



# TRANSFORM

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

September 2021

# Youth Link Cohorts

## Youth Link - Oasis

Summer has been a busy couple of months but we were very thankful to be able to engage with the young people face to face. As this group were still relatively new to one another, this was a great opportunity for them to bond as a group and get to know each other in a face to face environment on a more regular basis.

The young people assisted in the planning, developing and facilitation of two workshops at Oasis' summer scheme, "Portadown Gets Active". Firstly, a music, arts and craft workshop where young people assisted the children to make rain shakers using rice, cardboard and decorations. Also a drama workshop in which the young people were 'transformed' into clowns and took the children through 'clown school', teaching them skills like: tight-rope, magic tricks, ring toss and clown mask decorating. The young people really stepped out of their comfort zones for this and fully engaged. As staff, we were extremely proud of them.



Summer included the delivery of many OCN sessions including: Stress Management, Equality and Diversity and Prejudice and Discrimination via Zoom and face to face delivery. Towards the end of August a full day was dedicated to OCN delivery in which young people arrived at 9am and left at 9pm. In this time they were able to complete three OCN units, enjoy some food, play games, watch movies and interact further as a team together.



**Shane and Tove**

## Youth Link - St. John the Baptist's College

Summer for the St. John the Baptist's College cohort has focused on having fun, spending time with each other face to face and building long lasting and meaningful relationships for the young people and the wider group. This gave the young people an opportunity to unwind after the end of the school year and relax before the new school year recommences.



Over the summer the group successfully completed all OCN sessions, even planning, designing and delivering 2 fantastic Mental Health and Wellbeing days as a team.

The young people planned a fitness and wellbeing day that focused on getting active, eating well and looking at ways to help your mental health. They also planned an art day that focused on expressing yourself through art.



The young people also took part in an outdoors activity day at Shannaghmore Outdoor Education Centre. They young people stepped out of their comfort zones, facing fears related to heights and water. Overall, the young people had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the day, attempting the high ropes course and participating in wet bouldering at Bloody Bridge, Newcastle. It has been brilliant to end such a fantastic project with a group of amazing young people. **Darren and Lauren**



## Youth Link Oasis and St. John the Baptist's College

This summer, the Oasis and the St. John the Baptist's College cohorts joined together for a number of trips. They interacted well with one another and many friendships were formed. They even requested that we continue this partnership and deliver further trips together after summer, which is very encouraging.

Our first trip together was a day trip to Belfast. The young people went on an open top bus tour around Belfast to learn about the different cultures and traditions here in Northern Ireland. After a lovely meal in



Frankie and Benny's, there was some free time in Victoria Square for shopping!



The group then went to Splash Water Park in Magherafelt on an evening trip. Everyone had fun on the inflatables, some even managing to throw staff into the water. Afterwards, the young people were treated to Dinky Donuts and a drink! This was a lot of fun and the young people really enjoyed this trip!

The final trip of summer was a day trip to Newcastle. The group had lunch in Subway and then had some free time to explore the main street of Newcastle. Staff organized a scavenger hunt that young people had to complete during their free time for fun. The group were treated to a meal in the Burrendale Hotel which was enjoyed by all!



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth