

ANNUAL REPORT

CORK ETB YOUTH SERVICES



cetb

Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Chorcaí
Cork Education and
Training Board

2021



FOREWORD Réamhrá

2021 was another challenging year for Cork Education & Training Board, including Youth Services. I am proud to say that colleagues right across the organisation stood up to the challenge with great energy, enthusiasm and adaptability.

The positioning of Youth Services front and centre as 'essential services' by government during the pandemic underpinned the importance and extent of the work done by youth workers, managers and support staff across Cork city and county. As in 2020, adversity was turned on its head and creative responses to services for young people in rural and urban settings were imagined by the workers on the ground as well as their support organisations and great credit is due to them for keeping the show on the road.

2021 represented the first full year of the new UBU Your Place, Your Space funding scheme which replaced previous funds such as SPY and the YPFSF. The transition to this new scheme took a significant amount of work on all sides – the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Cork ETB, the service providers and youthwork staff – but it has really served to focus efforts on ensuring funding is reaching the target audience.

On behalf of Cork ETB – the mid-level governors of that DCEDIY funding – I would like to thank everyone who worked through the transition which will serve to increase the efficiency, quality and breadth of youth services throughout Cork.

This report outlines the significant work undertaken by our Youth Services team within Cork ETB which includes the administration of the various grant schemes, the provision of training and Continuous Professional Development for youth workers, summer activities for young people and regular supports to staffed services and volunteer-led clubs. An innovative training and wellbeing event in Fota Wildlife Park in the autumn was a great energiser for youth workers and was appreciated by all after a long and difficult year.

It is envisaged that CETB's youth service team will operate at full capacity in 2022 with the addition of a new Youth Officer as well as a number of exciting projects and schemes planned.

As we return to some level of normality in 2022, we are now facing another significant challenge to ensure that we support our Ukrainian friends to settle into communities across the City and County. I have every confidence that youth services will respond to this situation with commitment and energy.

I finally want to thank the CETB team led by Mick Finn, the CETB youth committee and most importantly the youth organisations that deliver the frontline services on a daily basis....Go raibh maith agaibh go leir!

Denis Leamy

Denis Leamy
Summer '22



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INTRODUCTION TO CORK ETB YOUTH SERVICES

ESTABLISHED in 2013 under the Education & Training Boards Act – and merging the former Cork city and county VECs – Cork ETB is one of the largest in the country covering the widest geographical area.

Youth Services represent just one facet of a large organisation that also provides services in Apprenticeships, Back to Education Initiatives, Community Education and Further Education and Training (FET). Offering ‘a pathway for every learner’ and supporting young people are key aims of the organisation.

Over €4m in funding is drawn down from the DCEDIY via CETB Youth Services for staffed and volunteer-led youth services in the city and county which is administered and monitored as a central tenet of the team's functions which are outlined in the following pages.

In 2020, the Youth Service team expanded to a team of four: a fifth member will be added to the team in 2022 to reflect the large volume of work involved..

Youth Service Team

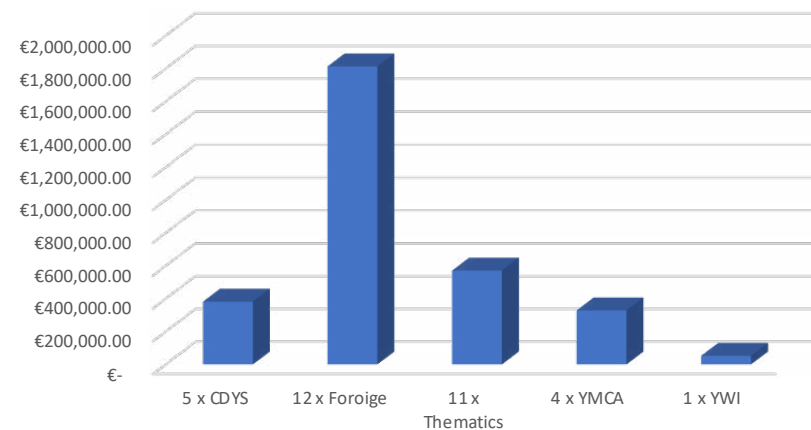
Mick Finn	Development Officer
Caitriona MacNaeidhe	Youth Officer
Abina Curtin	Youth Support Officer
Gillian Beasley	Youth Support Officer



OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

In 2021, Cork ETB administered over €4m to youthwork services across Cork city and county. The bulk of funding, €3.5m, was administered to 31 youth projects across 15 organisations via the UBU Your Place, Your Space scheme. Outside of this, Cork ETB also funded two Youth Information Centres (YICs); a further €266,065 was administered to voluntary youth clubs under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme (LYCGS) as well as small Equipment & Covid-19 grants. These schemes are funded through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

2021 DCEDIY Major Funding administered by Cork ETB to 31 Youth Projects & 2 Youth Information Centres



GRANT SCHEMES

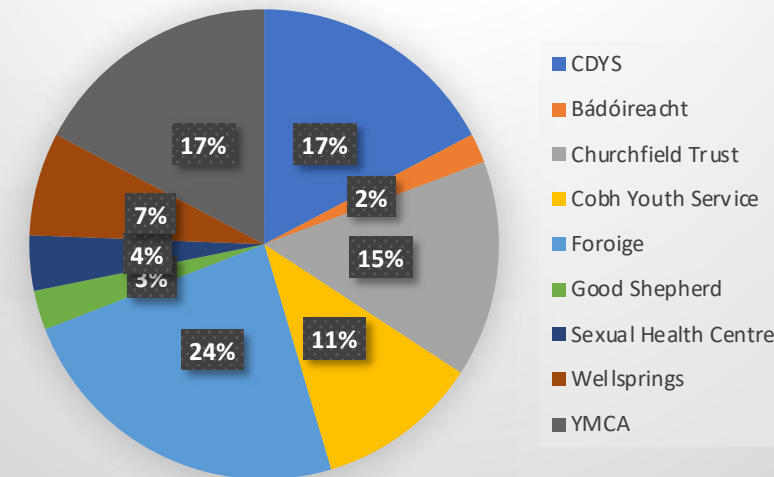
Capital Grant

The 2021 Capital Scheme for staff-led Youth Services (minor works and/or equipment) supported:

- small scale projects, including equipment for working with young people
- adaptations to outside areas, provision of outdoor furniture & fittings
- ventilation and sanitary facilities (Covid-19 related),
- refurbishment and health & safety improvements in local youth centres
- ICT for working onsite or remotely with young people

Cork ETB administered €157,744 in funding in two tranches as per the criteria of the scheme: small grants of €500 per youth club or group were issued to 24 recipients; a total of €147,602 was issued to 11 UBU Youth Projects. The focus of the grant was to ultimately enhance services provided to young people using targeted services.

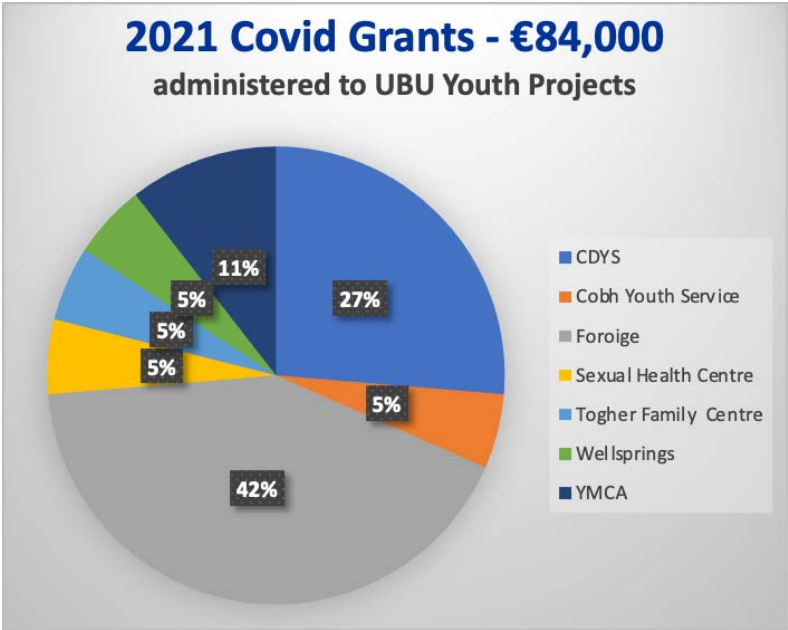
2021 Capital Grants - €147,602 administered to UBU Youth Projects



Covid-19 Grant

The 2021 Covid-19 Grant Scheme supported youth services and clubs to meet some of the costs of re-opening following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. The grants were made available for expenditure such as volunteer recruitment & training, consumables, or other overheads incurred from March to December 31. The €106,700 in funding was broken down as follows:

