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Registered Charity No. NIC102225

# Aspire - Achieve - Succeed

ANUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## 1. ASPIRE

“Aspire not to have more, but to be more”.

## 2. ACHIEVE

The greatest Achievement is to outperform yourself.

## 3. SUCCEED

Success doesn't find you.

You have to go out and get it.

## MISSION STATEMENT

As parish youth workers based in Corpus Christi Youth Centre, we work to create appropriate settings that facilitate the growth and development of the young people of Whiterock and Westrock, Ballymurphy, Springhill, Dermohill, Moyard and New Barnsley estates.

We work in partnership with young people as they seek to meet their political, social, personal, cultural, spiritual and physical needs. In working to achieve these aims we strive to create a climate of mutual respect, understanding, equity, diversity and interdependence.

## HOW WE OPERATE

The Youth Centre is managed by the Senior Youth Worker (Annemarie Stone) and her small staff team and volunteers. Each month we hold a staff meeting that reviews the past month and plans the following month's program. We hold management committee meetings and have a young people's committee that gives local young people a voice. We set annual key result areas after each year's annual evaluation. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations that help make the youth work we offer the best quality and valued provision that we believe our young people deserve.

We believe in the full and active participation of young people in all aspects of the centre and its programs and hope that all aspects of the community will co-operate with our young people in a spirit of partnership.

The centre continues to grow from strength to strength with staff undertaking many training programmes and courses.

The staff development plan continues to be productive, and we will also be completing several in-house training courses over the next few months

## VISION

CCYC envisions a future for their community where all youth are able to **break the cycle of deprivation** and become **engaged socially-responsible citizens**. In order to achieve this, CCYC strives to create an environment that supports the needs of youth in their community. Furthermore, CCYC focuses on education and **educational attainment** so that young people can complete their secondary education and find either **gainful employment** or **continue to university**.

## HISTORY

CCYC is the sole full-time, voluntary provider of Centre-based youth services for the Ballymurphy housing estate and surrounding areas across the Upper Springfield community. Since 1971, CCYC has provided much-needed services for the children and young people in one of the most socio-economic deprived areas of Northern Ireland. The youth centre offers social and personal development opportunities to 300 + young people between the ages of 8 and 25.

## **OUR CORE PRIORITIES**

### Personal and Social Development

CCYC prioritizes three key areas of youth development in order to provide a variety of highly relevant and targeted programming

1. **Self-confidence**
  - Personal Development, Life Skills,
2. **Leadership**
  - Junior & Senior Members Committees,
  - Leadership trip to international locations
  - OCN Leadership Group
  - Fundraising Committee
3. **Civic Responsibility**
  - Crime Prevention, Understanding Diversity, Single Identity, and Time for Change programmes.
  - Weekly programming with protestant youth centre to facilitate cross community relations

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

1. **Physical Education**
  - Football, Junior Football Coaching, and Dancing
  - Participation in Belfast Child Community Games, Active Belfast Games, and Activator Street Games
2. **Physical Health**
  - Health Promotion Group
  - Outdoor Summer Camps
  - Healthy Eating and Cooking Lessons
3. **Mental Health**
  - Stress Management
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Youth Uniting for Mental Health group
4. **Safety**
  - First Aid Trainings
  - Internet Safety Trainings

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS BASED LEARNING

### 1. Educational Attainment

- Twice weekly homework study groups
- Subject-specific tutoring on a one-on-one basis
- Courses for OCN credits

### 2. Employable Skills

- Skill-based programs, such as Beauty Courses and Customer Service Trainings
- Additional accredited training opportunities

## SUBSTANTIAL AND LIFE CHANGING IMPACT

Our deep relationships with the youth and commitment to their personal growth has significantly impacted the well-being and safety of our entire community

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

<b>393</b> <u>YOUTH SUPPORTED</u>	<b>33,120</b> <u>TOTAL ATTENDANCES</u>	<b>160,000+</b> <u>TOTAL</u> <u>APPROXIMATE</u> <u>HOURS SPENT AT YOUTH CENTRE</u>
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### Age Range Breakdown

