





Contents:	Page
Introduction	04.
Board of Directors Report	04.
Office Report	
Strategic Aim 1	05.
Strategic Aim 2	27.
Strategic Aim 3	29.
Accounts	32.
Ossory Youth Staff	30.

- DIRECTORS:**
- Padraig Fleming (Chairperson)
 - Liz Dermody
 - Monica O Shea
 - Eamonn Daly
 - Ian Coulter
 - Seamus Morrissey
 - Brenda Whitely
 - Treasa Forristal
 - Fr. William Purcell
 - Ellen Lynch

Moneenroe Gems enjoying their calendar photoshoot

Introduction

Ossory Youth is a voluntary, non-profit youth work organisation working with and for young people within the Diocese of Ossory, covering Kilkenny and parts of Laois and Offaly.

Ossory Youth is committed to providing a quality service to young people it works with by employing principles of best practice in its work.

The work of Ossory Youth is greatly enhanced by volunteers at local level. This voluntary effort cannot be overstated and the Board of Ossory Youth wishes to thank all those who contributed to the success of the organisation in 2011.

The Board also wish to acknowledge and thank all the organisations both statutory and non statutory who supported the work of Ossory Youth both financially and in kind.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Padraig Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid orange horizontal line.

**Padraig Fleming (Chairperson Ossory Youth)
Ossory Youth Board of Directors**

Board of Directors Report:

The Board of Directors of Ossory Youth continued to oversee the implementation of the strategic plan which focused on providing more opportunities for young people to participate in quality youth work programmes, developing strong and positive partnerships with other service providers and funders to ensure an effective and coordinated approach to service delivery and building a strong organisation that has the capacity to deliver innovation and excellence in its provision, services and opportunities to young people in the region.

In 2011 the board embarked on formulating its next 5 year strategic plan. As part of the process the organisation reviewed its previous plan and concluded that Ossory Youth has emerged as a stronger and more cohesive unit. It was agreed that the new plan needed to build on the strengths of the organisation as well as paying attention to areas which challenge the organisation. The board also understands that the new plan is being written in very different times, this is seen as a challenge which is to be embraced. As a board we believe that we will be challenged to think differently, to articulate the work of the organisation in a new way, to place the organisation in the context of other services to young people, while at the same time continuing to be true to the ethos and mission of Ossory Youth.

Snap Shot of what happened under our strategic aims in 2011

Strategic Aim 1: To widen opportunities for young people to participate in a manner that positively contributes to their lives and well being.

COMMUNITY BASED WORK

Ossory Youth is funded to deliver the following projects which are all community based projects:

- Callan/Castlecomer (Special Project for Youth) serving Callan and Castlecomer
- Rural Outreach (Special Project for Youth) serving all of Rural Kilkenny and parts of South Co.Laois.
- Kilkenny Rural Drugs Initiative (serving Rural Kilkenny)
- Gateway (Special Project for Youth) serving Kilkenny City
- Kilkenny City Drugs Initiative (serving Kilkenny City)
- Compass GYDP Project (serving Kilkenny city)
- Youth Information (serving Kilkenny and South Co. Laois)

YOUTH CLUBS:

The purpose of a local youth club is to provide a safe and comfortable place where young people from the area can meet and socialise together. As well as providing a meeting place the club may also serve other needs of young people. These include:

- Accessing sport
- Learning new skills
- To engage in their wider community in a positive way
- To belong and feel part of something
- To mix and make friends
- To have a place where they can safely discuss issues and topics which interest them
- A place where they can have fun
- A break from home/family life
- The need to participate and be involved in decision making
- The need to have positive adult role models outside of home and school

Youth clubs operate one night a week for two hours. The venue is usually the community hall/centre and a team of local people who volunteer their time, staffs the club. Young people attend on a voluntary basis. The club programme is varied and includes sport, music, song, dance, outings, talks, discussion group, community involvement and participate in the wider youth service programme. In 2011 there were 15 youth clubs affiliated to Ossory Youth.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORK 2011

Ossory Youth also provides a service to communities who would like to initiative activities for young people. The initial step is a needs analysis to find out what the community needs. In order to make this happen we look at opportunities and ways of recruiting volunteers.

The next step is to design and develop programmes which the community feel would benefit their young people most. Volunteers are recruited, registered and trained and programmes are promoted in the community. A series of meetings follows in order to take this initiative to the next level. We liaise with and support community volunteers at every step along the way and ensure that all programmes are delivered within our Child Protection guidelines and best practice in youth work.

In 2011 Ossory Youth supported volunteers in Borris in Ossory to establish a new youth club in their community. We also engaged with Durrow and it is hoped that a youth club will be established in 2012

SPOT LIGHT ON YOUTH CLUBS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

Slieverue Youth Club

Slieverue Youth Club started back on May 7th 1999 after an absence of a couple of years. Since the club has started back we have had approx 300 members come and go over the years. At the moment we have 49 members ranging in ages from 12 to 18. We meet every Friday from 8pm until 10pm.

When the Club restarted we had a competition to design a logo that all would be in agreement with. At the same time instead of rules, we sat down with the members and drafted a code of behaviour that all would abide by, with room for change as time went on. As with all clubs, the activities are the core of the club. This is why we aim to keep it interesting, fun and most of all as many members as possible involved in all activities.

At first we took part in the activities that were run by Ossory Youth which included Mini Tops(which was a themed show that ran for 20 minutes), Youth Club of the Year, football competition, art competition, quizzes, discos and young leader training.

We also had information nights, demonstrations of various sports, Garda drug squad, hair and makeup, Magic, Drama; the list could go on. As we went on in years, like all clubs, keeping it interesting and fun we had to come up with other activities. Like Telethon, (we made the national news on R.T.E. with Bath of Beans). We also had study days for those members taking exams, a day out before school started for a new year, camping weekends, making movies, raising money for charities and community awareness.

