



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

LOURDES YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Crèche

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Youth Work Programme

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Community Training Centre

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Adult Education Programme

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Development Education

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Community Employment



OVERVIEW OF LYCS IN NUMBERS

Childcare (0-5yr olds)

78 children in crèche

1 child with diagnosed additional needs

8 children waiting on assessment for additional needs

10 children in emergency accommodation

3 children under the care of the State

Youth Work Programme (10-21yr olds)

91 individual members (32 male and 59 female) participated in programmes throughout the year.

Over 50 young people participated in 4 weekend residential trips to the Wexford Centre.

30 young people gained certification from Irish Water Safety Accredited Training

20 young people developed a collaborated arts project with SWAN & Ballybough Youth Project.

15 young people developed team building skills in the Cavan Centre.

2 young people progressed to QQI Youth and Community Development level 5.

1 young person progressed to employment.

5 young people progressed onto the LYCS CTC programme.

Community Training Centre (16-21yr old early school leavers)

Of those who left CTC in 2019:

- 31.5% progressed onto employment.
- 38% progressed onto further education.

145 achieved QQI levels 3 & 4 completed.

9 learners completed an Occupational First Aid course.

12 learners completed a Drug Awareness programme.

3 learners completed a Youth Leadership programme.

14 young people took part in work experience placements.

9 learners completed a series of sexual health seminars.

Community Employment Scheme

39 long term unemployed participants participated on scheme.

1 achieved QQI Major Award

26 QQI Minor Awards completed

39 took part in uncertified/industry standard/work related training.

Of those who left CE in 2019:

- 37.5% progressed onto employment
- 12.5% progressed onto self-employment
- 12.5% progressed onto full-time education

Adult Education Programme

Over 80 men and women took part in the Programme's activities, with an average weekly attendance of 65 people.

20 adults contributed art work to the 'Better Than Chocolate' Art Exhibition.

Development Education

246 people engaged in a wide range of DE activities

Zero Waste Educator trainings have prepared over 35 people to develop their own workshops on raising awareness and developing action strategies to address the issue.

CONTENTS:

PAGE:

LYCS IN NUMBERS	2
PHILOSOPHY OF LYCS	3
OVERVIEW: DIRECTOR / CHAIRPERSON	6
PROFILE OF LYCS	7
LYCS'S PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITY	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRÈCHE• COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE• YOUTH PROGRAMME• ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME• DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION• COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	41
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	41



PHILOSOPHY

To encourage people to be aware of their own power and how they can use it to effect change and that every person has the right to participate fully in their own, their communities, and their country's development.

LYCS VISION

We envision a time when no person in our community is left behind, when aspirations are high and our community has excellent services and humanising employment. We work to ensure this future by providing opportunities for the oldest, the youngest, newest and most vulnerable people in our community.

Our 'cradle to grave' provision endeavours to create an equality of opportunity for all our neighbours by providing high quality affordable childcare to support relevant educational programmes leading to positive futures characterised by choice.

As the foremost provider of community based education and training services in our community, we work in an ambitious and creative way to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality. Our programmes are needs and evidence based and are continually reviewed and evaluated to ensure the best possible provision in Dublin's north east inner city.



LYCS PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

To address the diverse needs of the local community LYCS operates the following programmes:

First Steps Crèche and Preschool

LYCS First Steps provides over 70 places for children from 0-5 years each day in our crèche, including free Pre-School Places. Many of the parents of the children who use the crèche are drawn from all four programmes within LYCS and live locally. Referrals are made by parents/guardians, Social Workers, Public Health Nurses, Focus Ireland and other relevant professionals.

Youth Work Programme

The Youth Work Programme offers afternoon, evening and weekend programmes plus regular trips outside of Dublin for up to 80 young people aged 10-21 years.

Community Training Centre (CTC)

40 Early School Leavers have the opportunity to gain accredited training in QQI Levels 3 & 4 in a range of modules and subjects.

Adult Education Programme

Provides informal training and education for over 80 women and men each week, all of whom have little or no history of formal education.

Development Education

LYCS facilitates the promotion of development education within the community development / education sector in Dublin's North Inner City and across Ireland.

Community Employment Scheme

LYCS operates a CE Scheme with 35 participants some of whom are based in LYCS while others are placed in community projects throughout the North inner city.



OVERVIEW OF 2019

*** Childcare * Community Training Centre * Youth Programme ***
*** Adult Education Programme * Development Education ***
*** Community Employment Scheme ***

Despite resources and funding remaining scarce, 2019 was another eventful year for LYCS. Over 300 participants achieved many goals as they worked hard to engage in the wide variety of educational, training and social programmes on offer in the project.

In the past year, local people continued to suffer the effects of living in an area of Dublin which experiences a high level of open drug dealing and associated crime. Coupled with decades of social disadvantage, and neglect, generational unemployment and widespread drug/alcohol misuse a large proportion of the local population could not contribute in a meaningful way to the economy. The rise in the use of drugs, particularly in tablet form, has made the local environment more challenging and less safe for everyone.

We, in LYCS, believe that increased levels of education and training are required if people are to access stable, adequately paid employment and benefit from the fruits of the emerging economic recovery. Our challenge for 2020 is to continue to actively engage local people in a positive way and to act as a haven of hope and development in order to counter the negative social and economic challenges facing the community in the north inner city.

Refurbishment of Rutland Street School

The community received confirmation in October 2017, as part of the North East Inner City (NEIC) Task Force, that the old Rutland Street School will be refurbished into a thriving community education centre. This facility will become a valuable resource for the local community into the future. There has been a huge level of positive local support for this development. The refurbishment process will began in 2019 and is expected to be complete by 2022.

Move from School-on-Stilts

Unfortunately, 2019 was the year LYCS moved out of Rutland Street School and the School-on-Stilts, the latter being deemed unfit for use. This has provided LYCS with serious accommodation challenges, however, our programmes were eventually housed in four separate building whilst we await the opening of Rutland Street School.

Dublin Inner City Community Co-Op

LYCS is a founder member of the newly formed Co-Op along with 12 other community development organisations who have come together to create a cohesive approach to the delivery of services for the most disadvantaged areas in Dublin's Inner City.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and volunteers for their contribution, energy, commitment and continuous sense of humour, which they bring to work every day – without which LYCS would not be the hive of activity that it is. Thanks are also due to the members of the Board of Directors for their on-going, voluntary commitment, which is very much appreciated. We hope you enjoy reading this report and do contact us if you would like any more information about LYCS.

SARAH KELLEHER
DIRECTOR

NESSAN VAUGHAN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PROFILE OF LYCS

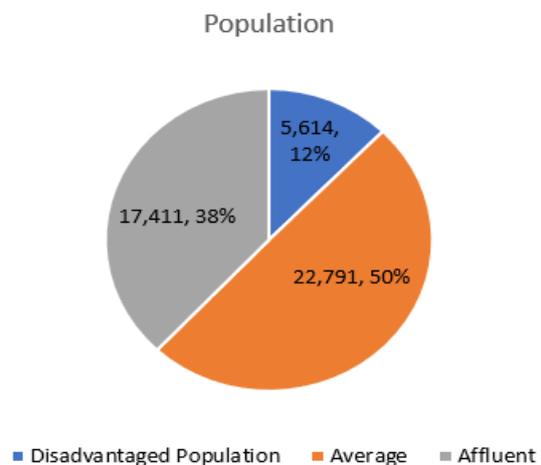
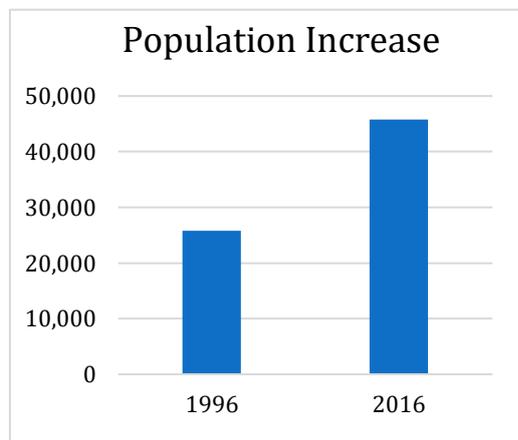
Lourdes Youth & Community Services (LYCS) was established in 1984, as part of a broad based community development movement, which emerged in Dublin's north inner city in the late 70's and 80's. This community mobilisation was an attempt to combat the relentless economic and social decline being experienced in inner city Dublin. Families living in the area experience levels of economic and social disadvantage. Unemployment levels are high and the misuse of drugs is widespread.

LYCS is an integrated community based *education, training, recreation and development* project which is concerned with giving participants the opportunity to become involved in their own development and the development of their community. The organisation is locally based and participatory. Personal development is seen as inextricably linked to the development of local community resources.

PROFILE OF THE LOCAL AREA:

LYCS operates in an area which is characterised by high levels of socio-economic deprivation and poverty.

North East Inner City: The total population of the NEIC is 45,816. The NEIC has the largest population of disadvantaged people across the Dublin inner city area. Thanks to Dublin City Community Coop for producing the following statistics.

