

PLACES TO “HANG AROUND” (WITH FRIENDS)

Many respondents also mentioned particular places where they go with friends to ‘hang around’.

Table 4: Locations where Respondents “Hang Around” Each Town

Location	Carrigtwohill Schools /Youth group (N=118)	Cobh Schools (N=76)	Glanmire Schools (N=110)	Midleton Schools /Youth Groups (N=210)	Youghal Schools /Youth Groups (N=63)	Total No. “hang around” (N=702)
Specific Communal area in locality	14 (11.9%)	19 (25%)	18 (16.4%)	22 (10.5%)	14 (22.2%)	87 (15.1%)
Cork City/Mahon Point	50 (42.4%)	6 (7.9%)	43 (39%)	10 (4.8%)	1 (1.5%)	110 (19.1%)
Town centre/Streets	23 (19.5%)	31 (40.8%)	17 (15.4%)	114 (54.3%)	34 (54%)	219 (37.9%)
Estate	2 (1.7%)	7 (9.2%)	5 (4.5%)	7 (3.33%)	0	21 (3.6%)
Friend’s house	5 (4.2%)	31 (40.8%)	23 (20.9%)	14 (6.66%)	20 (31.7%)	93 (16.1%)
Fast food outlet (e.g. McDonald’s)	7 (5.9%)	0	0	47 (22.4%)	1 (1.5%)	55 (9.5%)
Town Park	3 (2.5%)	0	12 (10.9%)	1 (0.5%)	22 (34.9%)	38 (6.6%)
Sports Facility (GAA/soccer pitch, etc)	19 (16.1%)	8 (10.5%)	25 (22.7%)	6 (2.8%)	2 (3.1%)	60 (10.4%)
Pool-hall	4 (3.4%)	0	0	69 (32.8%)	0	73 (12.7%)
Pubs	0	0	2 (1.8%)	0	0	2 (0.3%)
Shops/shopping centre (SuperValue, etc)	32 (27.1%)	15 (19.7%)	28 (25.4%)	15 (7.2%)	0	90 (15.6%)
Video store/gaming store (e.g. XtraVision,)	0	0	11 (0.9%)	4 (1.9%)	0	15 (2.6%)
Other	5 (4.2%)	8 (10.5%)	7 (6.4%)	7 (3.33%)	4 (6.3%)	31 (5.4%)
Midleton	22 (18.6%)	0	0	3 (1.4%)	0	25 (4.3%)
No location specified	3 (2.5%)	2 (2.6%)	0	0	0	5 (0.9%)
Perks (Youghal Only)	0	0	0	0	32 (50.8%)	32 (5.4%)

As **Table 4** shows, 37.9% of the respondents told us that they “hang around” the town centres and streets. This applies particularly to the towns of Midleton (54.3%), Youghal (54%) and Cobh (40.8%) and less so for Carrigtwohill and Glanmire who spend time in Cork City/Mahon Point (42.4% and 39% respectively). This would be expected for geographical reasons as these latter locations are closer to them, more accessible and travel costs would be less.

We learn from the responses that 16.1% hang around at friend’s houses and the next most popular place is shops/shopping centres at 15.6%. Some 15.1% of the young people hang around communal public areas in their locality which they name. In relation to Youghal, the comments of 22.2% of respondents indicated that they hang around in a specific communal area in their locality such as “the strand”. As mentioned previously, over half (54%) indicated that they hang around in the town centre or the streets of Youghal.

For example: “We walk around the streets or go into greenpark but its cold and boring, cafes close at 6 pm and there is no toilet facilities, you can’t go anywhere for even a hot drink or a chat.” Some 50.8% of the Youghal respondents said that they hang around Perks Amusement Arcade.

Of note, in relation to Midleton is the high number of respondents who mentioned Fat Alberts, the local pool hall (32.8%) which we found was no longer open at the validation stage. Some 22.4% of Midleton respondents mentioned McDonald’s as a place to hang around. Sports facilities are places to hang around for 10.4% of respondents in our survey. For Glanmire, this figure was higher at 22.7%

What Respondents’ Want in Their Town for Young People in the Future

In responding to this question many gave a ‘wish list’ of the facilities and activities what they would like to see in the future for their area.

Table 5 What Respondents want in their Town for Young People in the Future

	Carrigtwohill Schools /Youth group (N=140)	Cobh Schools (N=86)	Glanmire Schools (N=126)	Midleton Schools /Youth Groups (N=273)	Youghal Schools /Youth Groups (N=77)	Total No. Respondents (N=702)
A place to ‘Hang around’	32 (22.8%)	8 (9.3%)	26 (20.6%)	55 (20.1%)	40 (51.9%)	161 (22.9%)
Youth service/youth groups /community groups	32 (22.8%)	3 (3.5%)	16 (12.7%)	33 (12.1%)	10 (13%)	94 (13.4%)
Recreational facilities (cinema, leisure centre/arcade, pool hall, restaurants)	55 (39.3%)	61 (70.9%)	50 (39.7%)	81 (29.7%)	3 (3.9%)	250 (35.6%)
Sports facilities (swimming pool, astroturf)	31 (22.1%)	24 (27.9%)	44 (34.9%)	63 (23.1%)	7 (9.1%)	169 (24.1%)
Sport activities (sports clubs, basketball, boxing)	5 (3.6%)	9 (10.5%)	5 (3.9%)	10 (3.66%)	12 (15.6%)	41 (5.8%)
Night-time activities (discos, live band nights, karaoke, open mic nights)	6 (4.3%)	3 (3.5%)	5 (3.9%)	88 (32.2%)	30 (39%)	132 (18.8%)
Creative activities (dance, drama groups, music classes)	5 (3.6%)	9 (10.5%)	6 (4.8%)	3 (1.1%)	3 (3.9%)	26 (3.7%)
Educational activities (First Aid, language classes)	0	4 (4.6%)	0	0	3 (3.9%)	7 (1%)
Shopping	3 (2.1%)	5 (5.8%)	15 (11.9%)	8 (2.9%)	2 (2.6%)	33 (4.7%)
Other (community events, festivals, beach parties)	19 (13.6%)	12 (13.9%)	10 (7.9%)	34 (12.5%)	21 (27.3%)	96 (13.7%)
More Activities or Facilities for young people	16 (11.4%)	16 (18.6%)	18 (14.3%)	40 (14.6%)	15 (17.5%)	105 (14.9%)

Recreational Facilities

As Table 5 shows, 35.6% of all respondents want more recreational facilities. These include a cinema, leisure centre/amusement arcade (including, bowling, games hall etc.), pool hall and a number of other facilities such as a public park, restaurants/café and skate parks. In Cobh, 70.9% fall into this overall category and the majority of these (85.2%) say they want a cinema in their town. A cinema is also named by 58% of respondents in both Carrigtwohill and Glanmire.

Sports Facilities

Some 24.1% of all the respondents wanted the provision of sports facilities such as playing pitches/astroturf, a sports complex, basketball, gym facilities (Cobh) and a swimming pool. Of the respondents in this category in Midleton (23.1%) and Carrigtwohill (22.1%), the majority indicated that they wanted a public swimming pool (65.1% and 61.3%) respectively.

“I would like to see a public pool being built in Midleton and also a place for people to hang out with friends e.g. A coffee shop”
“Better facilities like a public swimming pool or an arcade”

Of the 34.9% of respondents from the Glanmire schools who wanted sports facilities, 40.9% indicated that they wanted a swimming pool. Of the 27.9% of Cobh respondents who indicated that they would like to see sports facilities, a third indicated that they want a swimming pool in their area. Some 9.1% of Youghal respondents mentioned sports facilities although 15.6% wanted more activities involving sport. On a very positive note, both Youghal and Cobh now have a public swimming pool. In relation to the new swimming pool in Youghal, this comment was made in the validation groups **“The pool will be the new place to hang out- its warm, indoors and there are seats”**.

A Place to Hang Around

Some 22.9% of all the respondents expressed the need for a place to hang around. In Youghal, however the figure is much higher than for the respondents in the other areas. When asked what they want in the future, 51.9% name a place to hang around, with over half naming specifically a Youth Café, (unlike the other areas, only 3.9% of them name recreational facilities of any kind).

“Somewhere we go into to sit down and talk a café, listen to music, big enough to fir large groups, cheap, buy snacks, tea

coffee, hot choc” “a cafe for teenagers only/youth club comfy chairs, movie nights, coffee or tea etc. a place to get away. music live etc.!” “just some where to go where everyone can meet up and hang out, karaoke, open mic nyte, discos and a disco in da station”

In Cobh the figure is low at 9.3%. Somewhere to hang out relax and have a laugh is frequently referred to as a place without ‘drink’. The comments of 20.1% of respondents from the Midleton schools and youth project indicated that in the future they would like to see some place for young people to hang around.