As with all youth clubs the leaders are the backbone of the club whose time, patience and commitment make the club more interesting and fun for all involved along with the training and support from Ossory Youth. We have leaders on the board of directors, national committees, executive forum, and working groups within Ossory Youth. (www.slieverueyc.com)

Swan Youth Club

The Swan Youth Club was originally formed back in May 1980, since then hundreds of young people have passed through the doors of the youth club. The club has always had the emphasis on fun, friendship, youth development and community.

The club has competed at local, regional and national level in the club programme and travelled all around the country in doing so. Through the youth club our members have had the opportunity to meet with, compete against and develop friendships with other young people in the Diocese.

Each year a committee is elected to run the club which is comprised of young people and leaders. This committee is responsible for organising the activities of the club, finance and publicity. Fundraising is an important function of the club and while it enables members to engage in lots of different activities, the leaders feel it encourages young people to develop skills in leadership, planning and teamwork. It also means the members have more of an ownership of the club.



The highlight of the year for the members is the annual trip to an Adventure Park which has been the reason for a lot of fun and animated pictures down through the years. In the past, these trips had all the elements of fun, romance, divilment and adrenalin; it seems these elements stood the test of time and are still the components which make the trips so successful.

Community Work

The CBDI projects in Co. Kilkenny are concerned with community development around drugs and related behaviours. This is known as issue based community work or community action defined as “community work through direct action” and is often in single issue campaigns. We believe this work is fundamental in responding to the needs of young people in their communities.

In 2011 we responded to needs identified by several communities examples of which include establishing a drop-in facility in Mooncoin, information initiatives in Castlecomer, development of recovery support group for young people, the development of a fishing project for young people at risk in the city and the development of a youth advocacy group in the city.

PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY OSSORY YOUTH IN 2011

Youth Club Programme

Mini Tops

The Mini Tops competition is a very popular event each year and it engages large numbers of young people in youth clubs between September and Christmas. The Mini Tops is a part of the National Variety programme ran by Youth Work Ireland and gives our clubs the opportunity to represent their parish and Ossory Youth in National Competitions.



The Swan youth club members soak up the sun at Lilliput Adventure Centre

The show was very positive and the energy and enthusiasm of the performers really shone through. The focus of the Mini Tops is participation and performance. It was fantastic to see the different clubs supporting and encouraging each other.

The Mini Tops could not take place if it were not for the commitment of the voluntary youth club leaders. Each of these clubs have leaders behind them which put in a huge effort to ensure the performances were to the high standard displayed on the day. All the effort appeared worth it in the end, as the leaders were clearly very proud of their clubs' young people.

Ossory Games

The Ossory Games are part of the Youth Work Ireland National Programme; and has become an annual event which clubs look forward to participating in. Each year young people throughout the diocese pit their will, strength and skill against one another as they represent their youth club in their efforts to win a highly contested 5-a-side soccer tournament. Competition is a part of what the Ossory Games are about, but the Games are about so much more than that. The Games are about, social interaction, participation, building self esteem, having fun and laughter. The Games creates the opportunity for young people, staff and volunteers to come together to support young people as they develop their skills and self- assurance to find their place in the world.



Slieveveer girls are bowled over with excitement on a club trip

Calendar Competition

Ossory Youth ran a calendar competition called "What my Youth Club/ Group means to me". All young people in clubs and groups were asked to draw, paint or design an image that symbolizes what their youth club/group means to them, with the winning designs being made into a 2012 calendar for Ossory Youth.

The Big Challenge Residential

The Big Challenge looks at tackling both physical and mental challenges. It focuses on working as part of a team and recognising and utilising individual strengths to complete a task. In 2011, 12 young people went to Eoadventure in Enniskerry where they undertook a fun and challenging programme of activities.

The group underwent a cook-off challenge where they had to compete in two teams and use their imagination to win. It is hoped that those who participated in the programme developed social skills, increased their capacity to participate as part of a team, gained a deeper sense of self and understanding of their strengths and capacity as individuals as well making new friends and having fun.

Team Worx Residential

The Team Worx challenge aims to provide individual young people with an opportunity to get a stronger sense of self as well as gaining a personal insight of their strengths and weakness and to explore how these strengths contribute to their participation in the completion of a number of group tasks.

The team challenges are delivered in a creative and fun way in order to engage young people in the whole process. Young people participate in team building exercises which enable the group to get together and work as a team while bringing out the best in everyone. In 2011 six different youth groups were represented on the Team Worx residential. At the end of the residential the group produced two very unique calendars.

Craft Workshops

Ossory Youth offers craft workshops out to clubs. These craft workshops focus on training club leaders in a specific craft. Once the leaders have been trained in the craft, Ossory Youth can source the craft pack for the youth club so the leaders can deliver the training to the young people themselves. These craft workshops up-skill volunteers in our clubs to enable them to provide more activities for their members.

Tag Rugby

Tag rugby is a fun competition that brings youth clubs and groups together. Tag rugby has the benefits of being a mixed sport that can be learned relatively quickly. It encourages team participation and is non-contact. All youth clubs and groups with Ossory Youth are encouraged and welcomed to take part. An introductory session with a tag instructor was offered out to each club and group. 8 clubs enjoyed these introductory sessions and it fostered an interest in the sport with the clubs.



Slieverue, Johnswell and Hugginstown giving it welly on the Team Worx Residential

Activity Pack

An activity pack was put together which outlines various activities, games and crafts for clubs to use with their members. This came as a request from clubs. This is a substantial resource which clubs can draw from on a number of occasions. The Ossory Youth Activity Pack is full of ideas for Youth Clubs. All clubs received an activity pack in January 2011.

