

Foreword

As chairperson of this vibrant youth service, I am delighted to present our Annual Report for 2008 and hope that you agree when I say that our young people, staff and volunteers had an exciting year, and worked hard to create an organisation which puts young people and their communities first. From our general youth work and club activities to our participation in local, regional and national events, we aimed to bring fun, learning and innovation to everything we do.

As we move into more challenging times, I would like to reflect on the success that Tipperary Regional Youth Service has enjoyed in 2008, and the challenges that the changing youth work scene now bring to us. The latter part of 2008 saw the Irish economic climate change dramatically.

This will impact on Tipperary Regional Youth Service on a number of levels. First and foremost, our members and their families face difficult times ahead. The existence of a youth service to provide opportunities to young people beyond the formal education sector is therefore ever more important. Our funding streams will be reduced - fewer resources are available to deliver services that are ever more in demand. Our collaborative work with other agencies and community groups will be affected locally as other agencies also have reduced resources. However, in the midst of all this gloom, Tipperary Regional Youth Service remains upbeat and positive about what we do, and how we do it. We have just completed our strategic plan, 2009 to 2013, to guide our development into the future. Our staff is recognised as energetic and passionate and our members, both young people and volunteers, are loyal and committed to what we do. We have aimed to foster a culture of vitality and creativity. We are determined to build on this in the coming years. We work closely with communities and agencies at a local and national level and believe that partnership is key to our work.

Our building development projects are almost completed, allowing us to operate from high quality premises to reflect the high standards that we work towards in general. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our youth club volunteer leaders for all their hard work, to thank our board of directors for the time and commitment they give to the governance of the organisation and to thank our staff for their dedication. On behalf of the board of Tipperary Regional Youth Service, we look forward to working with our young people, communities, partners and staff into 2009 and beyond.

Luke Murtagh
Chairman

As you can see from our 2008 Annual Report, we've had a busy time of it – everything between building works to Christmas Craft Fairs, and a range of action in between! I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that the staff put in and the excellence of work that has led to so many activities taking place, and so many young people being included in our work. Our funding partners, our work partners on the ground and the many community and voluntary groups that support us and place their trust in us are invaluable to our ongoing success, as are the volunteers that work with our clubs and projects. In addition to the government based funding agencies, I would like to particularly acknowledge the support of ALZA and Tipperary Credit Union in 2008. There are many others who should be mentioned – but if I start, there'll be no room for the rest of the Annual Report!

Cora Horgan
CEO

TRYS Diary 2008

As well as the jam-packed schedule that each project undertook during 2008, we also had a full list of shared events and regional activities. Many of these regional events were highly dependent on volunteers so many thanks to everyone who gave of their time and skills!

January

- South Tipperary Dail na nOg Delegate training
- Rural clubs re-affiliated to TRYS,
- A community-based heroin leaflet drop to every house in Cashel was organised by MTDI in association with the Gardai
- A Community Suicide Awareness Talk was held in Tipperary Institute in Thurles in association with the HSE

February

- Cashel and Templemore Youth Projects and Oola Youth Club sent representatives to the Regional Finals of the YWI Variety Show in Ennis.
- We held our Junior and Senior Basketball Blitz in Rockwell, with 130 young people taking part.
- The TAR project was officially launched, on the same day as the launch of the RAPID multipurpose pitches. John Loneregan, CEO of the FAI did the honours for us!

March

- The building works started on our Bank Place premises in Tipp – a big challenge which will be worth the effort!
- TRYS got through to the voting stage for the AIB Better Ireland Awards – texting was frantic in Templemore, Cashel and Thurles
- Our Junior Variety show was held in Cashel – we packed the Bru Boru out with 250 young people and their supporters
- The Templemore project got through to the finals of the YWI Variety Show in Maynooth.
- FLIP training took place for 15 junior leaders

April

- Tipperary and Cashel Projects attended the YWI Regional Games in Wexford – Cashel got through in the Hip Hop Category to the nationals!
- The Templemore Family Support Project started with Lorraine joining the team.
- Our Senior Soccer Blitz in Nenagh had 80 young people attending on the day
- The Tipperary Youth Media Group made a presentation to Eamon O’Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, on his visit to Tipperary Town

May

- May kicked off with a double whammy – the AGM and a workshop with David Coleman, famous child psychologist, in the Horse and Jockey, with nearly 200 people attending. The night also saw a presentation to volunteer of the year, Aileen Hoynes from Oola.
- Our Senior Funday had fantastic weather for the 95 young people attending – our Junior Funday had to battle with high winds but the 150 juniors had no complaints!
- Our Junior Soccer Blitz saw 90 young people travelling to Killenaule for a night of skills and spills!
- We held a ‘Get Creative’ Competition to herald in the summer – 8 projects and groups entered and a weeklong exhibition was hosted by the Excel in Tipperary Town

June

- Excellent news from AIB – we won the Better Ireland Awards for Cashel – sore thumbs were well rewarded!
- Thurles activity week saw staff and young people run off their feet.
- TAR attended the all Ireland Camping Trip for Diversion projects – we came second in the hike!

July

- A month long of summer camps – we organised 8 in total, in Cashel Templemore, Thurles, Tipperary and assisted the community summer camp in Newport.

August

- We were delighted to work with YWI to organise a national Summer School on Youth Participation for youth workers.
- The Tipperary Street Soccer league saw a week of almost 100 young soccer players get involved every night in Tipperary Town.
- Barry Andrews visited our Cashel Youth Centre, where the Youth Committee challenged him to drink their tea and beat them at pool
- Four of our projects went to Oakwood in August – a welcome reward for all their hard work
- Our Cashel project attended the presentation of the Better Ireland Awards in Thurles

September

- Work started on the Cashel Building in September
- The North Tipperary CASC course kicked off in Nenagh, with 25 participants
- YIIPPE took over our lives in Tipperary Town – a huge success and a great way to finish up the summer and get us ready for the winter ahead

October

- Comhairle na nOg was held in North Tipperary with representatives from TRYS in Templemore and Thurles attending.
- The Oola Halloween event saw a huge turnout on the night – well done Oola Youth Club!
- We had two haunted houses – designed by our seniors – in Cashel and Templemore, with visits from our Thurles and Tipp Town clubs to inspect the hard work.
- Carmel started in the MTDI Project, and Teresa officially started in the TAR project
- Thurles Project launched its Song school DVD during the Halloween.