“a place for us to go with our friends, to have fun and where we wont get kicked out” “Maybe a disco place. A place where you can go to chill out and relax but still have fun”. “I would like to see a permanent venue for alcohol-free social activities for young people”

Some 22.8% of the respondents in Carrigtwohill wanted to see a place to hang around. As one respondent said: *“Somewhere safe to go with light and heat to meet up with our friends, make more friends, we need to get off the streets.”*

Clearly, youth cafés mean different things to different people in different areas. This depends on what young people know about the youth café idea. In Youghal, an Area Youth Project had just started up at the time that the questionnaires were being issued to young people. There was a lot of talk amongst young people about what youth cafés were and how they worked and how young people would be implicitly involved. Questionnaires were introduced and administered by the youth worker, not teachers to all groups, including school groups. Could this have influenced the responses? In another area it may not mean that much. More often than not it is a generic term for a place to hang out. In the conference, people became more informed. Thus those who were involved then and later in the validation groups had more information.

This is how the Midleton validation group described a youth café:

“ away from adults” don’t like “ adult dominated appearance of place for young people” “ a place to go so they will stay out of trouble and where they will have fun” “ the film, (for the conference) showed it all whats happening, a true picture, and whats wanted.

The Cobh validation group said “Best solution is a mixture of activity and hanging around”.

“Many young people seem to prefer a less structured activity, where you can relax and talk”
“One of the biggest benefits of a youth café is providing young people with a safe place to gather, where they are not seen as a nuisance by adults”

Night time Activities

Overall 18.8% of all respondents said that they want night time activities such as late night clubs for those underage, live bands, ‘open mic’ (microphone) nights, nightclubs and teenage discos. However, in Youghal and Midleton the numbers are substantially higher at 39% and 32.2% respectively. Of the 32.2% of respondents from the Midleton schools and youth project who indicated that they would like to see more night time activities for young people in their area, most (89.8%) indicated that they would like to see discos or nightclubs. For example:

“Id love if they built a hall or somewhere young people can hang out on a Friday night if its raining and more discos and events to keep us off the streets” “I would like to see a night club for people over 18 because they need somewhere to socialize. Also perhaps non alcoholic discos and clubs for young people underage” “I would like to see some form of disco on at least every second week from the ages 16-18, and another disco from the ages of 12-14” “because when young people have nothing else to do the go drinking” “More discos and maybe some live bands nites”

Other

As well as naming other activities they wanted (such as community events, concerts and festivals) some respondents made a range of comments which are included in this "other" category. These provide further insights into what is important for these young people. These could be grouped into themes as follows: safety ("safer places to go"), better public transport ("there are no buses later on at night like"), the costs of activities ("free sports facilities", "youth activities with no cost" and "cinema with discounts for teenagers") and a drop-in centre/place ("a place to go if there was something wrong in the home" and "somewhere to escape home").

The validation groups chose quotes that really stood out for them from the survey and they made the following comments:

“.. someone should do something about it” was one response to question 1 in the survey. However, the validation group in Midleton commented that they do not agree with this **“Joint effort between adults and youth... should try to get something up and running.....don’t agree that it should be only adults”**

The Glanmire validation group responded as follows to the quotation by a respondent **“anything at all”** in answer to question three **“Things are so bad here that anything at all will do”**

In Carrigtwohill:

“All we want is something small, people ask for something small cause they think thts all they’ll get”
“what we want is simple”

The validation group felt that this was the best quote:

“Somewhere safe to go with light and heat to meet with our friends, make more friends, we need to get off the streets”

The following quotations were chosen by the members of the Youghal validation group. (**“This says all our problems- after 6 there is nothing to do”**):

“ No, theres nowhere to go in the evenings or at night people are out on the streets with nowhere to go. Perks kick you out at nine or after, young girls are left alone in the dark, its dangerous and cold”

“ We walk around the streets or go into Greenpark but its cold and boring, cafes close at 6pm and there is no toilet facilities, you cant go anywhere for even a hot drink or a chat”

They also picked out quotes about adults’ attitudes towards young people:

“Shops in town, (Youghal), are keeping an eye on young people in case they shop lift”

“Taking up street space”

“The group is seen as a problem”

The next section will present the youth conference that followed on from the exploratory survey.



THE CONFERENCE:

Exit the Street: A Place of Our Own

The conference was held in Midleton, East Cork and was attended by 250 people. Of these, 150 participants were young people from the second level schools, Youthreach and Area Youth Projects. *Exit the Street* was part of a consultation process that placed local young people at its core and heard directly from them about their views, their issues and their needs. A total of 12 presentations were made by young people using creative methods such as film, drama and poster presentations. Conference workshops involved the conference participants working in smaller groups to identify options and follow-up actions. The conference was attended by Teachers, Parents, Youth Workers (both paid and voluntary), representatives of community groups, youth service providers and their managers, politicians and health service providers.

The Planning Process and Organisation of the Conference

A key element in planning the conference was the setting up of an organising committee that comprised of representatives of organisations in East Cork who had an interest and a role to play in meeting the needs of young people in the area. This Committee brought ideas, feelings, opinions, information, useful contacts and decision-making skills from young people through those who worked closely with them in the community. This enabled both adults and young people together to have a creative input into this Youth Conference with the common goal of promoting the wellbeing of young people.

Initially there were three representatives from each of the three main urban centres in the area; Cobh, Midleton and Youghal. This expanded to include Carrigtwohill, The East Cork Traveller Group and at a later stage it was broadened to include Glanmire. The Organising Committee started with nine community members, the manager of the LDSIP Programme (ECAD) and the consultant working for ECAD with responsibility for the planning of the conference. The group grew to include 16 members (Appendix 7) and met to make decisions on all aspects of the conference.

In addition to all of the above, members individually and in smaller groups took on a number of responsibilities and roles. The Youth Workers involved themselves directly with schools and with Transition Year students and their Co-ordinators, both in consulting young people about their needs and in preparing the presentation of their views to the conference. The degree of involvement varied depending on need, take up and time available. This helped Youth Workers to forge new links with young people through schools. Relationships with the Health Service Executive (HSE) were further developed and resulted in funding a chairperson for the event and also professional public relations support through the Communications Office of the HSE.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS

The following creative methods were used by the young people in their presentation to the Conference:

Films (5) ■ Drama/Role-play (2) ■ PowerPoint (3) ■ Poster Presentations (2)

Some groups as well as being involved in the above made sculpture (1), drawings (1), maps (2), photography (2) and undertook project work (3). Young people included music in many of the presentations.

Film: What is Youghal like for Young People?

Young People from Loreto Secondary School and Colaiste Eoin together with members of Youghal Area Youth Project presented their 8 minute Film: What is Youghal Like for Young People? In it they talked to young people and adults and looked at their town through the eyes of a young person.

their project and a look at the town of Youghal. It focused first on its beautiful public gardens and sculptures and then on the abject lack of places for young people to simply 'be' without being asked to move along.

Drama Presentation: St Mary's High School

A Drama Presentation from St Mary's High School, Midleton followed. In this 'freeze frame' where the action was frozen, as in a video, to allow the audience to really see what is going on, we had two spaces: the first Now; nowhere to go and the second; A Vision for the Future.

Film: St Coleman's Community College

This was followed by a film about alcohol and young people made by 5th year students at St. Coleman's Community College, Midleton. This film dramatically shows what young people can get up to in a secluded well known area in Midleton town when there is nowhere else to go and nothing else to do for kicks.

Role play: Colaiste Muire Cobh

A short role play and PowerPoint presentation from Colaiste Muire, Cobh gave us a look at the town of Cobh through the eyes of some of its young people, at the places they can now go, where they can now hang out.

Drama As Gaeilge

Finally in this sequence a short presentation, a Drama As Gaeilge from Colaiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire focused on the issue of alcohol and driving demonstrating these young people's awareness of this issue in the community.

All three of these first presentations expressed a clear message about the lack of facilities for them in each of their home towns.

In all of these presentations, the issues that affect young people are focused on and attention is drawn to the lack of alternatives which are available for the young population in East Cork.

PowerPoint Presentation: Midleton College

A PowerPoint Presentation from Midleton College Transition Year students gave a breakdown on what they do in their leisure time, listing what is available to them and what they would like to see happening in the future.

Film: Carrigtwohill

Students from St. Aloysius Girls Secondary School, Carrigtwohill together with the local Youth Project expressed their views on what is on offer for young people in their town with its burgeoning population, presented through the medium of film.

Film: Youthreach Youghal

A short Film from Youthreach Youghal expressed their feelings of being neglected through interviews with young people from

WHERE
DO YOU GO
WHEN YOU GO
OUT?

PowerPoint Presentation: Glanmire Community College

The students from Glanmire Community College articulated the lack of facilities in Glanmire and the problems which arose because of this. They delivered a PowerPoint presentation and made a map showing what facilities they have and what they would like. They showed that there are many places in their communities where young people are not welcome, accused of loitering and asked to move on, with no alternatives provided.

Film: "Before All Else"

The final presentation representing the views and issues that affect the lives of young people in East Cork came from CBS Secondary School in Midleton. This film called "Before All Else" addressed the link between the lack of facilities for young people in Midleton and the rise of depression and suicide amongst young people.

Peer Support Education Programme

Three young people from Midleton who are involved in a community based Peer Support Education Programme explained how they had arrived to their present focus on setting up a Youth Café in Midleton. Each of them described their experience of suicide and how it affected them as young people in this community. They described the help they get from being involved in the Programme, set up locally with support from the HSE.

