and interests of the young person and outlines planned interventions and anticipated outcomes. It is followed by the young person themselves in conjunction with their family, social worker and the project worker. The plan is revisited and revised on a regular basis.

To date the Integrated Youth Project has engaged with over 60 young people aged 10-18, some of whom were involved for a brief time to enable them to overcome an issue in their lives and some who have had ongoing involvement throughout the year. Some young people involved in the project may just need time out from a difficult situation. Others have specific needs and issues for example; school difficulties, family or foster placement breakdown, engaging in risk taking behaviour, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, sexual health issues, teenage pregnancy, mental health problems and young people who have experienced tragedy or a traumatic event.

The Project works collaboratively with the Social Work Teams, Schools, other Youth Service providers, Family Support Agencies, Gardai, community projects and others working with young people in the County in order to continue to engage the target population and integrate them into the project. The Integrated Project, as with many other Foróige projects, provides a service which is flexible and available at 'out of hours' times, such as in the evenings and at weekends.

Feedback from the HSE, other agencies, young people and families involved has been very positive. While outcomes are different for each individual, some outcomes include; developing more effective coping skills; increased resourcefulness and resilience making the young participants better equipped to deal with and succeed in life despite exposure to high risk factors and an increased ability to engage with a wider, safe social network and the community. Most importantly, the young participants have fun and develop increased self esteem, confidence and life skills.

nikita, 21, teen parent support programme, donegal

" I joined the Teen Parent Support Programme (TPSP) when I was a few months pregnant. I was scared and felt that I was the only one going through all of this. I didn't have a clue what was going to happen or how I was going to cope. I needed help. I soon realised that I wasn't the only teen mum in the world and it wasn't something to be ashamed of. The TPSP helped me with things like my rights and entitlements, relationships and information on training. I have become more confident in myself and am better able to cope in different situations. The TPSP helped me through the bad times and I'm able to enjoy life more. I am better able to care for myself and my little girl. I have way better parenting skills, I did a first aid course and enjoy every minute of being a mum. I feel fortunate that we have such a strong programme in our area, a place where I really felt I belonged and could achieve anything that I set my mind to."



big brother big sister -

youth mentoring at its best

The Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) programme is an internationally renowned youth mentoring programme that matches an adult volunteer to a young person with similar interests who would benefit from additional support. The national roll out of the programme began in 2006 following financial investment from the One Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies and with additional funding from the Dormant Accounts Flagship Projects. Financial support has also been received from the Vodafone Ireland Foundation. The programme is currently available in 12 counties across Ireland, with 19 staff, surpassing targets set out in the BBBS business plan. Over 2,000 mentoring matches have been established since September 2006.

Now well established in Ireland, BBBS has become an integral part of the service provision of many of the projects and services operated by Foróige. The programme has also become part of the services provided by other agencies through the development of partnership agreements, including the HSE family support services in Galway, Youth Work Ireland in Galway and the Separated Children's Educational Service in Dublin. It is planned to expand into more partnerships next year. The school based programme has also seen a substantial increase, with forty nine schools currently operating the programme.

Action Packed National Event

BBBS Ireland celebrated its rapid growth this year by organising its first National event in October 2008.

This action packed residential weekend took place in the Delphi Mountain Resort in beautiful Connemara. Over 100 matches attended from all over the country and have already expressed interest in going again next year. The purpose of the event was to bring Bigs and Littles together and help their relationship develop in a new and exciting setting. Participants got a chance to get involved in activities that neither the mentors nor the young people had experienced before such as, kayaking, surfing, orienteering, photography and arts and crafts workshops. Participants really got a chance to get to know their match as well as an opportunity to share their experiences with other matches.

According to a big sister from Dublin, the weekend was a massive success, "The event in Delphi Adventure Centre was a memorable and exciting experience for both my little sister and myself. We tried



archery, rode on the zip line and surfed in the Atlantic Ocean. It was amazing to have the opportunity to try these things with the unique backdrop of scenic Connemara. My little sister and I had only known each other for two weeks prior to the weekend and found that this unique opportunity gave us a wonderful chance to get to know and trust each other better while having a fantastic time"

National Manager of the BBBS Programme, Paul Tannian was delighted with the success of the event. He said, "This weekend has been a real celebration and it has been wonderful to witness the unique interaction that there is between a little and their adult mentor; from a shared joke or a smile, to support

and encouragement on the high ropes, to the planning and decision making involved in designing the art pieces. We all need to know that there is someone in our corner rooting for us to become the best that we can be. I think everyone left with amazing memories that will last a lifetime."

The National Event received widespread media coverage in regional and national press and radio and through television shows including, Nuacht and the Síle Show on TG4 and Nationwide on RTE. The BBBS programme was also highlighted through a story line on the very popular TV series, 'The Clinic' this year. This exposure is part of an extensive public relations campaign to attract more volunteers to become Big Brothers or Big Sisters.



Proven Positive Outcomes

A growing number of studies have demonstrated significant associations between young people's involvement in mentoring relationships and positive developmental outcomes, making BBBS the world's largest proven effective youth mentoring programme. The programme in Ireland is currently undergoing a Randomised Control Trial Evaluation involving 160 young people. The final report will be published in 2010.

The experiences of the young people here in Ireland speak for themselves. We are constantly receiving feedback from our volunteers, young people and parents during their evaluation meetings. Commonly mentioned outcomes include;

- » The young person has become more confident and has 'come out of him or herself' more.
- » The young person is now communicating more effectively and taking a more active role in the decision making within the friendship.
- » Relationships based on trust develop over time with littles feeling comfortable enough to confide in their big brother or sister on personal issues.
- » Strong friendships develop demonstrated by littles presenting volunteers with birthday cards and Christmas cards.

There is no doubt that the BBBS programme in Ireland is continuing to go from strength to strength. The good news is that the intensive growth shown this year is set to continue over the next three years in line with the programme's goal of establishing over 5,000 matches by 2011 and 2,000 per year after that.



café culture hits communities

Young people and volunteers are responding enthusiastically to the growing number of Foróige youth cafés opening around the country. Foróige youth cafés provide young people with a safe place to be themselves, meet friends and relax, get involved in enjoyable activities, deal with concerns they may have and get appropriate support to lead happy, healthy and connected lives. Denis O'Brien, Foróige's Manager in the Southern Region, reports.

Two models of youth café are growing strongly in Ireland. The first of these operates as a part-time café attached to an already existing youth project or service. One such café is located in Killmallock, Co. Limerick. This youthful, new, purposely designed youth café was formally opened in November 2008. It is a large, bright, attractive space with a kitchen and coffee bar, performance area for live music nights, a wide screen TV, pool and football tables, a Wii and computers for internet access.

Significantly, while the project previously had almost no participants aged over 15, there are now over 30 young people aged 15 – 19 using the café. Prior to this, the project was managed by staff with no volunteer support. Since the café opened, seven local adults have taken on a three night training programme to become volunteer leaders.

