

2021

# Annual Report 2021

The Ballymun Youth Action Project CLG





# The Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd. Annual Report 2021.

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## Introduction:

2021 continued to be marked by the impact of Covid 19. Schools began to open in March 2021, and the 5km travel restrictions was lifted in April. The first vaccines also arrived, and the creation of national vaccination centres. However, with further waves of Covid Variants, and the rapid spread in social settings following the partial lifting of restrictions, the path back to more normal interactions was still very challenging. Retail only fully opened in May, while sporting activities for the general public only restarted in June. While there was general relief that society was returning to some normality, there was also a growing awareness of the longer term impact of the pandemic on individuals, families, and communities. It was in that context that the services of the Ballymun Youth Action Project were provided during 2021.

This annual report will outline the main elements of the services provided. We are very grateful to so many people who supported the work of the Ballymun Youth Action Project over the year, and in particular the staff team who continued to work in flexible and responsive ways to the constantly changing circumstances. The uncertainty of the situation required high levels of vigilance and a constant attention to hygiene and safety, and this all added to the workload.

During 2021 Mairead Kavanagh (Former Director) and Donal O'Loingsigh (Former Board Member) of the Ballymun Youth Action Project both passed away, and the Project remains very grateful for their contribution to our work over the years.

## 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 2021.

In January 2021 the staff team of the Ballymun Youth Action Project identified specific areas of need that were specific to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, and services during the year addressed these where possible. The erection of a covered outdoor space within the Horizons Courtyard, with

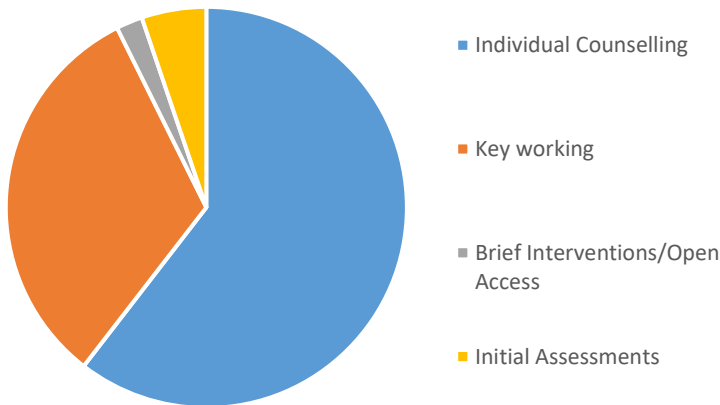


funding from the Ballymun Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force, was a significant addition, in that it allowed for group meetings which still could not happen indoors. The delivery of services in both online and face to face format continued throughout the year. The Prison programme, normally delivered by BYAP team members, was not restarted during the year due to the high risk presented to the prison population.

In the following section the Activity of the Project is 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 2021



During 2021, 688 individuals had direct contact with the services of BYAP [431 Males, and 257 Females] through BYAP Core, Day Programme, Aftercare, the Infant Parent Support Project, and the GP Counselling Service

During 2021 there was an increase in the number of in-person one to one sessions, as the restrictions were lifted, however Zoom sessions using the Zoom Communications Platform/phone, continued depending on the needs of the individual. The building remained accessible to service users throughout the year. During the year there were 5,270 one to one interventions, an increase of 1,725 on the previous year, accounted for by the easing of Covid 19 restrictions and the return of all staff from deployment, but also by an increased level of need identified.

Activity Type	2021
Individual Counselling	3,187
Key Working Sessions	1,696
Brief Intervention Sessions	112
Initial Assessments	275



While practically all activities recommenced during 2021, acupuncture and prison visits remained on hold.

