



Galway City Comhairle na nÓg

16th February 2022

Report January & February

Committee

- The committee returned to meetings on the 17th January, we are continuing to meet in the Atlantic Language College on Mondays from 4.30pm to 5.45pm. We hope this venue will be temporary, the SIPTU building on Prospect Hill is due to become available for use in March.
- The focus of the meetings since January has been to plan how we will work over the coming months. We hope to alternate the meetings with full committee meetings and subgroup meetings happening every second week.
- We welcomed new committee members and hope in the coming weeks to elect new committee roles.
- We will be visiting the secondary schools over the coming weeks to recruit new members as we have a number of committee members stepping down due to exam commitments and also Pobal recommendation to include more 12-15 year old's in Comhairle.

Topic

- The topic for 2022 is Invisible Disabilities and Accessibility. We will be focusing on accessible youth spaces for young people, looking at it from the viewpoint of physical as well as sensory accessibility.
- The Invisible Disability subgroup have set the date for the focus group for young people with invisible disabilities for the 9th of April. We will begin recruiting for this group through schools, and organisations that work with young people as well as social media. We hope to have two groups, one for the 12-14 age range and one for the 15-17 age range.
- We have contacted NUIG Child & Family Research Centre for a venue to host the focus groups. We have worked with researchers to draft the information sheet to ensure we have covered the ethics required for the research.
- The committee will continue to work on mental health alongside our main topic.

Galway City Comhairle Report

- The podcast subgroup identified 5 main themes around mental health that they want to interview people on. They want to interview young people as well as professionals. The subgroup plan on hosting in person as well as online interviews for the podcast.

Other activities

- The committee participated CVA (Citizen Voice Action) workshops with the SAUTI Youth Project in October looking at the climate action policies of Galway City Council. Some of the committee members carried out monitoring visits in Galway City in December of various sites in the city to see if actions were achieved based on the policy plans.
- They presented the results of the monitoring visit at an event 'Voices on Climate Action Policies' hosted by SAUTI on Saturday 29th of January with other youth organisations to elected members of Galway City Council and members of the Galway City PPN. It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to discuss climate action policies with elected representatives.
- The outreach education officer in Galway City Museum is linking with the committee on an exhibition called Treaty 100, looking at the Galway connection with the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Committee members will write a bio on two people, Bryan Cusack and George Nichols and this will be exhibited in the museum. Other community organisations are participating in this project.
- Stakeholder engagement plan, we hope to carry out focus groups and surveys in March and early April with various stakeholders in the city in the hope of raising awareness and engagement of Comhairle na nÓg in the community.
- The committee have expressed feeling unsafe in Galway City, we will look at developing a Safety Programme with Youth Work Ireland Galway, looking at different aspects of safety, including in person and online safety. The Comhairle na nÓg coordinator has reached out to Michael Walsh, Crime Prevention Officer with An Garda Síochána on this issue.
- Members of the committee will participate in Dáil na nÓg on the 26th of March, this is an opportunity for the committee members to meet other Comhairle members from across the country and share their experiences of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg.

For more information on the work of Galway City Comhairle na nÓg, please follow the social media pages.

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