The second model of youth café that is showing substantial growth is volunteer-led youth cafés. In Carrigtwohill Co. Cork a part time youth café is about



to become completely volunteer led. Originally set up as part of the Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project, Foróige is now supporting the volunteers to lead the café themselves with support from the Cork Central Regional Youth Officer. The café is in a space provided by the Carrigtwohill Community Centre and about 25 young people can use it at any one time.

This volunteer led youth café has many similarities to a Foróige Club. The leaders enable young people to set up a committee which guides all aspects of café operation from name to menu. Adults interact with young people assisting them to organise activities, getting to know them and being available should a young person need support. Just like in the club, the volunteers encourage the young people to do as much for themselves as is appropriate.

Youth cafés also provide a space for innovative and exciting initiatives to be rolled out. This year, in the well established Attic Youth Café in Longford, youth committee members worked with Foróige staff to produce the Longford Youth (LY) Factor Competition. Based on the infamous X Factor television series, the LY Factor held open auditions from

among the youth of Longford. Over 60 acts auditioned for a coveted place in the final 16 who got to perform in the live shows, held every Saturday night for four weeks. Three acts were eliminated after each performance based on their scores from the judges and the audience vote. The final attracted over 700 people with Charlie McGettigan of Eurovision fame comparing the show. The overall winner, popular band, '8 point 6', were greeted with roaring applause as they received the LY Factor Trophy 2009.



sean, 16, craughwell foróige club, co. galway

“ My best Foróige memory so far is definitely the Reference Panel weekend. It has been unbelievable craic! I never stopped laughing the whole weekend. I have great memories from being involved in Foróige in general too. I really enjoy our club nights; we play pool and table tennis, cards, soccer and we recently got a wii which is great fun. We're also very involved in our community. We organised a community day this year and the year before we learned sign language so that we could all communicate with a member who had hearing difficulties – we get great use out of it – it can come in handy when we don't want people to know what we're saying!”



recognising achievement, cultivating change

the permanent tsb foróige youth citizenship regional awards

Five regional recognition events in Cavan, Galway, Dublin, Tullamore and Cork marked the kick-off of the permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards this year. The awards are part of the 'permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Programme', an out of school education initiative enabling young people to use their talents to contribute positively to their local areas.

The energetic regional events provide young people with an opportunity to showcase their hard work and share with others their experience of being active citizens. For the first time ever, clubs and projects outside the Foróige network were eligible to enter the awards this year. The participating projects were presented with special recognition certificates for their outstanding achievement in making a positive and real difference to the lives of their communities.

All the events had a magic atmosphere from the moment young people started to arrive. Viewing of the project displays took place first, followed by the young people presenting their projects on stage. The official part of the ceremony ended with the presentation of certificates to representatives of all groups. The Big-Brother style diary room was a big hit and gave young people the opportunity to leave a message recording their individual experience of the day and what it's like to be an active citizen. Entertainment after the official ceremony was a Digi-Quiz with young people quick off the buzzers to win some unusual prizes including techno t-shirts that move to music and luminous globes that float in the air. In all, over 2000 young people took part.



Get Involved

How would you like to show the world what you're made of? How about attending the youth gala event of the year? All you have to do is tell us what your youth group is up to. The Awards are open to all youth groups so, if you think you and your posse have the drive to make a real and positive difference, register your interest in taking part today. Check out the website www.youthcitizenship.ie to find out more.

Youth Citizenship Dates to Remember

10th April 2009 Deadline for return of completed Youth Citizenship Project Report Form.	16th May 2009 Youth Citizenship Regional Event, Tullamore Court Hotel, Offaly
9th May 2009 Youth Citizenship Regional Event, Helix, Dublin	17th May 2009 Youth Citizenship Regional Event, Clayton Hotel, Galway
10th May 2009 Youth Citizenship Regional Event, Maryborough House Hotel, Cork	October 2009 permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Awards Ceremony 2009



a new generation of superhero

The 2nd annual permanent **tsb** Foróige Youth Citizenship National Awards took place on 30th October 2008. 20 youth groups from all over the country got a chance to celebrate their achievement of youth citizenship excellence in true Oscar style at the red carpet event.

Excitement and pride filled the room as young people and invited guests viewed the project displays and exchanged ideas. The 900 strong audience was captivated by the entertainment; *Praise Them* - a dramatic performance highlighting the enormous positive energy of young people, which was developed by theatre group, Macnas, working with young people from Foróige Youth Development Projects in Galway. Broadcaster, Ray Darcy compared the night's event. A representative from each group took to the stage to introduce their groups' video diary of their project. Congratulatory messages came from a host of stars including, President Mary McAleese, The Blizzards, Karen Koster from TV3's Xposé, sports commentator, Mícheál Ó Muirheartaigh, and the delectable duo Podge and Rodge. The evening concluded with refreshments and some serious moves on the dancefloor with 2FM DJ, Ruth Scott, on the decks.



1. Roscommon Leo Club, Roscommon researched and developed a quality full colour magazine for young people, as part of a unique suicide awareness and prevention project. The group distributed 3,000 copies in Roscommon.



4. Boher Foróige Club, Co. Westmeath interviewed older members of the community about their memories of the past and used these recollections to publish a book of stories on the history of Boher.



2. Kilimordaly / Kiltulla Foróige Club, Co. Galway used the medium of art to raise awareness about drug and alcohol misuse in their local community. The exhibition of their artwork then formed the backdrop to a series of information evenings on the topic.



5. Hot Fuzz Special Olympics Group, Dublin instigated a Marketing and PR Campaign to raise awareness about their club. As a result, the community learned about the Hot Fuzz Group and about the opportunities there are for young people with learning difficulties to have fun, have a voice and take part in the community.



3. Killybegs Youth Project and Drop-in Centre, Co. Donegal young men's group organised a fundraising three peaks challenge, climbing the three highest mountains in Donegal to raise money to buy much needed equipment for the centre which is used by over 100 young people in the community.



6. Templeport Foróige Club, Co. Cavan hosted a youth disco, using the proceeds to buy a park bench, a bird table and lots of flowers which they planted to make the garden of a local nursing home a more enjoyable place for the residents. They also organised a children's Christmas party for the younger members of the community.



7. Ballymacward Foróige Club, Co. Galway organised a regular event for the senior citizens of their community on one Friday of every month for a year, where the senior citizens played bingo, cards and chatted while the club members served them refreshments.



12. Loughlynn Foróige Club, Co. Roscommon felt that the Irish language and culture was dying in their local community. They organised a traditional Irish Mass, arranged Irish language classes and hosted a monster Ceilí for all the Foróige Clubs in the area.



17. Levitstown Foróige Club, Co. Kildare fundraised for two local charities. To support the Jack and Jill Foundation the club took part in their annual national mobile phone recycling. They also held a community cake sale for the local Lourdes Group, raising over €500.



8. Bonniconlon Foróige Club, Co. Mayo became aware that a number of elderly people in their community didn't have smoke alarms. They held a car wash and cake sale to raise the money to buy the much needed smoke alarms and installed them.



13. Croom Youth in Action Project, Co. Limerick organised a mass clean-up of the area around the local stream, which had become severely polluted. They organised a community party close to the stream to encourage everyone to keep the area clean.