November

- Our Junior Soccer League (08-09) was held in Thurles with 100 young people attending
- South Tipperary Comhairle na nOg and Limerick Comhairle na nOg both took place.
- The new Thurles Soccer League was held with 40 young people taking part.

December

- A busy month kicked off with our 3D community house development initiating in early December
- The Christmas Card Competition final was held in Cashel on the 17th.
- The Senior Variety Show in Cashel saw 140 young people take to the stage
- The Road Safety project in Tipperary Town had 135 young people getting involved over one day from the three schools.
- Carol Singing to Day Care Centres took place in Tipperary and Templemore
- Cashel Raffle took place on Sunday the 21st December with great support from the local businesses
- Last but not least – the Tipperary Town Craft Fair brought a Festive Close to 200

TRYS Highlights: Regional Programmes**YIIPPE FESTIVAL**

Tipperary Regional Youth Service's first annual Youth Festival took place from September 17th - 20th 2008 in Tipperary Town. The festival was the brainchild of Teresa Normile and Lisa McGrath, who were helped along the way by other TRYS staff, RAPID, an Garda Síochána and the Excel Centre to put together an outstanding program of events to entertain and engage young people.

TJ Breen from Donohill came up with the catchy name of "YIIPPE" which stands for 'youths involved in preparing & planning events'.



The Manic Fantastic Theatre Group got the festival off to a flying start with their outstanding production of 'Blood Brothers' on Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Excel - the play was an enormous success and was extremely well attended. The general feedback from the audience was very positive and people were greatly impressed by the talent and professionalism of the young people involved.

Friday night marked the official launch of the YIIPPE Festival in the Market Yard following a parade through the town by local groups and clubs, led by the CJ Kickham Brass Band. The Wobbly Circus were on hand to entertain with a fiery display and stilt walking.



the adoring TRYS staff!!)

Local sporting celebrities Alan Quinlan and Conor O'Brien were present to mark the occasion and were swamped by autograph and photograph hunters (and that was just

The weather couldn't have been better for the duration of the festival. The sun shone from beginning to end for all the outdoor events which included, sports morning, the really successful craft fair, the Beat FM disco and the live music on Saturday night which rounded up the festival. Due to the success of this event it will be an ongoing annual event!

Dail Na nOg

Dáil na nÓg 2008 started when young people from South Tipperary attended Comhairle na nÓg in Clonmel last November. Comhairle na nOg is funded through the South Tipperary County Development Board and organised jointly by Tipperary Regional Youth Service and Waterford Regional Youth Service. At the end of the meeting, 5 delegates were elected to represent South Tipperary at Dáil na nÓg 2008 in Croke Park on February 15th 2008.

The elected delegates were Jake Walsh, Eoin Fox, (Waterford Regional Youth Service) Niamh Healy, (Presentation School, Clonmel) Melissa Roche and Nicole Hannon (Tipperary Regional Youth Service). They joined 200 other delegates from all over Ireland in representing the views of young people at national level and these young people had the chance to question the Minister, Brendan Smith and his panel on

different issues that affect young people today. The unfortunate thing about the day was that the Minister didn't actually bother to stay for the questions and answers part of the day. The young people were very annoyed and disappointed about this and voiced their disapproval to the panel he left to answer questions on his behalf.

Before the main event, Dáil na nÓg, the chosen delegates attended local delegate training with South Tipp delegate liaison officer Pauline Cummins of Tipperary Regional Youth Service. These sessions, held in Cashel, discussed the national theme and gave the delegates an opportunity to prepare their opinions and ideas on the themes. The themes at this years Dail were Educational Disadvantage and Mental Health.



Of the day Jake Walsh told us that *"It was a good day and it is a good start to get the voices of young people heard...overall it was good and hopefully I can build on this on the Dáil na nÓg Council."* Niamh Healy also felt the day *"was fun and worthwhile and I'd recommend it to anyone... The questions and answers session was really lively and passionate and gave us a chance to tackle issues affecting us."*

Christmas Craft Fair

TRYS hosted yet another successful venture to end 2008 with a bang! It was a crisp clear cold day free from rain when Tipperary Regional youth Service hosted its first ever Christmas Craft Fair. Santa dropped in to listen to children's Christmas

wishes in an amazing grotto. The grotto complete with giant snowman, Santa Clause and Angel was designed and decorated by Mandi Baker and Zandra Bristol, local community artists.



Sixteen stalls took part in the Craft fair which went on from 11 am until 6pm on Saturday last and were housed in a huge marquee in the plan. The stalls were made up of artists from all over the country and our own local hand craft artists. One of the stall holders came from as far away as Kildare, Joanne Murphy, felt maker, who supplied us with felt angels, flower fairy hats, one of which was modelled by her daughter Katie and flower pins. We had local crafters from Oola, the two Peggies who gave us homemade cakes, knitted tea cosies and dolls. The ladies Peggy Ryan and Peggy Harding, whose home made baking was sold out before lunchtime are two talented ladies and were ably assisted by granddaughter Emma Barron. Teresa Normile, who organised the craft fair told us that due to the success this would be an annual event.



Volunteer Awards and AGM



The Tipperary Regional Youth Service Annual General Meeting was held in the Horse & Jockey Hotel and Conference Centre on Friday, May 2nd in conjunction with the Annual Volunteer Award Night.

Guest speaker on the night was child psychologist and popular RTÉ presenter, David Coleman who spoke about parenting skills to the large audience.

On the night, the TRYS Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Aileen Hoyne of Oola Youth Club, in appreciation of her outstanding dedication and her enthusiastic work with the young people of Oola. Aileen was presented with her award by David Coleman at the end of the talk. The new TRYS Youth Club Manual was also launched.

