

SSYCC ANNUAL REPORT

Due to an extended report last year (amidst Covid restrictions), this report covers the below 9 month period
October 2020 – June 2021



SSYCC's vision is of a welcome, vibrant and inclusive society where people are supported to achieve their full potential, and everyone actively participates in community life





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Step Out & Time to Shine



SSYCC Management Committee

From October 2020 to June 2021 we have held 3 management committee meetings (via Zoom). We want to take this opportunity to thank all management committee members for their faithfulness and dedication in attending these meetings and playing a vital role in the management of the organisation.

Since our last annual report, we have had 2 new areas of work in SSYCC in addition to our Programme of Activities and iRural Project. October 2020 saw the commencement of our 18 month 'Step Out' project in partnership with Oasis Youth and funded by BBC Children in Need. This project is young person centred, tailored to each young person's needs and focus is on supporting young people through the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, in January 2021, we commenced a 12 month project funded by the Rank Foundation, which saw a full time staff member allocated to Wellbeing Development within the organisation and working with our partner organisations developing programmes and resources aimed at promoting positive mental health among children and young people.

SSYCC continues to deliver upon its strategic plan of work which was launched at our previous AGM in October 2020, following the consultation and development of a new 5 year strategic plan from 2020-2025, which involved members, volunteers, staff and management committee.

Staff members continue to use Upshot, an online monitoring and evaluation tool which allows us to gather statistics and evidence the important work being carried out at SSYCC. Since our last AGM only 9 months ago, across our full programme of work which includes: SSYCC Programme of Work, iRural Project, Next Steps Project and The Rank Foundation, we have worked with 269 individual members and delivered 486 sessions plus an additional 40 young people have been reached through our weekly detached work in the local Scotch Street area and 100 children reached via our iRural Schools Transition Programme. 500 school lunches were also provided to 100 additional children and young people across the ABC council area = total beneficiaries of over 500. Finally, across our full programme of work and for the 9 month period, we had a total of 3,282 children and young people attend sessions. These are fantastic statistics, showing the array of work which is taking place across all aspects of SSYCC work.

With a new staffing structure in place from July 2019, a senior management team was formed which comprises of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the management committee and 2 senior staff members, the Leader in Charge of SSYCC's programme of work and the iRural project manager. The senior management team continue to meet bi-monthly to discuss and agree on operational and day to day decisions.

There has been a significant time allocated to securing much needed funding over this past 9 months, with an array of funding opportunities successfully applied for, not only to benefit the work in our centre, but the wider work with our partners across the iRural project, benefiting organisations across the ABC council area. As well as our 2 core funders, The National Lottery Community Fund and BBC Children in Need, we have also worked with the following funders during this period: Education Authority Youth Service, Co-Operation Ireland & Department of Communities, Tada/Departments of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council - MUGA Sports, Funding and organisation support, Beth Jonston Foundation, PEACE IV and Sainsburys. We want to thank each of our funders for supporting our work over this past year. We also want to thank our staff team for the time spent compiling applications, reports, evaluations and financial submissions.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our partner organisations, old and new, for the strong working relationship we have, ensuring the successful delivery of projects across the wider ABC council area.

Like many other organisations, COVID-19 continues to cause considerable disruption to our services, however more recently we have enjoyed the opportunity of returning to face to face provision following EA Youth Restart Guidance. This has been greatly received by staff, parents, guardians and most importantly, the children and young people themselves. We would like to thank our staff team for their commitment and dedication to our members and the organisation during these challenging times. As an organisation, we continued to deliver during the lockdown period, and throughout the easing of restrictions, adapting programmes as and when necessary to ensure our members were being accommodated for, at a time when they needed it most.

As a management committee, we look forward to when services return fully to 'normal' and we can once again meet all our members, old and new, face to face and continue to deliver our important services to each of them.

Gordon Woolsey
Chairperson

Bethany Ebron
Vice-Chairperson



This report gives a detailed description of the number of programmes, projects and services offered to SSYCC members and the wider community from October 2020 - June 2021.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Community Litter Pick

Councillor Eamon McNeill kindly organised a community litter pick for the Scotch Street and Richmount areas on 7th November. SSYCC Staff and senior management assisted Eamon with the clean-up which was greatly received by the whole community.

Detached Santa

Santa arrived at Scotch Street Youth & Community Centre on 17th December to the delight of all our residents. We quickly loaded him up with 150 selection boxes and set about delivering them to all the children & young people in the area. What a success this event was, even the torrential rain did not ruin it!



Asda packed lunches

SSYCC and iRural Staff took the opportunity to avail of an initiative which was created by Asda to support families during the winter home schooling period. These free packed lunches were distributed with the help of some partners and 500 packs to children and young people in various local areas.