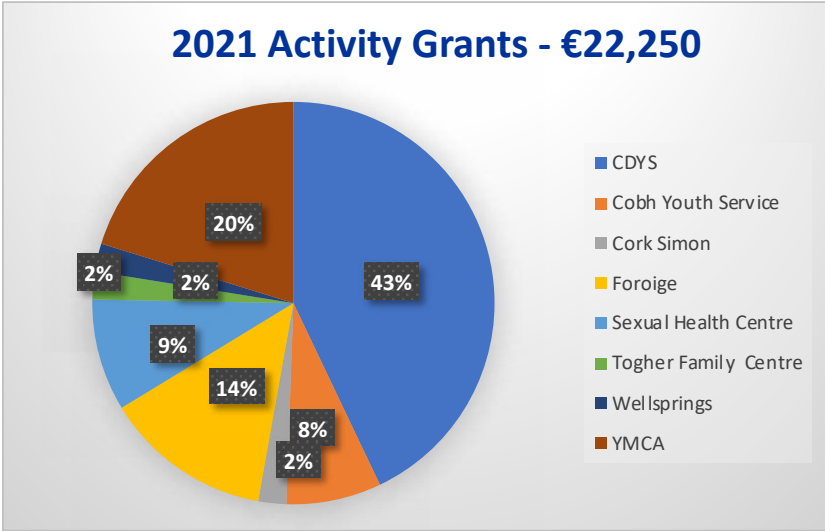
- €4,000 per funded organisation under the UBU Your Place Your Space Funding scheme/ Youth Information Centre Scheme
- €400 per youth club or group eligible to apply for funding under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme.
- 21 UBU Youth Projects, 1 Youth Information Centre and 57 volunteer-led Youth clubs availed of this grant.



Summer Activity Grant

Cork ETB administered €22,250 in funding to 11 UBU Youth Projects in a programme aimed at providing for greater collaborations between agencies working with young people. This focussed small-grant scheme provided projects with extra capacity to deliver activities for young people impacted by Covid 19 and formed part of Cork ETB’s evolving response to the pandemic. The range of approaches applied for responded to young people’s interests and needs and included:

- Art Programmes/Materials
- Music Programmes
- Theatre/Drama Programmes
- Outdoor Education Pursuits/Activities
- Cultural/Citizenship Initiatives
- Transport to activities



LGBTi Grant

The LGBTi+ Youth Service Scheme aimed to increase contact hours with LGBTi+ young people to ensure that all LGBTi+ young people are visible, valued and included. The initiative was intended to provide for additional youth worker hours dedicated specifically to supporting young LGBTi+ people and for any associated additional costs e.g., transport or venue hire. The evidence review of the LGBTi+ Youth Strategy also identified youth services support as important to young people during the coming-out process. Cork ETB Youth Work Services administered €6,300 in funding to two rural UBU Youth Projects to facilitate increased access to youth services for LGBTi+ young people in their areas.

Agency / Project / Youth Club	Capital Grant	Covid-19 Grant	Summer Activity Grant	LGBTi Grant	Total of Grants Paid
CDYS	€25,500	€20,000	€9,550	€6,300	€61,350
Foroige	€35,000	€32,000	€3,000		€70,000
YMCA	€25,500	€8,000	€4,500		€38,000
Independent / Thematic	€60,244	€24,000	€5,200		€89,444
Youth Clubs	€11,500	€22,700			€34,200
Total Paid per Grant Scheme	€157,744	€106,700	€22,250	€6,300	€292,994

Youth Employability Grant

Cork ETB advertised for providers to apply to host a Targeted Youth Employability Service in an area of the city, having previously operated a project in Youghal, Co Cork. Notification of this grant was received very late in 2021...the initiative will be rolled out by the sole applicant - YMCA Cork - in 2022 with a funding budget of €120,000 to be expended by the end of the year.