Junior and Senior Fun Days

The Tipperary Regional Youth Service Annual Junior and Senior Fun Days were held in the Dundrum Scout Centre on the 24th and 25th of May respectively. The Junior Fun Day was a scorcher and more than 170 children packed the venue between 2 and 6 p.m. There were plenty of activities to enjoy, ranging from a professional dance workshop to good old-fashioned sack races! Children spent an hour each on games, art and dancing, and for those who were reluctant to dance, there was a soccer coach and Ju Jitsu instructor on hand to teach a few skills!

There was a tasty barbecue to feed the masses and the day finished with an open-air disco, where both leaders and children strutted their stuff in the hopes of winning prizes!

Over 70 young people enjoyed the activities on the senior fun day: even though the weather wasn't as clement there was still fun to be had with outdoor games, soccer, tag rugby, drama, art and professional dance workshops running throughout the day and TRYS very own resident beautician, Edel Costello, proved a great hit with the young ladies as she gave makeovers and advice all day long. The day was rounded off with live entertainment from local band Zero Tolerance!



At both Fun Days, the young people had the opportunity to make history by creating the "TRYS tent"! The tent was like a movable mural; each young person was invited to come and leave their mark on the tent. This new experience was enjoyed by old and young alike.

Senior Variety Show

The latest Senior Variety Show took place in Bru Boru just before Christmas, 2008. It was a night filled with great entertainment. Seven clubs took part including Templemore, Cloughjordan, Tipperary, Cappamore, Cashel, Oola and Thurles. The winners of each section will go forward to the regional finals which TRYS will host for the first time on Saturday February 14th in Oola community hall.



Junior Variety Show

The Junior Variety Show took place in the Bru Boru theatre, Cashel, on April 18th. As always, the standard was extremely high, which made decision-making very tricky for our judges who generously gave their time to this fun event!



Junior and Senior Basketball Blitz

This year was another first for the annual basketball blitz. The blitz took place in Rockwell College with clubs and projects from all over Tipperary and East Limerick taking part on the day. The referees on the day were from the Tipperary Basketball Team and were good enough to volunteer their skills for the event. The event was very successful and will become yet another new TRYS annual event!



YWI Involvement 2008

In 2008 three finalists from the Senior Variety Show represented TRYS at the regional event in February, in Ennis, Co. Clare. These were Cashel Youth Project, Templemore Youth Project and Oola Youth Club. Templemore got through to the national finals in Maynooth that year, but were unsuccessful on the day.

The Regional Youth Work Ireland Regional Games were held in Wexford in April, 2008. Cashel Youth Project entered a dance group into the competition and Tipperary Youth Project entered with a soccer grouping this event. Cashel Youth Project were lucky in this event and went on to represent TRYS in the finals which were held at the university in Limerick, where they came second.

FLIP Training

This year's Future Leadership Induction Training took place in the peaceful surrounds of the Tír na nÓg hostel, Cahir, on March 26th and 27th. Christy O'Neill and Pauline Cummins put the young people through their paces in their intensive training course which has since enabled them to participate in events such as the Junior Fun Day, Junior Variety Show and Junior Soccer Blitz as valuable junior leaders.

Our FLIP programme is an important part of our work at a regional level. During 2008, with support from the Irish Youth Foundation, Sinead Loughnane undertook to develop the programme pack, and work with our youth workers to deliver the programme to young people.



The FLIP training takes place over a two day residential, is open to young people aged 15 years and older, and in a combination of personal development, group work skills and leadership skills – as well as a lot of fun! *Focus on Templemore Junior Leaders* – “The Templemore Junior Leaders were a busy lot in 2008: they started off by helping out with the Junior Fun Day, from there they helped out in the Templemore Summer Camp, they ran the treasure hunt in the Templemore Town park 5 weeks running for the Thurles, Cashel, Templemore and Thurles Traveller summer camps, and also for the environment project being run for the Tipperary Youth Project. They also came with the Environment Project to the top of the Devil’s Bit to show the juniors the windmills that can be seen from the top of it. They helped out also with the Templemore junior summer trip at the start of the July. Over six weeks of the summer this group engaged with junior members of Tipperary Regional Youth Service from Cashel, Templemore, Thurles, and Tipperary, and they engaged with seniors members from Tipperary town, Cashel & Thurles. The weekly running of our junior groups is made a lot easier by the help and ideas from our junior leaders. All adult leaders from each project that have engaged with this group have commented on how helpful this group is and the benefit of them being junior leaders both to the Templemore youth project and to the youth service.”



Road safety / Drug Awareness Day

In December approximately 135 young people from St Ailbe’s, St Ann’s, Youthreach and the Abbey secondary school attended a drug awareness road safety day. The day was organised by the MTDI, Tipperary Neighbourhood Project and the TAR – Tipperary Diversion Project with the support of Youthreach, Cappawhite. The project was funded through the South East Regional Task Force and was made of a number of elements consisted of various workshops aimed at raising awareness of drug misuse and road safety. The first workshop was facilitated by the Traffic Corps of An Gardaí Síochána and included aspects such as the effects of drug and alcohol use while driving as well as general road safety components. Outside, billboards created by the participants of Youthreach with the support of the MTDI Project and TAR Project, as well as by the TAR project itself were on display. The billboards depicted some of the issues of substance misuse and also promoted a healthier active lifestyle. The day also provided an opportunity for the young people to practice the Driving Theory Test. Peter O’Brien, Car and Motor Sport Activities, held a workshop demonstrating the safety features of an on site rally Mini as compared to cars designed for everyday driving. The Corbett Motor Village, Thurles kindly provided a Hyundai i20 and i30 for the workshop.

Administration and Finance

Our FAS Programmes

Our current North Tipperary Community Employment Scheme has eleven participants and is supervised by Caroline Burke in the Thurles office. The scheme is based primarily in the towns of Thurles and Templemore, assisting the youth projects, and the general administration of the organisation.

We are also beneficiaries of the Cashel FAS Scheme, with one participant based in the Cashel office, and of the Moorehaven Scheme in Tipperary Town with 6 workers based in our Tipp Youth Centre, supporting the youth projects and administration of the organisation in South Tipperary.