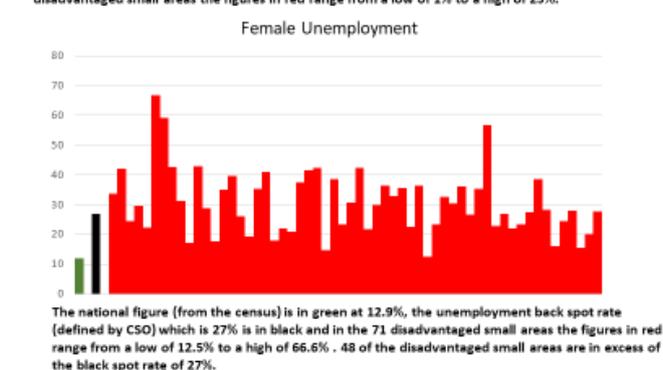
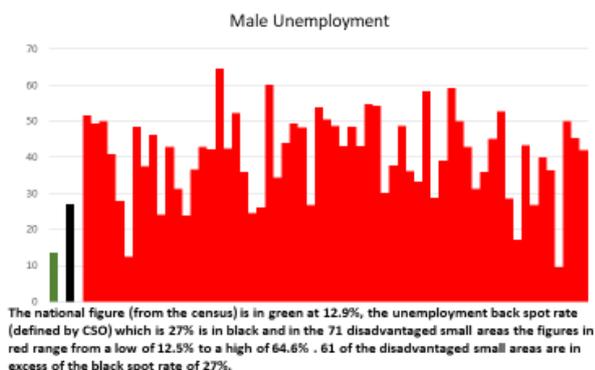
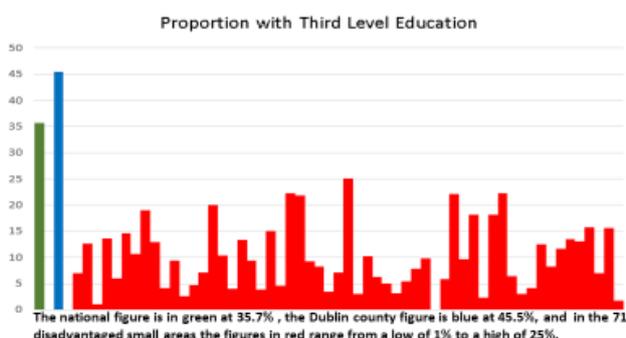
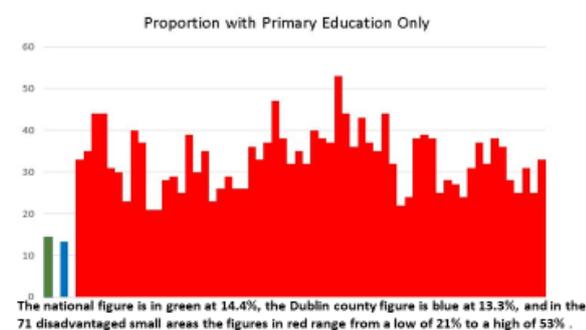


The key disadvantaged populations in the NEIC are located in the following area:

- North Wall/Sherriff St.
- Along and around the intersection and areas of Sean McDermott St/Buckingham St. and Summerhill.
- Ballybough and Popular Row areas.
- Pockets at Hardwicke St/ Dorset St/ Dominick St.

Key issues and opportunities in the NEIC

- The NEIC population has increased very significantly in the last 20 years. The newer populations in the NEIC area are more affluent than the 'indigenous populations.
- The area is characterised by opposing pockets of high levels of disadvantage and high levels of affluence, and has marked spikes in both.
- There has been significant development, particularly to the east end of the area, around the Docklands and the IFSC, with both commercial and large scale accommodation developments.
- This area has the largest population of migrants in Ireland. Migrant populations in areas around O'Connell St and Dorset St. are at over 50% of the population.
- The area has also been the centre of significant levels of gangland crime.



Lone Parenthood

There are very high levels of lone parenthood in the areas of socio-economic disadvantage in the inner city. Nationally the rate of lone parenthood is 25.4%, in the county of Dublin the ratio is 38.2%¹ In the inner city, in disadvantaged communities, lone parenthood is not only the predominant family type, but in some parts it is almost the exclusive family type, for example in parts of Dorset Street Flats (Dublin 1) it is 86%² and Ballybough House (Dublin 1) has a rate of 87%.³ While it is acknowledged that two-parent families may also experience material poverty, lone parents are a particularly vulnerable social group. Lone parent households tend to have the lowest disposable income out of all households in the State.

Migrants / New Communities

Dublin city has the highest population densities of migrants in the country. Nationally, 17.3% of the population were born outside Ireland, in the inner city the population born outside Ireland is 32.3% (47,873 people) almost twice the national average. However, 61% of the population of Mountjoy B ED in the north inner city were born outside of Ireland. Many live in very low quality over crowded, private accommodation in commercial districts such as Dorset Street/Parnell Street.

Education

Educational disadvantage is very clearly evident when educational achievement statistics in the small areas of disadvantage in the inner city are examined. In disadvantaged small areas it is more likely an individual has no post-primary education than having a third level qualification, while in the more affluent communities the reverse is true. In the disadvantaged small areas, a very high proportion of people have a primary education only. In the area of *County Dublin City*⁴ the proportion of those with a primary education only is 14.4% and nationally the figure is 13.3%, whereas in some disadvantaged small areas this is around 40%. For example, in Dorset Street⁵, 53% of the population have primary education only,

¹ http://census.cso.ie/sapmap2011/Results.aspx?Geog_Type=CTY&Geog_Code=02&CTY=02#T4_430

² Small area 268081014

³ Small area 268009006

⁴ Layer area CSO Census 2016 Sapmap Area: County Dublin City

⁵ Small area 268081014

For one area in North Wall the number is 53%⁶. Therefore, the chance of having a minimal education is very high if living in a disadvantaged community. Correspondingly, people in disadvantaged communities have not received a third level education. In the area of *County Dublin City* the proportion of those with a third level education is 45.5% and nationally the figure is 35.7%. But in the disadvantaged small areas, a much lower proportion of people have a third level education, often less than 5% e.g. Dorset Street (Dublin 1) at 3.03%⁷, Summerhill (Dublin 1) at 2.67%⁸, Courtney Place 1.00%⁹, (Dublin 1) This disadvantage is continuing with the current cohort of third level students. In 2014 the Higher Education Authority found that 23% of students in Dublin 1 progressed to third level, while in the greater Dublin area 69% of students went on to third level education. The Dublin city average was 47%.¹⁰

Unemployment

Unemployment over many decade has placed enormous pressure on disadvantaged communities. It is important to note that the rates for young people who are unemployed remains high, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for persons aged 15-24 years (youth unemployment rate) was 12.6% in December 2019. The above figures represent national rates but critically they hide alarming rates of unemployment in a number of localised communities. There are pockets in the inner city where unemployment rates are many multiples of the national rate.

SCHOOL-ON-STILTS

On 7th September, LYCS had to move out of the school on stilts as the building was deemed unsafe. This presented the organisation with a major challenge in that there was no suitable accommodation locally to house the whole organisation. Fortunately, the crèche had established itself in Hardwicke Street in February 2019 and LYCS had some space in Beaver Street which could be used for other programmes. It took several months to rehouse the Adult Education Programme and CE Scheme in Connolly House, on the invitation of the CDETB. Eventually the Youth Work Programme availed of a community room in Summerhill Court, at the invitation of senior residents and DCC.

REFURBISHMENT OF RUTLAND STREET SCHOOL

The NEIC is changing, demographically, socially, and economically. The educational and training needs of young people are also changing. Accordingly, organisations, such as LYCS, must also respond in a dynamic way to the needs of young people in the NEIC. The proposal to refurbish Rutland Street School has been welcomed by everyone in the community.

- **Focal Point for Community:** A newly refurbished Rutland Street School will enhance the visual aspect of the area and serve as a focal point for community activities in the NEIC. The building will act as a focus and information point for the local community, thereby attracting and helping to regularise relationships with local employers.
- **Centre of Excellence:** Participants and visitors to Rutland Street School will have the opportunity to access a user-friendly environment, specially designed to cater for their needs in a centre of educational and training excellence.
- **Value for Money:** housing several community based organisations under one roof will promote the sharing of resources and a reduction in overall costs.

⁶ Small area 268109001

⁷ Small area 268081014

⁸ Small area 268105013

⁹ Small area 268009009

¹⁰ Figures from the [Higher Education Authority \(HEA\)](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/some-99-of-dublin-6-students-go-on-to-third-level-1.1901885) <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/some-99-of-dublin-6-students-go-on-to-third-level-1.1901885>

Management Structure

The project is managed by a locally based voluntary Board of Directors which has, over the past 30 years, shown huge commitment to the organisation. This board meets once a month. LYCS employs a CEO who is responsible to the Board of Directors for the work of the organisation. Programme Managers are responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation.

Number and frequency of meetings during the year.

Board of Directors meets one evening per month for eleven months of the year. The annual system of reporting to funders acts as a catalyst for LYCS to evaluate the work of the previous year and to plan the work for the coming year. This is carried out initially with staff and volunteers and then with the Board of Directors. Considering LYCS is now involved in a wide variety of programmes, the review and planning session is a long process whereby each activity and programme of work is reviewed in detail from the participants', the organisation's and the community's perspective.

Structure of Committee Meetings e.g. (Agenda/minutes/staff participation).

Board of Director meetings are chaired by the Chairperson. The Agenda is agreed in advance by the Chairperson and the CEO, but all members have the opportunity to add items to the agenda if they wish. Minutes and agenda, together with a monthly report from the CEO and each Programme Manager are distributed in advance of each meeting. Members of the Board bring a broad range of experience as they come from a variety of backgrounds (community, education, legal, financial) with many years' experience of involvement in local community affairs.

Staffing

The sense of team in LYCS is very strong where people compliment each other's skills and strengths and work together to maximum effect especially in the light of current changes. Staff development within LYCS is given a high priority and staff are facilitated to participate in training, which will enhance their skills. As a part of the work, teamwork and team spirit has been nurtured and developed by regular team building sessions which has been important in terms of assisting staff's motivation for the work. Staff have proved to be flexible, enthusiastic and committed to their work. There is an increased willingness to welcome change should LYCS need to revise the programme on offer to meet local need.

