

## Donegal ETB

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## Youthreach Youth Councillors Attend Agenda Day



**Donegal Youth Council**  
**Comhairle na nÓg Dhún na nGall**  
**Shaping Our Future Ag Múilú ár dTíodhach**

The Donegal Youth Council Agenda Day (AGM) took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny. The AGM has a number of objectives, including discussing and exploring issues or matters of importance to young people; prioritising five key topics on these matters that will provide the focus of work for the Donegal Youth Council over the following year and providing feedback on the progress made on the topics identified as important at the previous AGM. The event saw 150 young people from all across the county come together for this consultation event, where they had the opportunity to put forward their ideas, participate in facilitated discussions and vote to determine the key issues for young people in the county. These issues were prioritised and now form the basis of the work of the Donegal Youth Council over their two year term from 2014-2016. Issues included mental health, road safety, sexual health, body image, sports, physical health, drink and drugs and bullying. Youthreach was represented by Shauna, James and Aine from the Buncrana and Glengad centres (pictured left).



## Buncrana & Glengad Host Annual Presentation of Awards

The Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres hosted their annual presentation of awards on 12 December. Below are a selection of photos illustrating this great morning. Well done to all!



*Pictured top left: Former learner (& now tutor) John Doherty speaking to learners; top right, bottom left and right: AEO Cróna Gallagher presenting awards to learners.*

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Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Dhún na nGall  
Donegal Education and  
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## Donegal ETB



*Welcome...*to the fourth and final edition of our 2014 newsletter. In the last few months centres have been kept busy with FETAC assessments, presentation of awards to learners and training in maths, literacy integration and effective care teams. In between they've also found some time for fundraising and Donegal Youth Council work. The next edition of the newsletter will be available in March. In the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter—@DonegalYR . Merry Christmas from everyone in the Co Donegal Youthreach programme!



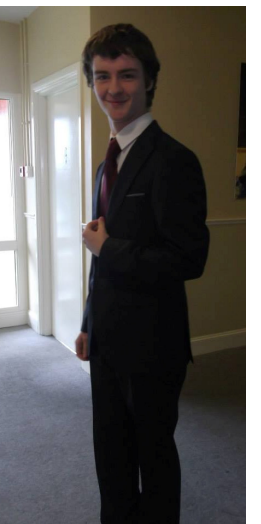
*Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator*

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## Ballyshannon Host Presentation of Awards

Ballyshannon Youthreach learners (past and present), parents, guardians, officials, supports and colleagues came together to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the learners at their Presentation of Awards held in the Lakeside Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It was a great afternoon for all who came. An organising committee of learners was set up a few months ago and they organised the whole presentation from contacting speakers, booking the venue to their own MC! There were various awards handed out, including FETAC Level 1, 3 & 4 certificates, GAISCE medals, FETAC Level 5 Occupational First Aid certificates, Manual Handling awards, Basic Food Preparation certificates and in-centre awards including Outstanding Leadership, Best Attendance, Most Improved and many more. A special word of thank to Aaron Fee (our MC on the day, pictured right) who did an outstanding job, speakers Ciara Heraty, Rebecca Timony, Andy Halliwell (work experience employer from the Organic Centre), Mark Granaghan (parent of past and present learners), Michael Collins (Gaisce) and Cróna Gallagher (AEO). They helped to make the day a huge success and highlighted to all who attended just exactly what we are about at Ballyshannon Youthreach. Thanks also to all of those who made the effort to attend the celebration. Below are just a few photos from the day; have a look at our Facebook and Twitter pages for more!