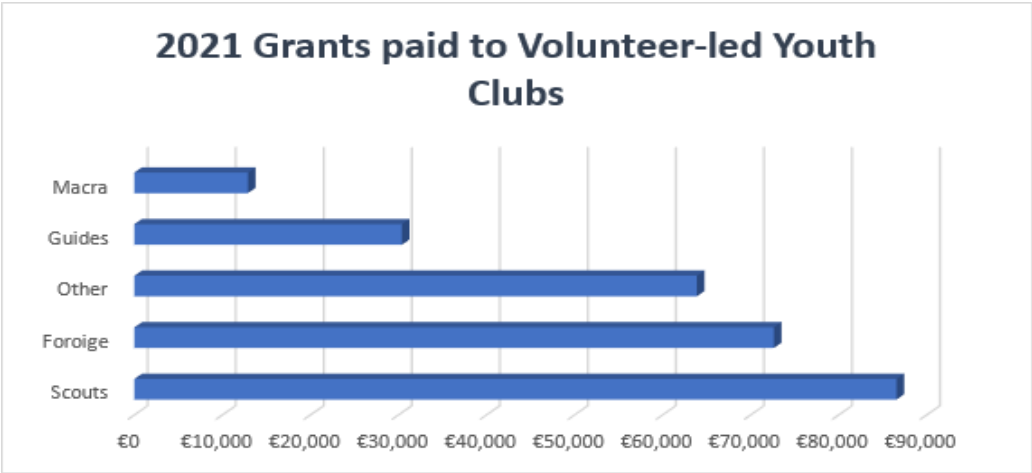


2021 YOUTH CLUB GRANTS

The annual Local Youth Club Grant Scheme is the financial lifeblood for many volunteer-led clubs and there was a relatively good take-up of it in 2021, despite some clubs not operating due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

182 grants were issued to Cork City & County Youth Clubs in 2021.

A total of €266,465 was awarded to youth clubs and 4800 young people aged between 10-21 years benefited from these grants. A huge thanks go to the 1,400 volunteers who utilised these funds on behalf of their clubs.



2021 Youth Club Grant Scheme (LYCGS)	
Total LYCGS Grants paid to a total of 102 Youth Clubs =	€231,765
31 Foroige Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€62,150
28 Scout Groups received a total of: -	€75,000
11 Guide Units received a total of: -	€26,000
5 Macra Youth Groups received a total of: -	€11,315
27 Other Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€57,300

2021 Youth Club Covid-19 Grant	
Total Covid-19 Grant Scheme Paid to a total of 56 Youth Clubs =	€22,700
13 Foroige Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€5,500
19 Scout Groups received a total of: -	€7,600
6 Guide Units received a total of: -	€2,400
4 Macra Youth Groups received a total of: -	€1,600
14 Other Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€5,600

2021 Youth Club Equipment Grant Scheme	
Total Equipment Grant Scheme Paid to a total of 24 Youth Clubs =	€12,000
10 Foroige Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€5,000
8 Scout Groups received a total of: -	€4,000
4 Guide Units received a total of: -	€2,000
2 Other Youth Clubs received a total of: -	€1,000

2021 PROGRAMMES

In addition to its primary function of managing funding, Cork ETB Youth Services section is also a force for innovation and strives to develop new and exciting initiatives in youthwork. During 2021, such innovation led to new opportunities and experiences for young people across Cork City and County.

Urban Outdoors Summer Programme

Cork ETB co-ordinated the second year of the Urban Outdoors summer programme which took place in the Phoenix Kayaking Club for the city-based projects and also in Bantry Sailing Club and Fermoy Rowing club for the county-based groups. Over 600 young people participated in the programme that included kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding over an eight-week period. The success of the programme can be summed up by one 13 year-old who commented: 'I knew it would be good, but not that good'. In co-ordinating this programme, Cork ETB Youth services department ensured that young people were kept involved and active during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Youthworker Outdoor Training Series

A series of three workshops was hosted at Ballincollig Regional Park for youth workers in collaboration with Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre aimed at providing the workers with the skills and confidence to work in outdoor settings and be creative in doing so. The workshops consisted of a team building workshop, a 'backwoods and outdoor adventure' session and kayaking confidence training. All participants were given branded outdoor waterproof coats to encourage organisation of outdoor activities following the training.

Youth Arts Hub

The Youth Arts Hub is a collaborative programme between Cork ETB, the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), local artists and youth workers in Cork city and county providing a platform for information and skills-sharing among youth workers and practitioners. Cork ETB and NYCI provide training to youth workers based on identified needs as well as information about grants supporting Youth Arts practice and provision. In 2021 the Youth Arts Hub provided online animation training to 12 youth workers who met facilitators with experience in the Arts and had an opportunity to view and discuss previous work; a face-to-face event in November was cancelled due to Covid restrictions and was moved online. Following on from this event, intercultural work and social inclusion will be among the training themes in 2022.



In the pipeline...