The objective of the FAS CE Scheme is *“to provide the participants with the knowledge, skills and attitudes, which will support their transition to work, whilst nurturing their contribution to the organisation’s work in promoting and providing quality youth work programmes.”*

During 2008 the participants took part in a number of work related training courses and more specialised specific skills training courses, in order to aid and enhance their progression prospects. The on-going training and development received by our participants includes:

- ① Health & Safety
- ① Child Protection— Keeping Safe
- ① Disability Awareness
- ① Drug awareness
- ① Youth Work Skills
- ① Communication & Presentation Skills
- ① Active Leadership Award
- ① I.T. Skills
- ① Addiction Studies
- ① Certificate & Diploma Courses in:
 - Special Needs Assistant FETAC Level 6, College Of Progressive Education
 - Diploma in Youth & Community Work, UCC

To date our progression rate has been high with the majority of our workers going back into employment or education when they finish their terms with us.

Tipperary Regional Youth Service has facilitated successful Community Employment Projects over the past 19 years. The organisation would like to acknowledge the tremendous support we receive from FÁS in enabling the continuation of successful projects.

We would also like to acknowledge the FAS Links Scheme which operates in South Tipperary for younger participants who are aiming to develop their skills and work experience. Tipperary Regional Youth Service looks forward to many more years as sponsors of Community Employment.

TRYS Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013

In 2008 we commenced the development of our new strategic plan, with support from Tipperary Credit Union and South Tipperary VEC. Planning and consultation for the strategic plan commenced in May 2008, and over 330 young people, 23 agencies, our volunteers, board members and staff were involved in the development of the strategic plan. The plan will be launched in early 2009.

Standards and Policy Development

At the 2008 AGM the staff handbook with the various policies which guide our HR and organisational operations was approved and has since been in operation. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, TRYS will continue to place an emphasis on policy and practice development.

During 2008 TRYS worked closely with the HSE Addiction Unit in South Tipperary to develop our new Substance Misuse Policy, to be approved at the 2009 AGM. TRYS underwent a review of our Child Protection Policy with support from the HSE Child

Protection Unit in Nenagh, North Tipperary, with the revised policy to be developed in 2009. TRYS participated in the VEC Quality Standards Framework in 2008, as a pilot process. This pilot will be developed in 2009 as a national initiative. TRYS also initiated the Youth Work Ireland Quality Standards Framework in 2008, undertaking the self assessment element, with a view to implementing the full process in 2009.

Financial Administration 2008

This report represents a busy year for TRYS with activity and the number of programmes that we operated increasing. Income for the year increased mainly due to the acquisition of the TAR Garda Diversion Project in late 2007, and a second project worker in 2008, due to the new Community Addiction Studies Course in North Tipperary, funded by the Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force, the new Templemore Family Support Project, funded through the HSE, increased funding from smaller programmes such as the Irish Youth Foundation which funded some youth participation work, South Tipperary County Development Board, the VECs the HSE and other agencies, from Tipperary Town RAPID, which supported a number of new Tipperary based Initiatives such as the YIIPPE Youth Festival, and the community summer camps, support from the North Tipperary County Council Cohesion Fund for the development of services in Templemore, and additional funding from a range of fundraisers spearheaded by our young people. We were also fortunate to receive corporate sponsorship from ALZA, Tipperary Credit Union and from the AIB through their Better Ireland Awards.

Capital Infrastructure.

2008 saw the completion of renovations to our Thurles centre, and also the start of building works to our Cashel Youth Centre, to the Tipperary Youth Centre and to a new acquisition – the 3D Community and Youth House in Grenane Drive, Tipperary Town. The Cashel Youth Centre development will

see the first floor of the building, which we are thankful to South Tipperary VEC for its use, developed to provide training space, meeting space and a dance room. Funding for this development is coming from ALZA, South Tipperary County Council and from AIB Better Ireland Awards.



The Tipperary Youth Centre renovation is a major re-haul of the building to see a three story facility with a Youth Information area, youth cafe, meeting rooms, group room and office space available both for our use and for that of the general community. Funding for this is coming from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dormant Accounts, South Tipperary County Council and other sources. The other development in Tipperary Town, the 3D community house, in collaboration with the Town Council is being funded through Dormant Accounts. Having safe, comfortable, modern environments for our operation is a key element of our approach to youth work, and we are extremely grateful for the support of various agencies, the community and our young people for bearing with us during this time of development.



Thurles Youth Project

Thurles Youth Project is based in the Croke St centre and in Monakeeba Community House, Thurles and is run by Sara Leahy, Community Youth Worker, with the support of two Youth Work Assistants. This SPY project is core funded through Youth Affairs and during 2008 the project interacted with approximately one hundred young people weekly, through our group work and through Cafe Chillax.

Junior Groups

We have three junior afterschools groups who take part in a variety of art and drama programmes, as well as the Junior Regional Events, and a visit to the Templemore Youth Project to visit their Haunted House.

- Monday After school group - 6th class pupils from Scoil Ailbhe and the Presentation Primary,
- Wednesday After School Group - 6th class Scoil Angela girls,
- Four Estates Homework club with fifteen junior members attending weekly

Senior Groups

The **Four Estates Senior Girls** group ran for a few months in the Community House, coming up to their exams, taking part in a programme on hair and beauty.

The new **Street Smart Group** also started in 2008, with their biggest achievement for the year the setting up and broadcasting of a weekly radio show over the internet covering topics that are of interest to young people such as upcoming gigs or film releases as well as discussing issues that affect their peers for example exam pressures etc.

The **First Year Group** was formed in September and consisted of members of the 6th class after school groups who completed primary school the previous June. There are currently 12 members in this group who meet weekly and enjoy using the Café Chillax facilities such as pool and the computers.

Our cafe committee meet regularly to organise events such as DVD nights, coffee mornings and generally support the administration of CAFE Chillax.

This year saw the start of a unique group within the Tipperary Regional Youth Service, which being the L.G.B.T. group (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender). This senior group meet fortnightly in the Thurles Youth Project where they are provided with a safe comfortable environment where they can openly discuss issues without being judged.