18. Kanturk Foróige Club, Co. Cork fundraised for the two charities in their area that provide care for the elderly. They ran a Christmas Variety show as a fundraiser that would also boost community spirit. The event raised €1,305 for the charities.



9. M.C. Teens Foróige Club, Dublin waged "war" on young people who say 'there's nothing to do'. Members produced a guide and website of all of the clubs and facilities available in their local area and distributed them widely throughout their community. They also painted a 'community spirit' mural.



14. Moyvoughley Foróige Club, Co. Westmeath, set up a library service in their local community hall. They organised a sponsored stay awake to raise funds to fit out the library and collected used books from the community which were catalogued in the local hall.



19. Killinarden Junior Estate Management Committee, Dublin cleaned up the basketball court in their local Community Centre to encourage young people to use the amenity. They got permission from Dublin County Council and project managed the timetable and what jobs everybody would do on the day.



10. Ballycumber Foróige Club, Co. Offaly produced an information leaflet and went door to door to encourage their community to be more environmentally conscious. They provided households with recycling boxes and collected the boxes on a monthly basis to take to the local recycling facility. They also organised "composting information talks" for the local community.



15. CRIB Youth Project and Health Café, Co. Sligo raised awareness of the intimidation of young people by their peers in the Sligo area. They worked with local Gardaí to identify 'hot spots' where young people didn't feel safe. They also created, published and distributed a safety card to young people.



20. Loobagh Area Youth Project, Co. Limerick wanted to improve their area and bring the whole community together. The Kilfinane 1st Year Group organised a tea party for the elderly and visited their homes to chat with them, help with chores and shopping. The Kilmallock Boys Group gave the local handball alley a top to toe makeover as it had become really run down.



11. Hazelnuts Foróige Club, Dublin organised a road safety day to educate young people about using their bicycles safely and to educate the entire community on road safety. They ran the day in conjunction with the local gardai.



16. Carick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project, Co. Tipperary ran a fundraising initiative for the Camphill Journeyman Building Programme which raises money to help people with special needs between the ages of 18-25 years. The group ran non uniform days, a cake sale, a movie night, a teen quiz and a soccer match, raising €1,500 for the charity.

shauna, 15, big brother big sister programme, galway

“ Before I got involved in the Big Brother Big Sister programme, I used to have fairly regular panic attacks and rarely left the house. I had very little confidence and found it tough to speak up for myself. Since being matched to my big sister, I am so much more comfortable in every situation. I get out of the house more than I ever used to. We go for food, go to the cinema, go swimming and browse around the shops. I love spending time with her. My younger sister has special needs and requires a lot of attention, so there were always people calling to the house to see her. But my big sister calls over just to see me and always encourages me to try new things. We’ve been matched six years and have a really great friendship.”



taking youth civic engagement to the next level

launch of UNESCO chair in children,
youth and civic engagement

Foróige has been announced as a partner organisation in the newly established UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, at the Child and Family Research Centre of the National University of Ireland (NUI), Galway. This is the first UNESCO Chair to be awarded to the Republic of Ireland. Professor Pat Dolan, Director of the Child and Family Research Centre, with over 20 years experience in family support frontline work, policy and research, was appointed as the Chairholder. Pat has also been a policy advisor to Foróige since 2003.

The UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement was officially launched by President Mary McAleese in NUI Galway on Wednesday 4th March 2009.

President McAleese expressed her view that the UNESCO Chair should play a crucial role in navigating the pathway of reassurance and hope for children and families. She said, “we need to ensure that young people’s voices are heard above the cacophony of adult commentators who are now dominating the public space. The cost of not doing so will likely come back to haunt us as a civil society and a golden opportunity to move towards a fuller and more inclusive wisdom will have been missed.”

The purpose of the UNESCO Chairs Programme, launched in 1992, is to



advance research, training and programme development in higher education by building university networks and encouraging inter-university cooperation through transfer of knowledge across borders. At present, 617 UNESCO Chairs have been established within the programme.

The launch was also a fitting tribute to the achievements of Professor Pat Dolan, the first UNESCO Chairholder in the Republic of Ireland, who said, “it is an honour and a challenge to take a lead role in exploring civic engagement in young people as a method for mobilising children’s rights and addressing needs in Ireland and across the world. Children and young people have a proven capacity to be civically active in communities where by being supportive to others, they benefit themselves in terms of improved self-esteem, self-efficacy and well-being.”

The launch was also a significant day for Foróige and the Community Knowledge Initiative at NUI Galway, a forum for the development of civic and leadership skills in students, who have been selected to partner the Child and Family Research Centre as they set out on this exciting journey. Foróige will provide expertise in the area of youth work, civic engagement and youth leadership.

Seán Campbell, CEO of Foróige, said “it is an honour of the highest order that Foróige is a partner in this wonderful initiative and I am certain that the meeting of theory, practice and policy that will result from this partnership will transform the lives of young people the world over. I am in no doubt that our involvement in the UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement will give us further opportunity to reach even more young people in Ireland and beyond in years to come. This is indeed a proud day for NUI Galway, for Professor Pat Dolan and for Ireland.”



summer fun hits fóroige projects nationwide

Foróige Youth Development Projects and Services operate a large number of developmental summer programmes for young people countrywide. These structured programmes enable young people to engage in worthwhile and educational leisure activities, while having fun and gaining new skills along the way. The overarching purpose of Foróige's summer programmes is the personal development of the participants and they are also useful means of engaging young people who are not already involved in youth work in Foróige Projects and Services.

Tallaght Now

Cameras were flashing all across Tallaght throughout the summer as young people aged 12 – 18 prepared their entries for the Tallaght Now photography exhibition and competition. The initiative gave young people the opportunity to reflect an impression of their community through photography.

Photography workshops took place throughout the summer as part of the Tallaght Youth Service and Associated Projects summer programmes. The young participants then selected the location and subject of their photographs. Some explained the reasons for their choice, while others preferred to let the pictures speak for themselves.

A wide range of photographs were submitted and selecting just three winners proved difficult for the judges. First place was awarded to Robbie Cosgrove from Fettercain for his untitled picture of a friend laughing. A group entry from Youthreach was awarded second place, and James Cotter from Springfield received the third prize for his picture "Cosmopolitan". A special commendation was awarded to Karl Freeman from Brookfield for his entry "peek-a-boo".

Tallaght Now entries were displayed throughout August in Tallaght Library alongside a selection of photographs of young people participating in the summer programmes. More than 1200 places were provided for teenagers to participate in a range of skills based workshops and recreational activities by Tallaght Youth Service, in 2008.



Blanchardstown Summer Graffiti Project

Over 60 young people from Blanchardstown came together to take part in a graffiti summer project this year. Graffiti artist, Tom McDonald, together with Youth Officers from Blanchardstown Youth Service and associated projects, co-ordinated the project. A team of eight young people from different areas of Blanchardstown battled the Irish summer rain to complete a section of the graffiti wall representing their area.

But before they got to tackle the wall, the young people took part in a week long programme which included learning about graffiti art, sketching and using spray paints. They then got the chance to apply these new skills and create their graffiti mural on the wall of Blanchardstown Youth Service for all the community to see.