Loughshore Sounds Concert

The Loughshore Sounds concert was an online event organised during lockdown to connect people from the community during the winter lockdown. It was also an opportunity for some of our members to participate in the event as presenters and to highlight their projects across the communities. There was positive engagement during the event and around 40 devices were logged in live and good feedback was received from the community.

Community Improvements

Over the past 9 months the team at SSYCC have been working hard to make improvements to the centre and the surrounding area. This included cladding and spray painting of the centre, painting of the surrounding fencing and decking and also the planting and maintenance of the flowerpots throughout the village.

SSYCC SENIORS

Sports, Health & Wellbeing Project

We were fortunate to get 4 weeks of face-to-face sessions during Oct/Nov 2020 when we delivered this project for 20 of our senior members. This project covered physical, emotional & mental health wellbeing.

IFA Connect Programme

This 6-week online course was delivered by the IFA and included workshops on Disability in sport, importance of volunteering and mental health. We even had a virtual tour of the national stadium.

T-BUC Good Relations Project

January 2021 saw us partner with Youth Link: NI to deliver a 10-week T-BUC Project for 18 young people. Ciaran from the iRural team and I designed and created a 10-week course looking at various topics such as: Teambuilding, personal identity, understanding preconceptions & stereotypes, prejudice & discrimination, flags & symbols, conflict transformation and personal reflection. For camp week we had a sports session, baking workshop & quiz night. This project, which the young people named as “SSYCC Culture Club”, was a huge success and resulted in us being asked to write a case study for The Executive Office which received positive feedback.



Senior Drop-in Sessions

These sessions have been hindered due to covid restrictions, but we have been greatly encouraged by the high attendances each session. These young people have supported us faithfully and it has been a pleasure watching them mature, grow, develop new skills, learn new things, make new friends, increase in confidence, achieve their targets, and have lots of fun. Quite a lot of them are trained as junior leaders and now help as volunteers with our younger members.

Transform Project

It has been great partnering again with Youth Link: NI which has allowed five of our 14+ aged girls to sign up to take part in this fantastic project based in Oasis Youth in Portadown.

Boss Project

This yearly project in partnership with Ballyoran and Oasis Youth is due to commence 16th June and run for 12 weeks. It will allow seven of our 11+ aged boys & girls to participate, meet new people, learn new skills, learn about other cultures, go on fun trips, and increase their confidence and self-esteem.

SSYCC JUNIORS

MUGA Games Sessions

We delivered 6 weeks of MUGA sessions for 25 children in Oct/Nov 2021 facilitated by ABC Council Coaches. The children really enjoyed getting outside to play and see their friends again.

Online Computer Games Club

We designed a Fortnite Creative Map, which was age appropriate, for our junior members to play each week. This computer club was well attended and ran for around 12 weeks in total on zoom.

Detached Sessions

Weekly detached sessions have been, and continue to be, a real highlight for us for over 18 months now. There were occasions when we had to stop due to restrictions, but the sessions continue to be a great help to the whole community.

After School Clubs

We were delighted to welcome a limited number of children back to our centre in Nov/Dec before further restrictions were imposed. During this time, we got to decorate our centre and make Christmas arts & crafts. We are thankful that restrictions have now eased, and we currently have 42 children attending ASC every Tuesday & Wednesday as of May 2021.

Free Hot Chocolate Stations

What a hit this proved to be for two weeks in December 2020. We served around 130 children, young people and adults from our community and gave out free drinks, buns and crisps.



Toppers Tales Story Time

January 2021 seen the return of the popular bedtime stories. Every Tuesday & Friday a story is recorded live and posted on our Facebook Page with viewers tuning in from as far away as America, New Zealand and Canada.

Online Arts & Crafts

In total we have delivered 10 weeks of arts & crafts facilitated by Hazel Boland from "Artikles" a local artist. These sessions proved popular with our children with over 20 attending each workshop.

Online Healthy Kidz

In total we have delivered 16 weeks of exercise classes and sports facilitated by another local company. It was brilliant watching around 20 children grow in confidence, make new friends, and have fun each week.

Steve's Cook along Sessions on Zoom

In April we decided to use the skills and expertise of one of our staff members to provide 6 weeks of cooking classes online. We provided the menu, ingredients, and instructions for each session to around 30 families. A real highlight for us was watching the children and their parents have fun and work together to create their dishes each week.

Online games/dance sessions

These sessions were great to keep the children interested on Zoom. We played various games, held quizzes, and had dance parties which let the children have fun and be themselves.



Closing Comments

As leader in charge of SSYCC, I am extremely proud of this organisation and its ability to adapt and diversify to ensure we deliver a high level of provision. This past 15 months have been extremely challenging for everyone, SSYCC were creative and innovative so we could still offer regular activities, projects, and programmes to our children & young people and provide the community with much needed help, support, and assistance.