*Pictured left:*  
*Cody Granaghan receiving his award for best attendance from Declan Gallagher (HRF tutor); James Kelly receiving his FETAC Level 4 Award from Cathy Maguire (Tutor); Ciara Heraty receiving her Gaisce Award from Michael Collins.*

## Donegal ETB's Integrating Literacy & Numeracy Policy Launched

Donegal ETB's Adult and Further Education Service launched its Integration of Literacy and Numeracy Policy for the service on 4 December. Integrating literacy is a strategy that combines content with literacy, language and numeracy skills. The purpose of the policy is to enable higher retention rates, a higher proportion of students achieving vocational qualifications, a higher proportion of students achieving language, literacy and numeracy qualifications and ensuring students are better prepared for future job roles. This will be achieved through a cross-programme working group, the promotion of a whole-programme and whole-service approach, clear recruitment and access policies to facilitate entry of students at the correct course level for them, collaboration between programme staff and adult literacy organisers, provision of training for teachers/tutors and the use of plain English.



## Literacy Promotion Week in Lifford

Lifford Youthreach organised a literacy promotion week in the centre during the week of 01 December. Pictured left are learners receiving their literacy week awards following a week of spelling tests, literacy games, puzzles and competitions! Well done to all involved.

## Innovative Maths Teaching

Following recent maths training provide by NALA, staff have been applying the training in their centres during delivery of FETAC Levels 3 and 4 mathematics.



Pictured left are learners from the Buncrana centre using balance and counters to solve linear equations.

## Youthreach Launch Corporate Hoodies!

Pictured below are our new Youthreach programme hoodies which became available in November!



## Letterkenny Raise €1,000 for Donegal Hospice & Jigsaw

On Sunday 16 November, Letterkenny Youthreach hosted a stall (pictured left) at the Teagasc Annual Christmas Craft Fair. It was a huge success and they raised €1,000 which will be split between the Donegal Hospice and Jigsaw Donegal. Well done to all involved!

## Restorative Practices Work Presented to Harvard Academic

On 12 December, Youthreach County Coordinator, Dr Sandra Buchanan, had the opportunity to present Donegal ETB's restorative practices work to Harvard academic Dr Ofrit Liviatan (Department of Government). Dr Liviatan was visiting Co Donegal to find out more about the peacebuilding work which has been taking place in the county, funded through Peace III. Sandra provided an overview of Donegal ETB's Restorative Practices project which ran from August 2012-October 2013 and March-September 2014 and also showed her the short film made by Lifford Youthreach during this time entitled *Lifford Youthreach Presents a Journey in Restorative Practices*. Both the presentation and film were very well received.

## Gortahork's Finn Enters 'Creep' to ICCL 2014 Youthreach Competition

As part of his Personal & Interpersonal Level 4 studies one of our learners, Finn Baldran, entered the Irish Council for Civil Liberties Human Rights Competition 2014.



He entered this competition because he wished to express himself about social rights, in particular the right to mental health help. He did this through the creation of a short film which he called 'Creep'. The film depicts the descent of a young troubled man into the dark world of drug abuse and crime. Finn not only wrote the script but also directed and edited the film. All actors are fellow learners whose contribution was greatly appreciated.

In Finns own words; "When I made this short film, I had so much fun doing it that I thought to myself that if I had to do a job for the rest of my life, it would be playing or directing movies. The crew was brilliant; the actors were really fun to film with, and the excitement of being able to direct a movie was just unreal for me, it was just a dream coming true. This competition gave me the opportunity of a lifetime".



The feedback from the ICCL has been excellent, the competition panel remarked on the quality of the films execution in terms of style, editing and screenwriting. With our permission they are going to share the film with their award-winning filmmaker, so she can provide some professional feedback and advice on the film, which may be of use as Finn takes his craft to the next level. All the staff and learners at Youthreach Gortahork wish to congratulate Finn and all those involved with the making of this remarkable film.

## Forthcoming Events

- 18 December 2014: County Table Quiz
- 15 January 2015: County Football Competition
- 25-27 February 2015: Annual Conference of the National Association of Youthreach Coordinators (NAYC), Letterkenny
- 26 March 2015: Donegal ETB Education & Training Fair, 11.00am-3.00pm