

# THE BALLYMUN YOUTH ACTION PROJECT LTD

## Annual Report 2012



2012





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### Chairperson's Introduction:

It is a pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of the Ballymun Youth Action Project. Our hope is that you will get a sense of what we are about, the number of people we work with, the different services we provide, and the developments and events that have occurred over 2012.

My thanks to all who have helped to provide a professional and accessible service throughout this year, despite the impact of significant financial cutbacks. Thanks to the staff team for their commitment, and to those who have used our services over the year. We look forward to growing together as an increasingly effective response to the impact of drugs and alcohol on our community.

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### BYAP – Who we are

The Ballymun Youth Action Project (BYAP) is a community response to drug and alcohol misuse. It was founded in 1981 after three young people from Ballymun had died from drugs-related causes. As a response that has come from within the community of Ballymun, we strive to reduce the negative impact of drug and alcohol use on the lives of individuals and families, and on this community.

We seek to do this through

- Working with individuals who are using, reducing, or who have stopped using drugs and/or alcohol;
- Supporting families impacted by drug and alcohol issues;
- Supporting the community in their work of prevention and intervention as responses to drug and alcohol issues;
- And building capacity through training and research.

We believe

- That individuals with addictions can and do recover;
- The families of those affected by addiction do not have to cope alone;
- That the Community can be an effective place to recover.

And our ethos is rooted in

- Valuing individuality;
- Valuing the capacity of individuals, families, and communities.



There are 6 different parts of the Project.

BYAP Core is the original Project. Over time a Day Programme was developed to provide more structured activities for some of the people who were using the service. In 1996, Urrús, the training centre was set up. Since then, BYAP has become the project manager for two other initiatives, the Aftercare Team and the Contact Project. And at the end of 2012 we saw the start of one more initiative, the Infant Parent Support Worker role. In all there are 16 Staff employed through these different pieces of work.

The work of the Ballymun Youth Action Project is funded from a number of different sources. The HSE and the Probation Service are the principle funders. The CDYSB were a significant source of funding from the early days of the Project until the end of 2011, but have now opted to redirect their funds to "mainstream" youth services. The Local Drugs Task Force funds particular initiatives.

## **Context and Key Developments 2012**

2012 has been a significant year for the project at a number of different levels. The steering group on the National Substance Misuse Strategy published their report in 2012. This is the first time that drugs and alcohol were both dealt with in the same policy document at Governmental level. From our perspective this is a significant step forward. The Ballymun Youth Action Project has always recognised that alcohol is very much part of the reality that we work with. With the proposals in the new strategy we see the possibility of a much more coherent response to the whole issue of substance misuse as it affects individuals, families, and communities.

There are also changes being explored at the level of service delivery by the Addiction Services within the HSE, and it is hoped that these developments will create greater room for cooperation between the community/voluntary services and the statutory services.

Alongside the developments at the level of policy and strategy there is also the reality of a much tighter economic situation, and the impact of cuts that have been imposed on all Projects, including the Ballymun Youth Action Project. In 2012 there were two redundancies within BYAP, and ten staff members saw a reduction in their working hours as a direct result of cutbacks.

## **Report of Activities 2012.**

In the following section the Activity of the Project will be broken down into three sections. The Services Provided to Individuals, the Education and Training services, and the Other Services and Activities.



### **A. The services provided to Individuals**

During the year, 567 individuals have had direct contact with the services of BYAP, through BYAP Core, Day Programme, Contact, or Aftercare.

There have also been a whole range of interventions with other groups and organisations in the area which are not recorded as individual contacts. These interventions include:

The Schools Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programme, where we worked with 10 classes from 5 local primary schools, and delivered the programme to around 230 Students. This Programme ceased from September 2012 due to the loss of funding, but every effort is being made to resume this crucial piece of work.

The Boxing Clever Programme, which is delivered in partnership with the Rehabilitation and Integration Service of the HSE, and Dublin City University. The intake on this Course is 22, and the course is in its second delivery cycle at the moment.

BYAP also works with the Drug Treatment Programme in Mountjoy Prison, where 8 programmes were delivered in 2012, with 72 participants taking part in total

We have also been involved in the facilitation or delivery of pieces of work with the Ballymun Educational Support Team (BEST), the Ballymun Regional Youth Resource (BRYR), Youthreach Ballymun, the Community and Family Training Agency (CAFTA) and others.