I would like to place on record my gratitude and sincere thanks to the Staff Team, Management Committee, Parents & Guardians, and the Children & Young People for everything they have done to help me, and the organisation grow throughout this time.

I would like to thank Don Woolsey also for all his help, and continued support.

Despite all the challenges and hardships, we have faced this past year or more I believe it has been another great year for all involved with SSYCC and together we look forward to more great years to come.

Andrew Topley

Leader in Charge

Scotch Street Youth & Community Centre

June 2021

IRURAL PROJECT

EVOLVE YOUTH

EVOLVE JUNIORS CLUB

iRural supported Evolve in the continued development of their Youth Provision.

The youth team created an application for Take 500 and produced a video entry which was successful in the public vote, in combination with a successful EA Small grant allowed for the establishment of Evolve Juniors. This has been a successful project that has ran for a number of months and has an average attendance of 50 young people and 15 Volunteers across the sessions.

We have also been supporting the organisation with becoming a constituted group, building capacity and seeking funding for their first Summer Programme.

MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER

The young people from Evolve decided to complete a fundraiser in support of the Children's Hospice, a core team organised and promoted the event, and a group completed a climb of Slieve Donard on a very wet and windy November day. The event was important in galvanising community support for the club in the local area and raised £1,800.



YOUTH FORUM

The iRural Youth Forum have been maintaining their focus on positive mental health and have been working on a series of podcasts which have been produced and recorded inhouse, including interviews with teachers, sports stars and health professionals. The shows have been premiered online and are available through other Podcast platforms. The young people involved in the project have shown remarkable progress in their confidence and abilities and they brought a refreshing voice to a very challenging and relevant subject.

KILLICOMAINA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A new opportunity has arisen within the school to deliver sessions which will complement the Learning for Life and Work curriculum. This involved us delivering 3 different pieces of work, 2 of which were face to face and one using online platforms. The sessions delivered were focused on Health and Wellbeing and were delivered jointly by iRural staff and The Time to Shine Project. The school greatly appreciated the input especially during lockdown and we are currently discussing an expansion to the project for future years.

ANNAGHMORE

The iRural staff team continues to support the development of the Youth Provision in partnership with Annaghmore Parish Church. The young people made an application to The ABC Take 500 Participatory Budgeting and their video entry went to a successful public vote.

The funding provided support for the young people to organise a fundraiser Cycle for Cancer, a very successful event which involved them in the planning, organisation and promotion of the event. Despite the challenges of Covid 19 restrictions and moving calendar dates, the young people delivered a positive event which allowed them to meet for their first post lock down, outdoor activity and raised £2,670 for The Cancer Fund for Children.



ENVISION

During the past few months, iRural have worked with 21 young people through the Envision Programme, developing CVs and Interview Techniques.

Skills workshops delivered to young people in the Portadown (involved in the Transform programme) and Annaghmore. We have had the opportunity to work intensively with 6 young people from the rural area in developing their CV's and preparing them to step into employment, support in securing new employment roles and support them with their further education selection process.

We anticipate working with a new group of young people from September 2021.

REACH MENTORING

iRural have worked in partnership with Reach Mentoring to deliver one to one support and small group work with young people from St Johns who experience challenges in engaging in the education for a variety of reason including self-worth, behavioral issues, anxiety or difficult life circumstances. Our staff acted as mentors to the young people, identifying issues and empowering them to make positive change.

CLONMORE YOUTH CLUB

The iRural team continued our work with Clonmore Youth Club as we delivered a social action project with the Junior Leaders. In this project the young people were given tasks that were intended to develop their leadership, organisational, teamwork, money management and communication skills. We have also engaged with Clonmore's senior club with some consultation sessions and are looking forward to our continued work into the next season.

SSYCC SUPPORT

We have continued to support SSYCC with the development and facilitation of some of the programmes. Most notably, the iRural team have assisted with SSYCC's T-BUC, Computer Games Club, Health and Wellbeing Sessions, Senior Drop In, After Schools Club and Detached Work.

LAUNCH PAD TRANSITION PROGRAMME

As an organisation, we know from experience the challenges that young people face making the move from a rural Primary School to Junior High in an urban setting. There was a new opportunity this year which was coordinated in partnership with SLNRA and Inspire Education, delivering a series of Full Day Transition sessions to P7 pupils across rural Craigavon. This one-day interactive programme is fun, and highly engaging consisting of 6 modules.

The programmes objective are to:

- Investigate what resilience means and help them understand the self-satisfaction to be gained from persevering with tasks.
- Explore the importance of their overall well-being and in particular the impact of different foods on concentration, focus and memory.
- Develop strategies for making new friends.
- Address any fears and concerns about the transition to big school.