**Other Interventions:**

Activity Type	2021
Program Sessions Delivered	394
Home Visits	179
Therapeutic Groups	181
Client Case Meetings	160
Accompaniment	28
Exchange	343
Outreach	152
Open Access	377
Crack Pipe Exchange	641
Parenting Interventions	391



*Urrús provided training to 494 participants during 2021*

**B. Education and Training Services**



URRÚS provided the following training during 2021:

- Community Addiction Studies Course<sup>©</sup>
- Diploma in Community Drugs and Alcohol Work
- Understanding Harm Reduction and Drug Related Health Issues
- 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
- Community Reinforcement Approach



**The Day Programme provided**

- Recovery Support Programme
- Relapse Prevention Programme
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
- SMART Recovery

## 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 2021 a total of 53 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. 37 parents engaged with this service during 2021, including a small number of fathers. 2021 also saw the recruitment of an additional part time worker within the IPSP team.

**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 to increase their effectiveness and participation in the area of responses to drug misuse. Courses provided include introductory level training courses in 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. In 2021 URRÚS received QQI approval for a "Community Representatives Training" Minor Award at Level 5, which was developed in partnership with Citywide. 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 2021, URRÚS returned to face to face delivery on a phased basis, and this training included training on Case Management for HSE Staff in North Inner City Dublin. During 2021, URRÚS developed a new logo for the Training Centre.





## D. Initiatives.

**Recovery Cycling Initiative.** As part of Recovery Month 2021, BYAP initiated, with the support of more seasoned cyclists, a cycling group that went on to undertake a 100km cycle during September. The success of the event led to the gradual establishment of a more formal group who continued to undertake cycling trips on a regular basis even after the 100 challenge was completed.

BYAP worked with the National Voluntary Drugs and Alcohol Services (NVDAS) Organisation and EncludeIT to further develop the data system used by Drug and Alcohol Services. This work is ongoing, with great potential to further support the work being done within services.

## E. Organisational.

The BYAP Company AGM took place online on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

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.



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. We would also like to thank Stewart Kenny who provided financial support to the Cycling Initiative, and the Hygiene Bank Dublin, who began supplying our service with supplies in September 2021.

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 2021

Income	886,481
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Cost of Generating Funds	35,113
Direct Charitable Expenditure	818,252
Governance Costs	6,662
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>860,027</b>
Excess (Deficit) Income for Year	
General Fund	26,454

## Appendix 2: Governance.

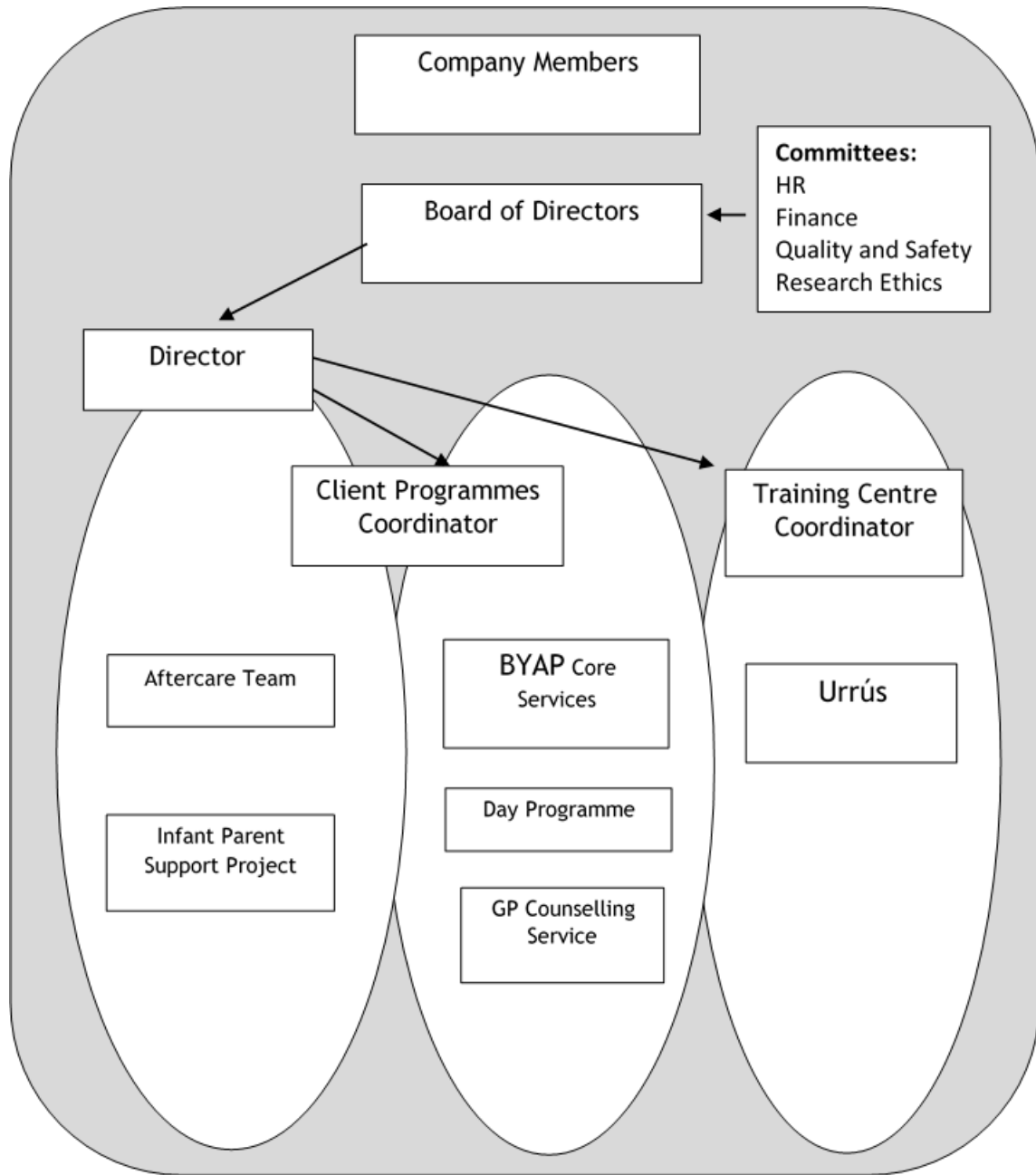
Ballymun Youth Action Project: Board of Directors: 2021.