The young people recognised that they were involved in a high quality arts project and identified a number of key skills developed through their involvement in the programme.

They also learned how to express themselves through graffiti art and the importance of respecting your community.

"It was amazing to see how much the group learned throughout the course of the week. They picked up the skill so quickly", said Youth Officer, Maria Doyle, who co-ordinated the graffiti summer programme. Word has gotten around the local area and the young people's skills are in demand from other community organisations who wish to revamp their premises.



creating the leaders of tomorrow

Foróige is proud to announce its partnership with The Ireland Chamber, United States, to implement and further develop the Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life (ASLFL) Programme in Ireland and internationally. The ASLFL programme provides young people with the tools they need to develop their leadership skills and prepare them to become great leaders of the future.

The programme takes its name from one of the world's greatest humanitarians and 1952 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Albert Schweitzer. The German born theologian, philosopher, musician and physician was passionate about the positive

development of young people, their future leadership roles and serving mankind. This programme is his legacy to young people. Bryan Gavin, Co-ordinator of the ASLFL programme in Foróige, reports.

"Search and see if there is not some place where you may invest your humanity."
Albert Schweitzer

So, what's the ASLFL programme all about?

The ASLFL programme is a leadership programme for young people aged 15 - 18 who have demonstrated good leadership abilities and aspire to being leaders in the future. It is designed to help these young people develop the attitude and skills of good leadership. The programme focuses on developing awareness, responsibility, interpersonal and communication skills. The overall aim of the programme is to enable young people to develop the skills, inspiration, vision, confidence and action

plans necessary to be an effective leader. Having taken part in the programme, young people will gain the essential skills to make a positive difference to their society through the practice of effective leadership. It will motivate young people with leadership abilities and high aspirations to:

- » Take responsibility for exercising leadership
- » Improve communication skills
- » Develop their own personal skills and ability to work in groups
- » Develop an awareness of social issues
- » Improve their problem solving abilities
- » Believe in their abilities and respond with a 'can do' attitude
- » Create self-esteem that encourages them to exercise their leadership abilities in the communities where they live
- » Set goals and strive to achieve them.



Don't Wait for Leaders, Create Them

Foróige will host the flagship ASLFL conference from 17th - 21st August 2009 in Dublin, kicking off with an opening ceremony in Trinity College. There are 250 much sought after places available on the five day programme. Young people who have participated in the programme in the U.S and U.K will also attend, which will provide a great opportunity for cross-cultural learning. Participants will hear inputs from inspirational leaders from the world of sport, politics, media and business, who will recount their own experiences as leaders and will motivate the young people involved to see themselves as leaders and instill in them a belief in their ability to succeed.

There will be a number of workshops throughout the week where participants will have the opportunity to improve their skills and gain invaluable leadership tools and knowledge that will stay with them throughout their lives. It will be an opportunity for the young people involved to come with their own life vision and set goals for what they want to achieve when they return to their communities and start out on their leadership journey. The programme places a large emphasis on the importance of 'giving back' to their communities and society. This could involve volunteering or taking a lead on a project.

The week will have a very practical focus, and it will involve the young people taking an active role in the workshops and discussions. The workshops will include some of the following:

- » **Understanding Leadership**
This will involve examining some of the key concepts of leadership. It will look at the nature of leadership in terms of what is important in a leader, the important social issues or needs in the world today and the types of leadership that will be needed in the future.
- » **Self Awareness**
This will be an opportunity for participants to look at their own strengths, interests and motivations. They will be given an opportunity to look inside themselves to see what really inspires them. It will be a chance to look at the qualities they possess already and what qualities they would like to develop in the future. It will also enable participants to examine their own values.
- » **Creating Vision.**
Each young person will be given the chance to set their own vision or goal for what they want to achieve as a leader. It will challenge them to look at what they want to change most in society and give them the ability to convert this vision in to a realistic, challenging and achievable goal.
- » **Problem Solving & Critical Thinking.**
This will give participants a chance to explore various models of problem solving and critical thinking. They will be involved in group activities and individual exercises or tasks which will give participants direct experiences of these concepts. They will also be challenged to assess their own strengths and weaknesses.
- » **Communication Skills.**
These workshops will concentrate on all aspects of communication including listening, asking opinions, hearing the needs of others, encouraging etc. There will also be a chance to practice your assertiveness, debating and presentation skills.
- » **Goal Setting.**
A key component of the whole experience is the opportunity for participants to identify goals they want to achieve. They will have a chance to analyse their goals and set out their plan for achieving them. They will focus on what skills or attributes they need to develop in themselves, how these can be developed and what support they need.



It won't be all work of course, there will be lots of time to unwind and have some fun. There will be activities and entertainment every evening, which will give all of our future leaders a chance to get to know each other and develop long lasting friendships.

Each participant will have to complete a short application form stating why they would like a place on the programme. The application will also need to be supported by a recommendation from an adult. An adult volunteer or staff person can often recognise the potential of a young person, before the young person themselves. Therefore, it is important that members are encouraged to get involved in programmes like the ASLFL. Even the best of leaders need a little encouragement every now and again!

There is no doubt that this programme will be a great benefit to the many young people already engaged in Foróige. They are already learning skills for life, and now, through their involvement in this programme, they can build on these skills and really put them to the test by becoming a better and more confident leader. It will be a truly worthwhile experience for all involved.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."
Albert Schweitzer

"If I believe I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it in the beginning."
Mahatma Ghandi

dermot , 16, cloontia foróige club, co. mayo



“ The Foróige Club in Cloontia is a big part of our community. It's a great place to meet your friends and make new ones and it's safer (and warmer!) to get together in the club than on the street. We do a lot of work in our community and its great that we can make a difference and let everybody see that young people aren't all that bad! I feel like I've been given a great opportunity as a member of the Reference Panel to give my region a voice. We have a chance to express our opinions, propose suggestions and make Foróige even better for young people – it's great that young people are really respected like that.”

culture connect foróige launches integration strategy

The landscape of Ireland is rapidly changing, with more than 100 nationalities living here, and even more ethnicities, according to the Census 2006. The office of the Minister for integration now estimates that 10-12% of the population are migrants. Foróige recognises that the ethnic diversity of Ireland's young people has the potential to bring even more creativity and dynamism to the organisation. Diversity must be well managed and planned for throughout all levels of the organisation so that it becomes a positive rather than a negative force.

Suzanne Lindsay, Co-ordinator of Foróige's Integration Project, reports on the efforts being made to Increase and Include the Diversity of Young People in Ireland in Foróige's work. Last year, The One Foundation committed to support Foróige to design, develop and implement a strategy to ensure that the organisation is inclusive of, and relevant to, the diversity of Ireland's youth population. Blanchardstown Youth Service (BYS), Tallaght Youth Service (TYS) and associated projects and voluntary clubs were identified as pilot areas for this work since the ethnicity of the communities in these areas is particularly diverse. The Census 2006 shows that 15% of people living in Tallaght and 30% of people living in Blanchardstown are from minority ethnic communities.

The strategy will incorporate the experiences of BYS and TYS and will then be implemented throughout the organisation.