Film Making

This year, Ossory Youth worked with the Young Irish Film Makers to provide an opportunity for youth clubs and groups to learn and experience the art of filmmaking. Six clubs engaged in a workshop delivered by professionals, Young Irish Film Makers, where they learned the skills required to actively participate in preparing, making and editing a short film. All workshops took place in their local community, making it accessible to all.

CAMP OSSORY PROGRAMME

Camp Ossory on the Move is an outreach programme which supports communities to run summer camps for young people between the ages of 4-12yrs, by designing, planning and assisting with the delivery of an exciting and varied programme of activities.

The camp consists of games, activities, art and craft, cookery, sports and hip-hop. Programmes are designed to utilize the resources in the local communities; therefore activities may include special excursions to places of interest locally.

Community involvement is key to the success of the camps, with local young people and adults becoming thoroughly involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the camps. Training is provided locally to enable adult volunteers and teenagers to take on a leadership role and deliver the programmes within the guidelines of our policies and best youth work practices.

In 2011 Camp Ossory on the Move worked alongside three communities to ensure over 130 young people enjoyed a fun packed week long summer camp in their own communities. Moneenroe, Clogh and Goresbridge experienced true community spirit as over 25 volunteers gave up their time to plan and deliver high quality camps. 20 teenage volunteers brought their energy and enthusiasm to the camps and assisted the leaders throughout the week.

PEER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Peer Education is a methodology that builds social capital through the development of young people's skills. Peer education programs educate and train motivated young people about a particular topic e.g. drugs or sexual health issues to become "peer educators" so that they are able to communicate accurate information and messages to their peers in a variety of settings and circumstances.

45 young people from Callan, Castlecomer and Johnstown took part in a drug peer education programme, each of which ran for 8 weeks, incorporating activities alongside the traditional drug education work. As well as benefitting themselves from the programme these young people passed on the skills and knowledge they developed to their peer groups and first years in their school.

The traditional 4-2-1 was delivered in Loreto secondary schools and CBS Kilkenny. 30 young people were trained as peer educators and they will deliver a drug awareness programme to approximately 250 first year students in their schools.

4-2- 1 and drug education work are delivered jointly by the Community Based Drug Initiatives, The Special Projects for Youth and Youth Information Projects

GAISCE

The President's Award is Ireland's national challenge award for young people between 15 and 25 years old. The challenges of the award programme are designed to encourage initiative, self-discipline, leadership and caring skills in young people. A number of young people are currently undertaking the challenge in four areas, community involvement, physical recreation, personal skill and an adventure journey.

YOUTH BANK

Youth Bank is a national and international programme. Youth Bank Kilkenny is based in Callan. It involves young people becoming grant makers through specific Youth Bank training. The project's grant making committee is made up of eight young people, who meet on a weekly basis. The Youth Bank Programme has significantly changed in the last two years and now the group is also responsible for raising a percentage of the money it grants. As a result of this the group have gained skills in craft manufacture, sales and marketing as well as presenting to local business for sponsorship.

At National Level the group also excelled, winning funds for their outstanding presentation at a Youth Bank Cluster Meeting, on what they had achieved that year and a film outlining promotion and advertising ideas, made in collaboration with Young Irish Film Makers.

The group recruited new members in Autumn, they have gone through their training period and have been involved in some fund raising.

The group will organise their next round of grants in 2012.



Goresbridge and Castlecomer boys break a sweat for the H2O Programme

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Each summer Ossory Youth, through The Gateway Project, engages a group of young people from a variety of social backgrounds to participate in an outdoor education programme. The rationale for the programme is to engage with young people and build solid positive relationships between young people and youth workers as they partake in outdoor activities together. These relationships will encourage young people to engage in other programmes and support personal development and learning.

BAND COMPETITION

2011 saw the fourth running of the Irish Youth Music Awards. It again proved very popular with ten acts participating in the Ossory Youth Live selection event; this was a great day's entertainment for the 120 spectators that turned up to support the various acts. The act selected to represent Ossory Youth on the national stage was Ripple Effect, a four piece band from Graignamanagh. The boys represented Ossory Youth very well in the national final in Liberty Hall.

AFRICA DAY

The aim of Africa Day is to promote a positive image of Africa's culture and Ireland relationship with Africa. The Youth Information Project has taken a lead role for the event in Kilkenny over the last number of years. 2011 Africa Day was a week- long event in May which included a Film from Kenya, live comedy from Nigeria, Music from Congolese, a volunteer fair and a family fun day which brought Irish and African culture together on the parade.



African culture brought to the Parade in style

OSSORY YOUTH MEDIA GROUP.

In 2011 the media group recruited new members and received editorial training to facilitate them to update Scooch as well as keeping it relevant to the sites users. The website contains reviews, blogs and photos of news and events going on in Kilkenny County. The group decided that positive press for young people would be its ethos.

www.ossoryyouth.com/scooch

KPEG – KILKENNY PEER EDUCATION GUERRILLAS

KPEG were a group with a mission in 2011. Having received intensive training in drug awareness and mental and sexual health the group set about informing and creating awareness among the wider population in relation to these areas in a creative and innovative way which attracted attention. The group joined forces with Shine for St Patricks day, attending Meath's youth mental health conference, delivering a drugs awareness workshop to the Comhairle AGM. They all took part in Drugs Awareness and Mental Health Awareness weeks and Aids Day, to organising a Thriller dance 'flashmob' and putting a Mohican hairstyle on the sculpture of Saint Canice's head, at the end of the High St at 5am in the morning. KPEG is delivered jointly by the Kilkenny City Drugs Initiative and Youth Information.

FACES OF 2011









LUNCH TIME DROP IN

Desart Hall Youth Centre opens its doors to secondary school students in the form of a lunch time drop in, staffed by youth workers on three days each week. The young people, predominantly from Kilkenny City Vocational School and St Kieran's College, use the pool room and the facilities of the Information Centre. 20 to 30 young people avail of this lunch time drop in each day.

School Based Work

CAIRDEAS

The Cairdeas Programme involves Ossory Youth working in partnership with secondary schools to facilitate young people in 5th year being trained to mentor and support first years in their first year of secondary school. In 2011 this school peer support training was delivered to students in CBS Kilkenny. This programme is delivered by the Gateway SPY project.

4-2-1 SCHOOLS

The traditional 4-2-1 was delivered in Loreto secondary schools and CBS Kilkenny. 30 young people were trained as peer educators and they will deliver drug awareness programme to approximately 250 first year students in their schools.



The roads are a little safer thanks to the Driver Education Programme

SERVICES OFFERED BY OSSORY YOUTH

Information Provision

This service provides free, confidential information, in a relevant and understandable format to all young people and those who work with them. Subjects covered include Travel, Health,, Education, Work, Sports and Leisure, European opportunities, Rights and Entitlements and many, many more.

Career Guidance Service.

The Youth Information project provides a Career Guidance Service by appointment. This service is provided by a qualified Career Guidance Counsellor and was fully subscribed to in 2011. Outreach to rural groups was rolled out and Mooncoin's group received a career guidance and CV writing workshop

Drug Initiative One to One Support Service.

In 2011 Kilkenny Rural Drug Initiative worked with 25 people comprising of individuals, families and concerned persons who had been affected by substance misuse. The Kilkenny City Drug Initiative worked with 9 individuals who had been affected by substance misuse. Each case presented varying needs requiring different levels of support and different styles of interventions. Some of the supports provided include:

- Analysing the needs of those directly/indirectly affected by drugs
- Supporting families of drug users through Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused Brief Interventions and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
- Outreaching to those in need of help
- Drug education and early intervention for people at risk of substance misuse
- Signposting to local, voluntary and state services based on individual needs
- Advocating on behalf of those affected by drugs
- Assistance in accessing jobs
- Group work

Teen Between

This is a listening service offered to young people whose parents are separating or are divorced. An outreach training programme was delivered in Kilkenny at the end of this year by Relationships Ireland to a mixture of volunteers, Ossory Youth workers and staff from the FRCs. The Teen Between Service now has 7 trained staff to deliver the service across the county and one leader trained in supervision training, so that all support needs can be handled in Kilkenny. An official re-launch of the service is planned for early 2012.

Volunteer Support Services:

Ossory Youth provides supports to registered volunteers who are working with both affiliated youth clubs /groups and also volunteers working with associate members groups. The supports offered include the following:

- Volunteer recruitment process which includes a requirement of Garda Vetting and two local references.
- Volunteer Foundation Level Training (12hrs)
- Child Protection Training (3hrs)
- Regular contact through mail outs, over the phone and drop in.
- Club visits
- Access to resources
- Information and support on insurance, programme activity, funding.

TARGETED WORK

Gateway Project

Youthink Youth Group : Youthink is a youth group established in February 2011 and meet every Saturday evening in Desart Hall Youth Centre. The members broadly wanted to examine issues that are relevant to them and have a positive role to play in the life of Kilkenny city and environs. The motto of the group is "Think, Talk and Do" and reflects the cyclical way that the group imagine, discuss and implement their ideas. A key aim of the group is that all planned projects involve Youthink members mobilising and involving a much greater number of young people.

In early summer 2011, Youthink decided to undertake a large scale project around the very topical issue of youth mental health. The project comprising four events from July to October was given the title 'Mind your Mind' and took the form of awareness raising and fundraising for a mental health charity. The charity chosen was Headstrong as it specifically targets youth mental health.

The first titled event took place on Sunday July 24th and thus aptly named 'Isolation 24/7' involved a huge number of 40 young people spending 24 hours in Desart Hall Youth Centre with each young person experiencing 30 minutes of complete isolation in a specifically chosen room during that time. Young people were sponsored to participate in Isolation 24/7. The second event, a music gig and street collection on the Parade Plaza, raised €1650 for Headstrong.

The third event in common with the previous events involved Youthink members recruiting a large team of volunteer young people to take part in an environmental clean-up in Bishop Birch Place, Kilkenny. The final event was the 'Raise Your Spirits' Halloween Party. However, this is a party with a difference as entry has to have been earned by young people having volunteered at one or more of the three events outlined above. In addition to the 'Mind your Mind' youth mental health campaign, Youthink also organised other large scale youth events in Desart Hall Youth Centre.

HQ (Headquarters) – Club for 6th Class Students: H.Q. is a club for young people in 6th Class, who would like somewhere to go to hangout with other young people their age. The club operates every Tuesday evening from 4.00pm-6.00pm in Desart Hall. Activities include, pool, wii, PS3, scavenger hunt, movie nights, quizzes, art project among others. 15 young people participate in this group.



Compass GYDP members receive their Kelron pre-employment course certificates

Desart Hall Youth Centre – Friday Night Drop-in: The Friday drop-in firmly established itself in 2011 with 20-30 young people attending each week. The drop-in provides a space for young people to meet friends, take part in activities such as pool, Wii games, play music and serves as an introduction to Ossory Youth and various programmes on offer.

Driver Education Programme: 16 young people aged between 15-18 years old from Kilkenny completed a 6 week Driver Education Programme facilitated by Chris Boyle from the School of Safety through Ossory Youth and in association with the Gardai, Advance Pitstop, local paramedics and Abraham Lincoln School of Motoring and Barrow Drive School of Motoring.