A representative of the Peer Support Education Programme spoke about their aspiration to create a space in Midleton where young people are welcome to just be themselves, a place with an 'open door' policy. She described the work they were doing in raising awareness and locating funding and stressed that young people need to get actively involved in getting the "Open Door" up and running.

Poster Presentation

Finally the young people in the Midleton Youth Project presented their poster. The content and verbal description described the void that exists for young people in terms of leisure and the alternatives which they find to fill this void. This was a powerful final statement from young people to the conference about the lack of facilities.

The conference presentations addressed a range of themes: alcohol, alcohol and driving, depression, suicide, isolation, neglect of young people and being seen as a 'problem' and a lack of alternatives. The issue of suicide came up in two of the presentations, the first through a film from a Midleton school and the second through the presentation from the Peer Support Education Group. It focused on action taken by a group of young friends affected directly by suicide. What emerged was their willingness and ability to describe both their experiences and their feelings and what they gained from peer support training (Appendix 2).

Although we did not ask young people any questions about feelings of depression or suicide in the survey or conference, a number of unsought references were made to isolation, exclusion and not feeling a part of society. For example, "I stay at home because of don't drink or smoke I don't fit in with the groups" (16-18 year old in Cobh). In the light of how prevalent suicide and depression is amongst young people, particularly young males, particularly in our community (Hurley, May 2005), we must also take account of these expressed feelings. A national survey on young people's mental health specifically recommended the development of programmes similar to The GAF Café in Galway as a means of addressing isolation and promoting positive mental health amongst young people and linking to existing support services (National Suicide Research Foundation, 2004).



These posters were created by young people from Midleton Youth Project

WORKSHOPS: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The conference "was really good as you got a chance to mix with other young people from other schools... share information in the workshops about our town with others from other towns" (one conference participant)

Following the presentations, workshops entitled Looking to the Future took place. The participants were invited to focus on action and particularly on what each young person could themselves contribute to that action.

Young people were asked to divide into groups according to the colour code on their ID badge. (These were given to all young people on registering on arrival; each name badge had a coloured sticker). Each participant was asked to form a group with their same colour fellow participants. This ensured a mixing of young people from different groups, schools and towns in as far as possible. Each group was assigned an experienced facilitator, usually a youth or development worker, and a note-taker. The following questions were addressed by each group:

1. **Where we are now?**
2. **What do we want?**
3. **What needs to happen to get what you want?**

With a roving microphone feedback was heard from each group. All of the workshops stated a preference for a Youth Café type place providing the kinds of activities and services described by the conferences speakers. The Workshop Outcomes proposed a variety of ways forward to achieve their aim. The following were the most popular suggestions:

- 1 **Setting up a Youth Council**
- 2 **Carrying out a survey**
- 3 **Campaigning through petitions**
- 4 **Fundraising**
- 5 **Finding a Building**
- 6 **Lobbying**
- 7 **Help from Parents**

Core Conference Themes: Contributions by Guest Presenters

Democracy and Structures for Representing Young People

The Conference was officially opened by Minister Síle De Valera TD Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science with special responsibility for adult education, youth affairs and educational disadvantage. In her address, the Minister made reference to the importance of democracy to young people and encouraged the promotion of democracy in schools through the development of students' councils. She referred to the development of Youth Cafés as a 'catalyst for change' and spoke about her own familiarity with these centres through her contact with The Hub in Ennis. She also emphasised the importance of research and its influence on policy development. Finally she encouraged feedback from this conference to such groups as The Dail Committee and Dail na nOg.

Youth Cafés: Ideas and Information - The Way Forward in East Cork?

Learning from the Scottish Experience – The Prince's Trust, Scotland

The first of the keynote speakers was Mr Bill Anderson of The Prince's Trust in Scotland where over 100 youth cafés operate. Bill is the Manager of the Prince's Trust Highlands and Islands (Scotland), and has been involved in the Youth Cafés in Action Project which has established a network of 20 youth cafés across the North West of Scotland.

Two key elements in the success of Youth Cafés were highlighted:

- 1 **Involving young people from the start; "find out what they want, get them involved in planning and running the café".**
- 2 **Having sufficient adult volunteers.**

WHERE
DO YOU GO
WHEN YOU GO
OUT?

Reference was made to a very useful tool in relation to setting up Youth Cafés:

The Youth Café Survival Guide. (The Prince's Trust, 2005) The "Survival Loop" is referred to in this resource." Think of it as your route map to success" (Bill Anderson). Each section of the Survival Loop describes the steps needed to be taken in setting up a youth café. At each stage, the key issues are described together with some of the choices that can be made.



Learning from the Irish Experience – The Gaf Youth Café in Galway

The second keynote speaker to the Conference was John Fitzmaurice Manager of The Gaf Youth Café in Galway – The Health Advice Café. He was joined by two members of the Youth Advisory Committee, Barry McDonagh and Ciara McGuinness who have been actively involved in the running of the GAF for a number of years. John spoke about working in partnership with young people and they put forward ideas for design of the centre, activities and services. They gave a comprehensive picture of "what's in it" for themselves as young people from fun to looking good on your CV!

Follow-On Activities and Developments since the Conference

This section will discuss some of the follow-on activities and continuing developments in the East Cork area for young people. The East Cork Youth Network (ECYN) has been a catalyst in this process and has played a central role. East Cork Area Development (ECAD) has been involved in initiating and supporting this work. After the conference, two new groups became actively involved, Glanmire Youth Development Project and East Cork Travellers through their Youth Advocacy Worker.

EAST CORK YOUTH NETWORK (ECYN)

This group started out as the organising committee for *Exit the Street*, the East Cork Youth Conference. After the Conference the group met to review their work in relation to the conference and to discuss where they would go from here. The members decided to re-group as the East Cork Youth Network (ECYN). Currently there are 15 member organisations with an overall membership of 20 people (see Appendix 8). Since then members meet every two months with meetings taking place in different venues each time. Each area and organisation has an opportunity to host which in itself encourages sharing of information.

The group decided that its central role at the present time is in following up on developments from the conference; in setting youth cafés in East Cork; in developing collaborative ways of working with young people in East Cork as a whole. It is a vehicle for information exchange and mutual support. The ECYN has agreed to work to establish a forum or council for young people in order that young people in this area have a forum to articulate their needs in their own style.

The ECYN has played a major part in the implementation all of the activities outlined in this section. It has a potential role in lobbying for support, financial and other. The members have plans in place in February 2007 to evaluate the Network, review its role and look to identifying its needs for support and how they can be met. "I would have been lost without it." (Youth Worker with Cobh Youth Services)

EAST CORK YOUTH FILM PROJECT 2006

Many young people choose to use the medium of film to represent their views at the Youth Conference *Exit The Street*. To develop this interest further, East Cork Area Development initiated a film project. This gave young people access to knowledge and experience in filmmaking. It was delivered by ECAD, East Cork Youth Network and Cork Film Centre. The project was funded jointly by ECAD and the Arts Office of Cork County Council.

The overall aim was to build the confidence and skills of young people, and give them further opportunity to express their thoughts, opinions and ideas through the medium of film. Working with filmmakers and staff from Cork Film Centre and local youth groups, young people developed an innovative and exciting project. The Project began in March 2006 with a series of one day workshops for

young people. These took place in six locations in East Cork throughout March and April; Youghal, Middleton, Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Inch Killeagh and Glanmire. Workshops were designed for groups of up to eight participants. They demonstrated pre-production (script development, storyboarding, planning), production (use of camera, sound, basic lighting, directing actors), and post-production (editing and sound design). Participants made a short film on the day. All those involved were invited to submit a proposal for a longer film. The proposals ranged from Short Fiction to Documentary, Experimental and Music Video. Out of this came three more substantial films ranging from seven minutes to thirty five minutes in length.

The film project went on through the summer and autumn months of 2006. It culminated in a celebration Gala Night where all the films were screened. This was hosted by Cork County Council at the County Hall, Cork. It involved approximately 150 young people and accompanying adults including youth workers, teachers, public representatives and parents. The Gala Event was a showcase for ten short films written, directed, filmed, edited and acted by the young people of East Cork. They included funny and serious films, dramas and documentaries and in some of them, for example "Alessa L'Isola", "Broken Dreams", and "The Passenger", young people raised some of the issues which affect their lives such as isolation and suicide.



The ten films were introduced by the young film makers themselves. On the night 114 young film makers were awarded certificates in recognition of their achievements. Plans are in place to also showcase these films locally in 2007.

The Youth Exchange Project

Through the conference, links were formed with the Prince's Trust in Scotland, Highlands and Islands, a UK charity that helps young people overcome barriers and get their lives working. From conversations with this organisation it became apparent that young people had similar concerns and there were opportunities for sharing of practices and experiences. For example, The Prince's Trust has successfully developed a network of youth cafés. Since the conference, a two way exchange of ideas and information has been developed for the benefit of young people in both geographical areas. This kind of transnational co-operation provides opportunities, not just for young people, youth workers and organisations, but also for the sharing of experience between communities as a whole.

