

2020

Annual Report 2020

The Ballymun Youth Action Project CLG





The Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd. Annual Report 2020.

Contents.

	Page
Introduction	1
BYAP - Who we are	2
Report of Activities 2020	2
Services to Individuals	3
Education and Training Services	4
Other Services and Activities	5
Initiatives	6
Organisational	6
Appendices	
Financial Statement	7
Governance	7
Organisational Structure	8

Introduction:

2020 has been an extraordinary year, in every sense of the word. The local and global impact of Covid 19 was enormous. The tragedy of lives lost, the social and psychological cost of isolation and restrictions, and the very significant increase in levels of anxiety and stress across all ages, has still to be fully measured. Yet in the midst of this global pandemic there were plenty of positives. Care, compassion, and creativity moved centre stage. People developed new ways of communicating and working. Entrenched challenges were rapidly resolved with novel solutions being implemented collaboratively and robustly.

This annual report will seek to capture some of that activity.

We are very grateful to so many people who supported the work of the Ballymun Youth Action Project over this very difficult year, and in particular the staff team who worked in the very difficult circumstances, often in contexts of uncertainty, to continue to provide the best possible service to those who engage with the Ballymun Youth Action Project.



BYAP - Who we are

The Ballymun Youth Action Project is a Community Response to Drug and Alcohol issues as they are experienced in this local community, and in our response we work with individuals, families and the broader community. It was founded in 1981 after three young people from Ballymun died from drugs-related causes.

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

Our services respond to a continuum of needs ranging from low threshold harm reduction positions to post substance use/abstinence-based aftercare provision.

We believe that individual substance users do not exist in isolation, and accordingly we work with families and the community to facilitate change. We recognise the impact that drug use has on families and the local community and our services also seek to address that impact. Within the delivery of services there are target groups who are in a transitional phase within their drug use, and the manner of service delivery is designed to incorporate this reality. Accordingly there are also some collaborative pieces of service delivery within the organisation.

The work of the Ballymun Youth Action Project is funded from a number of different sources. The HSE, the Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and the Probation Service are the principle funders.

Report of Activities 2020.

During 2020, from March to May, six staff of the Ballymun Youth Action Project and URRÚS were deployed to a Cocoon Unit in Donabate, which provided accommodation to at risk individuals during the early weeks of the pandemic. This meant that there were less staff available for services in

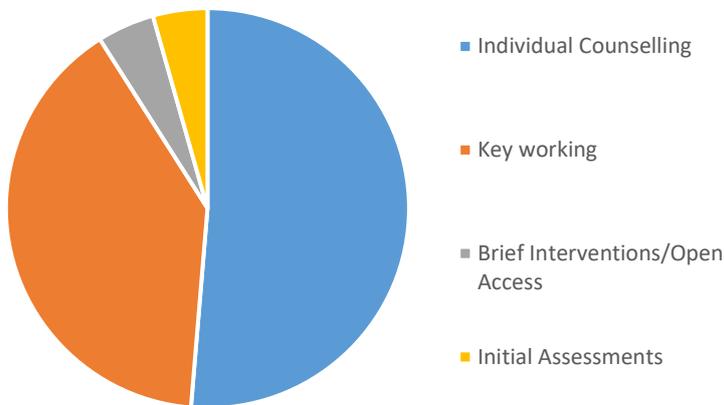


mainstream BYAP services. Also, during the pandemic all visits to Prisons were stopped, due to the risk of Covid 19 transmission. Both these factors resulted in a slightly lower overall activity level reported for 2020.

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, including new initiatives.

