



TRANSFORM

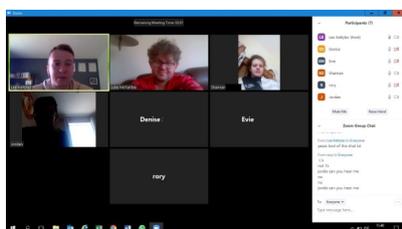
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Transform Mencap

Transform Mencap Fermanagh Cohort:

Before lockdown in March, we had been delivering the Transform project to a cohort of 8 young people with learning disabilities and difficulties. During this time we were helping our young people be more socially active in the community e.g. taking them to the local gym and the local food bank. Just before the lockdown we had a residential planned with the Mencap Downpatrick cohort. We also had church visits arranged and other fun activities in the local area.

Lockdown came as a shock to all of us and the young people in particular. As soon as it happened, we began to look into new ways to communicate with them. We have commenced daily group sessions Monday to Friday with the young people. This has helped the young people stay in contact with each other and the staff and gave them the vital support needed during this time. We have also delivered many phone mentoring and online mentoring sessions to support the young people in this difficult period.



We have been running our own Fermanagh sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. We split the group in two based on their developmental needs. On a Tuesday and Thursday, we join up with the Mencap Downpatrick cohort and on a Tuesday, Fermanagh host the session focused on Citizenship and Personal Development.

One of the highlight's for the young people was receiving a care package in May. For this, they all got to choose one treat and got a selection of other goodies.

We delivered this out to the young peoples houses (while adhering to social distancing guidelines) and it was great to visit the young people and see and hear that they are all doing well.



We hope to do this again sometime in the not so distant future.

Luke & Lee (Transform Mencap Staff Members)

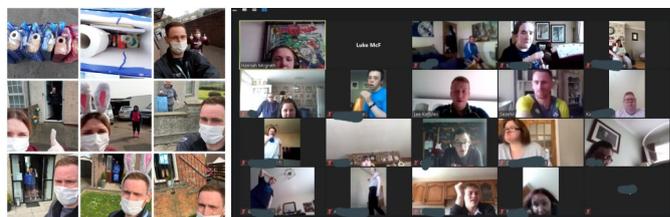


Transform Mencap Downpatrick Cohort:

Our current cohort has 12 young people. Before Lockdown in March, we delivered face to face sessions each week and fun and exciting day trips during the weekend and school holidays.

We spent time getting to know each other and covering the theme of Citizenship. We had Tools for Solidarity come in and complete 4 workshops around the purpose of the charity, what is poverty, financial inequality and distribution of wealth around the world. We also had Mencap NI's Treat Me Well representatives come to talk to the group about their rights for treatment/consultation with health care providers and hospital passports.

We visited the Odyssey Arena to watch Belfast Giants, The Saint Patricks centre, our Mencap centre and had a fantastic time at Laser tag with the Mencap Fermanagh cohort. Transform Mencap Downpatrick now looks very different since the start of Lockdown. We meet up to 5 times a week via Zoom and twice as joint sessions with Mencap Fermanagh.



Movie Mondays: Where the young people watch a short film, discuss their opinions and listen to others view points.

Transform Tuesday: A joint session, Fermanagh youth workers provide a weekly activity.

Workout Wednesdays: Where the group try out different workouts.

Travel the world/ Learn a Trade Thursdays: We travel on virtual tours one week and a speaker from that country answers questions prepared by young people about culture and traditions the following week. We have travelled to London, Spain and plan to visit a number of other countries. We have had a speaker from the London Fire Brigade Emergency control room who spoke about her role.

Fun Fridays: These sessions are based on quizzes, music and raising awareness of local campaigns and fundraising for a local charity.

Our young people and ourselves look forward to our daily sessions with regular attendance from all.

Hannah & Sean (Transform Mencap Staff Members)



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Oige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs