

KERRY COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Strategy 2024



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



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1.

“Objectives and Our Path to Solutions”

We believe

Every young person has a constitutional right to a voice on the issues that affect our everyday lives and our future.

Our Vision

Our vision in Kerry Comhairle na nÓg is to see a county where the voices of young people and students are cherished and listened to.

In a world where the youth are becoming more influential we want to lead the change to make a positive impact on our homes and communities for today, tomorrow and beyond.

Our Mission

Our mission is simple – we want to get the youth involved. To do so we first need to get people to see us and get decision-makers to hear us. Through proactive engagement we plan to enact positive change.

Objectives for 2024

1

School Stress

Create an action plan for the topic of School Stress which we have been mandated to work on by the young people of Kerry.

2

Student Voice

Promote the Our Voices, Our Schools Toolkit with schools in Co. Kerry and other actions to strengthen student voice in schools.

3

Civic Engagement

We plan to promote the voices of young people across Kerry and engage with decision-makers to discuss issues affecting young people.

4

Promote Comhairle

Promoting Kerry Comhairle's work on local media, and social media while aiming to increase membership.

5

Council Chamber

We aim to hold a Comhairle na nÓg meeting in the County Council Chambers.

6

Rural Transport

Kerry Comhairle na nÓg will stay committed to advocating for and the promotion of rural transport through forums and proposals.

7

Smoking and Vaping

Is a prevalent issue in Kerry so we will continue advocating, through consultations, for the banning of disposables & investment in health services and health education.

8

Networking

We will work with other youth groups and organisations working for young people and increase our networking activities with other Comhairlí.

9

Reporting

Kerry Comhairle will report to stakeholders and young people on the work they undertook during the year.

10

Team Building

Will enable members to be able to communicate with each other allowing all to have a voice.

Objectives Explained

1 Addressing School Stress

1a: Research and Focus Groups

We first need to find out what is causing school stress. We aim to hold focus groups with youth groups and gather relevant research on the topic. As students ourselves we will also bring our own insights and experiences to this topic.

1b: Showcase and Engage with Experts

We will hold an Art Competition to give students the opportunity to creatively show how school and exam stress effects them. We will interview experts in the area of youth work and psychology, as well as young people.

1c: Present Findings and Recommendations

Once we have gathered the above information we hope to present our findings and make recommendations to Minister for Education, Norma Foley at an in-person meeting in collaboration with Kerry CYPSC. Following the report Kerry Comhairle will aim to work with stakeholders through multiple organizations and Departments to introduce further measures to reduce school stress for young people in County Kerry and create a framework for others to copy and implement in their own County.

1d: Promote Student Voice

We will work with the National Participation Office to promote the “Our Voices, Our Schools” toolkit with schools and teachers in Co. Kerry to enable students to have a stronger voice in their schools.

Objectives Explained

2. Student Voice

Kerry Comhairle plans to improve Student Voice across Kerry by promoting a student participation toolkit “Our Voices, Our Schools” to ensure student voice is prioritized in local schools. We will also actively encourage schools to apply for ISSU membership as this is a vital step to ensure students are represented at a national level.

3. Civic Engagement

To enhance Kerry Comhairle’s engagement we need to first organize more meetings, alongside consultations with decision makers where we can directly discuss issues that affect young people, as well as proposing viable solutions to them. We also aim to increase diversity in Kerry Comhairle na nÓg to ensure that all voices are heard.

4. Promote Comhairle

The P.R. Team will aim to promote Comhairle using both our Social Media Channels and Local Media to further increase awareness of the group and the work we do. We will also work on growing our membership to 20+ by the end of 2024. We have agreed to publish at least 1 post after each meeting on Instagram and will strive to promote more of Comhairle’s work between meetings by using editing software and then sending via email to our coordinator to post on social media.

5. Council Chamber

Kerry Comhairle hopes to have the opportunity to hold more of its meetings in Kerry County Council’s Chambers during the 2024/25 Term. This should improve the Civic Engagement of the Comhairle members.

Objectives Explained

6. Rural Transport

Kerry Comhairle will continue to advocate for rural transport by getting in contact with TDs and key stakeholders to encourage direct action to end the rural/urban divide across Kerry.

7. Smoking and Vaping

Kerry Comhairle na nÓg recognizes that smoking and vaping are pressing issues affecting physical and mental health. Therefore, we are committed to collaborating with other organizations to address this ongoing problem as well as working to propose new solutions and statements to key stakeholders.

8. Networking

Kerry Comhairle recognizes the value of networking and exchanging ideas with other youth activists. We hope to organize a Comhairle Synergy where Comhairlí from across Munster will come together for a fun day of collaboration and learning. This unique event is designed to build connections, share valuable insights, and develop innovative solutions that will contribute to a brighter future for young people in Ireland.

9. Reporting

We commit to reporting on our work and outcomes to all stakeholders and most importantly, young people, on an ongoing basis. This will be done through our social media accounts, coordinator reports and at our Annual Youth Conference.