In April 2006, ECAD, in conjunction with the East Cork Youth Network (ECYN), organised a study visit by young people and adults to Scotland to examine youth cafés, their structures, functions, organisational make-up and management. A group of ten people, youth workers and young people, representing the East Cork area spent three days in the Highlands of Scotland looking at youth cafés and discussing the design of an ongoing programme. This visit was supported by HSE, Youghal Youth Committee, Cobh Youth Services and ECAD. In late November, Bill Anderson, Area Manager of the Prince's Trust and keynote speaker at the conference visited East Cork. He met with young people involved in the Film Project, attended a Youth Council meeting in Glanmire where plans for a youth café were discussed and he met with young people from Cobh Youth Services who were attending a Comhairle na nOg regional meeting. In Youghal he took part in a SKIT gathering and was available to give information to young people on youth cafés. His interest was to get a better understanding of where this Exchange could go in order to meet the needs of communities in both

Scotland and Ireland. This would help both in planning and in funding applications. More recently young people in Scotland have expressed an interest in learning about groups like the Midleton Peer Support Group and their initiatives in preventing suicide. This is a follow on from the initial planning visit which involved the representatives from that Group.

Out of this project, the ECYN with the support of ECAD envisages that young people in East Cork will have the opportunity to see first hand some of the best examples of youth café provision in Europe, and enable them to incorporate the ideas they gain from this project into the design and operation of youth projects that will be delivered in their area. This project is in its infancy and will need resources.

EAST CORK SKIT

(SKIT an East Cork, particularly Youghal slang word for Fun 'Craic' and pronounced SCHKIT)

The first East Cork Skit Day was the idea of Youth Workers, Nicola Lucey of the Youghal Area Youth Project, and Liam Guiney of Cobh Youth Services. It was organised by the East Cork Youth Network with support from ECAD. Both Nicola and Liam were participants on The Advance Planning/Study Visit for the Youth Exchange Project to Scotland at Easter and wanted to find a way for young people in East Cork's different towns to get a chance to mix and get to know each other before setting out to get to know young Scottish people.

On a Thursday in July, 2006 a group of 60 young people, youth workers and volunteers got together on Ballynamona Beach outside Ballycotton in East Cork. The day was a celebration of their collective work as part of the East Cork Youth Network. It was held in glorious sunshine and enjoyed by young people from Glanmire, Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Midleton and Youghal:

"We went to a beach party, there was a BBQ, DJ, inflatable toys and sumo suits. It was a laugh" (Luke, 14).

"I though the party was great craic, the DJ was great and the food was lovely" (Steven, 14).

"It was so Fun we mixed with a lot of people, there was lots to do and the food was great" (Eoin, 14)".

What is a youth exchange?

A youth exchange project (LEARGAS) brings together groups of young people from different backgrounds from two or more countries, providing them with an opportunity to discuss and confront various themes, whilst learning about each other's countries and cultures. Exchanges between Programme countries can be bilateral, trilateral or multilateral. They must take place in one of the Programme countries involved in the project. Exchanges do not necessarily imply reciprocity, i.e. the sending group need not become the host group in a second phase of the project. If it does, a separate application must be submitted for the second phase. In some cases multilateral exchanges can be itinerant, i.e. the entire exchange group moves through several countries during the activity.



Both the young people who participated and the members of the East Cork Youth Network wanted to continue to build on the contacts and relationships developed through this Skit day.

Following this event, a gathering of 10 young people representing the different areas in East Cork took place. Members of the ECYN 'SKIT' Working group and Bill Anderson of The Prince's Trust in Scotland also attended this gathering. The event was hosted by Youghal Area Youth Project on Friday 24th November 2006. The purpose of this gathering was to look at the usefulness of setting up a representative group of young people to exchange ideas and represent the views of East Cork young people to adults. Their work might involve organising informal gatherings like the skit day, developing youth exchange links and ultimately developing youth cafés in East Cork towns. At this meeting young people talked about their ideas. They asked questions. They heard about youth developments in Scotland. They heard about how the adult ECYN works. One proposal at the meeting was that a youth counsel or 'Rep' group would be set up in East Cork. It was suggested that this proposal would be taken back to each area. If there was enthusiasm for the idea then it would be fully supported by the ECYN in whatever way was deemed appropriate. So far the response is positive. This is a first step. There is a need now for resources in both time and money for the ECYN to carry out plans to support this initiative.

Summary of activities

It is clear that an "East Cork Youth Rep Group" is a good idea. The work which must be done if this is to proceed must be named, quantified and supported. These initiatives need to be nurtured over time. There is potential here to extend this conversation to include young people from East Cork talking directly to young people from the Highlands of Scotland, initially through the modern technology which young people are comfortable with such as email and video conference. Later through visiting each others places they can learn more and communicate face to face. All of these initiatives are interlinked. They come from the conference. They are interdependent and need to develop together. However, there is a need for young people to become more proactive in their roles in all of these activities and developments. Young people need

the structures, the information, the skills and confidence to drive the agenda. All of this takes a commitment of time and resources.

"there is ironing out to be done...we need to get young people to liaise directly... with the purpose being to develop youth cafés we need to come back with nominees from each area, two is not enough and we need to ensure gender balance" (Quote from youth worker at network meeting.)

AREA DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATION TO YOUTH CAFÉS

The following are contributions from Youth Workers in each of the areas which give up-to-date information on developments.

Carrigtwohill

"The Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project recently received €8000 from the AIB Better Ireland Awards as well as two new computers and printers. This funding will help to establish a drop in space for young people in Carrigtwohill. The space will be provided by the Carrigtwohill Community Council, supported by the Carrigtwohill Family Resource Centre and Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The project will be managed by Foróige. This project began in 2006 when a group of transition year students from the local secondary school St. Aloysius and a group of young people from the Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project undertook research on the needs of young people in the area. This research was part of a wider research project in East Cork commissioned by East Cork Area Development. It highlighted the need for a drop in space in Carrigtwohill. Having received this funding and the support of the organisations mentioned above, the Youth Project is now working with a group of transition year students in setting this space up. The initiative will form part of their project for the Young Social Innovator Awards. The group will be part of the management committee for the space and will be involved in all aspects of its establishment from designing it, to managing it and

WHERE
DO YOU GO
WHEN YOU GO
OUT?

agreeing on mission statements and policies and procedures. This is a very exciting project for the area and is a first step towards establishing a Youth Café” (Linda Monaghan, Youth Worker).

Cobh

Cobh Youth Services successfully applied for €300,000 to the Department of the Environment. This money was specifically to upgrade facilities where establishing youth cafés in existing premises. “Cobh Youth Services will operate out of its new refurbished Youth Centre and Youth Café in the next few weeks” (Catherine O Connor, Youth Worker).

Midleton

In Midleton, the Peer Support Education Project have made strides in putting together the following proposal for a Youth Health Café for 13–18 year olds because of an on going awareness in the local community of the need to address issues facing young people. In 2003, the Southern Health Board Peer Support Education Initiative started and is on-going. In 2005 East Cork Area Development (ECAD) surveyed transition year students. The findings were noted and research trips were organised to The Gaf, Galway and Mallow Youth Café.

The Mission statement:

The Midleton Youth Health Café project works in partnership with young people to support them in the development of their good health and well-being in a drug and alcohol free environment. The aims are as follows:

- Provide a safe adolescent friendly place for young people to meet and interact
- Improve young people's awareness of good health practice and health related issues
- Allow young people the opportunity to benefit from roles of responsibility
- Offer direct access to health information with links to all existing provider agencies
- Enhance the community by providing a desirable and important service

Youghal

“At the moment we, Youghal Area Youth Project, have secured our funding €162,000 for a youth café in Youghal for the next two years and we are looking to include the café in the League of the

Cross Hall when it is newly refurbished and managed by Cumann na nDaoine, Youghal Community Development Project” (Nicola Lucey, Youth Worker)

Glanmire

Glanmire Youth Council was established after young people from the area expressed their frustration on a ‘Prime Time Special’ that was shown on RTE highlighting the high level of anti-social behaviour in the area. They felt that certain aspects of the programme were taken out of context, and that the circumstance that led to this behaviour was not given adequate consideration. The group aim to reflect the views of their peers and are keen to show the strengths of youth as well as acknowledge the problems that exist. The council, after much consultation and research strongly feel that a Youth Café is the most appropriate way to highlight the strengths and talents of youth as well as a practical and positive way of reducing anti-social behaviour. The Youth Council and Glanmire Film Club have collaborated (through the East Cork Youth Film Project 2006) highlighting some of the problems that youth face in their community. It is based on the real life experiences of the young people. Glanmire Area Community Association has also undertaken to assist the Youth Council in exploring the possibilities of providing a suitable location for a Youth Café. Several options are currently being considered and discussions are ongoing with local political representatives. (Brian O’Toole, Youth Worker)



East Cork Area

SECTION TWO



DISCUSSION: RESPONSE TO THE FINDINGS

In this report, we have presented a snapshot of some aspects of young people's lives, experiences, feelings and views. We agree with authors such as Lalor and Baird (2006) who argue that we need to move away from the focus on "youth problems" to a more holistic picture of their daily lives and experiences.

