

**Dungannon Youth Resource Centre**

**2 Savings Bank Street, Dungannon, Co Tyrone, BT70 1DT**

**NI Charity Commission Number – 100319**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**THIS REPORT COVERS THE YEAR 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023.**

**Trustees who served during the year:** Jim McQuaid, Veronica Connolly, Aideen Mallon, Ciaran McHugh.

**Trustees on the date this report was approved:** Jim McQuaid, Veronica Connolly, Aideen Mallon, Ciaran McHugh.

### **Charitable Objectives:**

Assist young people from the Dungannon area in the development of their social and personal skills to enable them to reach their full potential at various stages of their lives.

Encourage equality, understanding and equality among the diverse community in the Dungannon area. Provide and secure the provision of educational and recreational opportunities for young people.

### **Charity Activities and Review of Year**

Dungannon Youth Resource Centre is a vibrant full-time youth club which currently has over 300 members from the Dungannon area. Many of our members are newcomer, and this provides ample opportunity for diversity to flourish. It is situated in the heart of Dungannon town centre in an ideal location for the young people from all over the area. Young people come from areas spread over six electoral wards: Ballysaggart, Coolhill, Drumglass, Killymeal, Moygashel and Mullaghmore, with the main catchment area for the centre being the Ballysaggart ward which lies within the top 25% of need within the Multiple Deprivation Measure.

Addressing the two priority areas within the Dungannon area, Ballysaggart and Drumglass, government statistics illustrate the Ballysaggart ward as being a highly deprived area under the Multi Deprivation Measure, ranking 239 out of 890 wards. (1 being the most deprived). Drumglass has been identified as ranking 291 out of 890 wards.

We have continuously produced a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Education Authority (Previously SELB) to deliver a suite of programs designed to meet the needs of young people in the Dungannon area. This SLA has previously been informed by the EA regional assessment of need and local assessment of need combined with our own needs assessment among our membership and other public documentations relevant at the time such as Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership action plan. To meet the ever-changing need of young people we have constantly assessed and improved our youth work which falls into two categories: Generic and Targeted Provision. At DYRC we are committed to the needs of young people and aim to meet these needs through the delivery of quality youth services. Special importance is placed on the following areas:  
Priorities for Youth revised the overarching aims of Youth Work to reflect a closer alignment between Youth Work and education priorities, and presented the strategic aims of Youth Work as:

- To contribute to rising standards for all and closing the performance gap between highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning: and
- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative setting in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery, and evaluation of programmes.

DYRC currently runs a full-time voluntary youth facility. It operates a range of activities for young people including drop in club, developmental projects, sports activities, arts and culture, educational and information services as well as extended opening hours.

DYRC runs a drop-in facility 6 nights of the week. Every night we can facilitate our senior members aged 12+ and on 1 evening a week we facilitate a drop in for our junior members aged 8-12. This offers a wide variety of games, sports, and interaction with staff. Through drop in staff became aware of young people and emerging issues thus allowing us to run projects on specific issues like improving health, preparing for work skills, participation, developing relationships etc. These projects have been run from Monday to Thursday with Friday/Saturday night dedicated to drop-in only.

Our Leader in Charge and Youth Support Worker have responsibility for delivering youth work in schools. In the past programs have been delivered as needs emerged but we have created links now with two specific schools. The worker and link teacher plan the year out rather than taking one term at a time. Funding was also given which allowed a youth worker to be based in a local secondary school for 6 months. This allowed a relationship between young people who were struggling with attendance, behaviour issues direct access to a programme which aimed help change their mindset about academia through being active and socialisation which can extend to the youth centre and give these young people a place to feel safe and reach their full potential.

We also have an outreach remit. As young people tend to hang around in different areas at different times of the year this is where they target outreach. Outreach is higher on the agenda between April and October and whilst November to March is a quieter time, we use our partnership with PCSP to inform our approach. The period of November to March is used to allow those young people engaged with outreach to become involved in group programmes.

We have had some great success over the past year and although numerous we want to highlight those that have been different:

- Young people's Mental Health Project
- Programs in Partnership with other agencies such as EA and Radius Housing
- Continuing growing numbers of young women taking part in active programs
- Valuable extended opening hours on a Friday and Saturday
- Increased number of what would be perceived to be 'indigenous' young people
- Young people involved in training programs
- A successful summer scheme creating a hub of activity
- Our Friday junior drop in engaging for our future senior club

Our management committee is active in engaging with community representatives through forums such as Neighbourhood Renewal Area, promoting our organization, young people's issues and gathering valuable feedback and information which helps meet the identified need. DYRC Leader in Charge and Chairperson sit on the Neighbourhood Renewal Area partnership and Health, Education

and Capital subgroups to not alone keep young people on their agenda but support and influence service delivery, quality and respond to need.

Dungannon Youth Resource Centre has an effective paper-based quality assurance system that monitors, assesses, and evaluates all areas of the organisations governance, management, and delivery. We have a system that records both qualitative and quantitative data so that the Manager and Management Committee can monitor and assess the effectiveness of the organisation. DYRC monitors and evaluates all interventions and activities that the organisation undertakes with young people and all records all intervention supported by video, photographic evidence, and personal testimonies from stakeholders.

The developmental work with young people over this past year has highlighted needs within Dungannon and enabled DYRC to prioritise intentions for the year ahead. The areas that need addressed are also highlighted in the EA DANM Action Plan and are ingrained firmly within the Draft Program for Government 2016-2021 in giving children and young people the best possible start to life. These are:

- Racism and in particular mixing of communities
- Health and resilience
- Educational underachievement
- Inclusion of young people with behavioural issues
- Personal health and fitness
- Ensure paid and voluntary youth workers are trained to inform and support young people who may be at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation
- A safe place to 'just be' to drop in

DYRC also needs to dedicate time to the following:

- Secure funding for project work
- Securing extra funding for upkeep of building
- Developing a workforce that delivers a professional service

#### **Outcomes in this past year:**

Over 400 young people have registered as members of DYRC

Increased access to services for 53 young people

119 young people took part in summer scheme activities

20 young people took part in the volunteer programme

30 young people not involved in youth work took part in extended opening hours activity

Increased participation of young people in structured activities

Greater awareness of issues such as health, risk taking, diversity and racism

Improved problem solving and decision-making skills through activities

A safer environment which contributes to tackling of anti-social behaviour

Young people making positive connections with adults

Greater opportunity to engage with others from a diverse background leading to a greater respect for difference

Less likely to be involved in less desirable behaviour

**(Volunteers)**

Leadership and communication skills developed

Greater ability to work in a team

Developing employability skills

**(Governance)**

Update policies and procedures manual

**Charity Commissions Public Benefit Requirement:**

The trustees in setting the objectives and planning the activities for the year have been given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide benefit to the beneficiaries.

**Financial Review:**

The financial report for the year was presented at the 2023 AGM and accepted and approved by the trustees. Brian Robinson Accountancy Ltd has carried out a review of these accounts and has completed an independent examiner's report on the accounts. Income for the year was £188,558 and the expenditure for the year amounted to £180,368 giving an overall net surplus of £8,190 for the year.

At the year end funds at the bank amounted to £46,856

The trustees can confirm that the charity does not hold any funds that were materially in deficit at the end of the year.

Signed on behalf of all Trustees by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim McQuaid', written over a long horizontal line.

Jim McQuaid

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023