Thurles Youth Project Special Programmes: Thurles Street Soccer League

Over forty young people from all over Thurles participated in this event held in November in a local pitch.

Trip to Oakwood

Senior members of the project got the chance to join other TRYS members on the annual trip to Oakwood – a great day had by all with exhausted leaders and members coming back promising to go again next year!

TRYS Thurles Summer Camp

40 Juniors attended, some existing members; others had received free places from their schools or Barnardos given to them by the project. This jam packed week featured arts and crafts, like producing and painting clay models, a dance workshop, pitch and putt and a treasure trail in Templemore Park, a trip to the cinema, a full sports day with bouncy castles, and a daytrip to Clara Lara in Wexford.

Thurles Summer Workshops

These workshops, aimed at seniors, included an 8 week Drama workshop (13 participants) , a comedy workshop (7 participants) hair and beauty workshop (6 participants) and the Songschool Workshop (14 participants)



Tipperary Youth Project

Tipperary Youth Project is based in Tipperary town and is run by Donna McCarthy with the help of CE and Link FAS staff who are the youth work assistants. The Tipperary Youth Project is a SPY project, which aims to actively work with disadvantaged young people aged between 7 and 18 years, through social education, The Tipperary Youth Project provides young people with a fun, caring, safe and developmental environment in which to mix with their peers. 2008 saw the development of our new building which will be finished in 2009, and which will see the re-opening of the Tipperary Youth cafe – an event widely anticipated!

The Junior Groups – Boys group, 1 Mixed Group and 1 Girls Group

Activities included the Parachute Programme - an alcohol and drug awareness campaign general group work, all the Junior Regional Events, and the Tipperary Town St Patrick's Day activities. They went to Cashel for the Haunted House in October. They completed various arts and crafts activities, learned some drumming with Fran Murnane, visited Glengarra Woods, took part in the Get Creative Competition and the Christmas Card Competition.



The Teen groups consisted of a Healthy Living Group, a senior Girls Group and two Boys soccer groups: during the year the groups took part in: Soccer games and Blitz's , health and fitness, aerobics and circuit training, summer activities that included, kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering, horse riding. Members were also involved in the Variety show, Comhairle na nOg, Dail na nOg and FLIP Training.



Tipperary Youth Project Special Programmes Tipperary Summer Camps

We held three summer camps in 2008, in conjunction with Knockanrawley Resource Centre, The Three Drives Family Resource Centre and St Michael's Avenue/ Marion Tce, with a total of 100 children taking part.

Tipperary Town Street Soccer League

90 young people took part in the league in August, which took place over 4 nights and culminated in nail biting final's which both ended in penalty shoot out's, in the end Gleview Square and Carrenready were victorious.

Manic Fantastic Youth Theatre 2009 saw the re-launch of Tipperary's Youth Theatre. The group has fifteen young members. The group took part in the organisation's Get Creative Competition where they performed monologues they had been rehearsing through workshops. They performed the original stage play - Willy Russell's Blood Brothers to rave reviews and full houses during YIIPPE. The group also dressed up as characters from A Christmas Carol and went around town encouraging people to shop in Tipperary. They had been commissioned by the Tipperary Chamber of Commerce for this project.

Tipperary Excel Music Programme

The Excel music programme began in July 2008 and lasted for 12 weeks, The programme consisted of free music lessons to children aged 9 to 18 years, funded through Dormant Accounts, and the instruments acquired by the Excel were guitars, a drum kit and a keyboard. In total approx 50 young people took part in the lessons which were facilitated by professional tutors.

Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project



The Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project is based in Hogan Sq., Cashel and is run by the Community youth worker Catherine Doyle with support from 1 link worker and 1 CE worker. The Cashel Neighbourhood Youth Project is a HSE project which engages with young people between the ages of 8 – 18 in order to provide opportunities for personal development, responsibility and integration with both their peers and their community, through voluntary participation.

Group Name	Description
Junior girls	3 rd -5 th Class
Junior boys	3 rd - 5 th Class
Café committee	Secondary school students who attend the Drop in.
Senior mixed group 1	2 nd -5 th year boys and girls
Senior mixed 2	1 st year boys and girls
Senior girls	3 rd -6 th year girls
Senior boys	2 nd -5 th year boys
Early School Leaver group	Young people aged between 14 and 17 years of age who are totally disengaged from any type of formal education
Young mothers group	Young women aged 16-21 years of age who are pregnant or have a child under a year old.
Junior mixed	6 th class

Our programme highlights

- Ⓜ **Haunted house:** A Haunted house was set up by the senior members of the

youth project and was open to the young people in the community.

- Ⓜ **Stay-Awake-Aton:** Senior members of the project took part in this event to raise money for their summer trip to Oakwood.
- Ⓜ **Cashel Youth Cafe:** the cafe opens on Thursday and Friday evenings, and is run with support from our cafe committee.
- Ⓜ **Summer Camp** 87 young people from Cashel attended the camp, based in St. John the Baptist primary school and included different activities like dancing, drumming, Taekwando, Day trips, arts and crafts and much, much more.
- Ⓜ **Christmas trip:** Members of the project went on a trip to Cork for the day; they went ice-skating in the morning and Christmas shopping in Cork city in the afternoon.
- Ⓜ **YWI Variety Show:** Senior members of the project took part in the YWI Variety Show in Ennis Co. Clare. They performed a dance on the day
- Ⓜ **St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Members of senior groups in Cashel took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade, despite the bad weather the young people took part and enjoyed the day.
- Ⓜ **Summer Trip:** 16 young people from the youth project in Cashel went to Oakwood during their summer holidays. The young people really enjoyed the trip and are hoping to go again in summer 2009.
- Ⓜ **Youth Work Ireland Games:** A group of 6 girls went to the all Ireland Youth Work Ireland Games and took part in the Hip-Hop category. The girls came second and brought home silver medals for all their hard work.
- Ⓜ **Car day:** The young people of Cashel were invited down to the Cashel Neighbourhood Youth project to take part in an information day on cars and car safety. During the day there were talks from the superintendent of the traffic corps, from 2 driving instructors and a rally driver.

