



Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service CLG.

**Annual Report
2020**

Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service CLG>

1st Floor, Castlewood Centre
Castle Street
Sligo
F91KX05

Registered Charity Number: 20055950

Directors and other Information

Mr. Charles Jordan (Chairperson)
Miss Olive Henry
Mr. Michael Glennon
Mr. Darragh McDaid
Mr. Ultan Mulvihill
Miss Sinead Dolan
Mr. Paul Keogh
Miss Sinead Maguire
Mr. Paul Coughlan
Miss Caroline Costello

Secretary and Registered Office

Miss Olive Henry
1st Floor, Castlewood Centre
Castle Street
Sligo
F91KX05

Bankers

AIB
Stephen Street
Sligo

Solicitor

Hegarty & Armstrong
Millennium House
Stephen Street
Sligo

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Foreword

2020 proved a challenging year for all within society with the onset of the Covid-19 Worldwide Pandemic and represented a major challenge for the youth work sector. It was now more than ever families needed our support and services. The Home Youth Liaison Service dedicated themselves to develop creative means to reach our service users to provide targeted interventions and supports through our committed team of staff.

2020 also saw us publish our Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 which restated our vision of achieving long-term sustainable improvements and goals in the quality of life in children and families in the region of Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan. It is with great compliments that we wish to thank most sincerely to all those within the service that contributed to our Strategic Plan.

To our statutory funders, Tusla and MSLETB, thank you for your continued support. Our thanks to schools, local groups and individuals who contributed in any way during 2020

Finally, thank you to our dedicated staff team and Board members for your support and contributions in 2020.

Together, the Home Youth Liaison Service will continue the challenge of bringing together our vision and mission to implement and develop the objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan and hope to further develop the service and enhance the lives of our service users.

2020 in Numbers

The Covid-19 Pandemic proved a difficult year for youth workers. Meeting our service-users was at times challenging and we could not support them by meeting physically when government restrictions were at a high level. Youth workers used alternative methods to support our young people and families. These methods included online interactive courses and programmes, gaming, delivery of games/art material and food packages and meeting outdoors.

Residential weekends had to pause at the beginning of the Covid Pandemic in March 2020 and could not be continued for the rest of the year. HYLS did however provide summer camps to our service-users throughout the summer months that were held outside.

The numbers below are the amount of service users we supported in 2020:

- *27 service-users participated in Residential weekends in 2020.*
- *55 service-users took part in our summer camps.*
- *421 service-users received support within schools from the Home Youth Liaison Officers.*
- *48 service-users received youth support referred by Tusla, Child and Family Agency.*
- *36 service-users received youth support that were in the care system and under a care order.*
- *47 service-users received youth support that were referred by Tusla under a child protection plan.*
- *25 service-users received youth support under the CCA referral scheme.*

Our Mission

To provide an empathetic, confidential, non-judgemental, and personal support to young people and their families with the objective of enhancing the young person's future personal and social development and wellbeing.

To provide a link between family, school, and professional services (both in the government sector and the voluntary sector). The guiding principle that underpins all work is to place the young person at the centre of the decision-making process with the aim of allowing them to take responsibility for their own choices and actions.

HYLS History

The Home Youth Liaison Service was set up in 1989 in response to local needs. The service developed from the recognition that increasing numbers of young people were dropping out of school and not availing of training opportunities.

From its origins of one worker, it has now developed into a team of thirteen full time and two part-time staff. Primarily funded by TUSLA with additional funding from Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Home Youth Liaison Service is a non-profit, charitable organization, whose work is overseen by a Board of Directors.

Rationale

The theories that underpin all of the work of Home Youth Liaison Service include:

1. Ecology Theory
2. Social Support Theory
3. Attachment Theory
4. Resilience Theory
5. Conflict Theory

Our Vision

The vision for this service going forward is to try and reach an even greater number of young people by expanding our work into more primary schools, particularly in North and West Sligo. We also hope that the Youth Support service may be extended to additional areas such as Intake Duty Team.

The service aims to continue to be adaptable and dynamic in its ability to respond to the ever changing needs of the families and young people that we work with.

The service will also aim to work in partnership with other services under the CFSN structures of TUSLA Child and Family agency. The CFSN structures will provide the HYLS with the opportunity to enhance our current level of interagency work. Thus ensuring a wraparound approach to meet the needs of society's most vulnerable young people and their families. The HYLS will be in a position to lead out on relevant and appropriate programmes (online safety, violent behaviour from children towards their parents).