This course was an educational programme covering every aspect of driving from the theory test through to owning your first car. It covered tax, insurance, mechanical and technical matters with a clear emphasis on road safety throughout the entire programme with workshops from a local paramedic and a member of the Traffic Corp, Garda Canice O’Gorman and a visit to a local court session. It culminated with a driving campus on the final day where all participants received supervised instruction behind the wheel of a car with 2 local driving instructors.

Participants really enjoyed the course, with some of them planning to sit their theory tests in the coming weeks. One female student outlined that ‘it was educational because I learnt that there’s so much more to just owning a car’ and one of the male participants felt that after completing the course he ‘now understood the dangers of driving carelessly’.



GBGALS backcombed and ready to perform for the Minitops 2011

Pink Friday: Pink Fridays is a girls only group catering for 15 to 18 year olds. It runs from 5:00pm to 6:30pm every Friday evening in Desert Hall and is facilitated by two female staff members. The purpose of the group is to provide a space for young women to come together, design a programme of activities which will be of interest to them and will facilitate their personal growth and development, in a safe environment. Activities include discussion groups, movie nights, and trips. 8 young women regularly attend this programme.

Compass GDYP Project: The Project engaged with in excess of 30 young people over the course of 2011. All young people on the project receive one to one support as well as participating in a broad range of programmes which are offered through compass. In 2011 project participants were extremely active; four young people achieved a bronze medal in An Gaisce Presidents Awards, eleven young people completed a modular pre-employment course with Kelron Health and Safety Company, twelve young people were engaged with the ‘Work to Learn’ Programme, where they embarked on a 6-month work experience programme for four hours per week. Funded by Statestreet, this pilot programme is currently being evaluated but anecdotal evidence would suggest it was hugely beneficial to at least

half of the group. All were presented with medals and certificates at an Awards Ceremony in Desart Hall in November.

Compass was involved in the delivery of the Strengthening Families Programme in the Fr.McGrath Centre. This innovative and evidence based programme was attended by three families involved with the project and evaluations suggest it was both very popular as well as beneficial.

2011 saw the establishment of Friday night late soccer fixture 'Footie With The Fuzz'. The programme is designed to encourage proactive youth participation through sport and also to encourage positive relationships between Gardai and young people. Coached by Mick Clifford and Community Policing Garda Aidan Fitzpatrick, it's been very well received by young people and encouraging to track their progress. This project is supported by the Borough Council.

The horse-riding group has continued with four regular young horse riders attending on a weekly basis. The challenge in 2012 will be for the young riders to achieve a proficiency exam.

In conjunction with An Garda Siochana and The Irish Youth Justice Service, the project engaged in a year-long process of assessment in order to help improve its effectiveness over the coming years. The process was challenging but hugely beneficial and whilst affirming much of the approaches and methodologies, it also served to question the effectiveness of others, resulting in more outcome focused work in 2012. It would not have been possible without the huge commitment of local Gardai and we're very grateful in particular to Agnes Reddy, Kieran Scanlon, Aidan Fitzpatrick, Gary Gordon and Superintendent Mick Nevin.

Mixed4Ever: Mixed4Ever is a group of six girls who meet on a weekly basis in Desart Hall. The programme aims to increase self-esteem and provide the skills necessary to form positive relationships with themselves, their families, school and local community.

In 2011 we completed many activities as a group; the main ones being a seven week wire work art project which has now been installed in Desart Hall for all to see. We also completed a Sexual Health Programme and celebrated by participating in a residential trip to the Wicklow Mountains, where we kick-started our new health and fitness programme for the coming year.

RURAL OUTREACH PROJECT

Goresbridge Girls Group: This programme has been running for 5 years and its primary aim has been to facilitate a group of young women to come together in a structured setting where they can meet, identify their needs and actively participate in the development and implementation of their own programme. This group of young women have grown confident and have a strong sense of community. They are regularly involved in the organisation and delivery of community events, they have grown in self-confidence and belief as well as gaining new skills and abilities.

In 2011 we produced a diva calendar, represented Ossory Youth in Youth Work Ireland's Variety Competition at regional level, volunteered to work with the community to deliver the local summer camp, made a short film, recruited new members and embarked on a year long health programme in September 2011.



Renovation Project: The Bridge Boys are a group of 6 boys. The community needed some assistance with public areas so this group volunteered to help. The project entails renovating the public picnic benches, sanding and varnishing them as well as planting flowers and shrubs in the community gardens. They would also use the community gardens to plant and grow flowers. The group will also renovate an old picnic table in the public park. This picnic table would be a youth space. They will create a board game on this picnic table that can be played by anyone that sits there. This would be a space in the community for the young people.

It is hoped that through their participation in this project the boys will learn some new practical skills, will have a stronger connection to their community, and will be responsible for the development of a community space in their community.

Goresbridge Summer Programme: A teenage summer programme was delivered in August in Goresbridge. The programme included both activities and programmes in the parish hall and day trips. The purpose of this programme was to engage young people in their community, to build friendships and to connect young people living in Goresbridge through activities that challenged and encouraged young people to participate.

Moneenroe Gems: As a result of participating in Ossory Youth summer camps it became clear that there was a need to create a more regular opportunity for girls within the community to come together in a social setting which enables them to be involved in a range of activities, where they can learn new skills and raise their self confidence.



Smiles and Kayaks on Greens Bridge

This youth group is staffed by one youth worker and two volunteers for a year. The long term aim is to have volunteers running a youth group that meets weekly without the need for direct delivery from the worker.

H2O Programme: A group of 10 boys aged 14-17yrs, from Castlecomer and Goresbridge, were recruited to embark on year-long water based activity programme concluding in a week-long sailing and camping programme with Ocean Youth Trust Ireland. It was an opportunity for young people to experience something completely differently, challenging and exhilarant, a life experience like no other.

