

Youth Council 2010 – 2012 Projects

Bog Standards:

This was a new initiative that aims to improve the standard of toilet facilities, and related school procedures and policy, in post primary schools in Donegal. The initiative was led by the HSE and Donegal Youth Council. Three schools worked on this as a pilot programme they are as follows, St. Catherine's Killybegs, Deele College Raphoe and Loreto Convent Letterkenny. Each participating school has received training from the HSE and the project is up and running in these schools.

Weight of School Bags:

Donegal Youth Councillors have weighed school bags in their schools and produced a leaflet on How to pack your bag? How to carry your bag? And How to use your locker along with findings on the weight of School bags.

Cost of Going to School:

Donegal Youth Councillors wrote to the TD's in Donegal to ask questions on their behalf in the Dail in relation to Paying for School Transport, buying or renting books, costs of transition year, fundraising activities and the costs of leaving and junior certificate examination and mocks. The Youth Councillors summarised the answers from the TD's and got back to their Schools with questions on what the capitation grant is being spent on and how much of a voluntary contribution each school looks for.

Student Councils:

Donegal Youth Councillors composed a Good Practice Checklist for Student Councils in Donegal following consultation with involver.co.uk this was circulated to all Student Council and Learner Councils

Road Safety Awareness:

DONEGAL YOUTH COUNCIL'S MOBILE WARNING:

Youth Councillor Eimear Ní Eanaigh scripted the messages with advice from her fellow Youth Councillors and friends. Eimear also directed, edited and took part in the Road Safety video clips. The clips were produced in association with Wallace Media, they convey a message of the importance of giving the road your full attention.

Youth Councillor Eimear Ní Eanaigh whom sits on the Donegal Road Safety Working Group as a full member said "It's important to remember that damage isn't only done by drivers that don't pay attention to the road but also by pedestrians who don't pay attention to where they are walking."

Donegal Youth Council Road Safety Message 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxyLnefxvN8>

Donegal Youth Council Road Safety Message 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6fky4xEAkq>

Donegal Youth Councillors attended the Road Safety Road Show on the 18th and 19th September where their duties were to meet and greet the Young people from the schools and assist them to their seat. During the show they assisted with the Paramedic and at the end of the show they distributed the packs to all the young people. There were approx 3000 young people attending between the two days.

Amnesty International:

Representatives from Donegal Youth Council, met with the Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland, and Dan O'Neill, Youth Officer to inform them of the work of the youth council. In attendance were the following Donegal Youth Councillors: Rachael McNulty, Molly Bonar, Marli Kerr, Patrick Matthews, Aran Quinn and Denholm Mc Dermott. Also in attendance were Christina O'Donnell, Youth Council Coordinator and Aisling Mc Grory of Donegal Youth Council.

Speaking at the Meeting Colm O'Gorman said: They are looking to expand their youth group membership and suggested that Donegal Youth Council could set up a sub group on Human Rights whom could work at a local, national and international level. Colm O'Gorman spoke about the importance of the voice of young people being heard at all levels.

SPHE/RSE -Social, Personal & Health Education/ Relationships and Sexual Education

The Youth Council worked on a survey in relation this subject. It was hoped that the results of this survey would help highlight key issues in relation this subject in their schools.

Chuala

Chuala was a Peace III funded, 9 month long project that aimed to create more opportunities for young people in Donegal County to have their voice and opinions heard by Donegal Youth Council. Chuala means to be heard and Donegal Youth Council wanted to create a youth forum of young people who currently don't have a voice into Donegal Youth Council.

The Donegal Youth Council worked with Northern Ireland Youth Forum to set up the structures that supported more young people to get involved in the decisions that affect them across the county. The Chuala Youth Forum worked in partnership with Donegal Youth Council to establish the most relevant issues affecting young people in the county and then following a short campaign to raise awareness of the issues engaged with decision makers to discuss the concerns of young people.

O2 Think Big Projects

The following projects have been successful with Level 1 funding:

Inspirational Quotes

Mental Health Week in Schools

Body and Mind week in schools

Newsletter

The following projects have been successful with Level 2 funding:

Coping with the Recession Booklet

Video Clips of Visiting a Health Facility SPHE/RSE Survey