A. The services provided to Individuals

The Primary Work with Individuals during 2020



During the year, **559** individuals had direct contact with the services of BYAP [362 Males, and 197 Females] through BYAP Core, Day Programme, Aftercare, the Infant Parent Support Project, and the GP Counselling Service

During 2020 one to one sessions took place either in person, or using the Zoom Communications Platform/phone, depending on the level of national restrictions in force at the time. Once it was feasible the building remained open, but subject to the government guidance on social distancing. During the year there were **3,545** interventions of this type

Activity Type	2020
Individual Counselling	1,819
Key Working Sessions	1,408
Brief Intervention Sessions	163
Initial Assessments	155



Other activities were also limited by the impact of Covid 19, but the availability of Zoom meant that all groups were able to continue in an online format when it was not possible to meet in person. The redevelopment of the courtyard area following the completion of the Aspen/Lidl development next door, meant that the space could be used more often, even within the context of the pandemic. The development of other approaches to meeting with people in the outdoors, including what came to be known as “walk and talk” proved to be successful solutions for many people during the restrictions.

Other Interventions:

Activity Type	2020
Program Sessions Delivered	183
Acupuncture Treatments	95
Home Visits	166
Therapeutic Groups	155
Client Case Meetings	151
Accompaniment	28
Prison Visits	39
Exchange	343
Outreach	161
Open Access	150

Urrus provided training to 377 participants during 2020

B. Education and Training Services



URRÚS provided the following training during 2020:

- Community Addiction Studies Course[©]
- Diploma in Community Drugs and Alcohol Work
- Understanding Harm Reduction
- Introduction to Addiction Studies
- Keyworking, Care Planning and Case Management
- Women and Substance Use
- Drug Related Health Issues
- Drug Awareness
- Understanding Drugs and Talking to Young People
- Groupwork and Facilitation Skills
- Drugs and Effects - Peer mentoring
- Understanding Crack Cocaine
- Reflective Practice



The Day Programme provided

- Communications Programme
- Addiction Awareness
- Building Motivation
- Mindfulness
- Self Esteem in Addiction
- Relapse Prevention

C. Other Services/Activities

The **GP Community Partnership Addiction Project** provides an addiction counsellor to assist those currently using benzodiazepines and for those seeking a prescription for benzodiazepines. The Project also provides a service for those seeking and wishing to address their alcohol misuse and/or related issues; those wishing to detox, and those seeking residential/ further treatment. During 2020 a total of 30 individuals were engaged with the service. As anticipated when the service was established, the involvement of BYAP in the Primary Care setting has continued to facilitate referrals that allow people access additional community services.

The **Infant Parent Support Project** meets the needs of children and parents where there are issues related to problem drug and/or alcohol use antenatally and in the infant stages of the child's life. 49 parents engaged with this service during 2020, including a small number of fathers. On 16th July, the Infant Parent Support Project hosted a webinar entitled "Nurturing relationships through Ages and Stages". The IPSP is increasingly being asked to present at workshops on Infant mental health, and on Childhood Trauma.

URRÚS was established by the Ballymun Youth Action Project with the specific brief of providing training in relation to drug misuse. URRÚS is registered with QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) and is a centre where people and organisations can access a range of training options in order to increase their effectiveness and participation in the area of responses to drug misuse. Courses provided include introductory level training courses in the area of substance use and addiction; a QQI level 5 (minor) award in Community Addiction Studies and a level 7 Diploma in Community Drug & Alcohol Work. In 2018 a Level 9 Postgraduate Professional Certificate in Women and Substance Use was introduced. (Both the level 7 and the level 9 programmes are delivered in partnership with UCD). In 2020 a new course (Minor Award) was approved at Level 6 on the QQI framework, "URRÚS Key Working, Care Planning and Case Management" and this was delivered during 2020. URRÚS also deliver a range of continuous professional development courses, some of which are accredited by the Addiction Counsellors of Ireland (ACI), and conducts research on issues that concern drug and alcohol use and the local community. During Covid 19, URRÚS successfully transferred all deliveries online, with the approval of the accrediting bodies.



BYAP held the **Friends Remembering Friends Service** on the 24th February 2020. This event creates a space to acknowledge some of the loss and trauma associated with the death of friends and loved ones.