The programme commenced in September 2010. The group began the experience with rowing lessons where they learned skills such as teamwork, commitment, and working towards a goal. They worked on the water and in the gym every week and quickly gained confidence and ability in a canoe. This was followed by a challenging and intensive 12 weeks of boxing with Aidan O’ Neill of Paulstown Boxing Club.

The group also learned how to Kayak with everyone completing level 1 and level 2 kayaking. The kayaking is a fun and challenging activity where they saw and achieved a result in a short period of time. The boys also took 6 weeks of swimming sessions. This ensured they were fully confident in the water for the sailing challenge. The boys also took part on 2 residential throughout the year to prepare for the sailing and camping expedition.

The 8th august saw the final leg of the H2O programme begin. The group, camping in Castlewellan, Co. Down, worked with Ocean Youth Trust Ireland in a challenging programme where they learned how to sail. The boys all achieved their level one and level two sailing certificates. None of the group had sailed before but this didn’t dent their enthusiasm and determination!

As a result of this programme we can say that those involved have developed social skills, they have an increased understanding of team work, they can interact well in a group, they have reached personal goals and they have the confidence to take on new challenges. This project was supported by the Regional Drugs Task Force, Kilkenny County Council and the Springhill Trust.

Callan/Castlecomer Project

Pals Summer Camp: Pals once again had a very successful summer camp that ran each Friday evening from 7-9pm throughout the summer. 45 children aged 5-12 yrs participated in the camp with six teenagers also participating as junior leaders. The participants were able to experience a range of different activities throughout the camp; i.e. art and craft, sports day, swimming, bowling, treasure hunt and drama. The camp culminated in a celebration event which was attended by all participants and their parents.

Lads Soccer Programme: Ten lads aged 14-16 were engaged to participate in a programme based around soccer. The lads were facilitated to train each week for twelve weeks in preparation for the Galway World Cup event at the end of June. As well as preparing for the soccer element of the programme the boys had to learn about the culture of the country they were representing (GHANA). As well as learning about the culture the boys also had to make their own jerseys and team banner. This group remained together throughout the year and experienced a range of other activities including bowling, cinema, archery and much more.

Leaving Cert Applied Group: The project worker was contacted by Castlecomer Community School to work with eleven 5th year Leaving Cert Applied Students who were identified as being at risk of early school leaving. An eight week programme to work with the group around building self-esteem and resilience was developed and delivered. All of the group participated in what was a very positive programme and it culminated in a fun trip to Kippure Outdoor Education Centre.

4-2-1 Castlecomer: Sixteen 4th years from Castlecomer Community School were recruited to participate in the 421 programme. As part of this the participants undergo a drug education programme and then devise a presentation to deliver to 1st years so they in turn receive drug education. The 421 programme consists of 6 four hour sessions and there are an additional two sessions where the group are rewarded for their hard work with fun activities (bowling and paintballing).

Callan peer Educators Group: This is the group who participated in the 421 schools programme in Callan in 2010. It consisted of eight boys and eight girls aged 15-17 years. They expressed a wish to continue as a group so after consulting with them, decided to make a film. The young Irish film-makers came out to do a workshop with the group on how to make a film from start to finish. The group made a film in which they themselves were the cast and crew. This film made the shortlist for an award in the YIFM Film Festival.

Impulse Energy: Impulse Energy is a group of fourteen 2nd and 3rd Year students from Callan. This group is set up to support and encourage each individual through their early years of adolescence and school. All elements of the programme aims to increase self-esteem and provide the skills necessary to form positive relationships. In 2011 the group spent some time getting to know each other, did some team building and participated in personal and social development through the face to face programme.

Callan Street Arts: Ossory Youth's Callan Street Arts is a group of six young people aged 14 -17 years who meet weekly. The group was established in late 2011 following requests by summer participants of Ossory Youth's CSA Summer Project. CSA is Callan's only youth arts and performance group. Since starting the group have been focused on exercises and workshops for group, personal, artistic and social development. Activities have included street art and street performance training, mural painting, Christmas street theatre for the community, exploring Callan and their own identity, poster and logo design and community event planning.

Callan Street Arts summer project 2011 ran for just over two weeks from Mon 18th July - Mon 1st of August. It was a mixed group of 10 teenagers aged 13 - 17years old from Callan and surrounding area. Through performance and graffiti activities leading to large community events - the young people worked in response to and with the Callan community, building both individual and community understanding, responsibility and initiative. Activities: Designed and painted community wall mural as part of Abhainn Rí Festival - representing Callan, its landmarks, its trade, its people and stories. We also devised and performed Surprise Street Theatre throughout the Abhainn Rí Festival and 'Callan Past and Present' a short piece, to an audience of more than 200 people.

PARISH WORK

Advisory Group

In 2011 an advisory group was established to make recommendations on a diocesan Youth Work programme for young people in parishes.

Consultation with Young People

Ossory youth consulted with young people around their faith needs in order to identify what would help them to continue to engage with their parish and practice their faith. A number of actions were identified and the findings were reviewed by the Bishop and pastoral councils in the Diocese.

Residential for Parish Groups

In October a group of 15 young people went on a residential retreat to Newgrange where the group identified a number of actions and events they would participate in over the coming year. Agreed actions included Youth Masses where young people would play an active role in organising the liturgy, music and refreshments for family and friends. This would require young people working with their local priest and community groups.

In order to support young people to do this work Ossory Youth would provide training and liaise with parishes. Retreats for young people were named as something young people are interested in and also an opportunity to learn more about church traditions and the lives of the Saints.



Castletomer Boys do Ghana proud in the Galway World Cup

Strategic Aim 2: To promote, develop and maintain effective working partnerships as a means of ensuring quality youth work provision in the region.