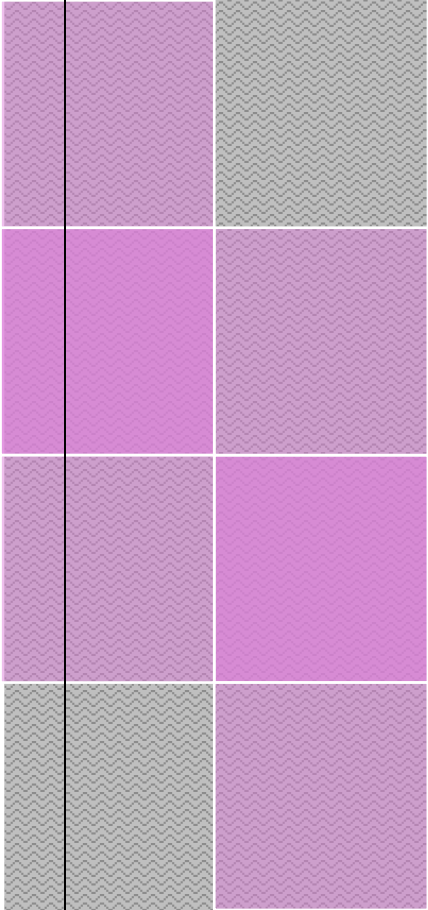
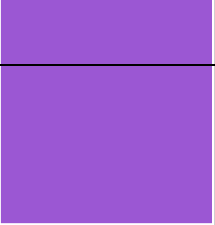
Complete	
Charles Murphy:	Chairperson. [7]
Hilda Loughran	Vice-Chair. [11]
Marian Hackett:	Secretary. [8]
Sylvia Gallagher	Treasurer. [8]
Mona Sayegh	[5]
Mary O'Flynn	[11]
Stephen Keeling	[11]
Susan Ahern	[7]
Micheal Clear	[3]

The Board of Directors met 11 Times during 2021.  
Directors do not receive any fee or expenses.



**Appendix 3: Ballymun Youth Action Project: Organisational Structure 2021**





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