In our efforts to present the whole picture, we were careful not to misrepresent these young people. We wanted to convey accurately what they were telling us through the survey, at the conference, in the workshops and in the validation groups. We do not want this report just to focus on the problems of young people. However in telling us what they want, they tell us emphatically that they do not have adequate facilities. They also tell us about their concerns and describe clearly the problems they experience, the difficulties they face and the dangers they encounter in their daily lives. These young people themselves are not negative or bleak. They are concerned.

In general we found the young people vibrant. They 'opted in' when given the opportunity, participated with enthusiasm, were well able to communicate and express themselves orally and through film. They were willing to share their insights and let us see what it is like for them and what their needs are. They were honest, open, caring and inclusive. This was evident in the ways that they answered the survey questions and in their responses in the validation groups. As a community, we can learn from their awareness in relation to alcohol consumption by taking on board their acknowledgement that providing places to hang out will not solve underage drinking and "some will always drink". These young people were concerned about those who do not go out because of the prevalence of binge drinking among their friends. In the validation group, it was expressed that young people who feel like this should have a place to go where they feel comfortable and is alcohol free. That place they say must also welcome the young person who drinks and who can go somewhere sometimes where alcohol is not part of the picture. Youth café type provision will not meet all their needs for places to hang around. They tell us about the places they hang around – on the streets, in shopping centres, at swimming pools when they are available. Young people may want to be on the street as this is a place to see and be seen – it is place where things happen (Hall, Coffey and Williamson, 1999). This is part of a developmental process and promotes social identity and a sense of belonging to the community (Shannon, 2006).

According to the National Children's Strategy "*Children (and Young People) will have access to play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood*" (Government of Ireland, 2000, p.57). This is in keeping with Article 31 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989) which asserts children's rights to rest and leisure and the provision of leisure and recreational opportunities for them. These needs of young people have been neglected. As recently as September 2006, The Committee on the Rights of the Child (43rd Session) in their Concluding Observations recommend that the Irish State "*place more emphasis on the creation of facilities for children (and Young People) to enjoy leisure, recreation and cultural facilities*" (September, 2006, p. 14).

Young people themselves made references to being misunderstood by parents and other adults. As one young person expressed, "*I am not allowed to go out because im not allowed to hang around*" and another, "*you cant socialise outside school cause your parents don't allow. Parents don't understand*". In the validation groups, young people referred to the negative attitudes by adults in their communities in general to "hanging around". As discussed by Hall, Coffey and Williamson (1999) "young people's occupation of public space undoubtedly attracts attention; it has been a historically recurrent source of adult concern and is as contentious today as ever" (1999, p. 506). Researchers such as O'Riordan and Kiely (1998, p.25) note that young people are frequently negatively perceived because of how they congregate, usually in groups and in highly visible public places. As expressed in our study, "the group is seen as a problem" and "taking up street space". While we concede that adult concerns may stem from protectiveness and real fears about safety, perhaps adults could learn more about this important activity, "hanging around". It is evident from the young people in our work that they feel that they are seen as a danger, a threat or a hindrance. The question for us as a society is, if we do not want our young people to be on the street and in public areas, where do we want them to be?

As well as the need to create places for young people to call their own that are as they describe "safe, warm...friendly", we need to include them in our places. When we do this, we make our communities better and safer places to live in for all of us and this gives young people a message. It lets them know that we value them, that they are important people in our communities, that they are listened to and that we follow through on what they say.

Although we did not ask specifically about drinking alcohol, young people tell us that they are concerned. They told us that they drink alcohol because they are bored, "...just nothing else to do", because of peer pressure and because they are looking for excitement. Some of them are uncomfortable around drinking, around where this happens and the dangers they face in dark secluded and out of the way places.

As one young person expressed, "*No, theres nowhere to go in the evenings or at night people are out on the streets with nowhere to go. Perks kick you out at nine or after, young girls are left alone in the dark, its dangerous and cold.*" And another "*We walk around the streets or go into Greenpark but its cold and boring, cafés close at 6pm and there is no toilet facilities, you cant go anywhere for even a hot drink or a chat.*" Others expressed concern for those in the younger age-groups when discussing underage drinking in a validation group "*12 years is important age for something to do....youre very vulnerable*". Sometimes they expressed feelings of shame "*.....I'm ashamed to hang around with them when they are drinking*". We must learn from their openness.

In general, young people tell us that East Cork is a good place to live if you "are into sports". This is very positive, though we noted when reading the feedback from the survey and hearing what young people said at the conference that the converse is also true; if you are not into sport there are few facilities. This is reflected in comments that ranged from "in Cobh, it's all sports...." and "Nothing to do unless you are into sports". There is the need for a broadening of sports and recreational facilities to include public swimming pools and leisure centres, pool halls and cinemas in all our East Cork towns.

If youth cafés are to be successful we must acknowledge (like young people do) that they are not a panacea for all problems. If communities proceed with this unrealistic expectation, youth cafés will disappoint and are doomed to failure.

The challenge to us all is to learn so that young people can take their place in determining the where and how of youth cafés so that adults learn that this is not a youth club in a different setting with a new name. This is about adults letting go and allowing young people to make decisions and take appropriate responsibility. At the conference, young people identified action they could take.



They are enabled to do this with the support and backing of government through policy and funding; local councils through planning for public spaces; the support of community through planning and provision of space; the support of youth workers, teachers and their organisations; and most importantly, the support of parents.

The more informed we are, the better our youth cafés will be. Exchanging information and experiences with other groups such as the Prince's Trust is positive and has more potential. In tandem with this, young people in Scotland have tentatively shown an interest in the response of one East Cork community to suicide prevention. Programmes such as the East Cork Youth Film Project have developed confidence, promoted leadership skills and an interest in the arts.

Ultimately this is a story about East Cork young people and their communities. Parts of the story are very positive. In an effort to accentuate the positive, we must not eliminate the negatives and the issues that are of great concern to young people and to all of the people in our communities. It is a story in which we all play a part and have a role in determining what happens.

Finally, as expressed by Edwards and Hatch, "*The range and quality of services and activities provided for *(and with) young people is important not just for young people and the community as a whole. When young people have safe places to play in and 'hang out'; well maintained and affordable facilities to use; activities to take part in; good quality support services to turn to and good school to go to, then their communities are also likely to feel safe vibrant and supportive for everyone*" (December, 2003, p.9). This represents the kind of holistic approach where everybody is involved if young people are valued and active and a part of what is going on. If we can apply this to our communities, we will all benefit.

* our insertion



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the responses of young people and on our learning from this process we make the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION ONE

Meet the needs of young people for recreational facilities. Our work highlights the urgent need for action at local and policy level.

- i. Develop more recreational facilities in the East Cork area in particular public swimming pools (Midleton) cinema (Cobh) and youth café type facilities (Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Glanmire, Midleton, Youghal).
- ii. Progress the work which is already happening in the five named towns in setting up youth café type facilities and in doing so further address the needs of young people as outlined in the report for safe, youth friendly and alcohol free places to go.
- iii. Access funding from Government sources. Lobby Government to follow through on commitments already made to resource recreational facilities for young people including those named above. Resources are also needed to support the **process** of involving young people in developing these facilities.
- iv. Develop policy at local government level to protect public spaces so that there is space for recreational facilities to be developed for young people in all our towns.

RECOMMENDATION TWO

Further develop networks for and with young people in East Cork.

- i. Support the continued development of existing structures such as the East Cork Youth Network (ECYN).
- ii. Continue to support young people in developing a structure/or structures which give them a representative voice, like the 'Rep' group. Look to models such as Donegal Youth Council and Comhairle na nOg.
- iii. Encourage the development of peer-support and common interest groups in East Cork. In developing networks we create structures that encourage and enable further and continued consultation and facilitate links to other groups and programmes.

RECOMMENDATION THREE

Forge links between schools, Youghal Youthreach Centre and community projects including youth cafés. All are working towards the well-being of young people.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR

Build confidence and skills (including leadership skills) of young people in a variety of ways.

- i. Create opportunities for young people to follow through on their interests in music, drama, film and in the arts in general. In particular build on the success of the Film Project.
- ii. Encourage the Arts Council and Cork County Council Arts Office to continue and to increase their investment in the arts in East Cork for young people.

RECOMMENDATION FIVE

Ensure that facilities developed are inclusive of all young people living in East Cork.

RECOMMENDATION SIX

Sharing of information is needed. This can be facilitated by;

- i. Finding ways to provide feedback and updates on relevant developments to the larger population of young people in East Cork. This could be through schools, youth organisations and web sites that will keep young people informed and involved.
- ii. A broadening of information to adults, including parents and teachers, such as putting reports like this in the public domain.
- iii. Keep information flowing.
- iv. Providing a national web based information resource for young people that links with other agencies (local, national and international) as recommended by Dail na nOg (2006).
- v. The promotion of youth exchanges, including the Youth Exchange Project with Scotland, as a means of peer learning and mutual support.

RECOMMENDATION SEVEN

Address the health awareness needs of young people.

- i. Provide information about:
 - Alcohol and Drug use and misuse
 - Sexual health
 - Emotional and Physical well-being
 - Social and Leadership skills
- ii. Support the proposed development from the Peer Support Group for a Health Café in Midleton for young people.
- iii. As young people raised concerns around drinking alcohol, establish a research brief to investigate the levels of young peoples' engagement in underage and binge drinking in the East Cork area as a follow on to the exploratory survey. In doing this, we increase our understanding and develop strategies which involve young people.