Templemore Youth Project

The last year has been a very busy year for us and we have had some very enjoyable and successful activities. The project is a SPY project and is run by the community youth worker Christy O'Neill and youth work assistant Denise Tuohy. The success of the project during the last year is largely down to the help of volunteers and seventeen junior leaders who help out each week throughout the year and are a great asset to the Templemore Youth Project and Tipperary Regional Youth Service.



Throughout 2008/2009 Templemore Youth Project has continued to work with the local community with the co-operation of all relevant agencies to ensure that the services provided meet the relevance needs of the young people of the town. Agencies that we have worked with in the past year include St. Sheelan's College, Ita Teehan School Completion Officer, 3 Local Primary schools, the Local Secondary school, Templemore Community Services, North Tipperary & Roscrea 2000.

During 2008 we worked with two senior groups which consist of 35 members, also two junior groups which have 63 members. We worked with four young people who have taken part in our 1-1 service, and 11 young people took part in our Copping On programme. We also link in with Ita Teehan the school completion officer and help her in the running of 2 home work clubs. Activities and programmes for our groups

over the last year included, Junior/Senior variety shows, senior basketball competition, haunted house, trip to Oakwood for seniors, trip to Leisureplex in Athlone for juniors, junior/senior fun days, regional events.

Templemore Summer Camp this year was again run as an affordable camp with 70 local young people taking part and all the young people and leaders enjoying a range of activities from face painting to treasure hunts! Templemore Youth Project would like to thank our volunteers Eimear O'Dwyer and Tina Fitzgerald, our Junior Leaders & the Student Gardai who volunteered for the full week of the camp.. We got a lot of support from the town of Templemore with sponsorship which was greatly appreciated by the young people.



Project Highlights in 2008 ranged from the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Christmas Day Care Centre performance, paint balling, meal for junior leaders, Christmas disco, copping on programme, healthy lifestyles programme, F.L.I.P. training.

Templemore Youth Project has had a lot of thing to be proud of over the last year, we won four acts in the senior variety show, we won the senior basketball competition, for the second year running we won 2nd prize in the St. Patrick's Day Parade but by far the proudest thing for us is the success of our junior leaders.

Templemore Family Support Project

The More Family Support Project is based in the Town Hall in Templemore and is run by Project Worker Lorraine Dolan with the assistance of Community Employment worker Charlotte Ryan. The More Family Support Project is a pilot project funded by the HSE, initiated in 2008, and guided by a steering group made up of partners including Templemore Community Services, the local schools, the Gardai and the HSE.

The project aims to develop services responsive to young people and their families' needs in Templemore, using a holistic approach when approaching all cases and involve the family as a whole where possible. The project centres on:

- ~ interventions with high risk children
- ~ a holistic approach to working with these children and their families
- ~ supporting parents in developing the parent-child relationship
- ~ providing a peer support mechanism for parents (
- ~ create methods of access / referral to supports in the town for those families at risk

2008 was our start up period and we spent a good deal of time establishing the project, its procedures and relationships with other agencies and of course young people and their families in the town. We started working with individuals and groups made up mostly of young people who had been referred by their school or on one or two cases had been referred by the social services.

We worked on a one to one basis with teenagers - this work is still on- going and appear to be making an impact both on the life of the teenager and their family. The project worked in partnership with Templemore Youth Project to develop a new healthy lifestyles programme with a large group of teenagers which incorporated aspects of health from the physical to the sexual aspect.



The project also works closely with parents on a group basis. We initiated completed an 8 week parent to parent programme towards the end of 2008 and hope to continue with regular informative workshops for this group while also encouraging other parents to become involved.

More Family Support Project also delivers the Follow Your Dream programme for Templemore in partnership with Roscrea 2000. There are currently three participants who attend a weekly activity of their choice and are benefiting in many areas of their life from this experience. The Follow your Dream project is collaboration between Roscrea 2000, Nenagh Community Network, Tipperary Regional Youth Service, the VEC, the HSE and the County Council amongst others to provide a three year programme for young people to experience new activities with a view to progressing into community based activities

Tipperary Regional Youth Service is delighted to have this Section 10 funded project in our organisation and hopes to see it progressing into 2009 and beyond

North Tipperary Traveller Youth Project

This part time project is based in Thurles and covers Thurles, Templemore and Littleton. It is staffed by Community Youth Worker Edwina Butler with support from two youth work assistants and one volunteer. It is a fully integrated project and funded by NATC (National Association for Traveller Centres.) The project caters for young travellers of all ages and provides homework support and other afterschool activities.

New actions in 2008 included the project becoming active for the first time in Moycarkey National School where there are currently twelve travellers attending. The project also works with parents, with the cooperation of North Tipperary VEC BTI who provide funding for literacy and art programmes.. In 2008, the project worked in association with other agencies which include Barnardos, HSE, North Tipperary Traveller Network, Templemore Community Services, the school completion and home school liaison coordinators as well as the visiting teacher for travellers.



Project Work

During 2008 we worked with four groups participating in a range of activities including variety shows, fun days, summer camp, and media programme. The school transition programme was delivered to schools and the summer project piloted. All the groups had an Easter, Halloween and Christmas event. Moycarkey juniors took part in their first regional event with TRYS and formed two teams for the soccer blitz.

Mediazone Group

This was a NATC initiative which provided funding for a multi media and

Communications Programme for teenagers to increase their knowledge and skills regarding all forms of the media. The mixed group of seven teenagers from Littleton took part in a range of modules which included photography, Bebo, radio, public speaking, report writing and video. The highlight for the group was a visit to Cashel Community Radio. This programme was also supported by Barnardos

Summer Camp 2008

30 young people attended the annual summer camp and participated in a wide range of activities which included, a sports day, swimming, bowling, an adventure day in U.L., and trip to the cinema. This was also the first year young people from Moycarkey were at the summer camp.