In order to meet the ever changing needs of society the staff are committed to taking every opportunity to source courses and information that allow them to up skill and keep pace with training needs.

Aims

We seek to provide an empathetic, confidential, non-judgemental and personal support to young people who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges within their lives. We do this by acting as a link between the young person, their families, their schools and other professional services (both statutory and voluntary).

What we do

The HYLS is a family support service working with children and young people between the ages of 8-18 years. We also offer on-going support and advice to parents and guardians.

There are two distinct strands to our service; the Home Youth Liaison Officers who work predominately in schools and the Youth Support Workers who work directly with Children & Families Social Work Department.

Our Service provides:

- Individual Work
- Group Work
- Residential Work
- Educational Training
- Interagency Networking

The HYLS operates in Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan; working in schools and communities depending on the nature, demand and the needs identified.

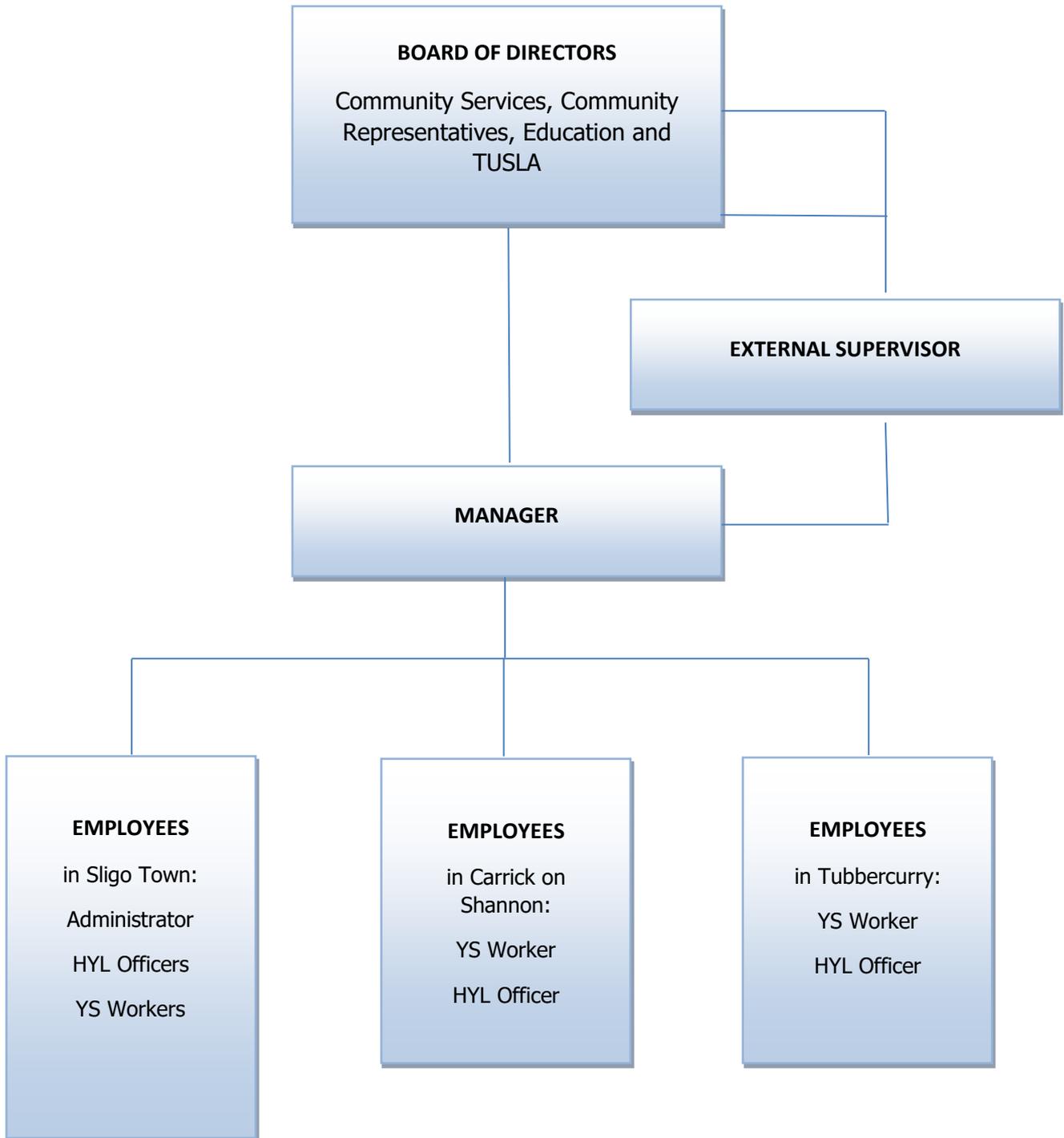
The young person is always at the centre of the decision-making process allowing them to take responsibility for their own choices and actions. The service is open to all young people within our catchment area in accordance with our inclusion policies. Young people can self-refer, or referrals can be made from a wide range of community and statutory agencies. Inter-agency collaboration and onward referrals to other relevant services is fundamental to our work.