RECOMMENDATION EIGHT

Encourage young people to be actively involved in their East Cork communities by creating opportunities for them to contribute:

- i. Involve them at a younger age.
- ii. Encourage young people to take different roles so that they can tackle community issues, not just including those issues that concern them directly.
- iii. View young people as a resource and consult with them.

RECOMMENDATION NINE

To mobilise all members of the East Cork community:

- i. To use contacts to gain support for this work with young people, in accessing buildings, getting funding.....
- ii. to engage with public representatives asking them to support our call for greater investment in recreational facilities in the run up to the election.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: MAP OF ECAD AREA

Located in the eastern part of the county, East Cork is bordered on the west by Cork City, the Atlantic to the South and on the east by County Waterford. The area stretches from Glanmire to Youghal Bridge and includes Cobh, located on Great Island. More than one-third of the area's population live in the three main towns of Cobh, Midleton and Youghal. The west of the area, adjacent to Cork City is heavily populated, while the areas to the north and east are less densely inhabited.

(Source: East Cork Area Development (December, 2006) *Socio-Economic and Demographic Analysis, ECAD, East Cork, p.4*)



East Cork Area

APPENDIX 2: YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND YOUTH GROUPS

There are a wide variety of youth organisations active in Ireland, collectively involving and providing services to over 750,000 young people in every part of the country. The majority of youth groups at a local level are affiliated to national or regional youth organisations. Youth organisations vary in the age group and the interests of the young people they involve, the programmes they offer, the geographic area they operate in and their structures.

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body of the voluntary youth sector. It is officially recognised as such by the 2001 Youth Work Act. In 2006, a total of 40 national youth organisations are full members of NYCI. A further 8 have affiliate status. These include youth club organisations, uniformed youth organisations, youth wings of political parties, Irish language youth organisations, single issue and specialist groups and organisations representing sectoral youth interests. NYCI promotes the development of services for all young people and promotes and safeguards their interests and concerns.

YOUTH WORK IRELAND, the new name for the National Youth Federation, marks a fresh departure in the provision of voluntary youth services in Ireland. The change symbolises a response by Ireland's largest youth work organisation to the challenges of a changing environment. Youth Work Ireland provides quality services to young people and youth workers.

While continuing to be a federation of 22 local youth services Youth Work Ireland represents the collective strength at national and local level of 500 Youth Clubs and Groups, 40 Youth Information Centres and Outlets and 100 Youth Projects

YOUTHREACH is part of a national programme of second-chance education and training. It is aimed at people aged 15-20 who left school early and aims to give them the opportunity of building

their self-confidence and gaining a range of qualifications. Only one Youthreach Programme is available for the whole East Cork Area. The Youthreach Centre in Youghal offers a flexible and dynamic programme of integrated general education, vocational training and work experience. Learners set personal and educational goals that increase their self-esteem, skill and knowledge base and employability. Essential course elements include Personal and Social Development, Vocational Skills and Communications Skills.

CLOYNE DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICES LTD. (CDYS) is a community based organisation that is affiliated with the national organisation Youth Work Ireland (Trading under the National Youth Federation Name). CDYS began in the in the early 1960s with a number of clubs in different parishes in the Diocese of Cloyne. In 1999, following a period of partnership with the diocese Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service was formed. In 2005, Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service became a limited company in May and its head office is now in Mallow Community Youth Centre. CDYS Ltd is affiliated to Youthwork Ireland. The main projects undertaken directly and through partnership with CDYS Ltd include the following:

- Community Youth Projects, Mallow, Midleton and Fermoy
- Justice Project, Cobh
- Drugs Outreach Project, Mallow
- Parish Youth Ministry Project, Mallow
- Child Protection Training, Diocese of Cloyne
- Mallow Youth Café, Mallow.

FORÓIGE, a national voluntary youth development organisation involves members of the community in influencing the development of its youth. Established: 1952
Primary Objective: To enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.

Aims: To meet the developmental needs of young people in general;

and in particular circumstances, to focus on vulnerable young people in relation to issues arising from poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion, underachievement at school, early school leaving, youth crime, substance abuse and family difficulties. Additional Information: Foróige provides a comprehensive range of youth work services through the operation of Foróige Clubs, Local Youth Services, Local Youth Development Projects and Youth Information Centres.

Target Group: Foróige Clubs: 12-18 year olds; Local Youth Development Projects: 10-20 year olds
Number of Young People: 40,000 young persons
Geographical Scope: Nationwide.

ÓGRA CHORCAÍ LTD. Cork Youth Association, 20 St Patrick's Hill, Cork. Tel: 021- 4502112. Fax: 021- 4509877
E-mail: ograbhorcailtd@eircom.net
www.ograchorcai.org

The principal objective of Ógra Chorcaí Ltd today is to engage young people in developmental and educational opportunities in order that they may more fully participate in their community and society. Our services are designed to:

- Develop personal and social skills
- Redress inequalities experienced by many young people
- Empower young people to achieve their potential and lead fulfilled lives
- Annually over 5,000 young people avail of our services and we are the acknowledged leader in youth service provision in terms of scale, variety and quality in Cork.

AREA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS are special projects for youth and are funded by the Youth Affairs Section in the Department of Education and Science, through the local VEC. These projects aim "to equip young people with the knowledge skills and attitudes necessary for their appropriate and full participation in society" (Department of Education and Science,

2004). They are community based and have a particular focus on young people who may be disadvantaged or at risk. Foróige, Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services and Ogra Chorcaí are involved in the management and operation of these projects in East Cork.

THE YOUGHAL YOUTH PROJECT was established in 2005. The project is managed by Foróige, The National Youth Development Organisation and is core funded by Dormant Accounts. The Youghal Youth Project aims to involve young people, especially those most at risk of early school leaving, in developmental youth work which will enhance their life chances. The purpose of Foróige is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their community and in the development of the community.

CARRIGTWOHILL AREA YOUTH PROJECT was established in April 2005. The project is unique in that it was established as a partnership between two voluntary organisations. It received start up funding from the Society of St Vincent de Paul and is managed by Foróige, The National Youth Development Organisation. The aim of Foróige and the Carrigtwohill Area Youth Project is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and the development of society.

COBH YOUTH SERVICE is a charitable organisation managed by a voluntary board of directors. The organisation was founded in 1992 to provide the young people of the great island with their own space, a place to call their own, where they can come together in a fun and safe environment. The centre is called "The Plateau" and is open 5 days a week staffed by 2 full-time youth worker, FAS CE staff and volunteers. Activities include: a homework club, drama, swimming, model making, soccer, pool and issue based development programmes plus drop in nights where groups just come and chill.

MIDLETON YOUTH PROJECT was initiated in 1997 by the Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services. This project works with approximately 30 young people. We work with the following groups: Under 16's Group; Budding Directors: Film Project; Skit Day; Street Art Project. (In our Street Art Project, the group aimed to explore the blurred line between art and vandalism. We chose to paste up life sized paintings of the group members in a prominent location in the centre of Midleton to illustrate this debatable grey area). The group was well aware that, but for 2 of our secret weapons, street art may be interpreted as undesirable or even illegal! Those 2 secret weapons **Creativity and permission!**)

MIDLETON PEER SUPPORT EDUCATION GROUP is a Community Programme for Young People, an innovative response to Suicide Prevention in Midleton in East Cork. The need for such a programme came directly from young people who wanted to make a difference in their community after experiencing the suicide of friends and/or family members. The aim of the programme is to help participants to develop their listening and communication skills so that they might help other young people who are in some difficulty or crisis in a practical and logical way. The Focus of this Programme is

around the difficult situations posed by suicide and related issues. The Pilot Programme commenced in June 2004. Their present focus is on setting up a **Youth Café** in Midleton. They have been involved in the Exchange Project. Eric Desmond and Aidan O' Keefe represented this group on the initial planning visit to Scotland. The HSE South will provide advice, support and assistance to individuals who are feeling suicidal and to family members, friends, professionals and others who know someone who is showing symptoms of depression, anxiety or who is threatening suicide or self-harm.

GLANMIRE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Glanmire Youth Development Project is an Ogra Chorcaí Project with a local management committee. It was established in 2000 and currently has two staff. One V.E.C. funded and the second Drugs Task Force funded. A team of volunteers also assist the project in the provision of the Music Group, the Film Club, Youth Club, and Open Nights.

The project aims to work with the many teenagers in the Glanmire area in an empowering and supportive manner. We endeavour to improve the quality of life, and the services available to the young people living in the Glanmire area. We pay special attention to those who are in need of additional support. We work with in excess of 200 mainstream young people on a weekly basis and approximately 30 young people are engaged in personal development work in any given week. This takes place in one to ones, small peer groups, formal group work and family work. We also work closely with schools, Gardaí, and the HSE in developing appropriate targeted programmes and activities. They include Drugs Information Workshops held in the schools; The Music Group, 'Glanmire House of Rock'; Glanmire Film Club; Sport activities; A Youth Club and Glanmire Youth Council. (This is a representative group of young people from Glanmire. It is composed of nominees from the various sports and leisure organisation in the area as well as nominations from both secondary schools; residence associations and young people who are not involved in and activities. The participants are between 14 and 18 years of age. They aim to be a voice for their peers on the various issues that affect youth in the community and to actively lobby to improve the facilities and services for youth in Glanmire. They have identified the need for a Youth Café as a priority for the area and are endeavouring to realise this ambitious plan in a dynamic and enthusiastic manner. The members of the group show many attributes and a very encouraging vision that both they and their peers can contribute to their community.)

YOUGHAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

This is an interagency group concerned with the development of services and facilities to meet the needs of young people in Youghal particularly those who are disadvantaged or at risk. Currently it operates with Foróige Youth Project funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund. Youghal Youth Committee also functions as a youth sub-group for the Rapid Area Implementation Team (AIT).

APPENDIX 3: YOUTH CAFÉS

What is a youth café?

A youth café (or drop-in centre as some are called) is a safe, secure and non-alcoholic place in which young people may relax, organise and enjoy recreational activities, while also benefiting from opportunities for self-development.

Youth cafés vary greatly in size, design and the range of activities offered – there is no set formula. The area served by most youth cafés will cover the local town or village and the immediate surrounding area, or sometimes the secondary school catchment area. Most cafés also welcome young people who are visiting the area. The age range of users spans 12-25 year olds and varies between cafés. Each café sets its own membership policy. Crucially, they are constituted voluntary organisations formed in response to needs expressed by local young people. A strong feature is the involvement of young people in the planning, fund-raising, design and running of the facility. Other characteristics often include the relaxed atmosphere; the attractive and youth-friendly nature of the buildings; the 'central' location; a good range of facilities and activities; and the commitment of volunteers.

(Source: Prince's Trust (2005) *The Youth Café Survival Guide: Good Ideas Wanted*, The Prince's Trust Supported by the Scottish Executive, London.)

Weston-super-Mare Youth Café

A youth café in Weston-super-Mare is providing young people with a safe, non-alcoholic place to hang out in the evening and at weekends.

Like many seaside towns, Weston-super-Mare in Somerset is a great place to be on a sunny day if you're a young person. But during the winter, the lack of places to hang out can be a problem.

The local youth council flagged up the gap in provision when it was asked for ideas to improve facilities for young people in the area. Gillian Crouch, 14, was chair of the council at the time. "We sent out questionnaires for young people asking what they wanted and they all wanted a youth café," she recalls.

Although there was some initial opposition from councillors who were worried that providing a place for large groups of young people to meet would result in violence, the youth council was able to get the support of the town council. But, getting the agreement in principle was only the first step.

Hannah Gibley, 17, was one of the founding members of the youth council in 2001, and says the idea of a youth café was raised back then. "But last year we put a real effort into making the youth café work, and a lot of work persuading the adult council it would work" she says. "Getting it set up took a lot of work by the adults. The young people were more involved in speaking about it."

Ideal location

The project came together when the owners of a wine bar, which had been converted from a bank, decided they wanted to sell up. The council was interested in taking over the property, because it was ideally placed in the centre of town to be the youth café.

The venue, which is known as Barcode, was unveiled last October. It is open from Wednesday to Sunday, normally from 2.30pm to 9.30pm, although the hours change in the holidays.

Entertainment managers Kevin Lilwall says after a fairly slow start it is proving popular. "When we opened, the publicity wasn't where it should have been, but we are getting more people in," he says. "The Friday night is going well and the numbers are growing."

To tempt young people in, Barcode runs themed evenings. Friday night is party night, which Lilwall says is an under-18s club night without alcohol, and there is a monthly showcase for local young bands. Plans for this year include music and karaoke nights.

The rest of the time Barcode operates as a café with pool, air hockey and a small arcade. Drinks and sandwiches are also on sale. Bar manager Claire Townsend says she wants to expand this. "We are planning to get catering in" she says. "Nothing too unhealthy, but at the moment a lot of the kids are bringing chips in."

The café has been funded by a variety of sources. The youth council put in its annual grant of £10,000, North Somerset Council has put in £5,000, the Community Safety and Drug Action Team has put in £5,000, and local businesses and community organisations have given grants or provided services.

The café also makes money from sales. "We are here as a service," says Townsend. "It is about young people using the venue, but it does need to make some money."

As more money comes through, the café is slowly being refurbished. Townsend says it is a case of buying the paint for one wall, doing that, and then waiting for more cash to come in. "It is a slow process," she says.

The bar is run by three staff as well as volunteers, who tend to be parents or trainee youth workers. North Somerset Council also sends youth workers. "The thinking is that young people will develop a rapport with the youth workers and then they can arrange to meet them at a later date," says Townsend.

No trouble

Door staff are present on a Friday and Saturday night to deal with any problems, but so far they have only been used as a deterrent and to turn away drinkers who have failed to notice the building is no longer a wine bar.

Townsend says they have about 60 young people in on a Friday night and up to 150 visit on a Saturday. The bar is proving most popular with 11- to 15-year-olds. "They go every night," says Hannah. "It is somewhere to hang out."

Adam Larter, 18, a long-standing member of the youth council, says: "The young people that go there are very enthusiastic. It is just a case of getting more through the door."

(Source: Lloyd, T (2006) Weston-super-mare Youth Café, *Young People Now*, 18-24 January)

APPENDIX 4: ENROLMENT NUMBERS IN EAST CORK SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS FROM 2005/2006.

Cork County	School Name	Boys	Girls	Total	Town school pop. numbers
Carrigtohill	St Aloysius	0	667	667	667
	Colaiste Muire	289	219	508	817
Cobh	Community College	147	162	309	
	Colaiste an Phiarasaigh	217	283	500	1236
Glanmire	Community College	435	301	736	
	CBS	430	0	430	1829
Midleton	Midleton College	172	126	298	
	St Marys	0	536	536	
	St Colemans Community College	359	206	565	
Youghal	Loreto	0	265	265	854
	CBS	229	0	229	
	Colaiste Eoin	188	172	360	
Totals		2466	2937	5403	

APPENDIX 5: CODING OF QUESTIONNAIRES

A content analysis involves developing a list of codes from the data. These codes are identified following an initial review of the data. Each code reflects the key activities, issues or themes that are expressed by the respondents in the survey. Given the qualitative nature of the data, a significant amount of subjective judgement is involved in the content analysis process. Not all textual statements are taken at face value or literally. A level of interpretation is involved. This interpretation is facilitated by the fact that the textual statements can be examined within the context of other information available from other sources based on different methodologies (Knodel, 1993). In this study these sources included local knowledge of the facilities and developments in each area, informal interviews with youth workers, other surveys such as De Roiste and Dineen (2005) and validation groups comprising of young people. The interpretive process involved in developing the codes is central to the content analysis of qualitative data. Once developed these codes allow the data to be organised into analytically distinct segments that can be examined together when drawing conclusions concerning one or more of the issues or related concept under study.

For questions two and three, two levels of coding were developed. In Question 2, many of the respondents mentioned particular places that they went to with friends or activities in which they participated. The researchers felt it was important that in the analysis, the activities that young people participate in be linked with the locations where these activities take place. The initial level one coding for this question sought to categorise the activities in which young people participated. Most of the activities were self evident and self explanatory from the data, as were the locations where they took place (e.g. sport, cinema and shopping in Cork). However, many of the responses to this question mentioned locations and activities which suggested unstructured activity by young people. After discussion, these comments were coded under the broad activity code "hanging around (with peers)". This is an unstructured activity which takes place outside and which has been identified in other research as an important leisure time activity for young people, and there is agreement of both the normative nature and relative importance of hanging around with peers (De Roiste and Dineen, 2005). This was therefore an area of particular interest. This coding was confirmed by the validation groups. The comments coded as "hanging around (with peers)" were subject to a second level coding which sought to identify where these activities took place in each area.

In responding to Question 3, many of the respondents gave a 'wish list' of the facilities and activities what they would like to see in the future for their area. These responses were first coded under broad level one codes identifying broad activities and facilities (e.g. recreational facilities, sports activities, etc.). These broad categories were then subjected to level two coding, which allowed the variety of activities and facilities within these categories to be identified.

Validation

Because of the subjective nature of qualitative data, the safeguards in terms of reliability and validity which are usually ensured by statistical procedures are not applicable. Rather qualitative researchers seek to demonstrate compatibility between the meanings that exist in the minds of those surveyed and those that are attributed to them in the research. Qualitative researchers are concerned with the credibility of their analysis with the individuals who have supplied the data for the study (Fischer, 2003). Qualitative theorists have developed a number of strategies for accomplishing this (Lincon and Guba, 1985). The approach taken in this study involved the coding structure and preliminary analysis being validated in an informed focus group setting with groups of young people from each area studied. In these informal validation groups young people from each area were asked if the meanings attributed to the comments of the respondents in their area for each questions reflected the intended meaning of the comments.

Limitations of Data

In terms of the Carrigtohill data, many of the respondents from St Aloysius College made reference to the place they live in being outside of the East Cork area (which is our focus). Some 42.5% of the respondents from this school indicated that they were not from Carrigtohill. They come from Cobh, Mayfield, Montanotte, Aghada and Glanmire. In addition, St. Aloysius secondary school is an all female school so the majority of the young people who responded to the Carrigtohill survey were female. Consequently, the picture from Carrigtohill is not complete.