Thurles Juniors

One of the highlights of the year was the group's participation in the all Ireland Traveller Art Competition. We had a win with our mosaic for the third year running with the Thurles Juniors receiving a merit and a cash prize. The prize was presented on behalf of the group to two young people who travelled with Edwina, in the Dublin City Council Offices where the framed Mosaic was on display.

School Transition Group

Over fifty 6th class pupils took part in this programme from four primary schools in the area. Phase two of the programme which is a summer project was piloted this summer in Thurles and Templemore and included a sports day, swimming, bowling a trip to the cinema and team building exercises.

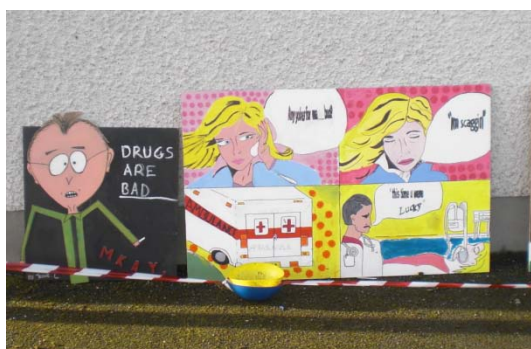


The Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative

The Mid Tipperary Drugs Initiative (MTDI) is a community based drugs initiative which is funded by the Health Service Executive. It was established in 1999 as a response to the growing public concerns around issues of drug misuse in the area. 2008 saw Stuart Moloney leaving us, to be ably replaced by Carmel O'Neill from Cork.

The main aims of the MTDI is to raise awareness of drug related issues amongst young people, parents and the wider community as well as to empower communities to respond to drug issues at local level.

Once again training featured highly on the MTDI programme of activities for 2008. Training is an essential component of the MTDI project as it ensures that communities, families and young people develop the necessary skills to make positive lifestyle choices relating to substance misuse issues. During 2008 the project worked with various groups including sporting organisations, local schools, parents councils, Youthreach, TRYS projects, Spafield Family Resource Centre (FRC), Knockanrawly FRC, 3 Drives FRC, Millennium FRC as well as other statutory and community organisations.



Some of the **Training Programmes** delivered in 2008 included:

- Ⓢ Drug awareness Talk – Cappawhite, Spafield FRC, New Birmingham, Fethard, KITE

- Ⓢ Parents Council Workshops – St Ann's School, St Joseph's NS, Ballingarry, Emly,
- Ⓢ Support of Sporting Organisations – Sports Partnership, Rugby Clubs, GAA
- Ⓢ Parent to Parent Course – Killenaule, Ballynonty
- Ⓢ Project Promotion – Leaflet and letter posted to all GP's, schools, parishes, community and voluntary groups
- Ⓢ Leaflet distribution in Cashel Town
- Ⓢ Establishment of a group in Cashel for women in recovery or women affected by substance misuse in their family
- Ⓢ Advice and Referral service to those affected by substance misuse
- Ⓢ Community Addiction Course – April 2008

Project Activities

Getting involved in diversionary work delivered by other projects is also a key component of the MTDI programme, allowing the project to develop a working relationship with the young people, therefore allowing informal education to take place. The MTDI worker contributes to specific aspects of programmes relating to substance misuse.

Diversionary activities supported by the project in 2008 include:

- Ⓢ 2 Copping on Programmes supported,
- Ⓢ Ongoing work with Youthreach in Cappawhite around the issue of substance misuse. Billboards were designed highlighting the issues around substance misuse which are to be put on display during the launch of the Tipperary Town building in 2009.
- Ⓢ Midnight Soccer in Tipperary Town with the TAR project
- Ⓢ Informal education in Tipperary and Cashel Cafés with both girls and boys senior groups
- Ⓢ Mentoring Programme in Tipperary Town with TAR Project for adolescent boys.

Youth Information

TRYS Youth Information project is based in Tipperary & Thurles towns and is run by Pauline Cummins-Strappe – Youth Information Co-Coordinator with support from FAS and Rural Social Scheme Part time workers.

As a Youth Affairs Youth Information Project,
“Youth Information is a specialised element of youth work provision, whose vision is to engage young people in positive relationships to empower them to reach their own potential and enhance their active participation in creating a fairer society”

Under this aim Youth Information provides centre based services in both Thurles and Tipperary town including an information bank, internet suite and full secretarial service. In 2008 we saw an increase in clients wanting help with CV’s and job seeking and also youth looking to go abroad We also provide information to internal groups in TRYS such as café areas and groups, and during 2008 we worked with schools on Outreach activities and were involved in a range of activities including Comhairle Na nOg in both North and South Tipperary. We also ran a EuroQuiz during Youth Week with the Youth Project in Templemore.