The HYLS provides a unique wrap around support to young people in Sligo, Leitrim area as a result of the three prong approach offered by the service.

Structure and Governance

There are thirteen full-time and two part-time employees of the HYLS; a Manager, six Home Youth Liaison Officers, six Youth Support Workers and two Administrators. The service also facilitates students on work placements in the Social Care field.

Organisational Structure



Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service:

- Identify welfare issues or concerns for young people and their families and to liaise, advocate and refer on to the appropriate support services.
- Managing referrals made directly by all Tusla Social Work teams
- Identify education issues or concerns for young people and their families and offer appropriate support services.
- Provide, where necessary and appropriate, a follow up support service to the family through homevisits.
- Provide one to one support for young people referred by; schools, social work, parents, voluntary & Community groups, HSE, self and CAMHS.
- Provide peer support for young people in group work situations, within and outside of the school where appropriate.
- Facilitate the transition from primary to post primary school.
- Develop and deliver issue based programmes, to cater for specific individual or group needs.
- Represent HYLS on various interagency meetings and conferences.

Our overall aim is to enable, support and encourage young people to develop for themselves, the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to facilitate their own development and future potential.

Home Youth Liaison Officers:

- Supporting young people in making positive choices and decisions that will allow them to negotiate difficult periods of transition.
- Working with young people who may be experiencing emotional, behavioral or attendance difficulties at school on a one to one basis.
- Visiting primary and post-primary schools in Sligo and Leitrim on a weekly basis.
- Facilitating and delivering programs within the school structure including; Transfer from primary to secondary, Peer Support, Student Council, Anti Bullying, Self Esteem, Resilience Building.
- Organising and delivering Residential and summer breaks in partnership with the TUSLA social work department. The Home Youth Liaison Service organises and delivers year round short term residential breaks and summer programs for referred young people. These activity based programs provide fun and respite breaks for young people and their families in a safe and supervised environment.
- Act as Lead Practitioner & Chairperson on Meitheal.

Youth Support Workers:

- Befriending the Young Person and building a positive working relationship.
- Providing support specifically tailored to individual needs on a one to one basis and through group work. We operate using a direct referral system from the children and families social work team in TUSLA.
- Providing in and out of hour support to young people and delivering bespoke needs- led and strengths- based programs

Strategic Plan

We have identified a small number of core objectives on which the service will focus on over the next five years (2020-2025) to ensure that we continue to grow and develop in line with the needs of an ever changing society.

The six objectives that the HYLS will priorities:

OBJECTIVE 1:

- *To continue to provide the high level quality of work that we carry out on a daily basis.*

We will...

- ✓ *continue to review the effectiveness of the service on an on-going basis with stakeholders, funders and clients.*
- ✓ *continue to monitor our progress using the framework of the Logic Model and the NQSF (National Quality Standard Framework).*
- ✓ *develop further consultations and appraisals with management in Tusla and school principals.*

OBJECTIVE 2:

- *Expanding the HYLS to work in primary schools in North and West Sligo where no service currently exists*

We will...

- ✓ *enter into dialog and secure funding with relevant stake holders to develop the HYLS in rural areas of Sligo where no service exists in primary schools (with particular reference to the delivery of the Transfer Programmes in many of these rural schools).*

OBJECTIVE 3:

- *Developing a Youth Support Service to work with children that are involved with the Social Work Duty Intake Team*

We will...

- ✓ *enter into dialogue with funders to develop a new Youth Support Worker position to work solely with young people in the Social Work Duty Team.*

OBJECTIVE 4:

- *Ensuring that the HYLS is fully utilising all areas of our new office. Create a Healthy Eating Hub whereby young people can explore how to bake/ cook healthy and practical meals and snacks.*

We will...

- ✓ *Look at how to prepare, cook and store nutritious and healthy food*
- ✓ *Look at the importance of healthy nutrition and how it affects mental health, physical health, appearance*
- ✓ *Develop life skills*

OBJECTIVE 5:

- *Prioritising in a more structured way the continual professional training needs of all HYLS staff. We will pay particular reference to the skills needed to effectively work with young people who are experiencing poor mental health.*

We will...