61 AGES 4-9

230 AGES 10-17

102 AGES 18+

### Attendance Breakdown

5,520 TOTAL USER GROUP ATTENDEES

27,600 TOTAL GENERAL YOUTH CLUB ATTENDANCES

100 NIGHTLY ATTENDEES, ON AVERAGE

## Success Stories

I love going to the club I always have lots of fun with my friends

**"I love coming to the centre. We get to travel all over the world and make a ton of friends. I never would have gone to Boston if it weren't for Corpus Christi"**

The staff are amazing they are always there for me

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As a Youth centre we will:

- Continue to rigorously implement and utilize our own system for quality assurance of work undertaken with the young people; both in specific group work programme and one-on-one interventions
- Continue to develop the capacity of the Management Committee to effectively govern the work of the Youth Centre
- To provide opportunities for all staff to participate in and develop from in-service training, developing their capabilities, professionalism, and skill-bases
- Continue to utilize and work to improve relations between communities and imbed these in our practice and programmes
- Work diligently to strengthen and develop our existing productive partnerships and seek out other potential partners to further develop our ability, capacity, and development
- Work with other agencies in the voluntary and statutory sectors

- Continue to ensure the safeguarding of our young people

## RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### ROLES

Clearly defined roles and responsibilities will drive accountability and allow CCYC to get the most out of its Management Committee members

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Functional Group	Role(s)	Future Responsibilities
<b>Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Chair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential committee members</li> <li>• Facilitate all committee meetings</li> <li>• Develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• File required annual reports</li> </ul>
<b>CCYC Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Youth Worker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate to develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• Coordinate all CCYC staff</li> <li>• Manage day-to-day budget</li> <li>• Develop and deliver programming</li> </ul>
<b>Programming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local School Representative</li> <li>• CCYC Staff Representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate to develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• Identify and develop new programming opportunities</li> <li>• Facilitate best practice sharing and cross-pollination within the voluntary sector</li> </ul>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Representative</li> <li>• Residential Association Representative</li> <li>• Parish Representative</li> <li>• Young People</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate to develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• Gauge community priorities and provide feedback on unmet needs</li> </ul>
<b>Partner Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Representative</li> <li>• Civil Servant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate to develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• Advocate with government organizations</li> <li>• Provide insight into bureaucratic functions, priorities, and changes</li> </ul>
<b>*Operations and Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and Administration Associate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate to develop strategy and long-term plan</li> <li>• Help maintain financial records and manage administrative functions</li> </ul>

A budgeting tool was created to enable this functional group to effectively manage and forecast financials

## POLICY ALIGNMENT: EA “PRIORITIES FOR YOUTH”

CCYC’s programs and initiatives fulfill all six of the Education Authority’s  
“*Priorities for Youth*”

Framework	CCYC Programming	Metrics to Measure Impact
<b>Enhanced Personal Capabilities</b>	Personal and social development programs, specifically around increased self-confidence (7 habits, life skills, etc.) and one-on-one counseling.	Attendance, survey level of confidence, reduced behavioral issues at centre, hours of programming
<b>Improved Health &amp; Well-being</b>	Programs within physical education (soccer, dance), physical health (health promotion club), mental health (stress management), and safety (drug and alcohol education)	Attendance, hours spent by youth on each activity, well-being
<b>Development of thinking skills, life, and work skills</b>	Combination of leadership (leadership councils and committees) and self-confidence (personal development)	Attendance, hours spent on leadership skill development, number of leadership roles for youth
<b>Development of Positive Relationships with Others</b>	Civic Responsibility (Understanding Diversity) and joint programming with neighboring Protestant Youth centre	Attendance, hours spent on positive relations programming, number of joint programs
<b>Increased Participation</b>	One Identity, intergenerational project, fundraising committee, and leadership council roles for Junior and Senior members	Attendance, hours of programming
<b>Active Citizenship</b>	Volunteer work (homeless awareness, adopt-a-spot), education (homework study groups, tutoring), and skills-based programming (customer service, beauty trainings)	Attendance, number of OCN credit opportunities, hours of programming, survey rating usefulness of trainings

## PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATION'S

We have created and continued our partnerships and links with many different organizations. The Youth Centre has continued with increasing the size and effectiveness of its network. We have continued to invest in this element of our work; to increase the scope and effectiveness of the provision we offer our young people. Our partnerships have included:

- Garfield Weston
- West Belfast Detached Project
- Black Mountain Action group
- St Louise's Comprehensive College
- St John's GAC
- Gort Na Mona
- Kick 4 Kids
- Holy Trinity Youth Centre
- Matt Talbot Youth Centre
- Belfast City Council
- Red Cross
- Glenalina Care Home
- ASDA Foundation
- Upper Springfield Healthy Living
- Bunscoil Na Sliabh Dubh
- Action Ability
- Delamont Outdoor Education Centre
- East Coast Adventure Centre
- Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Feile an phobail
- John Moore Foundation
- Belfast Interface Project
- Belfast Housing Executive



## SUMMER SCHEME PROGRAMME

Corpus Christi Youth Centre supports opportunities for our youth to develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities and to experience achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship, and recognition. We organize a summer full of fun, creativity and informal educational activities and workshops. As a youth organisation we organize outdoor education opportunities as part of our curriculum, which commonly has personal and social development as a prime focus. We plan an exciting summer scheme which organizes activities and personal development programmes that gives young people the opportunities to meet new people, make new friends and have lots of fun through the summer months of July and August. The programme and activities we offer throughout the summer is exciting and varied and a high-quality activity experience. Young people can learn new skills that promote an active lifestyle by providing opportunities to try new sports, outdoor activities, and real adventure in a fun supportive environment. This year's summer programme focused on:

- Providing opportunities for young people to engage with their peers
- Health and wellbeing with an emphasis on the outdoors.
- Providing opportunities to reflect on the young people's personal journey
- Enable parents, young people, and others within the community to celebrate events and achievements to promote self-esteem and hope.



## SENIOR YOUTH WORKERS REPORT

This year has been a positive time for the Youth Centre. All the feedback from the young people, parents, Management Committee and the various community and statutory groups we work with has been excellent.

The young people within the Youth Centre and the Upper Springfield area are great to work with, they are well mannered and keen to participate in the services offered to them within the centre.

We will continue to work towards the concept that our young people will come out at the end of their time with us, as strong, confident young adults ready to face the challenges that life will bring them.

We will continue to raise our standards and look for methods and strategies to enhance our own practice to further develop our young people.

Staff will continue with personal and social development and attend training courses to greater enhance their own knowledge and practice of youth work.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations who have supported and funded Corpus Christi this year, we extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to the following organisations for their continued financial support.

Education Authority Belfast

Belfast City Council

Youth Justice

Garfield Weston

John Moore Foundation

Youth Action

Tesco Ground works

Big Lottery

ARC'S

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The Management Committee, Staff and young people would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many local organisations and parents who help and support our fundraising activities, Or support us throughout the year in the work we do within the centre, it is greatly appreciated your help and support makes a huge difference to the lives of our young people.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation and admiration to my hard working and very committed staff team for their continued work and support to each member of the centre and the other young people they come in contact with in the community. The staff always strive for excellence and continue to do above and beyond what is expected from them.

Finally, I would really like to thank the young people who use the centre and the young people we make contact with on the streets, a massive thank you for your continued hard work and successes within this year. Within Corpus Christi Youth Centre we have many young people with numerous skills and talents. I hope these young people continue to strive for brilliance and know how amazing they are. Together the staff team, management committee and the young people will continue to grow, develop, and learn from one another. We will continue to

encourage them to fully participate in all aspects of their lives. I am very proud of our current successes and achievements this year and will look forward to the new challenges that we will face and approach with continued enthusiasm. I look forward to the challenges of next year and how as a team we will look forward with enthusiasm to another positive and rewarding year. Together we will continue to Aspire, Achieve and Succeed.