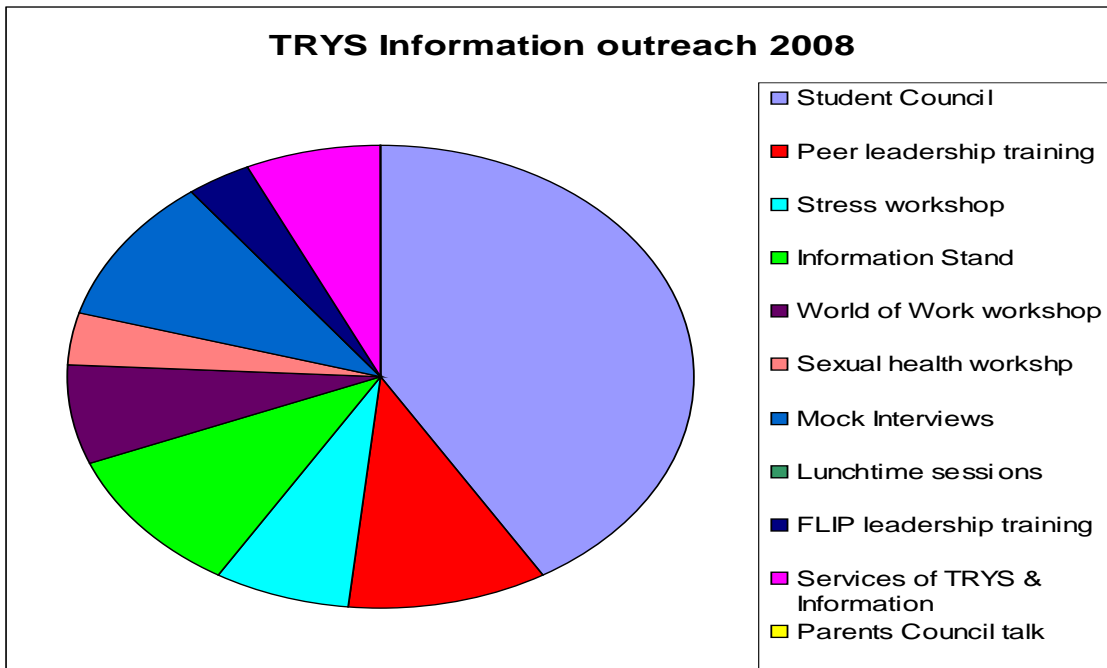
Schools Outreach

As part of our outreach and training service we go into the schools on request for training the most popular is Student council training which is a day long training for students on how to run a student council in the school, this training includes teamwork, leadership and committee skills. We have also done training with schools prefects which is similar but focuses on Leadership skills and problem solving. Mock Interviews and workshops are other work done within the schools.

Comhairle Na nOg Activities

Youth Information Co-Coordinator sits on the steering committees of both North & South Tipperary Comhairle Na nOg and in turn helps organise and run both the annual Comhairle day and the Youth Council throughout the year. In 2008 both Comhairle days had a huge participation and the feedback from the young people which was very positive. Five young people from each County Comhairle (Youth council) attends Dail Na nOg annually in February in Croke Park.

STATS for 2008 outreach services



TRYS Rural Outreach Project

Introduction

The TRYS Rural Outreach Project is a SPY project, based in both Cashel and Tipperary Town, and in 2008 was delivered by part-time rural outreach workers Breda and Maura, with support from community volunteers. The Rural outreach project works with North and South Tipperary and Limerick VECs and North and South Tipperary Sports Partnerships to maximise resources, establish networks, and to provide information, training and other activities and events to volunteers with minimum cost to the organisation. TRYS rural outreach project in 2008 are delighted to have facilitated eight new communities to set-up new youth clubs in their locality.

During 2008 Rural Outreach worked with youth clubs in communities throughout the TRYS area, as well as supporting the Regional Calendar of Events.

Youth Club Supports

We provide a range of supports for our youth clubs. In 2008 these supports were as follows:

- A first aid course held in Cappamore, 10 volunteers from various clubs qualified.
- Induction training for youth club leaders have been delivered to volunteers starting new youth clubs in their community and also to new volunteers with existing clubs in 2008, certification have been presented to more that thirty volunteers.
- Youth club volunteers have also undertaken child protection training in 2008.
- Active leadership courses were also organised for the club leaders, which were greatly enjoyed by the participants.
- Art workshops were offered to and attended by club volunteers, these were greatly enjoyed by the participants.
- Variety show preparation workshop

The TRYS Youth Club Manual

TRYS produced a comprehensive youth club manual in 2008, with information on all aspects of starting and running a youth club.

This also contains templates for various application forms and reports etc.

TRYS Youth Club Platform

2008 saw the establishment of a youth club platform where two representatives from each youth club meet with the rural outreach worker and TRYS CEO at regular intervals to discuss progress within the organisation and within the clubs.



Member Clubs 2008

Junior	Templetouhy New Inn Templederry Newport Oola Donohill Scallagheen Cloughjordan Lattin/Cullen Knocklong Boherlahan/Dualla Borrisoleigh
Senior	Nenagh Oola Donohill Cappamore Portroe Cloughjordan Boherlahan/Dualla Mullinahone

New Clubs

The highlight for 2008 was the affiliation of the new youth clubs to TRYS and that some of these new clubs took an active part in activities and events throughout the year and in the development the rural outreach programme.

Tar Project

The TAR project is a Youth Diversion Project, funded by the Department of Justice Equality and Law, based in Tipperary Town. The Youth Diversion Project is based in the main town of Tipperary. There are two workers involved in the project - Sue Cox (Co-ordinator) and Teresa Normile who is the Youth Worker for the project, joining it in 2008. The Youth Diversion Project has worked with nearly 80 young people in groups over the year and is growing from strength to strength in Tipperary town. Invaluable support from the Garda and community is key to the success of the project.



The key aim of the project is to divert young people between the ages of 12 to 18 years who live in Tipp town away from anti-social/ criminal behaviour. The project also provides opportunities and challenges for young people "at risk" to make positive lifestyles choices.

Over 2008 the Tar Project has had nine groups running on a weekly basis plus individual work. Also the project has been involved in community events and summer actives programme. While working within the groups young people got involved in:

- Stable management / horse riding.
- Drug awareness.
- Copping on programmes (crime awareness)
- Art projects
- Sports for all
- Swimming
- Health / hygiene and sex education.
- Summer trips / Summer Buzz

- Mentor programmes
- Personal development
- Film making / film editing
- Ice Skating.
- Variety shows
- Fun day
- Soccer blitz-Youth Work Ireland Games
- 3 day camping trip.
- Weekly soccer junior / soccer
- Individual support to participants
- Road safety
- Christmas craft fair.

For 2008 key collaborations were with the Tipperary Youth Project, the FAI/ RAPID Soccer Development Project and the Garda Youth Diversion Project in Clonmel. In the month of July the Tar Project had a 2 week summer event, for all the young people involved in the project.



TAR highlights:

One of the main events was camping for 3 day's in Wicklow. The co-ordinator took 4 young people and a community Garda. This event is run every year and some of the youth diversion projects are involved. Last year the Graft Project (Dublin) organised the Wicklow event. Over the 3 day's event in Wicklow over 140 young people participated.

In December 2008 a group of young people decided that they wanted to make Christmas logs and sell them at the craft fair. The young people gave half their money towards buying chocolate for elderly people in the community and the other half for their ice skating trip. The craft fair was a great event, with some of the young people acting as elves helping in Santa's Grotto.