D. Initiatives.

The Drugs Policy Unit of the Department of Health commissioned a **rapid assessment research piece on the implications of Covid-19** for people who use drugs and service providers. Laura O'Reilly, the URRÚS Training Centre Coordinator undertook the Ballymun based research piece. Laura O'Reilly and Emer Ward also presented to a Seminar run jointly by URRÚS and the Western Regional Drugs Task force, on "Adapting to Covid-19".

A group of people linked to the service created a new song about the experience of Covid-19. The group, who named themselves the "Corona Crew" performed their song for the Recovery Month gig in the Axis Centre on the 20th September.

During the first lockdown starting in March 2020, staff of the BYAP Drop In team provided outreach services to the Finglas area in a collaboration with the Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

E. Organisational.

The BYAP **Company AGM** took place online on the 24th September 2020.

Ballymun Youth Action Project is compliant with the **Governance Code** for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland, and is also registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

BYAP is also registered on the Register of Lobbying.

Support for the Project. We want to express our appreciation to the BYAP Company members, and the Board of Directors, whose commitment, professionalism, and readiness to support the work of the Project have proven to be an enormous resource over the year. Donal O'Loingsigh resigned from the Board in September 2020, and it was with great sadness we learnt of his death in 2021.



Again, as with previous years we are also very appreciative of the support that is given to BYAP from other organisations. Our thanks go to NOSTRA who continue to manage our IT system, and Salesforce and CANVA who provide software under their donations schemes. During Covid-19 we also received specific support that allowed us to remain open, and to support the most vulnerable families. In particular we would like to thank SuperValu, Keelings, TK Maxx, Dunne and Crescendi, RBC Bank, and the many individuals and services who gave us items for distribution.



We also would like to thank the many others who have been quietly supporting our work over the year.



Appendix 1: Financial Statement

The Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2020

Income	837,962
Expenditure	
Cost of Generating Funds	5,923
Direct Charitable Expenditure	801,842
Governance Costs	6,824
Total Expenditure	814,589
Excess (Deficit) Income for Year	
General Fund	23,373

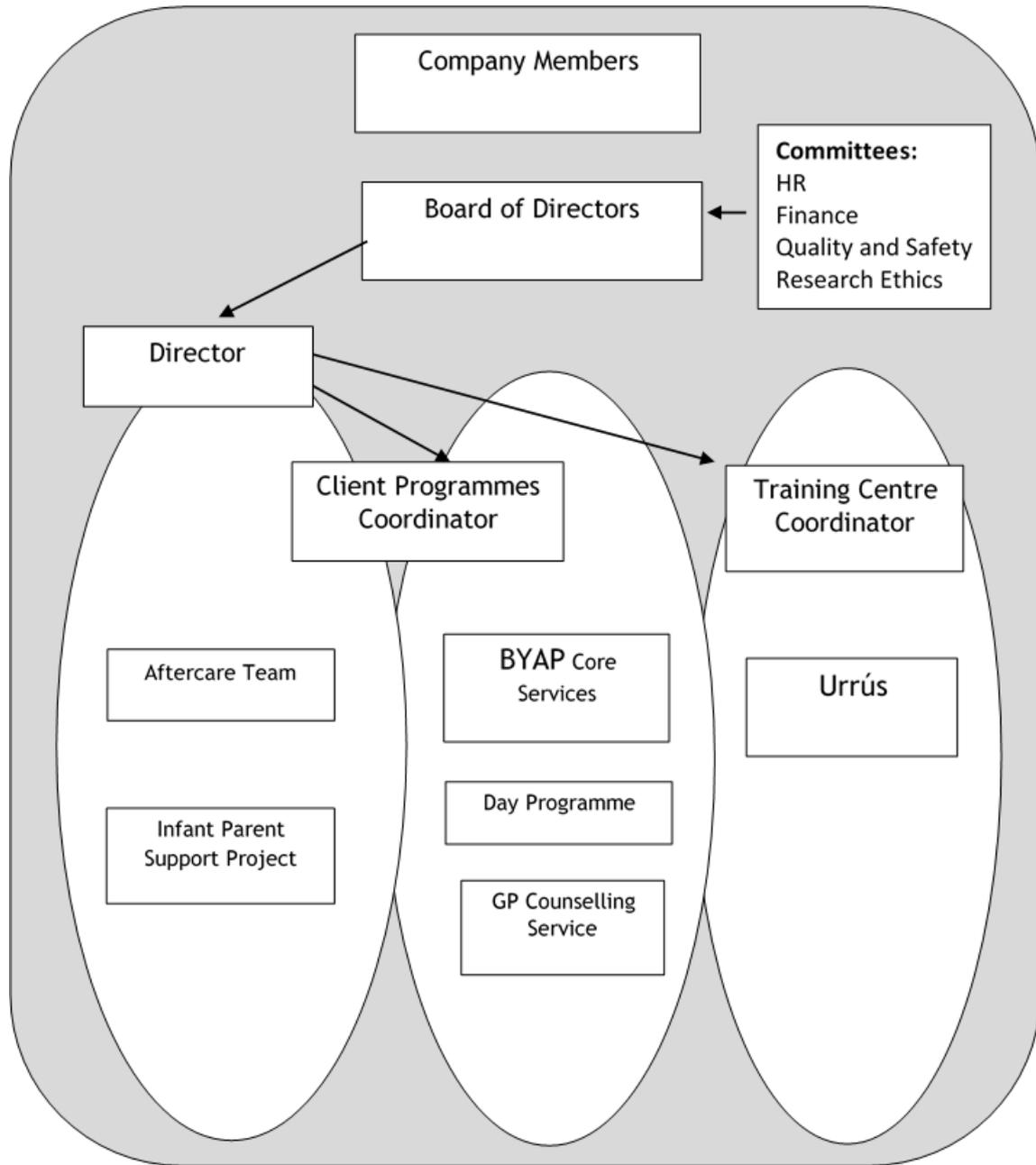
Appendix 2: Governance.