Local Community Networking

LYCS works closely with other local service providers and participates on a wide variety of networks locally to share information, receive and offer advice on issues affecting the local community. including:

- North Inner City Community Coalition
- NEIC Task Force
- Dublin City Community Co-Operative
- Minority Ethnic Communities Steering Committee
- NEIC network of youth work organisations and CTC / Youthreach.
- Young People at Risk (YPAR) participation on its forum which aims to facilitate a variety of statutory agencies and government departments to work in partnership together to develop a co-ordinated response to the needs of young people at risk.

FIRST STEPS PRESCHOOL AND CRÈCHE

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8:45 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

First Steps crèche is a community crèche and all funds generated go back into developing the service and enhancing the childcare experience for all of our children. We give priority to parents who live in the local area who are returning to employment or education.

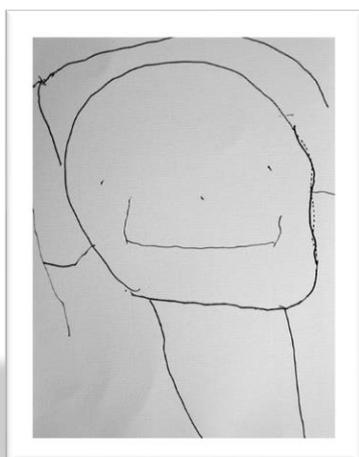


Programme Activities

- LYCS moved to the purpose built crèche and preschool in Hardwicke Street in May 2019 to allow for the refurbishment of Rutland Street School.
- 75 children from 6 months to 5 years access full-time and sessional services.
- Through additional staffing supports under the NEDSCI scheme, the crèche is one of the few childcare services locally to provide places for children from 6 months old.
- LYCS uses a play-based emergent curriculum approach to the children's learning.
- All core staff are trained at QQI Level 6 in Early Years Education.
- The crèche provides work based training for CE & TUS workers, College students, Transition Year students, CTC learners, Jobs Initiative Workers
- LYCS provides a service for children whose parents access other LYCS training and from the local community.

Crèche promotes:

- Healthy eating and prepares freshly made breakfasts and dinners each day and staff strive to meet all the children's cultural and dietary requirements.
- Equality in the crèche, ensuring the diversity of the children is celebrated through the promotion of diverse reading materials, music, language and food and that a positive learning environment is created.
- Positive health through the 'Healthy Ireland Smart Start'. This includes; Health Promotion, Emotional Well Being/Literacy, Physical Activity, Oral Health, Health and Safety and Nutrition.

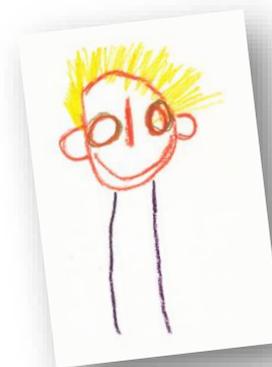


In 2019, the crèche worked with children and families from 12 different countries, with many languages and cultures. There were over 10 children who are living in temporary accommodation in B & Bs or Hotels throughout the city. Five of the families were recently housed. Referrals are made by Social Workers, Public Health Nurses, parents and Focus Ireland.

Working with small children with individual needs requires staff to be observant, good listeners, patient, supportive, good communicators, creative, show respect to others, have a good imagination, be open to children's wants and needs, good awareness, show empathy, understanding and most of all, have compassion and have fun, show love, respect and care for the children. In essence our approach is development, education and learning through play.

Childcare (6 months -5yr olds) achievements from 2019

- 78 children in crèche
- 1 child with diagnosed additional needs
- 8 children waiting on assessment for additional needs
- 10 children in emergency accommodation
- 3 children under the care of the State



Group	2018	2019
Baby Morning	0	8
Toddler Morning	10	10
Tweeny Morning	12	12
Pre ECCE Morning	0	10
ECCE Morning	12	12
Baby Afternoon	0	6
Toddler Afternoon	12	10
Tweeny Afternoon	8	10
ECCE Afternoon	8	0
Totals	62	78

LYCS works closely with YPAR and DCYA in providing 10 places for children who are referred by Social Workers, Public Health Nurses etc to meet the needs of children under 2 years old in the area.

The needs of the children are at the centre of everything the creche provides. It offers a play based, emergent curriculum designed to match individual children's interests.

Overview of the year

- Continuous professional development ensures the promotion of a highly trained staff team:
- All core early years educators and NEDSCI staff are fully trained or are currently training at QQI Level 6 Early Childhood Care and Education training.
- Community Employment staff were supported to participate in QQI Level 5 and Level 6 Childcare training to enable them to progress onto professional careers in Childcare.
- Staff are participating in Lámh Training (sign language) to support children with non-verbal communication.
- All Staff completed First Aid Training, Child Protection Training and Manual Handling

Parental supports:

In 2019, the majority of parents were in receipt of a welfare benefit. Some parents attended LYCS programme or local colleges for training and education whilst their children attended our crèche. This gives parents the opportunity to develop and learn knowing their child is in a safe, fun, learning environment. This also gives them an opportunity for future employment which benefits themselves, their children and the community.

Children with additional needs: In 2019, 6 children with additional needs attended the crèche. However, many children are awaiting a diagnosis of requiring additional needs services. LYCS continued to support their needs and the needs of their families. Funding was secured for 2 extra support staff to work directly with 3 preschool children with additional needs. The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. It's goal is to empower pre-school providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can meaningfully participate in the ECCE Programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education. Whilst this is beneficial, it is accessible for children over 3 years with additional needs, it is not available for children under 3 years. There are 10 children awaiting assessment for additional supports.

Additional professional supports: To ensure the provision of quality care and education for the children in the service and meeting the needs of the families in this community, the following supports from statutory bodies have been availed of: Better Start Quality Development Initiative; the Access and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities Programme and the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme.

Better Start Quality Development Initiative: This is an initiative of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The Better Start Access and Inclusion model offers a range of supports (since June 2016) including on-site mentors (Early Years Specialist's) to ensure that all children with disabilities can access and fully participate in preschool. This model provides Expert Early Years Education Advice to ECCE providers and supports providers, parents and children to access additional resources, where necessary. The Early Years Specialist's work collaboratively with HSE and other agencies to ensure children with disabilities can participate fully in ECCE.



Quality Development (Mentoring) Service: LYCS crèche has recently started the Quality Development (Mentoring) Service to enhance quality of practice in early years settings. The Early Years Specialist will visit the service every 2 weeks for a year and use the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, 2014) as a key resource in mentoring services to develop ECEC quality for children. The purpose of the Practice Guide is to support practitioners in using Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (2009) and Síolta, The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education (2006) together to develop the quality of their curriculum and in doing so, to better support children's learning and development.

The Area Based Childhood (ABC) programme:

Jointly funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies, ABC targets investment in evidence-informed interventions to improve the long-term outcomes for children and families living in areas of disadvantage. It aims to break, *“the cycle of child poverty within areas where it is most deeply entrenched and where children are most disadvantaged, through integrated and effective services and interventions”* (Programme for Government, 2013) in the areas of child development, child well-being, parenting and educational disadvantage.

Special Events in 2019

- A farewell party/Graduation for all the 'Big' children who went off to big school was held in August 2019. The crèche always celebrates various events throughout the year including many, many birthday parties, Easter and Halloween.
- A party was held to mark the end of an era when LYCS closed the doors to the crèche in Rutland Street in May 2019. The official opening in Hardwicke Street took place in July 2019 to celebrate the new chapter in the LYCS Crèche and preschool
- Santa made a surprise visit to our Christmas Party to give all the children lots of lovely presents.

The Future

LYCS Crèche will continue to work in Hardwicke Street until the refurbishment of Rutland Street School is complete in 2022.

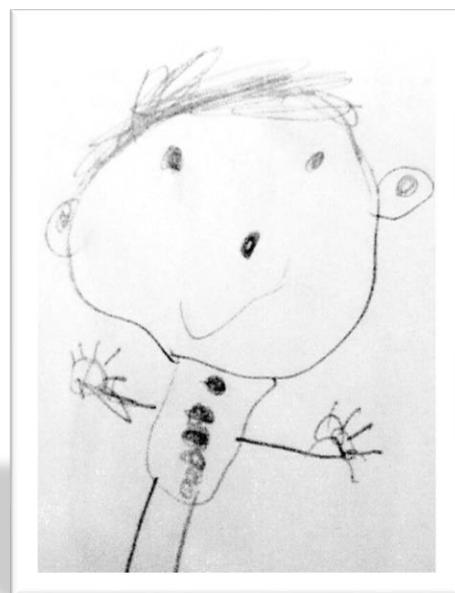
The National Childcare Scheme came into effect in November 2019, however, the current funding won't change for children registered in September 2019 under the old childcare schemes. The following is information under the new National Childcare Scheme:

- Universal Subsidies are available to all families with children under 3 years old. (€20 per week)
- Income Assessed Subsidies: parents who are working, studying or training, the maximum number of subsidised hours available per week are 40. Parents who are not working, studying or training, the maximum number of subsidised hours available per week are 15.
- Referrals from sponsor bodies e.g. Tusla, HSE may give additional hours to families who require supports.