Youth Festival

A Cork ETB youth festival or showcase has been considered for some time and it is hoped that 2022 will present an opportunity to host this. It is important that young people involved in projects have an opportunity to showcase their talents and Cork ETB aims to provide that platform in association with the service providers in the summer or autumn. We would use the opportunity of having large groups of young people from different backgrounds to help direct services generally into the immediate and longer-term future.

Urban Outdoors

We will continue to run with the Urban Outdoors Programme which proved such a success in 2020 and 2021 and perhaps expand on the activities provided. Having Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre in the CETB stable is a huge advantage and we look forward to youngsters from urban and rural backgrounds engaging in these activities again.

Mental Health Supports

Conscious of deficiencies in mental health supports in Cork and beyond, we hope to continue the small grant scheme developed in 2021 – MentWell – that provides small amounts of funding to projects to deliver interventions such as counselling, activities and therapies.

Emerging Needs

As the Covid-19 situation showed, we just don't know what's around the corner and Cork ETB Youth Services will continue to monitor prevailing situations and aim to be responsive to the emerging needs of young people that we serve. This may well require service providers to be flexible and adaptable and the Youth Service team will support this in every way possible.

Volunteer Support Network

We know how difficult it is for clubs and projects to recruit volunteers and how difficult it can be for volunteers to get involved. A plan to host regional volunteer support and appreciation nights across Cork is being considered that would assist existing volunteers and hope to recruit more for services to young people in all parts of the city and county.



BUÍOCHAS

A MILLION thanks to all the workers and volunteers involved with our youth projects and clubs for their great work with and for the young people of Cork that hallmarked activity in 2021. Added creativity, innovation and dedication were required during the second year of Covid-19 and in achieving this, the benefits were clear for all to see.

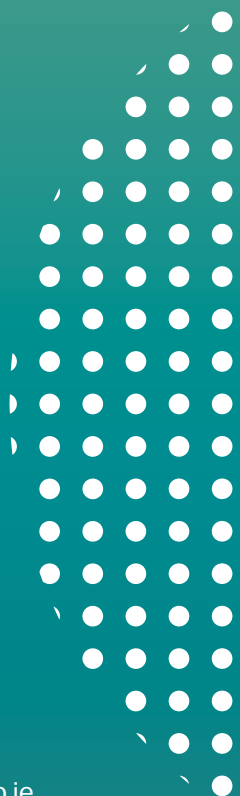
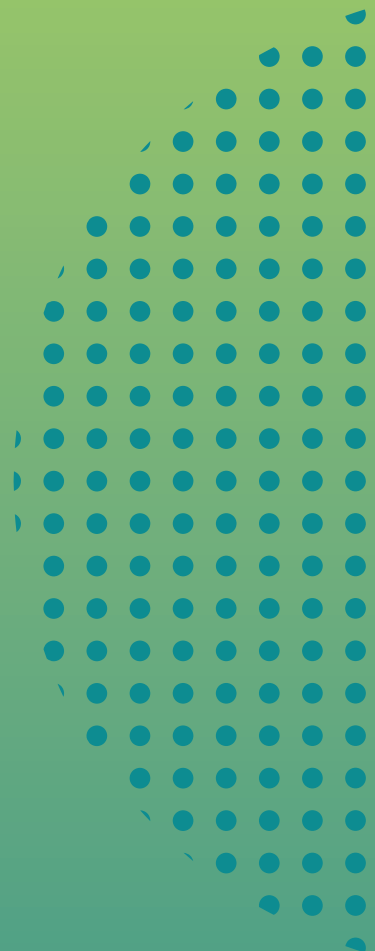
Thanks to the managements of these services (including the finance teams) for their positive interfacing with the Youth Services section of Cork ETB...there is a lot of oversight, planning and reporting involved in the various funding schemes and we appreciate your patience and hard work.

Thanks to John Fitzgibbons, Director of FET with Cork ETB, and Denis Leamy CE for their ongoing management, advice, and support. We also thank the DCEDIY and ETBI for their advice, work and co-operation.

An focal deirneach goes to the Youth Services Team in Cork ETB...they are a small but dedicated group that punches above its weight, aiming to help and support the delivery of services to projects and clubs and ultimately help young people in Cork city and county fulfil their potential and have better outcomes and brighter futures in their lives.

Ar aghaidh agus suas...onwards and upwards.

Mick Finn, Cork ETB Youth Service Development Officer



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