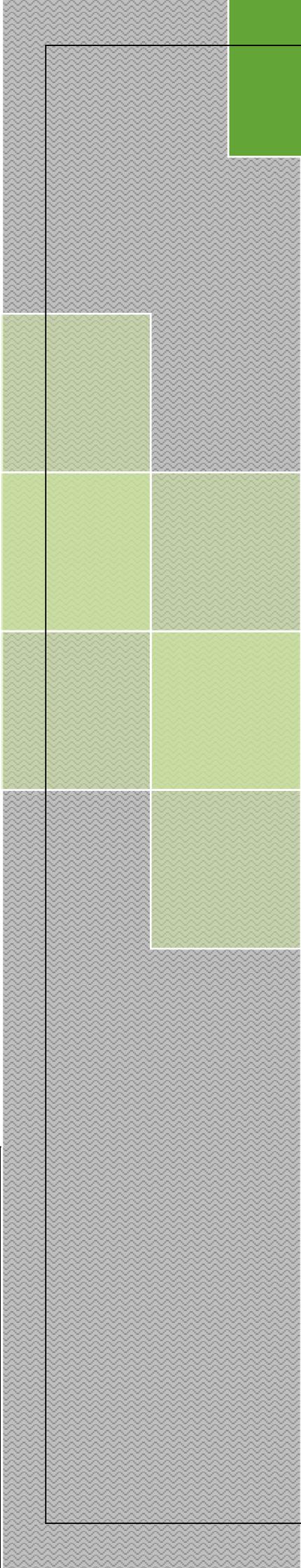
Ballymun Youth Action Project: Board of Directors: 2020.

Charles Murphy:	Chairperson.	[7]
Hilda Loughran	Vice-Chair.	[8]
Marian Hackett:	Secretary.	[9]
Sylvia Gallagher	Treasurer.	[6]
Donal O Loingsigh		[7]
Mona Sayegh		[4]
Mary O'Flynn		[8]
Stephen Keeling		[5]
Susan Ahern		[9]

The Board of Directors met 10 Times during 2020.
Directors do not receive any fee or expenses.

Appendix 3: Ballymun Youth Action Project: Organisational Structure 2020





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