- ✓ *develop a clear Education and Training Policy which will look at; Core essential training and educational needs of all HYLS staff which will ensure that the HYLS is effectively meeting the needs of our client group (e.g. Children's First, First Aid, Certified CBT Skills)*

OBJECTIVE 6:

- *Ensuring that our methods of receiving client feedback are systematic and used in a consistent manner throughout the entire service.*

We will...

- ✓ *Develop a clear and consistent strategy of closing cases through the creation of an effective and practical method of recording client feedback that will be used in a standardized manner throughout the service.*
-

Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service CLG
Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Income Statement
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | |
| Income | | |
| Tusla Child & Family Agency | 635,432 | 691,913 |
| Department of Children and Youth Affairs | 48,510 | 48,278 |
| | <u>683,942</u> | <u>740,191</u> |
| | | |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Wages and salaries | 481,419 | 486,247 |
| Employer's PRSI contributions | 52,459 | 52,599 |
| Staff training | 32,154 | 11,486 |
| Rent payable | 24,200 | 24,200 |
| Service charges | 1,920 | 125 |
| Insurance | 7,640 | 7,732 |
| Light and heat | 2,225 | 2,947 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 13,231 | 1,822 |
| Repairs grant | (3,900) | |
| Youth support projects | 5,725 | 11,335 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 8,184 | 11,074 |
| Telephone | 7,040 | 4,953 |
| Computer costs | 3,406 | 2,527 |
| Travelling and subsistence | 41,509 | 63,380 |
| Expenses for weekend activities | 6,899 | 32,634 |
| Auditors remuneration | 2,952 | 2,640 |
| Bank charges | 426 | 515 |
| General expenses | 541 | 1,292 |
| Covid 19 expenses | 1,878 | |
| Supervision / evaluation | 1,600 | |
| Subscriptions | 2,540 | 2,540 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 5,670 | 4,217 |
| Amortisation of capital grants | (5,880) | (4,458) |
| | <u>693,838</u> | <u>719,807</u> |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | | |
| (Deficit) / surplus on ordinary activities | (9,896) | 20,384 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service CLG
Company Limited by Guarantee

Restricted Funds

Financial year ended 31 December 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| | € | |
| <u>TUSLA Fund</u> | | |
| Income | | |
| Grants received | <u>635,432</u> | <u>691,913</u> |
| | | |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Wages and salaries | 448,129 | 453,904 |
| Employer's PRSI contributions | 48,777 | 49,058 |
| Staff training | 31,654 | 11,486 |
| Rent payable | 24,200 | 24,200 |
| Service charges | 1,120 | 125 |
| Insurance | 7,040 | 7,732 |
| Light and heat | 2,025 | 2,947 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 8,791 | 1,822 |
| Youth support projects | 5,225 | 11,335 |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 7,984 | 10,874 |
| Telephone | 7,040 | 4,953 |
| Computer costs | 3,006 | 2,527 |
| Travelling and subsistence | 38,213 | 56,555 |
| Expenses for weekend activities | 4,824 | 30,634 |
| Auditors remuneration | 2,952 | 2,640 |
| Bank charges | 426 | 515 |
| General expenses | 541 | 1,292 |
| Covid 19 expenses | 1,878 | |
| Supervision / evaluation | 1,600 | |
| Subscriptions | 2,540 | 2,540 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 5,670 | 4,217 |
| Amortisation of capital grants | (5,880) | (4,458) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 647,755 | 674,898 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| (Deficit) / Surplus on ordinary activities | <u>(12,323)</u> | <u>17,015</u> |

Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service CLG
Company Limited by Guarantee

Restricted Funds
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | € | |
| Department of Children and Youth Affairs Fund | | |
| Income | | |
| Grants received | 48,510 | 48,278 |
| | _____ | _____ |
| | | |
| Administrative expenses | | |
| Wages and salaries | 33,290 | 32,343 |
| Employer's PRSI contributions | 3,682 | 3,541 |
| Staff training | 500 | |
| Insurance | 600 | |
| Light and heat | 200 | |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 200 | 200 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 4,440 | |
| Repairs grant | (3,900) | |
| Travelling and subsistence | 3,296 | 6,825 |
| Computer expenses | 400 | |
| Youth support | 500 | |
| Service charges | 800 | |
| Expenses for weekend activities | 2,075 | 2,000 |
| | _____ | _____ |
| | <u>46,083</u> | <u>44,909</u> |
| Surplus on ordinary activities | 2,427 | 3,369 |