In 2011 Ossory Youth worked in partnership and with An Garda Síochána, Irish Youth Justice Service, The HSE, The Diocese of Ossory, Kilkenny County Council, The South East Regional Task Force, The VEC, The Department of Justice Equality & Law Reform, Youthreach, KCAN and the Kilkenny Recreational Sports Partnership, ESF, Office of the Minister for Integration, Office of the Minister for Children. Examples of effective working partnerships include Youth Fest, Africa Day, Comhairle na nÓg, Life Line and collaborative work with the Fr McGrath Centre.

Ongoing Partnerships

Ossory Youth is committed to working with organisations and groups in order to ensure a quality youth work provision in the region. Over the past five years we have learnt that the best partnerships are the ones where there is robust, challenging and honest discussions about how we as service providers collectively approach the work with young people who are engaged by a number of agencies and services. As an organisation we are firmly committed to the youth work process and are moving towards a clarity of the purpose of our work with young people, we recognise that our partners have similar

clarity around their purpose and sometimes there maybe tension, the partnership and the quality of the work is strengthened by recognising the tension, being open to change and agreeing on what is achievable by the partnership. This approach has been copper fastened by the work with progression routes, the compass trial site and the changing economic environment.

Comhairle Na Nog

Comhairle na nÓg are local youth councils which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. There is a Comhairle na nÓg in every city and county. Comhairle na nÓg were set up under the National Children's Strategy (2000) in the 34 City and County Development Boards around the country. Kilkenny Comhairle is supported by a steering committee with representatives from Kilkenny County Council, Foróige, An Garda Síochána, The HSE, VEC, Ossory Youth and two Comhairle members. Ossory Youth facilitate the group on a weekly basis and support the administration work associated with the group. In 2011 the group developed a graffiti project in association with the SCP5 Committee and Keep Kilkenny Beautiful. They also ran their AGM where 70 young people attended.



Mixed4Ever getting creative with wire

Life-Line

Lifeline is a County wide Suicide Prevention initiative established under the auspice of Ossory Youth in 2004. It is comprised of a voluntary committee of member organisations and since it's establishment has worked on awareness, training and specific suicide prevention and post-vention initiatives in County Kilkenny.

In March 2011, a project worker was employed on a part time basis (14hours per week) to help the project evolve, develop and sustain itself into the future.

Lifeline was involved in a wide range of activities in 2011. In collaboration with the Regional Suicide Resource Office (South) training was rolled out in the community in SafetALK, ASIST and Understanding Self Harm. The Peer Support Education Programme was delivered to ten participants (five groups of two) who are now trained as Peer Support Facilitators in Youth Mental Health. These trained facilitators are a resource to the Ossory Youth organisation and to the wider community and are available to deliver the training to community groups and organisations.

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th) Lifeline organized a very successful morning seminar on Suicide Awareness. 'Developing Community Resilience and Understanding' was held in Butler House on September 9th and was very well attended by a cross section of community, voluntary and statutory interests as well as individuals. Papers about Mental Health and Human Rights, Suicide in the Traveller Community, Rural Isolation, Bereavement Support for Families affected by suicide as well as a positive mental health workshop were delivered and it was agreed that this would become an annual event in the Lifeline events calendar.

Lifeline in collaboration with Foroige wrote the application for a 'Jigsaw' Youth Mental Health Project for County Kilkenny. It was an expansive piece of work which despite being unsuccessful, can be used as a resource for the future. Lifeline also agreed to take part in the Headstrong Learning Network (HLN) as an outcome of that process.

In May the Irish Association of Suicidology (IAS) embarked on a series of Countrywide consultations with groups and organisations working in suicide prevention. This process was to design an accreditation system for suicide prevention organisations. Lifeline was involved in this process and has agreed to become part of a regional steering group.

Other activities in 2011 have included ongoing training of the development worker, upgrading and redesign of the Lifeline website and social media, press and media work in collaboration with local print and broadcast media and networking with other organisations and Lifeline's member groups. In December 2011 Lifeline launched it's 'Looking after your emotional wellbeing at Christmas' media event with the help of church and civic leaders, the Mayor and Lifeline's core members. It received extensive coverage in both local print and broadcast media.

Strategic Aim 3: To build an organisation of staff, volunteers, and young people that work together in a manner that is flexible, innovative, and committed to the highest standards of youth work practice.

National Quality Standards Framework

In 2011 Ossory Youth underwent the Department of Children and Youth Affairs National Quality Standards Process. The process affirmed the work of the organisation but also identified some areas for improvement. We will address these improvements as part of the National Quality Standards ongoing process with the department.

Policy Development

In 2011 we developed our financial management policy and we also approved our sexual health and relationship policy. We also participated in policy development training through progression routes. The Board also reviewed its child protection policy.

Volunteers

Volunteers are involved at local and national levels of the organisation through their work on Ossory Youth and Youth Work Ireland's Board of Directors and Advisory Groups. The organisation has always partnered with volunteers in local areas and supported them to deliver a network of Youth Clubs across the region. Volunteers also support staff in the delivery of programmes such as International Youth Exchanges, 421 Peer Education and Summer Camps.



DRUG
AWARENESS
WEEK
Saturday 1pm

Ossory Youth and Youth Work Ireland values and recognises their enormous contribution to youth work in Kilkenny City and County and South Laois through volunteer recognition events. All volunteers are subject to Ossory Youth's recruitment process and work within the guidelines of Ossory Youth policies and best youth work practice.

In 2011 there was an increase in volunteers available to the organisation we now have volunteers working with projects and programmes. Project volunteers are managed by the project coordinator and are working directly with groups and have increased our capacity to deliver programmes in communities. Two volunteers were trained as teen between workers, two volunteers are engaged by the KCDI project and are currently involved in developing a support group for young people in recovery and they are also involved in developing a fishing project for young people at risk. There are also a number of volunteers engaged in the delivery of spy projects, literacy work and Garda youth diversion projects.