The voice of parents:

“*The staff at LYCS are a huge support to my son and myself especially since I've returned to education. As a first time parent and a single parent I'm always asking am I doing it right. LYCS not only reassure me but are always there to listen. He gets love, care, home cooked food, education not only in a formal sense but also on an emotional and relationship level*”

“*It's been a hard couple of years for me. I was in care as a child and now my kids have been in and out of care 'cause I'm struggling. I do my best but it's hard. The crèche girls are always there for me and my kids always. They keep her late when I have to attend my meetings. They help me keep it together for my kids*”



YOUTH WORK PROGRAMME 2019

The Youth Work Programme is committed to providing a quality service for young people from the local community that is directed by the young people themselves and as such responds to their real needs. Programmes include:

Youth Work Programme Groups

- Dingo's group (mixed 9+yrs)
- Secondary School group 1 (mixed 12+yrs)
- Secondary School group 2 (mixed 14+yrs)
- Senior groups (mixed 16+ yrs)
- Senior Volunteers (mixed 18+)
- Camera Club (mixed 12+)
- Arts Programme intergrated programme with Swan & BYC (mixed 13+)
- Bee Fit 4 week programme for our junior members
- Shake it Up Creative play 4 week programme for 9+
- Water Safety Programme (mixed 9+ yrs)
- Residential Weekend Programme X 4 per year in Wexford
- Residential Trip to Cavan for Senior group and SSG 1 group
- Summer Programme – 6 weeks
- Midterm programmes
- Easter programme
- One to one supports
- Special activities programmes:
 - Bullying
 - Development Education,
 - Anti-racism training
 - Drug awareness.
 - Mental Health issues
 - Art
 - Health & Beauty
 - Sexual Health
 - Educational



Achievements during 2019

- 91 individual members (32 male and 59 female) participated in programmes throughout the year.
- Over 50 members participated in 4 weekend residential trips to the Wexford Centre.
- 12 members completed **Irish Water Safety** certification in Safety 1 & 2.
- 10 members completed **Irish Water Safety** certification in Safety 3 & 4.
- 6 members completed **Irish Water Safety** certification in Rescue 2 & 3 and Enduramce 2.
- 2 members are in the process of becoming training instructors with Irish Water Safety.
- Powerful Youth, the NEIC arts collaboration. 3 groups from LYCS, Ballybough and Swan Youth Service aged 13 to 25 yrs engaged in a development art process with 2 resident artists. Young people with the support of an artist and a youth worker developed their proficiency in the art form of their choice and used this to capture and express their ideas, thoughts and feelings about issues relevent to them as young people or affecting their community. They then had an Arts Showcase event /exhibition planned and organised by the young people in the Dlite Studios and Croke Park.
- Participants developed team building skills in the Cavan Centre with the SSG1 group.



- Staff member completed Life Guard Revalidation.
- 2 members of the Senior group have progressed to QQI Youth and Community Development level 5.
- 2 staff, 1 on CE and another on NEDCSI participated on QQI Youth and Community Development. Level 5.
- 1 Senior group member progressed to employment.
- 5 members of the Senior group progressed onto the LYCS CTC programme.

The aims of the project are as follows:

- To prevent young people from getting involved in anti-social behaviour and drug/alcohol use through the provision of alternative programmes that meet their needs.
- To provide a dynamic range of programmes to young people from the inner city that will equip them with key skills such as communication, teamwork, youth leadership and self-initiative.

- To promote integration and share good practice through partnership projects with other youth groups in the Dublin area.
- To integrate the work of LYCS's four programmes of activity: Community Training Centre (CTC), Adult Education Programme and Childcare Centre with the Youth Work Programme.
- To ensure that Youth Work Programme activities adhere to Health & Safety legislation.
- To continue to offer special activity programmes during the year and thematic projects e.g. drugs and alcohol, sexual health, nutrition and fitness educational programmes.

Target group

Our participants are drawn from social housing complexes locally and are considered to be at risk but may not have as yet engaged formally with the Gardai, Probation & Welfare and/or the Courts. Young people are selected on the basis that they:

- Live in the immediate local area and/or
- Referred from other services e.g. youth groups, probation and social services, local schools, Community Training Centres,



Methodology

LYCS uses the following methodologies in its service delivery:

- **Centre based** afternoon, evening and weekend programmes
- **External** residential educational programmes e.g. Wexford Centre and camping programmes; day trips outside of Dublin.
- **Drop in** –promotes recruitment of new members who then transfer to an appropriate smaller group
- **Group work** –small groups who complete a task or explore an issue e.g. arts/dance event or bullying
- **Educational development programme** - on specific topics e.g. sexual health awareness, drug/alcohol awareness, development education, anti-bullying.
- **One-to-one advocacy support** for individuals e.g. information on educational progression routes, welfare advice
- **Outreach programme** – working with other services as a means of gaining referrals, devising common solutions to problems effecting young people.

LYCS works intensively with groups of 10-15 young people in each session except for our Drop-In which could have up to 25 young people in the centre at one time. Over a week all of our young people participate in our services. Our summer programme offers intensive one day programmes for each of our groups rather than having all of our participants in the centre at any one time. This is to ensure delivery of a high quality service for individual participants but it is also at the request of the young people who showed preference for accessing intensive, mostly external, programmes, less often rather than large group centre-based activities each day.

Programme review and project evaluation

A relationship of respect and trust is nurtured and established between the Youth Work team and young people. A range of evaluation techniques are applied that involve young people through buzz groups, questionnaires, Individual Volunteer Profiles/Plans and group evaluation / feedback sessions, programme records and project evaluations as well as ongoing and informal feedback from the young people. All programmes are reviewed and evaluated formally at the end of each term.

LYCS Youth Work Programme Timetable January to December 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30 to 5pm Drop In Juniors Mixed 9-11yrs		1.30 - 4.00pm Camera Club Mixed 13 -15 yrs		3pm to 5pm Drop In + Swimming (all ages mixed)
5.30pm - 7.30pm Secondary School Group 1 Mixed 12 – 14 yrs	5.30pm - 7.30pm Secondary school group 2 Mixed 14– 16 yrs	3.30 – 4.30pm Bee Fit healthy club 9 + Mixed x 4 Wks.	3.30 - 5.30pm Dingo’s group 9 – 12yrs mixed	Weekends 4 x Residential trips to the Wexford Centre per year
	8.00pm - 10.00pm Senior group 16 – 19 yrs Mixed	4.30 – 8.30 pm Arts Programme 13 – 25 yrs mixed Swan		
		7:45 to 9:15 Water Safety in Belvedere College Pool		
Summer Programme: 6 weeks July – August Midterm Programme: 1 week in February & 1 week in October Easter 2-week programme NEIC Halloween festival, August, September and October				
Special activities: Adventure sports, health & beauty, healthy cooking, Baking, sports, swimming, computers, homework, IT, media studies, art, football, Hillwalking, walks, one-to-one supports to access college, volunteering, pool, games, football matches, Camera and film work				

The number of young people the Youth Work programme worked with in 2018

Age	Male	Female	TOTAL
9-21	32	59	91

Residential weekends

4 residential weekends were delivered during the year and were a real highlight for all of LYCS's young people. The youth team deliver a variety of programmes including: night games, cycling trips, football, tennis, basketball, swimming, kite flying along with other group activities. Whilst on residential trips, the young people:

- participate in a range of outdoor programmes
- gain valuable independence and life skills
- Learn to work together as a team through planning every aspect of the weekend including; menu, ground rules, cleaning rota. All young people have a real voice in planning and have to take on key responsibilities at each residential. Mutual respect is established between the young people, youth work team and volunteers and the young people gain confidence by being away from home and trying new things.

Having the support of the Junior Leaders on each residential trip is hugely positive. Their experience gained on the Youth Work Programme over the years has meant that they are equipped to act as leaders in conjunction with the youth work staff on residential weekends.



Summer Programme

Features of the Summer Programme included:

- Programmes were delivered in the mornings, afternoons and evening/night-time.
 - Resources used included: Network minibus/driver, Dart Service, LYCS premises, East Wall Water Sports, Adventure Sports Project on the canal.
 - Sessions in East Wall Water Sports Centre where young people availed of kayaking, canoeing, fun and games on the water.
 - Water sports on the canal including kayaking; learning to jump in from different heights and playing games which were a lot of fun. The confidence that the younger age group gained through these sessions was immense.
- The fine weather allowed us the opportunity for very successful day trips e.g. Forty Foot, Wicklow Harbour, Costal Steering, Rock climbing and absailing, Clara Laragh, Bay Sports Tayto Park, Pier Jumping, Zoo, Bowling and Quasar.

Collaborative Arts Programme with LYCS, SWAN & Crinan Project.

The overall aim was to support young people in a high-quality collaborative youth arts process specifically focused on the development of participating young people as peer mentors within an arts programme. The three organisations gradually established a centralised hub for young artists from the NEIC to collaborate and create art expressing the seldom heard voices and critical reflections of an otherwise hidden group in today society, typically made visible only through denigration of their communities in the media. A mentor group from last year's participants continued to develop their skills in mentoring other new young people. Both Artists and Youth workers facilitated participants to explore their ideas and create pieces of art to express their issues. Young people were encouraged to think critically and received media skills training. Finally an exciting art exhibition was held with the support of Croke Park and D Light Studios.

NEIC HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL



**THE BIG SCREAM
NEIC HALLOWEEN
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
2018**



The Big Scream is the north east inner city (NEIC) community Halloween festival. With support and input from community and youth groups, as well as local residents, and the support of statutory agencies such as Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána and Dublin Fire Brigade, the Big Scream, a ten day long festival, was held during October 2018. It was coordinated by Dublin City Community Coop.

2018 was the third year of the festival which has been created by and for the local community, led by community and youth projects based in the area. The festival aims to bring the communities of Sheriff Street, Ballybough and Sean MacDermott Street together to celebrate Halloween in creative ways in a safe, family friendly and fun environment. Therefore, at its core the ethos of the festival is community engagement, participation and empowerment.



Photos from Halloween Night. From Big Scream Facebook Page.
https://www.facebook.com/thebigscram/?_tn=k*F&tn-str=k*F
And Big Scream Website <http://bigscram.ie/gallery/>

LYCS actively participated in both lead-in events and on the night of Halloween itself.

The youth programme had a range of components. It consisted of trips, both day trips and overnights, workshops and visits, as well as locally based competitions to build up to the three lead in events. The programme was focused on young people from 10 to 18, broken down into two age groups, the 10-12 age group who are in primary education and the older 13+.

Trips included:

- Hellfire Club Trip, Approx. 30 young people attended

the Hellfire trip, from ASP and LYCS20.

- Farmaphobia, Approx. 60 young people attended.
- Garda Station visit, Approx. 20 young people attended
- Overnight to Derry including trip to Fright Night Event in the Jungle²². 18 young attended. These were primarily from the Garda Youth Diversion Projects and in the older teen age group.

Workshops provided to local youth organisations including LYCS, were provided as part of the Big Scream youth programme. (extract from Big Scream Evaluation written by Dublin City Community Coop.).

COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE (CTC)

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday	8:30am-5pm
Friday	8:30am-1pm

Mission Statement:

“To give young people the best opportunity to shape their own future in a safe, engaging and proactive environment”

Target Group:

LYCS CTC provides for **16-21**-year olds who:

- Have left school early without any certification
- Have completed the Junior Certificate and wish to achieve a Level 4 Qualification
- Are not suited to the formal educational setting of a secondary school
- Have completed the Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Applied and who still require support to access employment or further education.
- Any Trainee ages 18 and above would be in receipt of Job-seekers Allowance

Programme Activities:

The Community Training Centre’s primary objective is to deliver full-time education, training, personal development, and guidance services to young people (16 to 21) in the local community.

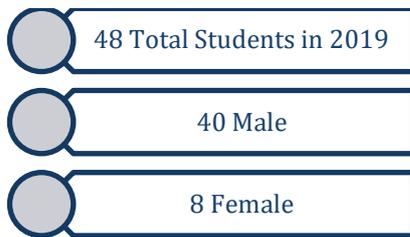
All learners participate on QQI (*Quality and Qualifications Ireland*) courses at Levels 3 and 4 in a variety of subject areas, including Sports, Information Technology, Customer Service, Hospitality, and Personal Development modules.

- **31.5%** of learners who left the centre this year progressed onto employment.
- **38%** of learners who left the centre this year progressed onto further education.
- **30** certificates at QQI levels 3 & 4 awarded (**115** further certificates were carried into 2020)
- **9** learners completed an Occupational First Aid course
- **12** learners completed a Drug Awareness programme
- **3** learners completed a Youth Leadership programme
- **14** learners took part in work experience placements
- **9** Learners took part in Sexual Health Seminars

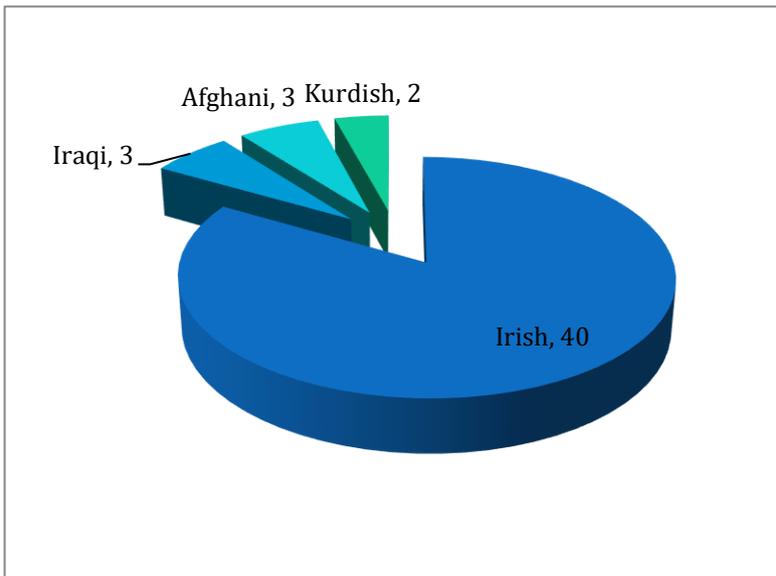
Over the course of 2019, 80% of our Learners were male, and 20% female. Our numbers of female participants fell as 2019 progressed as we ceased providing training in Childcare, which historically was primarily taken up by female Learners. Going forward, and in consultation with other CTC's in the greater Dublin area, we believe the provision of training in Catering will increase the numbers of female learners in our CTC, which is planned for upon our relocation to the new Rutland Street facility.

Further to this, we continue to see an increase in Minority Ethnic Learners and have welcomed the opportunity to embrace cultural diversity in the CTC. In order to better provide training to those to whom English is a 2nd language, our Literacy Support staff work closely with these Learners to ensure they are availing of all our resources in providing their training. ESOL training is planned for all staff in 2020 in this regard.

Learner Profile:



Cultural Demographics:



Timetable:

Sample of CTC daily timetable:

Thursday		ICT	Sports	Blue	Communications Level 3
	09.00-10.00	IT	Sports	Maths	Communications Level 3
	10.00-10.15	Break			
	10.15-11.30	Personal Development	Sport	IT	Maths
	11.30-12.30	Communications Level 4	Maths	Personal Development	Communications Level 3
	12.30-13.00	Lunch			
	13.00-14.00	Maths	Sports - Gym	Communications Level 4	Communications Level 3
	14.00-15.00	IT	Sports - Gym	Personal Development	Communications Level 3

The CTC timetable is ever-changing, to suit both the needs of the learners and those of the staff. Staff continuously review learner progress and amend their timetable accordingly should a Learner need more/less time with a particular Tutor to benefit academic progression.

Overview of 2019

Statistics:

Full subscription	40 Places
Highest No. Registered	29 Learners
Lowest No. Registered	19 Learners
Current No. Registered	24 Learners

Other issues:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, one of the learners in the CTC became a Father. He received 2 weeks Paternity leave, completed his full award in Sport and Recreation (4) and progressed onto employment as had always been his goal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Learners presented with mental health issues and were referred to the CTC Counsellor, who reported positive outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Learners presented with common signs and traits of Add/ADHD. Unfortunately they had not been afforded the opportunity of a formal diagnosis, but teaching staff/counseling services in the centre were able to recognize the corresponding behaviours. These learners were offered 1-1 appointments with the CTC counseling services, as well as in-class assistance from tutors in managing their symptoms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 students required special assistance in the classroom, by way of a reader/scribe service.

Extra-Curricular Activity:

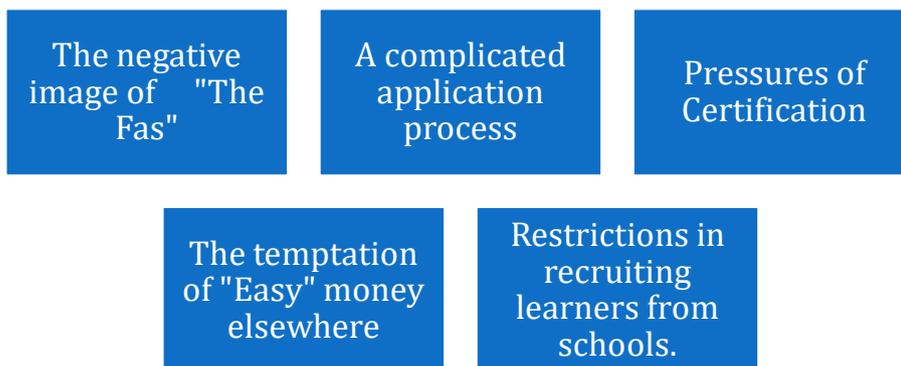
The CTC continues to try to improve the learners experience through a variety of extra-curricular activities. In 2019, these activities included, but were not limited to:

- Soccer
- Gym-training
- Muay Thai
- Meditation
- Expressive Writing
- Hill-Walking
- Museum Tours
- Quizzes
- Movie-afternoons
- Cooking
- Video-Gaming
- Art/Craft

Additional supports:

The CTC utilises extra **literacy support** provided by CDEYB through Larkin Community School, to our Learners. The CTC further employs the provision of **numeracy support**, which contributes greatly to students' success in their Mathematics modules. Learners can avail of the CTC **advocate services** to plan their progression from the centre onto either 3rd level education or employment, and are timetabled regular meetings in this regard. Learners have the opportunity to meet with the CTC **counsellor** should they or staff members have concerns regarding their mental health. The centre also liaises with **Crinian** Youth project regarding support around substance abuse/gambling addiction.

Challenges to recruitment:



Programme Evaluation:

- ⦿ Completed QQI Modules 2019: **145**
- ⦿ Target is 5 per learner per year as outlined in business plan.
- ⦿ Rating "Very effective" status from the CDET B Total Quality Assurance Systems (TQAS). This links to the "Traffic light system": centres are given a colour to correspond with their effectiveness. We achieved the green status in 2019
- ⦿ **Learner Feedback forms** completed at the end of each module. Learners can make suggestions as to how to improve the delivery of the course, what they enjoyed and what they disliked about the course content and delivery.
- ⦿ **Instructor Feedback forms** completed by Tutors upon module completion. Similar to learner feedback forms, Tutors have the opportunity to make suggestions on how to improve the course content and/or delivery techniques.



PETER

"I'd like to thank all the teachers that helped me on the course- I had always problems in secondary school. I find it hard to write and spell proper and its tough doing it because you don't want to look like a sap in the class in front of everyone because that's what I feel like most of the time if I can't understand something. So I mean it- I would really like to thank



Peter successfully completed the **QQI Level 4 Full Award in Sport and Recreation**. With this, he was able to apply for and accept an offer of full-time employment in Finglas Leisure Centre, as a Life Guard and Gym instructor. Peter left in August 2019, but continues to call into the centre every fortnight for a chat with staff, which speaks volumes about how he feels about his time as a Trainee in the CTC.

Professional Development:

Staff will receive training in ESOL, in order to improve our services to minority ethnic communities in the NEIC area. Staff will also be engaging in Occupational First Aid training in 2020, to continue to meet Health and Safety standards.

In November 2019, staff undertook Manual Handling Training.

Plans for 2020:

- ⦿ Increased numbers of Learners through positive recruitment techniques.
- ⦿ "Enrichment Programme." The CTC will ensure that every day, each Learner participates in a non-academic activity, be that soft-skills, sport, mental health or other, that serves as an incentive to come through the door each day. The CTC aims to enrich the lives of Learners in areas that

perhaps they might not have access to previously, and should view this as important a service as the QQI accredited module provision.



- Continue the high standard of QQI Certifications
- Improve the physical impression of our new location.
- Develop a sense of pride in participants, attempting to remove the stigma that exists amongst Learners around being a participant in a training centre, or “FAS.”
- Enable Staff to be able to better provide for the changing population of the North Inner City via ESOL training.

Goals Compatible with the Strategic plan:

- Provide accredited training to 40 early school leavers.
- 80% of learners who complete the programme attain a major award
- Develop positive progression routes for learners.
- 100% of learners who complete the programme will have a person-centred progression route developed
- Establish a curriculum group to monitor the effectiveness of programmes delivered.
- Curriculum Group established. Courses continually monitored and reviewed against agreed KPIs.
- Continually review courses to ensure that they are adequately preparing young people to progress to relevant labour market opportunities focusing on core skills and competencies required to progress
- Formally link existing pre-access college courses with third level institutions (in particular DIT and NCI) to explore access programme opportunities.
- Increased participant access to DIT & NCI education programmes. College open days scheduled with the CTC advocate.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT (CE) PROGRAMME

LYCS CE programme endeavours to meet the individual needs of CE participants on their journey from unemployment to returning to work by providing a wide range of learning and training opportunities to help participants build confidence and improve their employability in the labour market.

The programme provides **35 places** for long-term unemployed people over 18 years of age. 27 of these places are based in LYCS and the other 9 are based in local community organisations.

Programme Activities

The Community Employment (CE) programme is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities. Participants can take up other part-time work during their placement. Placements are on a yearly contract basis. Extensions can be requested for up to three years to facilitate the completion of training.

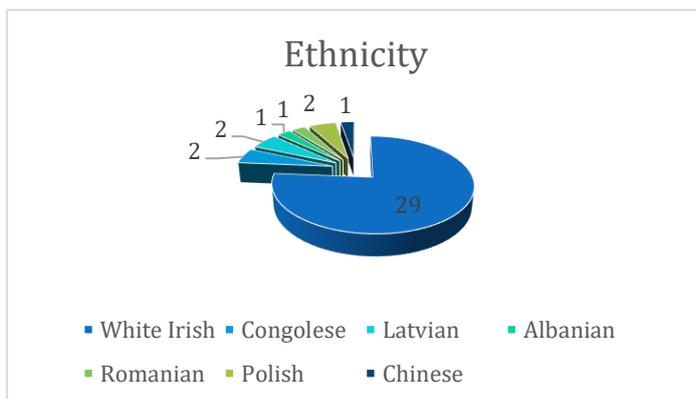
After the placement, participants are encouraged and supported to look for permanent jobs, based on the experience and new skills and qualifications they have gained while on the CE scheme. Roles available in LYCS include: Early Years Educator, Clerical, Reception, Mini Bus Driver, Maintenance/Gardening, Youth Work Assistants, Community Development Workers and Housekeeping.

To qualify for a placement on CE, participants must be 18 years or over, unemployed for a minimum of six months and in receipt of a welfare payment.

The Community Employment programme is administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP).

Programme Aims

- To provide a structured training and employment programme for adults who are long term unemployed.
- To support participants in their transition from unemployment to work.
- To work with participants on an individual basis in an effort to meet their development needs and develop a training plan.
- To engage with sponsors and employers in the local area in order to provide meaningful and worthwhile work with a view to further training and progression.



Total Number of Participants in 2019:
39

Range in Age:
19 to 57 years

Male: 13
Female: 26

Participants with additional needs.

Two participants are living in temporary accommodation.

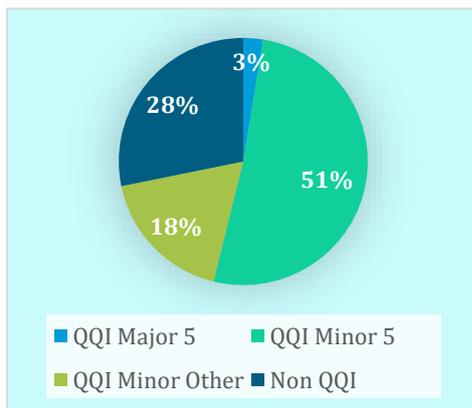
Training

39 CE Workers completed the following QQI accredited training:

QQI Level 5 Major - Early Childhood Care and Education - 1 Award

QQI Level 5 Minor Components - 20 completed

- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Understanding Community Development
- Supervisory Management
- Manual and Computerised Accounts
- Social Media for Business
- Bookkeeping: Manual & Computerised
- Applied Social Studies
- Care of the Older Person



QQI Levels 2, 3, 4 & 6 Components – approx. 6 completed

- English as a Second Language (L3)
- HACCP Level 1&2- Food Safety
- Advanced Facilitation Skills Group Work Theory and Practice – (L6)
- Reception and Front Office Skills
- Training Needs Identification and Design
- Training Delivery & Evaluation Part 2

Non QQI – Industry standard / work related

- Beginners Computer Class
- Advanced ECDL Industry-standard
- Mental Health First Aid Certificate
- *Child Protection Awareness Programme
- Pottery Class
- Manual Handling
- Creative Non-Fiction Course
- “To Tell The Truth” 8-week Starter Kit
- CPC Driver Training – work related
- Cisco NEW CCNA R/S (200-125)
- Community Development Training

Progression

In 2019 eight CE participants left the Scheme, of these:

- 37.5% progressed onto employment
- 12.5% progressed onto self-employment
- 12.5% progressed onto full-time education
- 37.5% left for personal reasons.



Recruitment

In an effort to reach long term unemployed people, experience has shown that word of mouth is most effective methodology in the NEIC. Vacancies are advertised on Jobs-Ireland website. Participants are also recruited from Local Employment Services (LES) and referred to the Scheme by the DEASP.

Programme review and project evaluation

Participant evaluation is carried out quarterly using DEASP's quarterly review guidelines. The purpose of the quarterly review is to assess:

- Current work practices and environment.
- The skills (both work/jobs related and personal/social) they are developing/learning.
- What remains to be achieved in relation to their goals and career plan.

“

“Community Employment has changed my life for the better so much. When I came to Ireland, I had no English. I could only say hello and goodbye. Working with the children has helped me develop my language and communication skills. Being able to study modules in Childcare has also helped me improve on my English and develop written English skills also. I am so proud of myself after completing my Level 5 Major Award in Early Childhood Care & Education and I have really enjoyed my time on Community Employment as I have a lot more confidence in myself and I have learned so much during my work experience.” **Early Years Educator.**

“

“After a long period of unemployment, you lose touch with the community and basically humanity... One of the advantages of a scheme like this [apart from the practical work experience] is you learn to interact with people again on a one to one basis, you learn to interact with groups of people and you rediscover a connection with the community...That ability to reintegrate again is essential if you are going to find work...that is certainly what's happening to me here at LYCS...[and] the practical experience opens up options [for work] that I never would have considered.” **Clerical Assistant**



“

“I started work with LYCS CE Scheme in July 2019. Since then I have regained the confidence which I lost when my job didn't work out. I am more energetic and I'm happier. I work in a very supportive environment and I am being trained as a Bookkeeper. I am learning how to operate various software packages which I know will add to my qualifications when I move on to full-time employment.” **Clerical Assistant.**

Plans for 2020

- Create new strategies in partnership with LESs, other community organisations and CE Schemes to improve our reach to the unemployed in the NEIC, including open days.
- Communicate to the wider community the benefits of the CE Scheme not only as a way to progress to employment and education but also, and specifically in personal development and growth.

Specific measurable goals for 2020 for those participants that are due to complete CE this year.