The strategy for integration is underpinned by the following goals:

- » To increase the participation of minority ethnic young people in BYS, TYS and associated projects and voluntary clubs.
- » To facilitate the positive integration of young people from diverse ethnicities in Foróige's projects, services and voluntary clubs.

The strategy is based on the intercultural model of youth work which is regarded as international best practice for achieving positive integration between people from diverse ethnicities. It provides a framework for integration which is fundamentally based on the philosophy and purpose of Foróige, along with the interdependent principles of interculturalism, anti-racism, equality and human rights. The document outlines key aims and objectives for staff and voluntary leaders, as well as concrete information and ideas for implementing these aims and objectives and meeting the organisation's integration goals. A training programme on this model was implemented for staff and volunteers of BYS and TYS earlier this year. They also took part in a seminar on the 28th February 2009 where they worked together to identify what they can build on, in their own youth work, to achieve the goals of the strategy.

Staff and voluntary leaders in BYS, TYS and associated projects and clubs have already done a lot of work to achieve the goals of the strategy and have increased the diversity of young people in projects, services and clubs. A mutual understanding and respect is visible between young people who are happy to accept those who are ethnically diverse and are more interested in what they have in common as individuals such as sport, technology and participating in programmes to improve their community. This interaction is ultimately counteracting racism by fostering trust and understanding and dispelling

stereotypes on which racism and tensions between different ethnicities are often based. All of this will inevitably have a knock-on effect on the communities of Blanchardstown and Tallaght who are already beginning to embrace the diversity of the areas in which they live.

BYS and TYS still have a way to go in achieving the goals of the strategy – the level of increase in participation of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds is not yet reflective of the diversity of the communities of Blanchardstown and Tallaght. Unfortunately, racism still exists, which makes it difficult for minority ethnic young people to participate in many areas of life, including youth work. Research carried out by the Integration Project identified that ethnic minority young people face other barriers which may dissuade them from becoming involved in youth work, such as language difficulties, a lack of understanding of youth work, as well as anxiety about being perceived as different or 'not knowing anyone'. As one respondent to the research put it, "it can be scary to walk into a room full of Irish." The first step to overcoming these barriers is for youth organisations, projects and voluntary clubs to develop links with minority ethnic communities so that they can develop a greater understanding of, as well as an involvement in, youth work in their area.



taking on the human rights challenge - foróige's reference panel

The Reference Panel is a democratically elected body of Foróige members who make recommendations to the Foróige organisation on issues affecting young people today. These young people are elected at Regional Conferences of club committee members throughout the country. At their first meeting, the reference panel elect four members to the National Council of Foróige. In this way, young people are actively involved in shaping the future of the organisation. 40 members were elected on to the Reference Panel this year. The first conference of this year's Reference Panel was held on the 20th – 22nd of February 2009 in the Irish Management Institute in Dublin. Gerry McDonald, Foróige's Head of Training and Programmes tells us how they got on.

Promoting Human Rights

This year's Reference Panel conference focused on the theme of, "Valuing Difference and Promoting Human Rights in Foróige." This is a broad theme to cover in two days, so a number of key questions were highlighted and explored in greater depth including;

- » What human rights are most important to young people?
- » What can Foróige clubs and youth groups do to value difference and promote greater human rights?
- » What can the National Foróige organisation do to promote human rights?

An understanding of human rights was an important starting point for the Reference Panel members, so Sian Thompson, youth and student officer from Amnesty international, worked with the group on the concepts of human rights and valuing difference. Sian gave an input on the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights and discussed with the group the human rights that they felt are important to young people.

The Reference Panel discussed and debated these rights and explored the issue of difference and uniqueness.

The group also underwent experiential exercises that highlighted the importance of inclusion and equality and demonstrated what it feels like if you are stereotyped and excluded. This process resulted in the Reference Panel gaining a deeper and broader perspective on human rights. They also carried out role play and created images that represented the human rights which are most important to them. These included; self expression, safety, love, happiness, justice, equality, food and shelter.



What can the Foróige Club do?

The Reference Panel felt that promoting human rights should be one of the main aims of the Foróige club. For example, they felt that there should be:

- » A Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for every Foróige club and youth group, which included a social contract that ensures that everyone feels safe to express their individuality.
- » Sub- committees to organise games and activities so that they suit all of the interests and talents in the club.
- » Special evenings where each member gets the chance to express something about themselves. This could be a hobby, song, poem or object that is important to them.
- » A "buddy system" for shy and younger members to encourage them to participate.



The Reference Panel also felt that clubs should take on projects to promote human rights such as talks in schools, articles in the local paper, posters, videos and practical activities to meet the needs and human rights of others in the community.

What can the National Foróige organisation do?

The Reference Panel felt that the Foróige organisation should:

- » Produce a booklet or leaflet on promoting human rights that could be available to clubs and youth groups.
- » Develop and promote a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for clubs and youth groups in Foróige.
- » Develop workshops on human rights that are designed for Foróige clubs and youth groups.
- » Conduct training courses for leaders, staff and district councils on human rights.

- » Work in partnership with other organisations that promote human rights.
- » Introduce the theme of human rights into the permanent tsb Foróige Youth Citizenship Programme.
- » Make the Reference Panel Report available to all clubs and youth groups.

Overall the Reference Panel said that they thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and found it a great experience. As well as the hard work that was done they benefited greatly from the social aspect and many good friendships were developed. At their next meeting in the autumn the Reference Panel will begin the process of developing a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for Foróige clubs and youth groups.

Congratulations to Dermot Feeney, Cloontia Foróige Club, Co. Mayo, Peter Ogbe, OBCS Foróige Club, Tallaght, Dublin, Shauna O'Hanlon, Inch Foróige Club, Co. Cork and Sean Moran, Craughwell Foróige Club, Co. Galway on their election to the National Council of Foróige to represent the views of young people.



doing young people justice

Garda Youth Diversion Projects are community based and supported youth development projects which seek to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility. The Garda Youth Diversion Projects are funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and administered through the Garda Community Relations Section in association with the Irish Youth Justice Service. Foróige currently operates and manages 28 Garda Youth Diversion Projects. The recent announcement of second worker posts for these projects, funded by the European Social Fund, will ensure that they can work with many more young people. They will also ensure that a consistent service of the highest standard is provided and that the education and employability prospects of the young participants is improved.



The WAY Forward

The WAY (Wicklow Action for Youth) Project was established in May 2002 and has gone from strength to strength in recent years and become a central part of the local community. Siobhan Doyle, WAY Project Co-ordinator, looks at how the project is helping the young participants to navigate their WAY, safely and positively, through adolescence. Volunteerism plays a key role in the success of the WAY project. There are currently 17 adult volunteers whose commitment to working with young people has enabled the project to take a lead role in the provision of youth services in Wicklow town, while also being able to concentrate on engaging specifically targeted young people.

One of the highlights of last year was that a group of four young men involved in the project wrote, directed and starred in a film that won them an award at the Cork Youth Film Festival.

It was a very proud moment for all, so as a tribute to the remarkable

achievements of this group of 16 year olds, a special screening of the film was held at Wicklow Gaol. Many local community and council representatives were present on the night to celebrate the accomplishments of these wonderful young men and the work of the project in general.