Similarly, many respondents from the Glanmire schools indicated that they were not from Glanmire. Many of these young people responded to the questions in terms of their own area, for example Mayfield. There are limitations of our survey of the East Cork area.

APPENDIX 6

"Hanging Around" (with Friends)

"Hanging around outside (with friends)" emerged as a common and important activity for young people in de Roiste and Dineen's (2005) large scale national study on recreation and leisure opportunities for Irish young people aged 12-18 years carried out from November to mid-December 2004. Some 90% of young people in that study reported this activity, involving things like "chatting", "walking around and seeing people", "being with your gang or pals", "having a laugh", "messaging" and "fooling around". For over half of that sample (61%), this was a daily or frequent activity. Locations identified were "in the estate", "behind the church", "in the park", "in the woods", "around the shops", "doing laps of the town", "in the alleys (in the city)" and "in pals' bedrooms". These researchers specifically asked about "hanging around outside" in the context of a list of things that "teenagers sometimes do in their spare time". Our survey conducted at the local level was very different in scope and focus to this major piece of national research on young people's views on recreation and leisure, and barriers to participation. We focused on where young people go to when they go out rather than more general leisure activities.

A survey of 988 young people in County Kildare carried out between December 2004 and February 2005 also identified "hanging out with friends" as "a favoured activity among respondents" (Lalor & Baird, January 2006, p.2). This research had a much broader aim than ours in that it explored the views of young people about community facilities, leisure activities, worries and concerns as well as sources of support.

Places to "Hang Around" with Friends

Hall and colleagues note that the reasons young people may congregate in public spaces such as street corner or park benches is because of lack of a viable alternative that is unsupervised, accessible and affordable (Hall, Coffey & Williamson, 1999, p.506). However they suggest that these locations may be purposefully sought out as "places of action and incident" and provide young people with "the opportunity to establish themselves locally; to make their presence felt and to publicly affirm (collective) identities through the conspicuous occupation of territory" (p.506). Nevertheless, they argue from a young person's perspective the street "can be an oppressive place to be and sometimes young people would rather be anywhere else" (p.507).

"Youth Lifestyles"

For a comprehensive and detailed review of the importance of recreation and leisure to young people's development, refer to the work of de Roiste and Dineen (2005). They highlight that a significant amount of young people's lives are spent on "leisure activities" and the importance of recreational activities and pursuits to all areas of adolescent development, crucially providing a social context for young people. Four distinct groups of "youth lifestyles" are highlighted (2005, p.4). These are: commercialised leisure (shopping, listening to music and discos); conventional (adult approved) activities (art, scouts and youth clubs); sports/games-orientated activities (playing/watching sports, playing computer games); and street-based peer-orientated activities (hanging around outside). These authors provide a comprehensive and detailed discussion on the life-enhancing and multiple benefits of leisure and recreation for young people (pp.4-7). The consultation document on Recreation and Young People also highlights a range of personal, social, physical (mainly in relation to sport and physical activities such as dance) and community benefits of participation for young people in recreational activities (National Children's Office, 2005).

APPENDIX 7

Conference Organising Committee Members were:

- Eric Desmond, Midleton Peer Education Project
- Phyllis Kidney, Cobh Youth Services (CYS)

- John McHarg, Midleton, and Youthreach Youghal
- Liz O'Mahony, VDP Family Resource Centre, Carrigtohill
- Derek Bora, Internet Café, Youghal
- Noreen O'Brien, Advocacy Worker for East Cork Travellers
- Eben Barnard, Youth Worker, Midleton Youth Project
- Brenda Crowley, Mental Health Resource Officer, HSE
- Marie Motherway, Youghal Youth Committee
- David Feehan, Youth Worker, CYS
- Linda Monaghan, Youth Worker, Area Youth Project, Carrigtohill
- Peggy Sue Amison, Syrius Arts Centre, Cobh
- Shirley Smith, Youth Worker Midleton Youth Project
- Nicola Lucey, Youth Worker Area Youth Project, Youghal
- Brian O'Toole, Youth Worker, Ogra Glanmire Youth Development Project
- Carol Newman, Youthreach, Youghal

APPENDIX 8: EAST CORK YOUTH NETWORK (ECYN) MEMBERS

MIDLETON

Eric Desmond, Midleton Peer Education Project
Brenda Crowley, Mental Health Resource Officer, HSE
John Mc Harg (also Youghal Youthreach)
Eben Barnard, Shirley Smith, Jan Morrissey Midleton Community Youth Project

COBH

Phyllis Kidney, Catherine O'Connor, Liam Guiney, Cobh Youth Services (CYS)
Peggy Sue Amison/Sarah Iremonger, Syrius Arts Centre
Trisha Collins, Cobh YMCA

CARRIGTOHILL

Linda Monaghan, Liz O Mahony, Area Youth Project

YOUGHAL

Derek Bora
Carol Newman, Youghal Youthreach
Marie Motherway, Youghal Youth Project Committee

Nicola Lucey, Area Youth Project, Youghal

GLANMIRE

Brian O'Toole, Glanmire Youth Development Project

OVERALL EAST CORK AREA

Noreen O'Brien, East Cork Travellers Advocacy
Paul Hunter, Mary Mc Grath, East Cork Area Development Ltd.

APPENDIX 9: USEFUL CONTACTS

Carrigtohill Area Youth Project,
foroige_cayp@eircom.net. 086 8364366/021 4533866

Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service Ltd
Mallow Community Youth Centre, New Road, Mallow, Co. Cork
Tel: 022 - 53526 / 022 - 53527 Fax 022 - 53456

E-mail: cdyss@eircom.net admindys@eircom.net

Cobh Youth Services

The Plateau, 16 Midleton Street, Cobh

0214814640. cysitd@eircom.net

Comhairle Na nOg:

http://www.dublinicity.ie/living_in_the_city/your_area/north_central/local_events/comhairle_na_nog.asp

Cork County Council Arts Office

Cork County Council Headquarters, County Hall,
Cork, Ireland. Tel: + 00 353 (0) 21 4276891;

Fax: + 00 353 (0) 21 4276321. E-mail: Corporate Affairs

Cork Film Centre, 20 - 21 Anglesea Street, Cork

Tel: +353 21 431 6033

E-mail: info@corkfilmcentre.com

Web: www.corkfilmcentre.com

Debby Lynch, College Lecturer
Department of Applied Social Studies
University College Cork

Debby.lynch@ucc.ie 021 4903607

Donegal Youth Council:

<http://www.donegal-youthcouncil.ie/home.htm>

East Cork Traveller Advocacy Worker

Noreen O'Brien, HSE Community Services, HSE, Ellis House,
Ballyvolane, Cork.

Tel: 021 4529023 / 087 0524654

E-mail: noreen.obrien@mailp.hse.ie

East Cork Area Development Midleton Community Enterprise
Centre, Owennacurra Business Park, Knockgriffin, Midleton, East
Cork, Ireland. Tel 353 21 4613432 Fax 353 21 4613808

Email info@ecad.ie Web www.eastcork.com

East Cork Youth Information Point, YMCA Cobh.

021 4814060 Trisha Collins

Feabhas Youth Diversion Project, Cobh Affiliated to Cloyne Diocesan
Youth Service Ltd T:021 4816308 M: 086 8031152

Clodagh Meade

Foroige HQ, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Telephone: (01) 450 1122 Facsimile: (01) 450 1941

Email: foroige@eircom.net. Website: www.foroige.ie

Glanmire Youth Development Project

Ogra Chorcaí, GAA Club, Sallybrook, Glanmire

ograglanmire@eircom.net. Tel: 021 4823881

HSE, Mental Health Resource Officer Brenda Crowley,
St Davids Resource Centre, Clonakilty Community Hospital.

brenda.crowley@mailp.hse.ie

HSE Suicide Helpline as follows: 1800 742 745, 6-10pm daily.

Mary McGrath, Community Development Consultant

Tel: 021 4661557 / 086 8139019. Email: marywhitegate@eircom.net

Midleton Youth Project, Parish Hall, Old Youghal Rd, Midleton

midletonyouthproject@hotmail.com 021 4613347

National Youth Council of Ireland

3 Montague Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

T 353 1 4784122 / F 353 1 4783974

www.youth.ie e-mail info@nyci.ie

National Youth Information Website

www.youthinfo.ie (Health & Education Information)

Spunout Youth Website

www.spunout.ie (Ireland's biggest youth website

covering all aspects of health, lifestyle, culture and craic).

Syrius Arts Centre, Cobh

cobharts@iol.ie 021 4813790

The Gaf Youth café

14 Francis St, Galway 091 535370

the.gaf@mail.hse.ie

Extra Information: The Gaf is Support Service for Young People

(14-21yrs). It offers young people a safe place to meet,

join groups or access support.

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(This website was developed by the National Youth Council of Ireland with funding from the Communicating Europe Initiative. NYCI is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland.)

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024 90793

Youthreach Youghal Carol Newman,

ryy@eircom.net 024 93869

Youth Work Ireland, 20 Dominick Street Lower, Dublin 1.

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