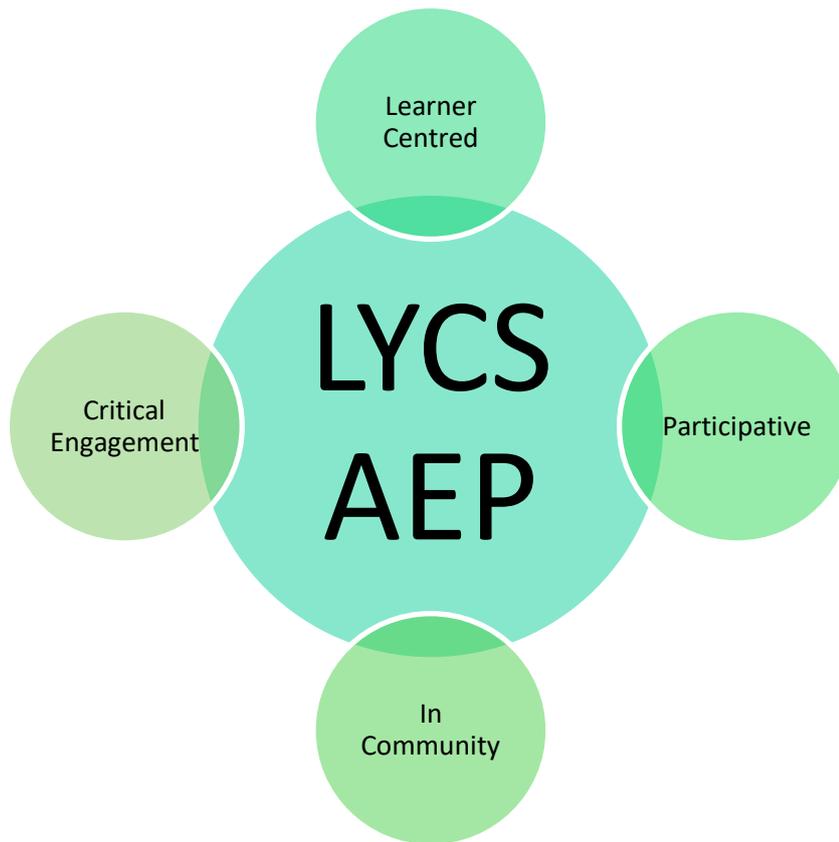
- Progression into fulltime employment – 33%
- Progression into education – 33%
- Progression into other employment – 33%

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

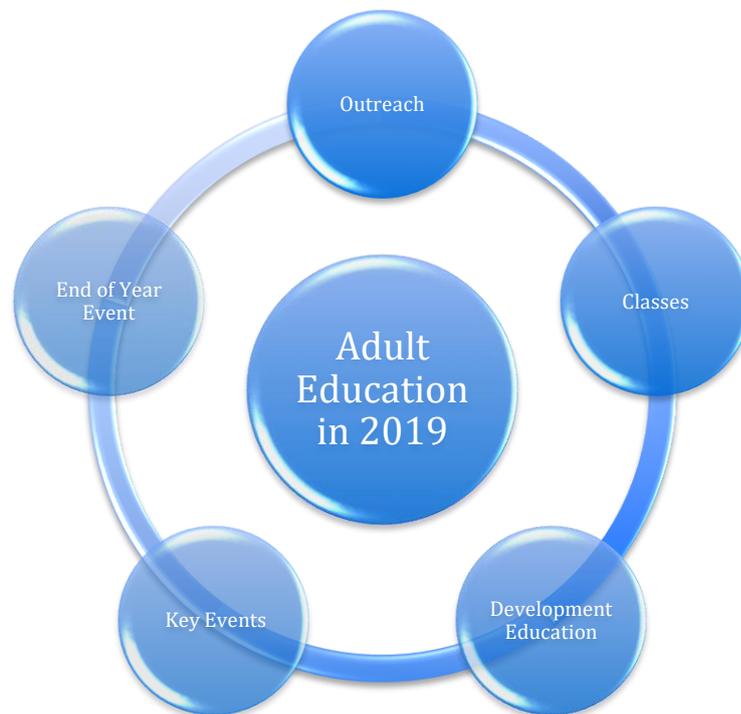
Description & Mission:

The LYCS Adult Education Programme (AEP) offers a variety of learning and social opportunities within the community, prioritising people living locally, experiencing poverty and/or social exclusion. It establishes a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment where good communication and relationships flourish. LYCS' goal is that the AEP be regarded as a hub of individual and social development.

The educational experience offered by the AEP is learner centred and participative. Each participant's prior learning and life experiences are valued. From within the community, LYCS encourages critical engagement that enhances both the individual and her/his society.



Overview of the Adult Education Programme Activities in 2019



The Adult Education Programme continued to provide weekly educational and social programmes throughout 2019. 75 men and women took part in activities, and there were many new participants. The sessional tutors and AEP staff continued to demonstrate their dedication and commitment.

Outreach:

Outreach is an important part of the AEP's strategic plan. Continuing to inform the community of what is offered by the Programme was an important part of 2019.

- **Flyer:** a newly designed flyer was distributed locally, displayed in many local shops/projects/libraries and was e-mailed to local organisations.
- **Schools:** Local schools were visited. The AEP kept in contact with the Home School Completion programme throughout the year.
- **Registration:** A registration event was held that attracted new participants.

Classes

The principle activity of the AEP in 2019 was the provision of free classes/courses for local adults. Classes and courses were delivered weekly by sessional tutors, core staff and volunteers, usually in three ten-week terms based on the school year. Weekly classes included:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| ✚ Stained Glass | ✚ Guitar | ✚ Knitting Group |
| ✚ Improving Computer Skills | ✚ Well-being | ✚ Sewing |
| ✚ Choir | ✚ Tai Chi | ✚ Cookery |
| | ✚ Mindfulness | ✚ Art |



Learners reported that meeting new people, while acquiring new skills and knowledge, were key benefits they felt from attending classes.

For many, the AEP classes are a creative and social outlet leading to improved mental health and self-confidence. Learners also noted that their tutors were open & friendly, that the pace of learning was relaxed, encouraging, supportive and that there was a positive atmosphere overall. 65 participants registered for classes in 2019 and attendance was good. Throughout the year, despite a reduced timetable due to loss of premises, the AEP continued to deliver classes that brought participants together within an educational space.



Significant Events in 2019

January 2019 – Moving from Rutland St to Beaver St

The AEP team spent December 2018 getting offices and training rooms ready for the move to a new location in Beaver St. The AEP had been located in Rutland Street School for almost thirty years, which meant there were many memories to honour, materials and resources to find new homes for, store and/or recycle, and paperwork to archive, shred or dispose of. This was work that was intensive and emotional, which was carried out by the AEP staff while at the same time running the final classes of the autumn term and planning the refurbishment of the new location in Beaver St.

From the beginning of 2019, the AEP were simultaneously completing the final clear out of our old Rutland street premises while having Beaver St. prepared. This included designing and planning how each space would be best used to facilitate a comprehensive timetable of adult education classes, fitting emergency lighting, new radiators, wiring the various rooms to accommodate office requirements, computer classrooms and art/creative spaces, and painting each space. The AEP team worked to physically move

furniture, equipment, materials and paperwork from Rutland St. to Beaver St. and to create a welcoming, warm and friendly Adult Education service from Beaver St. The spring term began in the last week of January, which was a noteworthy achievement

April 1st – 5th 2019 - ‘Better Than Chocolate’



‘Better Than Chocolate’ was an exhibition and celebration of the work of AEP participants from the art, pottery, sewing and knitting classes. In what was the centre piece of the calendar, participants, tutors and staff spent time preparing all available space so as many pieces as possible could be exhibited. The Exhibition was launched by Jack Gilligan, former DCC Arts Officer, and was attended by approximately

fifty people, including LYCS staff,

participants, with family members. Staff from CDETB and other local organisations also visited the exhibition over the three days. The range and quality of the art pieces was very impressive and there was considerable interest in buying some of the works. Visit the LYCS or Five Lamps Arts Festival websites [for more information.](#)



End of Year Event

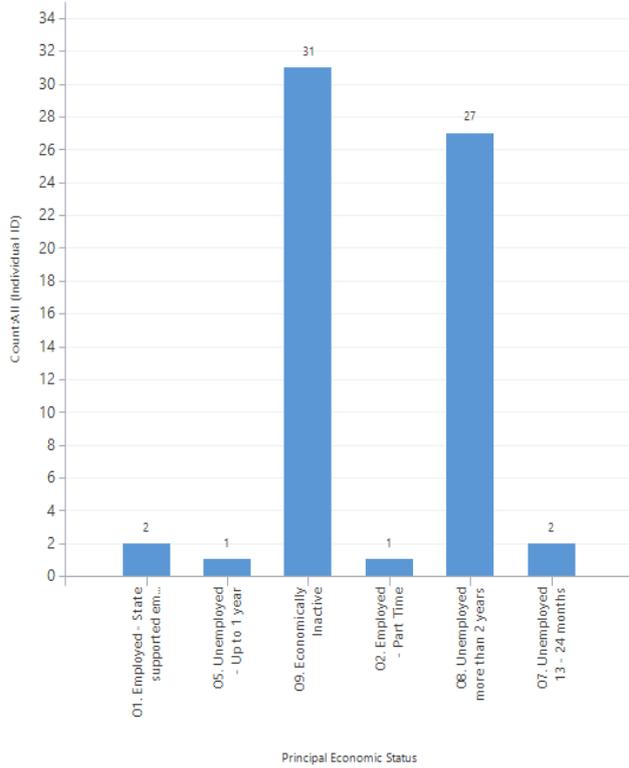
This year’s AEP End of Year event, held in St Agatha’s Hall, was a celebration of the participants’ achievements throughout 2018/2019 academic year and included an exhibition of their work. In a number of ways this year’s event, in terms of a new location and lower than usual numbers attending, encapsulated the upheaval that ensued from the move of the AEP after thirty years in Rutland St. Due to the lack of a space and resources some of the traditional AEP classes, such as cooking and pottery, could no longer be continued. Some participants found the move quite disconcerting and were no longer able to attend LYCS classes. The LYCS crèche, the traditional venue for the AEP End of Year event, had also moved and could not host this key annual LYCS event. Nonetheless this year’s event was an important milestone in the AEP calendar both for participants and staff, all of whom continued with their learning and work with their customary warmth and commitment through these changes.