One of the participants involved in the film said of his involvement in putting the film together "before getting involved, I had no confidence in myself and never thought I would be able to get in front of a camera and act. I'm so proud of our film and I know my parents are really proud of me too." This project would not have been possible without the invaluable support of two local male volunteers, who worked alongside the group helping to create a positive and fun learning experience for all involved. Another successful programme which we ran last year was the 'Build a Bike' programme. This was a seven week course which was designed to equip each participant with the skills required to fix any problem with a bicycle. It was a great group project as it strengthened

their sense of team work and encouraged the young people to communicate and share their knowledge and skills with each other. The task seemed daunting for the group at the beginning and they thought that they would never get there, but they did actually build a bicycle from start to finish. They proved to themselves that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it.

In Summer 2008, the first joint initiative summer programme was held in Wicklow. The WAY Project, along with three other agencies working in the community, joined forces to provide a four week programme of activities. This was a hugely successful initiative which allowed a large number of local young people to participate in fun and developmental summer activities. It was also enhanced through a number of local people volunteering their time and expertise.

Another achievement of note this year was that the WAY Project and County Wicklow Volunteer Centre worked together to set up a volunteer-led youth café in the town. The café is open every Saturday in the WAY Project premises and caters for young people aged 12+ in the town and surrounding areas.

So the future looks bright for the WAY project. A second worker, Julie Bradshaw, has just been appointed to the project and we are just about to move to larger premises which will allow us to expand our services and ensure the continued success of the project.

The CABLE Breaks New Ground for Foróige

The landmark CABLE Garda Youth Diversion Project opened its doors in the Moneymore Estate of North Drogheda in 2008. It is the first ever project that Foróige has secured in Co. Louth and although it is still early days, the project is already contributing to the positive development of the young people and community it serves. Colin McAree, Foróige Manager in the Eastern Region reports.

The name CABLE was decided on by the young participants, who decided that the project should represent something positive about their community that people would instantly recognise and be proud of. They thought it should also act as a symbol of the new, youthful and vibrant Drogheda. The Cable Bridge dominating the Drogheda landscape on the M1 motorway on the outskirts of town fit the bill and the CABLE Project was born.

Starting a new project is always exciting, but rarely an easy journey. So when the recruitment process was complete and hours of building renovation work was over, it was time to begin the work of the project in earnest. The first task was to organise the CABLE project's summer programme of activities.

But how would we let people know about the programme? Well, no better way than getting our team of youth ambassadors to help draft a leaflet and do a mail drop to over 200 houses. According to one young person "the other young people will listen to us quicker anyway." This marketing strategy worked and the project was inundated with requests for more information from parent's and young people alike.

Allen Donoghue, CABLE Project Co-ordinator, is a native of Drogheda and is delighted to be back working in his home town after time spent in employment in both Tallaght and Blanchardstown Youth Services respectively.

"It has added significance for me that Foróige's first project in Co. Louth is in my home town of Drogheda" says Allen, who already feels at home and is ready for the challenge that lies ahead. "The welcome we have received, particularly from the Gardaí, the local community, the other service providers and the young people has been fantastic. The area has really taken to the project and sees it as a tangible investment in the local young people who need it most. With that greeting comes a huge sense of responsibility. We really need to deliver for the most vulnerable in the community, to have a significant impact and to effect positive change. We have already seen some of the participants move on to direct employment and training and it bodes well for the future."



amy, 15, sub garda youth diversion project, co. offaly

" I really love being involved in the SUB project and it has given me great confidence and a place to go where I feel I belong. I was getting into bother at school and home, but since I've been involved with the SUB things have been much better for me. I love all of the activities we do and I suppose you could say that I get a chance to put my energies into positive things now. I've found that I'm pretty good at art through SUB and we recently did a mural on the project wall about positive mental health. I will also be involved in doing an art exhibition during the summer, so I'm getting my stuff ready for that now."



new ventures and partnerships for foróige

foróige and nfte come together

Foróige has entered into a strategic partnership with the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Ireland to develop and enhance the NFTE programme over the next number of years and provide more young people on the island of Ireland with the opportunity to enhance and develop their entrepreneurial skills and spirit. John Cahill, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Foróige reports.

Developed originally in the USA, the NFTE Organisation came to Ireland in 2004 with the establishment of NFTE Ireland. NFTE is committed to changing the lives of young people in low income communities in Ireland by enabling them to develop their business, academic, and life skills. It achieves this by:

- » Delivering the NFTE programme to young people in disadvantaged communities using both in-school and out-of-school programmes
- » Building self confidence and interpersonal skills and increasing school completion and college attendance
- » Increasing career aspirations
- » Developing young people's interests in business to become future entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs

Through learning about entrepreneurship, young people can easily transform their innate 'street smarts' into 'business smarts'. NFTE's unique experiential programme allows young people to develop their self esteem, develop their career aspirations, unlock their entrepreneurial spirit and open their minds to see opportunities for a brighter future that may involve them in becoming entrepreneurs and innovators!

The Target Group for the NFTE programme is young people aged 12 – 18 from disadvantaged communities on the island of Ireland, who are either in school or may have left school early. Since its establishment, NFTE Ireland has been successful in introducing the NFTE Programme to a range of sites in Dublin, Belfast and Limerick. It currently involves 900 young people and 42 Certified Enterprise Teachers from 25 locations, both in and out of school, in an energising and challenging enterprise programme.

This new and exciting joint venture with Foróige will mean that by 2011 over 2,000 young people will be involved in the NFTE programme each year across the island of Ireland. Watch out! It may be coming your way – so keep your eyes open and who knows, the next stop could be the Dragon's Den!

the foróige best practice unit

Since its establishment in 1952, Foróige has been an innovative, creative and progressive youth organisation at involving young people in worthwhile, developmental and educational programmes. With the objective of consolidating and growing this standing, Foróige successfully secured substantial support from The Atlantic Philanthropies to establish an innovative Best Practice Unit (BPU) within the organisation.

Foróige is committed to increasing the effectiveness and impact that our programmes and services have on young people, adult volunteers, families and the community, particularly those from areas of disadvantage. As an organisation, we must ensure that our programmes and services are focused on achieving positive outcomes for young people and we need to be able to stand over them, not only

as the best programmes in Ireland, but internationally as well. We believe strongly that high quality, proven programmes will attract more young people, adult volunteers, community support and sustainable funding to Foróige.

The BPU will give Foróige the opportunity to develop programmes that are the best in existence. The Unit will focus on two existing Foróige Programmes, Citizenship and Relationships & Sexuality, and look to identify three evidence based programmes external to Foróige in the areas of Youth Crime Reduction, Leadership and Youth Entrepreneurship. The staff of the BPU will be involved in training all Foróige staff and volunteers in outcomes focused service design; in the implementation of the manualised programmes and the evaluation of the outcomes of such programmes.



if you can dream it, you can become it

Seán Gallagher is co-founder and CEO of Dundalk based firm Smarthomes and one of RTE's renowned Dragons on the hit show Dragon's Den. Having overcome near blindness as a child, his life was changed at the hands of an innovative surgeon who literally opened up the world to him. While Seán struggled throughout his early school years because of his sight, the advice of an encouraging Teacher was to change his life. That advice became his life's mantra 'if you can dream it, you can become it.'