10. Team Building

Kerry Comhairle also believes that their members deserve a bit of fun every once and a while. Team Building also provides the opportunity for members to get to know each other better, We plan to organize a couple of Team Building trips throughout the 2024/25 term.

2.

Our Team

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible – and achieve it, generation after generation.”

Pearl S. Buck

Executive Committee



Aodhán
Chairperson

Joint shared* role elected at the start of each term



Keira
Chairperson

Joint shared* role elected at the start of each term



Joe
Vice Chairperson

Elected at the start of each term.



Konrad
National Executive Representative

The National Executive meets monthly in Dublin to discuss the topic of the year, this years topic (2024/2025) is exam stress.



Joseph
Secretary

In-charge of taking down notes during meetings, and sending them onto everyone. Also notes attendance.



**Conor
P.R.O**

Public relations involves managing communication on social media, networking, promoting our initiatives, and drafting proposals, and posts.



**Emma
P.R.O**

Public Relations Officer



3.

Our Achievements

*"Believe in yourself
and all that you are.
Know that there is
something inside
you that is greater
than any obstacle."*

Christian D. Larson

Recent Achievements

The examples below are just a selection of the work we have been involved in over the last couple of years. You can see more of what we do on our social media.



Dáil na nÓg 2024

In March, Kerry CNN members joined over 160 delegates from Comhairlí across Ireland in Dáil Éireann to debate the critical issue of mental health, one of the biggest topics of concern to young people in Ireland. Mental health was identified by over 3,000 young people across Comhairle na nÓg as their priority issue for discussion in advance of Dáil na nÓg.



National Youth Assembly on Climate, 2024

Aodhán and Emma attended the National Climate Assembly of Ireland, meeting Minister Roderic O'Gorman. We had the opportunity to discuss directly with the Minister issues such as rural transport, the new re-turn scheme in Ireland, and littering, particularly in relation to disposable vapes.



National Stakeholder Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Advisory Group

Aodhán currently sits on this Advisory Group. His focus is on educating young people about sustainability in schools. The Forum will take place in November 2024.



Child Poverty and Wellbeing Office Youth Advisory Group

Keira took part in the Child Poverty and Well-being YAG. The Youth Advisory Group met in person and online to discuss important topics and determine which topics they deemed most important to bring forward to the Summit. In May 2024, the YAG had the great opportunity to attend the Department of the Taoiseach to meet with the Secretary General to the Department of the Taoiseach, and the Secretary General to the DCEDIY to present their views and opinions to them. Watch the fantastic video the group made [here](#)

Recent Achievements



Kerry ETB Youth Work Committee

Aodhán and Keira sit on the Kerry ETB Youth Work Committee as Youth Representatives. Their active involvement has led to valuable insights and collaboration with key stakeholders in Kerry ETB, enabling active youth representation in the Youth Work Plan and ensuring the views of young people are included in decisions that effect them.

LCYP and Youth Work Launch 2024

Keira and Aodhán, the current Chairpersons (2023-2024), both sit on the Youth Work Committee for Kerry ETB. In February 2024 they worked to spotlight the amazing work and contributions of young individuals across Kerry during the LCYP and Youth Work Plan Launch for the period 2024-2027.



KDYS Youth Advisory Group

Keira and Conor both sit on the KDYS Youth Advisory Group. The purpose of the group is to advise the KDYS CEO and the Board of Directors on strategic decisions from a young person's perspective. The group provides an opportunity for young people to have a say on their youth organisation and is directed by the members.

National Rural Youth Assembly of Ireland, 2023

In November 2023 Emma, Kiera, and Aodhán attended the National Rural Youth Assembly of Ireland where they discussed many issues facing rural youth. They also met with Minister Joe O'Brien and highlighted many topics ranging from transport to the rural-urban divide.

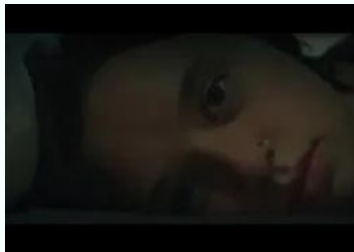


Creative Ireland Kerry Strategy

The Creative Ireland program is a national/all of government program. In 2022 we met with staff from the Arts Office in Kerry County Council to input into the new Creative Ireland Kerry Strategy and give our ideas for Cruinniú na nÓg, an annual day of youth creativity held every June.



Recent Achievements



“The Bag”

The Bag was a short film created by Kerry Comhairle na nÓg in 2022 to showcase youth mental health and how people can have a positive and negative impact on our young peoples daily lives. The project was made possible by funding from Healthy Ireland through Kerry CYPSC. We are very grateful to them for their support.

Child Summit 2023

Ireland’s second Child Summit took place in Croke Park on November 21st, 2023. The event was hosted by the DCEDIY in collaboration with the Children’s Rights Alliance. The event was designed to provide policymakers, decision-makers and relevant stakeholders with the opportunity to share their views on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child’s (2023) concluding comments and recommendations on Ireland’s record regarding its children’s rights obligations.

Emma and Aodhán both sat on the Youth Advisory Group for the event with Aodhán mcing the event and Emma sitting on a panel discussion.



Investing in Children Membership Award

We were delighted to be awarded the Investing in Children Membership Award in 2023. “The Investing in Children Membership Award™ Scheme recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice with children and young people. Organisations applying for the award have to demonstrate dialogue with young people which leads to change. However, children and young people have to provide the evidence for the organisation and endorse the membership report because it is a children’s and young people’s award.”



Seanad na nÓg 2022

Emma attended Seanad na nÓg representing Kerry Comhairle na nÓg’s voice in the House of the Oireachtas. This took place on the 100th Anniversary of Ireland’s independence, marking a momentous day for young people.



4.

Conclusion

"Our youth are not failing the system; the system is failing our youth."

Tupac Shakur

Our Numbers

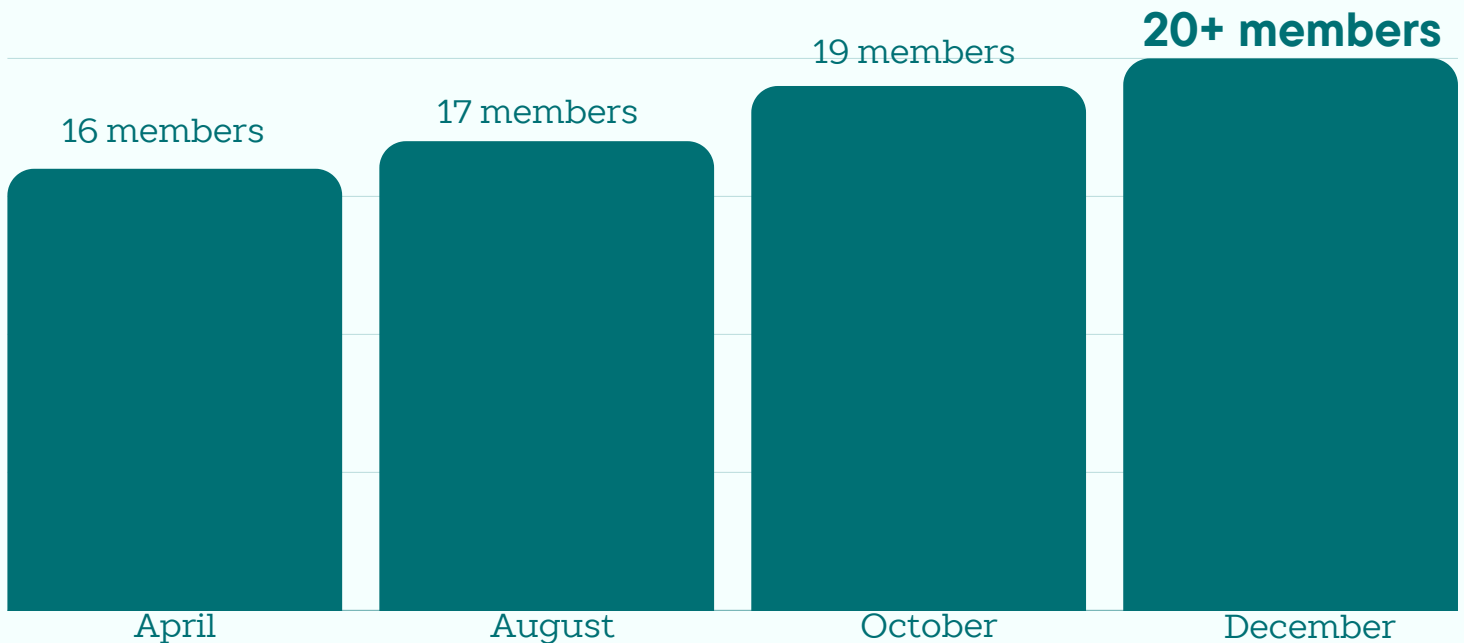
In one year we would like to have achieved:

Increased Social Media Presence

An increase in our social media presence across Facebook and Instagram with local TDs and stakeholders following our progress on social media. This will also increase awareness of the Comhairle among young people.

Increase in Membership

We aim to increase our numbers to over 20 young people by the end of 2024. We will promote diversity in our membership ensuring all young people across Co. Kerry are represented and have a platform to voice their concerns and give their thoughts on topics that affect them.



CONCLUSION

This Kerry Comhairle na nÓg Strategy outlines a vision, mission, and objectives - We as a youth organization aim to promote the voices of young people in Co. Kerry, ensuring they are heard and their views are considered in decisions that affect them.

Our strategy identifies key issues such as school stress, student voice, civic engagement, and smoking and vaping, and outlines steps to address these challenges.

We plan to increase our social media presence and membership numbers, aiming to have over 20 members by the end of 2024.

The strategy highlights the achievements of Kerry Comhairle na nÓg, including its work on rural transport, youth mental health, and active youth representation through various platforms.

Overall, our strategy represents a roadmap for Kerry Comhairle na nÓg's activities and outlines the steps that we will take to address the issues identified.

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