The schools that accessed the training included Richmount, Derrytrasna, Maghera, Birches and St Theresa's and was attended by over 100 pupils.

St. John the Baptist's College (Xplore)

From October we have been delivering an OCN Level 2 in Personal Success & Well-being (in partnership with Youth Link: NI) with a 4th year class that would otherwise gain limited or no academic attainment.

We endeavored to deliver and have completed booklets for 10 different topics before the end of the school year. These topics include:

- Understanding Equality or Diversity
- Stress Management Techniques
- Understanding Cyberbullying
- Understanding Teamwork Skills
- Using Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Exploring Personal Identity
- Prejudice and Discrimination
- Understanding Individual Rights and Responsibility
- Participation in a Personal Wellbeing Enrichment Activity
- Exploring Cultural Diversity

Due to the additional lockdown measures imposed at the beginning of 2021, we moved our programme to zoom with a degree of success, however capturing the evidence for the project proved challenging with technology limitations. Due to the lockdown, we will only be able to deliver 8 of the 10 topics that we wanted to get through however we plan on finishing this in the next academic year.

Closing Comments - iRural

Despite the well documented challenges that Covid-19 continues to present in terms of additional needs and restrictions in delivery, the iRural project continues to progress well. Those receiving support are in excess of the targets predicted and evaluations indicate many positive outcomes for young people. We wish to express our thanks to our partners, members, volunteers and funders for their support in making the project a continued success.

Andrew, Ciaran, Daniel, Richie & Ruth

RANK FOUNDATION Time to Shine

#BeMe Project – is a mental health preventative programme, with weekly themes that encourages participants to talk about courage and what it means to be courageous, the importance of being kind to others and yourself, the value in being true to yourself, from what you wear, the things you enjoy, to the things you believe in. This programme was trialled in partnership with Oasis afterschool club and resources have been developed for future programme delivery.



Rocco's Adventures – To coincide with the #BeMe project, we have created a kid's story book and work booklet that features a puppy going on little adventures. Rocco can be courageous, kind, open minded etc and would ask the young people throughout the story questions to gauge their understanding or hear their responses to how they would behave in a similar situation.

Breathe - This is a mental health programme created for older young people that touches on more sensitive subjects but done in a fun and interactive way. A totally original programme, this is currently being trialled by participants of the Step Out from both Oasis and SSYCC.

Partnership working – In addition to the above the Time to Shine programme has been supporting the work in Killicomaine Junior High School, After-School Clubs and The Cook Along Programme in SSYCC. Through the strong partnership with Oasis, the project continues to develop programmes and provide support for The Breakfast Club, Active Minds, Common Good and Lean Supper Club.

THE STEP OUT PROJECT

Step-out Project is a young person centred project, tailored to each young person's individual needs. Supporting young people post covid promoting social skills, reducing isolation of children & young people by increasing engagement of members post lockdown.

- We have worked with 9 young people coming on to Step-Out programme
- Providing weekly one-to-one sessions for each participant from January- working on individual needs throughout each of the sessions while looking at these in a fun way
- Working on some small group sessions with participants- covering issues such as confidence
- Weekly group session with partners Oasis with the whole Step-Out cohort
- 2 participants have moved on from 1-1 step-out sessions
- Good feedback from Parents about step-out influencing the young person positively

Feedback from parent "Hey, just a wee update on *****. I cannot believe the difference in her! Still bits and pieces she needs work on but what teenage does not need that 🧠 but the change in her is so unreal, she's grew in confidence, she's taking responsibility, she's speaking more about what's annoying her, she's being honest and most of all she's loving her sessions with you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to get my wee girl back ❤️"



Club Sponsors, funders, and gestures of good will

SSYCC would like to thank the following funders, businesses, and people for their support over the last year to the running of the club, events, and fundraising.

FUNDERS

The National Lottery Community Fund

BBC Children in Need

Education Authority Youth Service

The Rank Foundation

Co-Operation Ireland & Department of Communities

Tada/Departments of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Beth Jonston Foundation

PEACE IV

PARTNERSHIPS

Community Intercultural Programme (Oasis) – Programme opportunities & partnerships in projects

Boys & Girls Club NI support for Access NI checks

Youth Link: NI – Programme opportunities & partnerships in projects

Volunteer Now – Millennium Volunteer Programme

South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association

Portadown Wellness Centre – Sainsburys – Maghery Matters

iRural Partners - 7 Derrys, Annaghmore Youth Group, Clonmore Youth Club, Evolve Youth, Mullavilly Parish, Reach Mentoring, Killicomaine JHS & St John the Baptist's College

Inspire Education – Richmount PS, Derrytrasna PS, Maghery PS, Birches PS and St Teresa's PS.