Seán was a founder member of Ballyhaise Foróige Club in Co. Cavan, through which he learned that we all have the power and positivity within us to effect change. At the age of 18 he wrote his first life plan; to become a farmer, a Foróige leader, a trainer, a martial artist, a fitness instructor, a politician and an entrepreneur. Over the last 25 years he has pursued his goals with relentless focus, achieving one after another.

"I remember quite vividly how we came to set up the Foróige Club in Ballyhaise. A group of us had arranged for a local bus to take us to Galway to the youth mass during the Pope's visit and when we were on the way home we thought to ourselves that we worked really well as a team and should keep it up – so there was born our Foróige Club' said Seán. 'I was the first Chairperson of the Club and learned very early on how to conduct a meeting properly, how to be an effective chair, how to present and speak in public – we certainly didn't always get it right, but we respected each other and looking back now I can see that we actually learned more when things went a little off track than when they worked out perfectly. I have fantastic memories of friendships made at the summer gatherings and of the challenging personal development courses that taught me about me and where I wanted to be in life.



I have always said that what I learned, and how I learned, as a member first and then as a leader with Foróige, set the foundation for my later work and voluntary life. I have a passionate belief in mentoring, in volunteerism and in our personal duty to contribute to the betterment of society - this has absolutely stemmed from my positive experience of these things as I was growing up.

Through my involvement in Foróige, I learned how to set objectives and go about making them happen; how to bring a team together; how to stand up in a meeting and have your opinion counted, while still listening and being respectful to others. I also learned writing skills; self confidence; the importance of democracy; facilitation skills; entrepreneurship (both social and economic)....and I could keep going!

Foróige should be an essential part of the life experience of all young people in Ireland today – I believe this because I know the positive effect it had on my own life. My advice to young people today is that you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with, so surround yourself with positive people, people who believe in you and your potential and people who you, in turn, believe in. Open up to your dreams, don't bury your talents and don't put other people down."



Sam, 17, integrated youth project, Donegal

" I was experiencing a lot of difficulties in my life. I was out of school and had gotten into trouble with the law a few times, so I was referred to the Integrated Youth Project. It takes a lot of commitment if you want to make it work for you and I've had some ups and downs, but I've worked closely with the project staff, who are always really supportive, and I'm doing well now. Through the project I got the help I needed to deal with tough situations and make difficult decisions in my life. I have also had a chance to take part in lots of activities, to meet new friends and I've found a few things that I'm good at too, so I can focus on these. It's been a really positive experience for me and it's a great resource for young people."

foróige projects and services

projects/services	funding agency
1. Core Services	Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
2. Donegal Youth Information Centre	Co. Donegal VEC
3. Mainline Donegal (Foróige Clubs)	Co. Donegal VEC
4. Voluntary Youth Group Project	Co. Donegal VEC
5. Mainline Waterford (Foróige Clubs)	Waterford City VEC
6. Ferrybank Youth Development Project, Waterford	Waterford City VEC
7. Tallaght Youth Service	Co. Dublin VEC
8. Tallaght Youth Information Centre	Co. Dublin VEC
9. Blanchardstown Youth Service	Co. Dublin VEC
10. Blanchardstown Youth Information Centre	Co. Dublin VEC
11. Peer Education Tallaght	Co. Dublin VEC
12. Whitechurch Youth Development Project, Dublin	Co. Dublin VEC
13. STAY Project, St Aengus, Tallaght	Co. Dublin VEC
14. Early School Leavers Blanchardstown	Co. Dublin VEC
15. Peer Education Blanchardstown	Co. Dublin VEC
16. OASIS Riversdale, Blanchardstown	Co. Dublin VEC
17. Tyrellstown Youth Initiative	Co. Dublin VEC
18. Corduff Community Youth Project, Blanchardstown	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund
19. Ballybane Area Youth Project, Galway	City of Galway VEC
20. Ballinfoile Area Youth Project, Galway	City of Galway VEC
21. Knocknacarra Area Youth Project, Galway	City of Galway VEC
22. Ballybane Traveller Youth Project, Galway	City of Galway VEC
23. Foróige Youth Circles, Galway	City of Galway VEC
24. Beara Peninsula Youth Development Project, Cork	Co. Cork VEC
25. SKY Youth Development Project, North Cork	Co. Cork VEC
26. The Glen Youth Development Project, Cork	Cork City VEC
27. Mahon Youth Development Project, Cork	Cork City VEC
28. Castlebar Youth Information Centre	Co. Mayo VEC
29. Youth in Action Project, Croom, Co Limerick	Co. Limerick VEC
30. Loughgur Area Youth Project, Co. Limerick	Co. Limerick VEC
31. Carrigaline Youth Initiative	Cork Local Drugs Task Force / Cork VEC
32. Kilmallock Area Youth Project, Co Limerick	Co. Limerick VEC
33. Nenagh Youth Development Project	North Tipperary VEC
34. ABLE Project, Ballyfermot	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
35. Ballincollig Action Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
36. Bán Project, Ballybane, Galway	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
37. dán Project, Donore Avenue, Dublin	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
38. GAP Project, Glen, Cork	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
39. JAY Project, Jobstown, Tallaght	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
40. KEY Project, Tallaght	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
41. LEAP Project, Longford	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
42. MAY Project, Mahon, Cork	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
43. Monaghan Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
44. BLOCK Project, Portlaoise	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
45. Raphoe Garda Project, Donegal (LEAF)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
46. The WAY Project, Wicklow	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
47. Bandon Justice Project, Co Cork	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
48. The YEW Project, Whitechurch	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
49. DIME Garda Youth Diversion Project, Dublin	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
50. The HAY Project, Dublin	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
51. Birr Garda Youth Diversion Project (SUB)	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
52. Cavan Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
53. ORB Garda Youth Diversion Project, Dublin	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
54. APT Garda Youth Diversion Project, Tallaght	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
55. West Limerick Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
56. Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
57. Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
58. Galway City Garda Youth Diversion Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
59. Brookfield Garda Youth Diverson Project	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
60. CABLE Garda Youth Diversion Project, Drogheda	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
61. WEB Project, Blanchardstown	Department of Justice & Garda Síochána
62. South East Limerick Drugs Prevention Project	Regional Drugs Taskforce
63. Tallaght Teenage Health Initiative	Health Service Executive – South West
64. Youth Project & Drop-in Centre, South West Donegal	Health Service Executive – West
65. Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North East Area
66. Ballyshannon / Bundoran Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North West Area
67. The Rosses Neighbourhood Youth Project, Dungloe	Health Service Executive – North West Area
68. South Leitrim Neighbourhood Youth Project	Health Service Executive – North West Area
69. The CRIB Youth Project and Health Café, Sligo	Health Service Executive – North West Area
70. Letterkenny Youth Project and Health Café (The Loft)	Health Service Executive – North West Area
71. Teen Parenting Support Programme, Donegal	Health Service Executive – North West Area
72. Carrick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project, Tipperary	Health Service Executive – North East Area
73. Tramore Youth Development Project, Waterford	Health Service Executive – South East Area
74. West Limerick Youth Initiative	Health Service Executive – Mid West Area
75. Ballina Neighbourhood Youth Project, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area