Within the overall project there are a range of different services. This year, the use of the eCASS Data System has made it much easier to present the work done within these areas. We started to use the system in April, so the data we are presenting here is for 9 months, (with the estimated figure for 12 months in brackets)

During that period there were

- 2,266 One to One Counselling Sessions (3,021 for 12 Months)
- 140 Home Visits (186 for 12 Months)
- 73 Acupuncture Sessions (97 for 12 Months)
- 296 Prison Visits (395 for 12 Months)

During the year there were a range of different programmes delivered to individuals attending the service. The programmes delivered were:

- Cannabis Programme
- Detox Programme
- Relapse Prevention Programme
- Anger Management Programme
- Literacy Programme
- Health and Fitness
- Nutrition for Health and Mental Wellbeing

## **B. Education and Training Services**

URRÚS have provided training to 550 participants during the year. The courses provided are:

- Introduction to Addiction Studies
- Advanced Introduction to Addiction Studies
- Injecting Drug Use Harm Reduction Strategies
- Introduction Level - Motivational Interviewing
- Intermediate Level - Motivational Interviewing
- Key Working
- Community Addiction Studies Course<sup>©</sup>
- Substance Use Issues in Youthwork
- Diploma in Community Drugs & Alcohol Work.

URRÚS identify emergent needs, and respond to particular requests from the local community.

URRÚS also acts as consultant to the delivery of the Community Addiction Studies Course in areas outside of Ballymun, and this year courses have been delivered in Ballyfermot; Blanchardstown; Dun Laoghaire; Limerick; and Co. Louth (2011-2); Ballyfermot; Blanchardstown; Dun Laoghaire; Kildare; and Limerick (2012-3). The total number of participants involved is 300 for that period.

### C. Other Services and Activities

In 2011 BYAP celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the setting up of the Project. The final events of this celebration included a **Celebration Event for Service Users** in November 2011.

In that same month we also held the **Schools Project Presentation**, with participation from all of the schools in Ballymun where programmes had been delivered over the year.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011 saw the launch of two reports on substance misuse to mark the final event celebrating its 30th year. The first report, "**Seen but not heard**" documents the proceedings of a conference on substance misuse that took place in Dublin Castle in March 2011. The second report, "**Fact or Fiction**" looks at young people's attitudes to drugs and alcohol-related issues.



The conference report, in particular, offers an insight into the experiences and issues affecting local communities, practitioners and academics. It also highlights the need for all agencies working in the field to adopt a more integrated approach in addressing the drugs problem. The second report offers an insightful picture of the experiences and attitudes of young people. It also offers a more personalised local perspective than other, larger, general research surveys carried out in Ireland.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Ballymun Youth Action Project held a special **Presentation Ceremony** to mark the achievements of 72 people who have completed courses with the Project over the last year. These courses form a key part of the response to drug and alcohol use as it affects local communities. All of the courses offer the participants opportunities for change, and having a range of different courses allows participants to find the one that most suits their needs at a particular point in time. The courses include Rehabilitation Programmes, Literacy

Development Programmes, Experiential Programmes, and the Community Addiction Studies Course which has been running since 1994.

In recognition of the importance of these programmes, Minister Shortall, who had responsibility for the development of the National Substance Misuse Strategy, and who has had a long involvement with the Community of Ballymun, presented the certificates. In addition, because a number of the courses were focused particularly on Health and Fitness, Philly McMahon and other members of the 2011 Winning Dublin Team joined us for the event.



The **Boxing Clever Programme**, which involves both BYAP and URRÚS, in partnership with the HSE Rehabilitation and Integration Service, and DCU, celebrated the first awards ceremony, with certificates presented by Micheal Caruth.

BYAP hosts meetings of **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** on two nights a week, one on a Thursday, and since October a second meeting has been taking place on a Wednesday Night.

Representatives from BYAP and the LDTF made a Presentation to the **Joint Committee on Health and Children** (Dec 11/ Report Jan2012) which was examining the Misuse of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

BYAP continues to be part of the **QuADS**, Quality Standards in Alcohol and Drugs Services, pilot programme.

This year, Ballymun has become part of the **Community Detox Pilot Programme**, and Brian Foley of BYAP is the broker for this area. This programme works to facilitate access to community detox from methadone or benzodiazepines.



On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012, students from the Diploma in **Community Drug and Alcohol Work** (Dip CDAW) were in UCD to receive their Diplomas. The Course which has traditionally been run over two years, is now being run in one year, and there are 24 students in the current programme which finishes next June.

As mentioned earlier, we have incorporated the use of the **eCASS** data management system into the work of our Project. This has made a significant difference to our capacity to manage the day to day work, but also to get a clearer picture of what is actually happening within the work. This development has also enabled the possibility of interagency sharing of information, in a way that supports the work being done with service users who are linked to a number of local agencies at the same time. The support of the Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force (BLDTF) in this process has been invaluable.

BYAP continues to be actively engaged in the ongoing development of the **Network for Assisting Children and Young People**. Alongside the development of a more integrated approach at national level, Ballymun has developed a local area pathway system which works to allow more effective and coherent responses to young people and children at risk.

Another exciting new development is the creation of a new position, through funding from the BLDTF, of **Infant Parent Support Worker**. This role aims to meet the needs of children and parents where there are issues related to problem drug and/or alcohol use in the infant stages of the child's life.



Finally, working with Art has continued to play an important role in the work of the project. Clare Carey worked with BYAP to facilitate the creation a piece of art that was displayed in the Axis Centre as part of the **Festival of Life**, in May 2012,

BYAP would like to thank everybody who has been involved with us over this last year. In a time of real challenge we have been very struck by, and supported through, people's generosity and commitment. In particular we would like to thank the Company Members, including new members who joined us during 2012, the Board of Directors, the Staff team, and all the people who have used our services over the year.

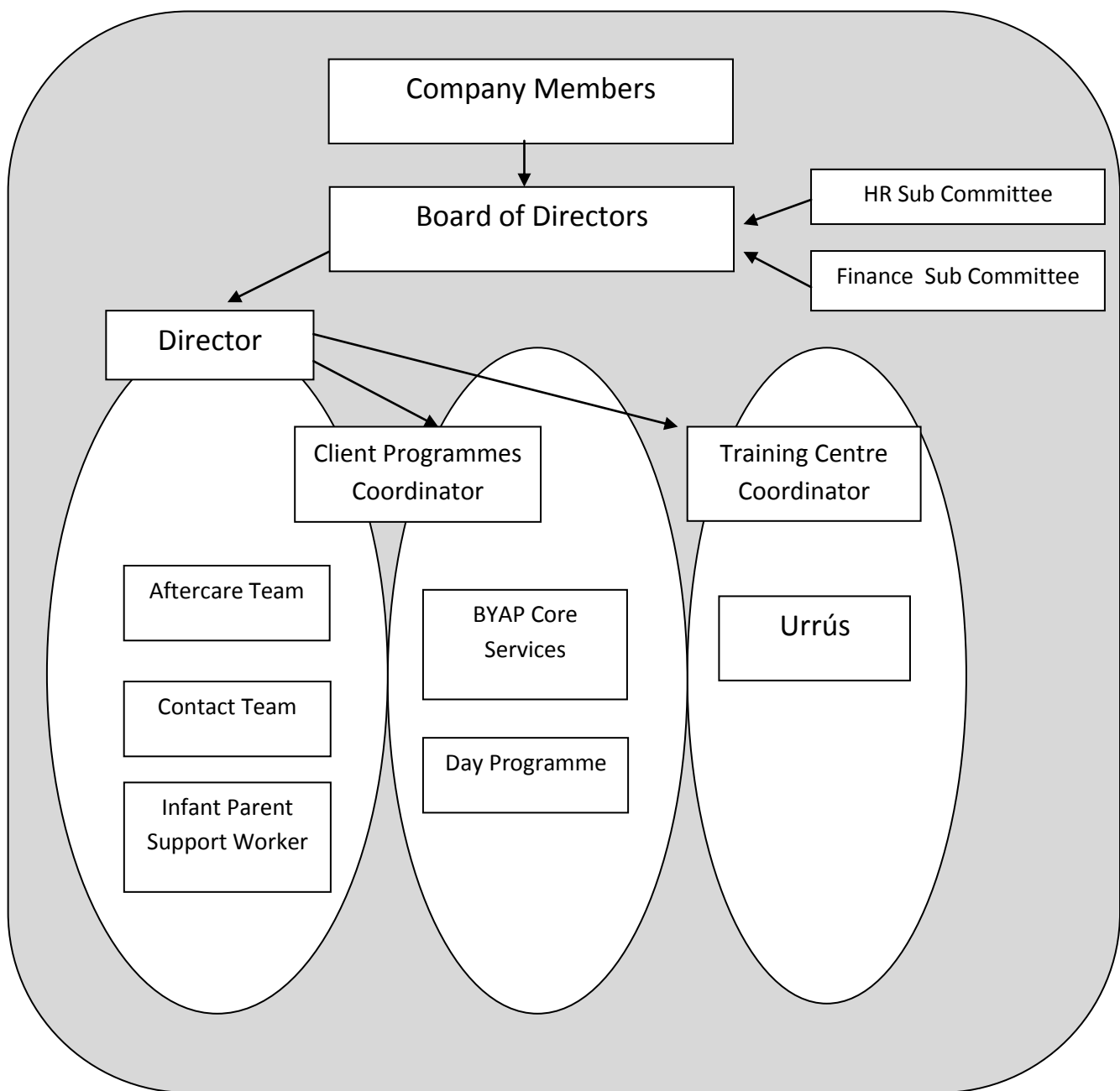


**Appendix:**

**Ballymun Youth Action Project: Board of Directors: 2012**

Chairperson: Charles Murphy.  
 Vice Chair: Pat Carey.  
 Secretary: Marian Hackett.  
 Treasurer: Margarete McGrath  
 David Gibney  
 Niall Guy  
 Fred Mullen.

**Ballymun Youth Action Project: Organisational Structure 2012**



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