Thank you  
Annemarie Stone  
Senior Youth Worker



## MEET SOME OF THE TEAM:

**Name:** Annemarie Stone

**How long have you worked at CCYC?** I have been working in CCYC since 1991 to present day which is 31 years. Before that I was a member of CCYC from I was 11 to 17.

**What is your favorite memory of CCYC?** I have loads of lovely memories to try and pick one is very difficult, but one that sticks in my mind was our 40th anniversary celebrations. It was great to see old faces coming through the centre again, some with their own children, and to sit and talk and reminisce about the old days, it was brilliant.

**What has been your favorite residential?** I couldn't pick 1 out of the many residential's I have been on, they all have been unique in their own ways. But if you are pressing me, I would have to say Germany or Belgium.

**Name:** Arthur Robinson

**How long have you worked at CCYC?** I have been a member of CCYC since 2001, and have worked here for 6 years.

**What is your favorite memory of CCYC?** My favorite memory is gravity foam party with the lads or the soup kitchen in Boston as part of the Friends Forever Programme.

**What has been your favorite residential?** I have loads of amazing memories, I have travelled the World places like Germany, Spain, America, England, Ireland, Belgium and many more. My favorite residential would be camping with Crossing the Bridges many moons ago.

**Name:** John Muir

**How long have you worked at CCYC?** I have been working in CCYC for 6 years, but before then I was a member for 14 years; therefore, I have been part of the Corpus family for 20 years.

**What is your favorite memory of CCYC?** I have loads of amazing memories but as a staff member maybe getting the chance to bring my very own group to America a few years ago. Although you can't forget all the one liners from Pablo, Georgia and a few others along the way.

**What has been your favorite residential?** I have had three amazing trips to America with CCYC (2012 as a young person and 2018 & 2019 as a staff member). They were all amazing but can't beat the memories of going to Belgium and Germany with my mates when we all attended the club many years ago.

**Name:** Orla Hanna

**How long have you worked at CCYC?** I have been a member for 6 years and now a staff member for 3

**What is your favorite memory of CCYC?** My favorite memory is Boston with Friends Forever Group, what an amazing experience.

**What has been your favorite residential?** Florida tops all the residential's I have ever been on; it was a holiday of a lifetime.

**Name:** Malachy Crawford

**How long have you worked at CCYC?** I have worked at CCYC for 2 year, but beforehand I was a member for over 10 years.

**What is your favorite memory of CCYC?** I have too many great memories to single one out. I loved the Centre that much that's why I came back to work.

**What has been your favorite residential?** I have also been on a lot of great residential, one of my favorite residential centers is the Share Centre I always love going there.

### MEET SOME OF THE MEMBERS:

**Name:** Orlaith Whelan

**How long have you been a member at CCYC?** 7 Years.

**What is your favorite thing about CCYC?** The variety of activities we get to take part in.

**What has been your favorite residential or trip with CCYC?** My favorite residential has been in Donegal Adventure Centre and the Share Centre.

**Name:** Sionan Norney

**How long have you been a member at CCYC?** Two years,

**What is your favorite thing about CCYC?** It's lots of fun and we have loads to do.

**What is your favorite residential or trip with CCYC?** My favorite trip was to Newcastle.

**Name:** Caden Gargan

**How long have you been a member at CCYC?** I joined in October 2019.

**What is your favorite thing about CCYC?** Seeing my mate Eamon from the club and making new friends.

**What is your favorite residential or trip with CCYC?** Airtastic was brilliant fun.

**Name:** Chloe Cush

**How long have you been a member at CCYC?** 7 Years

**What is your favorite thing about CCYC?** Having a lot of things to do and my friends and staff they are interested in what we do.

**What is your favorite residential or trip with CCYC?** Delamont