projects/services	funding agency
76. Castlebar Neighbourhood Youth Project, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
77. Castlereae Neighbourhood Youth Project, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
78. Teenage Health Project, Roscommon	Health Service Executive – Western Area
79. Teenage Health Project, Galway	Health Service Executive – Western Area
80. Connect Youth Project	Health Service Executive – Western Area
81. Westport Neighbourhood Youth Project, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
82. Boyle Neighbourhood Youth Project, Roscommon	Health Service Executive – Western Area
83. Athenry Adolescent Support Programme, Galway	Health Service Executive – Western Area
84. Springboard Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
85. Community Based Family Support Project, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
86. Cove Youth Café, Westport, Mayo	Health Service Executive – Western Area
87. Midway, Waterford	Health Service Executive / Department of Social and Family Affairs
88. Ballybane Adventure Programme, Galway	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
89. Brookfield Community Youth Project, Tallaght	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
90. National Drugs Misuse Prevention Project	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
91. Glen Young Adults Project, Cork	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
92. Mulhuddart Community Youth Project	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
93. Springfield Community Youth Project, Tallaght	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
94. Whitechurch YPFSF Project, Tallaght	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
95. Ferrybank Drugs Prevention Project, Waterford	Young People's Facilities and Services Fund / Dept of Rural Community & Gaeltacht Affairs
96. Mulhuddart Community Youth Project 2, Dublin	Mulhuddart Communiy Centre (YPFSF)
97. Huntstown Community Youth Project, Dublin	Huntstown Community Centre (YPFSF)
98. Blakestown Community Youth Project	Blakestown Resource Centre (YPFSF)
99. Computer Clubhouse Blanchardstown	Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
100. Family Support WEB Programme, Blanchardstown	Local Drugs Task Force
101. Tallaght Drug Education Initiative	Local Drugs Task Force
102. Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project, Cork	St. Vincent de Paul
103. Glen Youth Reach Project	Cork City VEC
104. Mahon Youth Café	RAPID
105. Skibbereen Youth Café	Co Cork VEC
106. Greenmount Youth Initiative, Cork City	Cork Local Drugs Task Force / Cork VEC
107. Newcastle West Community Based Drugs Initiative	Mid Western Regional Drugs Task Force / HSE – Mid West
108. Youghal Youth Café	Pobal
109. Youghal Community Based Drugs Initiative	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force
110. That's My Goal West Cork Traveller Project	Dept Justice, Equality and Law Reform/Co. Cork VEC
111. Drug Prevention and Education Initiative	South Western Area Regional Drugs Task Force
112. Bandon Community Drugs Initiative, Cork	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force
113. Regional Education Support Worker (Drugs Misuse)	Western Region Drugs Task Force
114. Roscommon Youth Centre	Western Regional Drugs Task Force / Lions Club
115. Cavan/Monaghan Drugs Education Initiative	North East Regional Drugs Task Force
116. Big Brother Big Sister Programme, National	One Foundation and Atlantic Philanhropies
117. Area 24 Youth Health Café, Tallaght	Emerging Needs Fund of the National Drugs Strategy Team
118. Citizenship Programme, National	permanent tsb
119. Gweedore Youth Development Project	Co. Donegal VEC
120. Substance Misuse Co-ordinator, Midlands	Midland Regional Drugs Task Force
121. Attic Youth Health Café	Midland Regional Drugs Task Force
122. Mitchelstown Community Drugs Initiative, Cork	Southern Regional Drugs Task Force / Health Service Executive
123. Donegal Integrated Youth Project	Health Service Executive – Western Region
124. Young Men's Teenage Health Project, Blanchardstown	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
125. Co. Sligo Youth Alcohol & Drugs Prevention Project	North West Regional Drugs Task Force
126. Co. Donegal Youth Alcohol & Drugs Prevention Project	North West Regional Drugs Task Force
127. Balbriggan Youth Service	North Dublin City & County Regional Drugs Task Force
128. F.A.D.E, Leitrim	North Western Regional Drugs Task Force
129. Youth Booth Café, Waterford	Dormant Accounts Fund
130. Exit Youth Café, Tallaght	Co. Dublin VEC
131. Young Parents Project Carrick-on-Suir	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
132. Tallaght/Blanchardstown Youth Integration Project	One Foundation
133. Zone Youth Health Café	Crisis Pregnancy Agency
134. Mate-Tricks Programme, Dublin	Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative
135. Comhairle na nÓg Project, Sligo	County Development Board
136. National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)	NFTE Ireland Board
137. Drum Youth Café, Kilkenny	Kilkenny County Council / Health Service Executive / RAPID
138. Family Resource Centre Youth Participation Programme, Kilkenny	Family Support Agency
139. The Shine Integration Project, Dublin	One Foundation
140. Dáil na nOg	Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

peter, 15, old bawn community school foróige club, tallaght, dublin

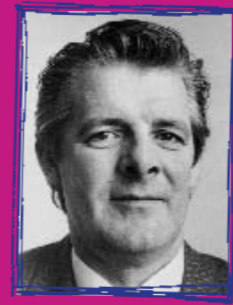
“ Our club just started this year and me and my friends got involved straight away. What’s great about Foróige is that we get to take ownership of the club. We all have a voice, we decide what to do and it’s great fun because it’s our place. I’m PRO of the club so pretty soon everyone’s going to know about Old Bawn Community School Foróige Club! There are tons of opportunities available for young people who get involved in Foróige, so we’re planning on taking part in lots of the events and awards this year as we really want to put our club on the map.”



**shauna, 16,
inch foróige club,
co. cork**



“ It was a fantastic feeling to be elected onto the Reference Panel to represent the views of the young people of Cork. I feel a real sense of responsibility to make sure that young people have a voice and that our voice is heard - it's an even bigger job now that I have been elected onto the National Council of Foróige and have to represent the views of all of the members of Foróige nationwide! I'll do my best to really make a difference. I've really grown in confidence since I have been a member of Foróige, so during the year I want to promote Foróige to young people and be a kind of youth ambassador to make sure that as many people as possible know how good it is!”



This publication is dedicated to the memory of Flan Hassett, former Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the untimely passing of Flan Hassett, a dedicated Foróige leader and former Chairperson of the organisation's National Council. Flan has had a life long involvement in Foróige as both a member and leader of his beloved Toomevara Foróige Club. His outstanding personal characteristic was concern for other people and he was one of life's great youth leaders. Flan had a deep understanding and belief in the purpose and philosophy of Foróige and lived this out in his everyday life. He was a remarkable man, who was profoundly committed to youth development and was known in his community and the wider Foróige family as somebody who would never give up on any young person, no matter what. He will be remembered for his outstanding contribution to Foróige and the youth of Ireland, at both National and local levels.

May he rest in peace.

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National Development Plan 2007 - 2013