Garda Vetting

In 2011 Ossory Youth began the process of re-vetting all personnel working with young people throughout the organisation. This will be completed in 2012.

Desart Hall

The organisation continues to develop Desart Hall. In 2011 the Board secured a loan to re-roof Desart hall and carry out other refurbishment work.

Ossory Youth Structure

Ossory Youth is a voluntary youth work organisation. It is a company limited by guarantee and has charitable status. It is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors.



Hiking in the sun



Taking on the Big Challenge in Enniskerry

KPEG 'thrills' the crowd for drug awareness week



OSSORY YOUTH SERVICES

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

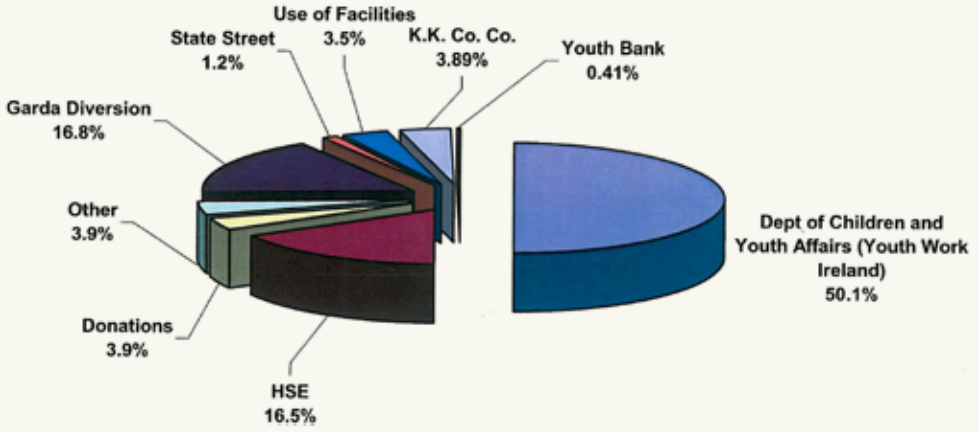
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2011

	31ST DEC.2011	31ST DEC. 2010
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	€309,013	€191,012
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	€30,917	€51,529
Cash at bank	€216,243	€216,090
	<u>€247,160</u>	<u>€276,619</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts Falling Due		
Within One Year	<u>(€73,165)</u>	<u>(€61,416)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>€173,995</u>	<u>€206,203</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	€483,008	€397,215
CREDITORS (Falling due after 1 yr)	(€124,569)	
NET ASSETS	<u><u>€358,439</u></u>	<u><u>€397,215</u></u>
RESERVES		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	<u>€358,439</u>	<u>€397,215</u>
	<u><u>€358,439</u></u>	<u><u>€397,215</u></u>

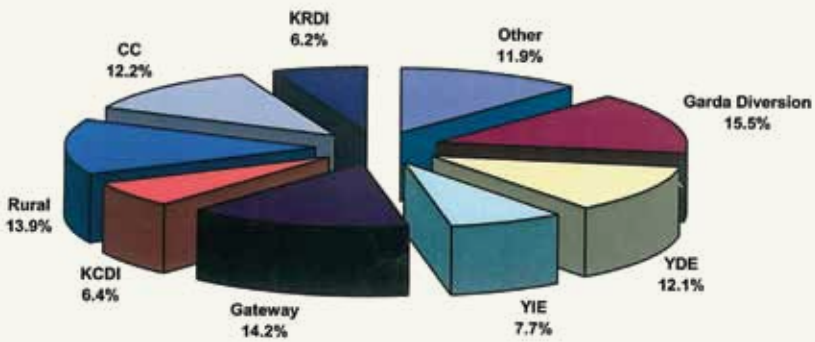
On Behalf of the Board

Padraig Fleming (Chairperson)
Liz Dermody
Monica O Shea
Eamonn Daly
Ian Coulter
Seamus Morrissey
Brenda Whitely
Treaasa Forristal
Fr. William Purcell
Ellen Lynch

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



OSSORY YOUTH STAFF

Mary Mescal

Chief Executive Officer
mmescal@ossoryyouth.com

Phil Hennessy

Part-time Administrator
phennessy@ossoryyouth.com

Maureen Brennan

Rural Outreach Project Worker
mbrennan@ossoryyouth.com

Martina Maher

Rural Outreach Project Worker
mmaher@ossoryyouth.com

Kevin O'Driscoll

Callan/Castlecomer Project Youth Worker
kdriscoll@ossoryyouth.com

David Gray

Kilkenny Rural Drugs Initiative Project Worker
dgray@ossoryyouth.com

Paul Bolger

Garda Youth Diversion Project Co-ordinator
pbolger@ossoryyouth.com

Edel Peate

Garda Youth Diversion Project Worker
edelpeate@ossoryyouth.com

Jane Furey

Youth Information Worker
jfarey@ossoryyouth.com

Malcom Noonan

Project Worker (parttime) Life-line Project Worker
mnoonan@ossoryyouth.com

Patrick Bookle

Gateway Project Co-ordinator
pbookle@ossoryyouth.com

Jacinta Purcell

Gateway Project Worker
jhogan@ossoryyouth.com

Mel Bay

Kilkenny City Drugs Initiative Project Worker
mbay@ossoryyouth.com

Eilis Brophy

Youth Worker
ebrophy@ossoryyouth.com





OSSORY YOUTH ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Ossory Youth
Desart Hall
New Street
Kilkenny

Ph: 056 776 1200
Fax: 056 775 2385
Web: www.ossoryyouth.com