The AEP Moving Premises in December

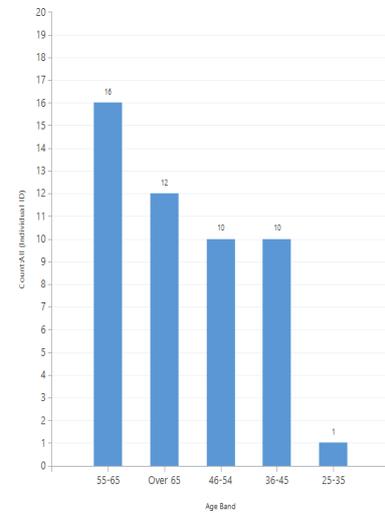
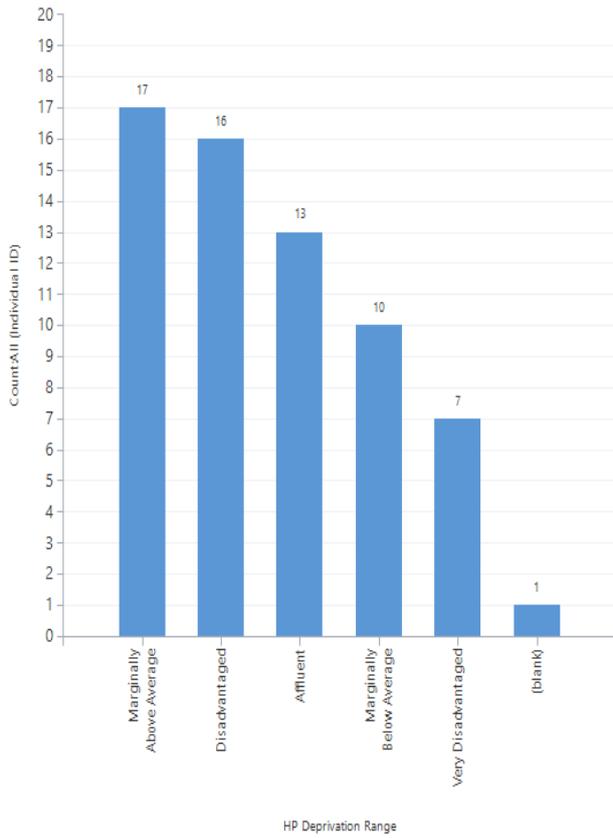
In December 2019, having established a learning environment in a new premises on Beaver Street, the AEP had to reduce services when the School on Stilts was forced to close. The programme moved in November 2019 into a shared space: Connolly House, Marino College of Further Education.

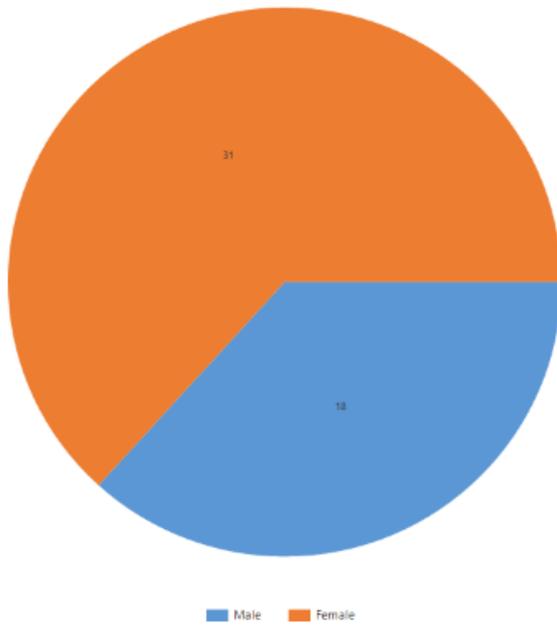


Demographics. (Statistical information gathered through Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme’s (SICAP) IRIS data base 2020)



Participants by Economic Status:
 The LYCS Adult Education Programme offers a space for economically and socially disadvantaged individuals to participate in classes. This activity gives an opportunity to build self-confidence, social connection, and skills.





INDIVIDUALS BY AGE & SEX

While the AEP engage with individuals of all ages, many of our participants are aged over 55. We engaged with more women than men in 2019.

2020 Plan

After a turbulent 2019, the priority in 2020 will be to re-establish the AEP within a stable environment. When classes are running, key parts of the strategic plan will be advanced.

1. Implement the delivery of classes in other parts of the LYCS organisation.
2. Review current outreach methods and develop a new plan to connect with local area.
3. Begin planning for the accreditation and delivery of QQI L5 courses.
4. Establish and develop relationships with local and national community organisations.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The LYCS development education programme aims to provide opportunities for people to explore the development challenges faced in our community, in Ireland and in communities around the world. It fosters critical thinking, active citizenship and a sense of shared struggle for a more, fair and equal world.

The issues explored include *poverty* and *inequality*, *human rights*, gender, *Food & hunger*, *migration*, *environmental sustainability*, *democracy* and *racism*.

From April 2019 – March 2020, LYCS Development Education programme worked with 246 people through a variety of trainings and events.

Workshops & Events

Date	Event	Client	Attendance
Feb	Fair-Trade Coffee morning	Community Event	60
Apr	Active Hope	Active Hope Network	12
May	Cafés and Dialogue	Community Event	60
Jun	Food Workshop	Green Schools An Taisce	11
June	CCC Screening	Common Ground	28
July	CCC Screening	Common Ground	15
July	Work That Reconnects	Active Hope Network / LYCS contacts	24
Sep	Zero Waste	Tidy-Towns Bennetsbridge	18
Sep-Dec	Zero Waste	Kildare Wicklow Education & Training Board	18
Total number of participants			246

Overview of Development Education Programme



Active Hope Workshop

LYCS DE has been involved in an emerging Irish Active Hope Network, which began to form in early 2019. The Network promotes a body of teachings and interactive participative exercises.

An Taisce Green Schools Staff Training in Food System Issues

11 An Taisce staff attended a workshop focused on the impact of the global food production system and on people and planet. We also specifically explored food poverty in Ireland and the world. Participants, who are all staff in the Green Schools programme at An Taisce, reported increased understanding of the food system, specifically in terms of waste, connection between obesity and hunger, knowledge of alternative systems & SDGs and control of seeds.



Climate Change & Consciousness Film Screenings

LYCS ran two film screening/discussion events in Common Ground Bray in summer 2019. Both half day events involved screening 2 talks on the theme of climate change and consciousness, followed by group discussion on the themes raised in the films.

Work that Reconnects Workshop & Facilitator Training

LYCS Development Education partnered with the Active Hope Network to host a two day long workshop. The first day was open to all, as a day to experience the Work that Reconnects, while the second day was dedicated to training facilitators to run these workshops in their communities.



Zero Waste Workshop, Bennetsbridge, Kilkenny

This one-day workshop for trainers was delivered in Co. Kilkenny by a graduate of an LYCS Zero Waste Educator Training, with close guidance and mentoring by LYCS DE. The workshop was attended by 18 female community leaders and Tidy Towns volunteers. LYCS DE staff planned the workshop with the facilitator, using LYCS resources such as slides and activities.

Zero Waste Educator Training, Naas, Co. Kildare

LYCS DE was invited to deliver a course entitled ‘Zero Waste Educator Training’ over 4 days from Sep to Dec 2019 for the Kildare Wicklow ETB. The course offered a thorough education in Zero Waste living and principles as well as a deep exploration of how globalisation and consumerism are threatening the survival of life and how to react to this.

16 Days of Action Against violence against women.

LYCS worked in partnership with SAOL to bring a global perspective to their work. 3 workshops examined the UN Declaration of Human Rights and examined the role of women engaged in the struggle for rights. The aim of the workshop was to highlight the issue and the reality of women taking action in the global south. The group was introduced to a song dealing with sexual violence, entitled ‘I can’t keep quiet’, and

examined its impact globally. The group performed the song at a number of gatherings in the project and created a performance video. They also created a video specially for the global action of the 16 actions for 16 days calling for an end to domestic violence and highlighting how women can access support, in 7 languages. 60 people in total.



Cafés and Dialogue

LYCS DE has continued to play an important role in the North Inner City Café and Dialogue group and its work of supporting community engagement in meaningful conversations. The third women’s café took place on Mayday. It was a powerful event, with the opportunity for over 100 diverse women from different cultures and traditions to connect and find common ground celebrating different traditions. 60 women attended the event.

Fair Trade Coffee morning

The annual marking Fair Trade Fortnight, provided an opportunity to learn about working conditions for workers in poorer countries, as well as enjoy fairly and sustainably produced treats - coffee chocolate and bananas. The coffee morning was also a welcome chance for participants and staff from LYCS Adult Programme, Community Training Centre and Dublin Adult Learning Centre to mix and mingle.

National Education Programme

Facilitating Global Citizenship in the Community

The course brought together people involved variously in local development, global justice work and sustainability with the aim of developing their capacity to facilitate global citizenship in the community. The group explored the nature of facilitation, group-work theory, learning theory and conflict, alongside considering how to engage people in meaningful learning about our interconnected, unequal world. All 8 participants who undertook the complete training intend to carry out future work in global citizenship/development education.

Mentoring

LYCS continued to share knowledge and experience of DE with others in the community sector through the Mentoring Programme. We worked with 4 individuals in 2019. The mentoring variously provided advice and support in shaping goals, unpacking practice issues, designing participatory and experiential learning and exploring entry points for DE. From designing a 6 week programme on Global Justice, Sustainability and Resilience to understanding more about experiential group processes.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LYCS acknowledges the funding and support provided by a range of Government Departments, Statutory Agencies and funding bodies and looks forward to continued positive and productive working relationships in furthering the development of project participants.

LYCS IS FUNDED THROUGH:

- Dept. of Rural & Community Development - Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- City of Dublin Education & Training Board (CDETb)
- The European Social Fund (ESF)
- City of Dublin Youth Service Board (CDYSB)
- Dublin City Council (DCC)
- Dept. of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP)
- POBAL: National Childcare Investment Programme
- Dept of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP Schools Meals Programme)
- Dept of Foreign Affairs: Irish Aid Development Education & Civil Society Unit
- Forsa / Joe Lucey Fund
- North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative



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- **LYCS CTC**
- **LYCS FIRST STEPS CRECHE**
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