

Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg AGM 2017





Dublin City Comhairle AGM

The Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting was held in Croke Park on Friday 27th October 2017. The AGM was formally launched by **Ardmhéara Mícheál Mac Donncha**.

Aims of the AGM:

1. To discuss and explore topics of importance to young people and identify a topic that will provide the focus of their work for the year ahead.
2. For current members to share the progress they made in relation to their working topic from the year.
3. To gather feedback on topics that are of importance to young people.
4. To Elect young people to fill the current vacancies on Comhairle.

The AGM is both youth friendly and youth led. The AGM was chaired by the Chair and Vice of Dublin City Comhairle Grace O'Dwyer Chair and Marina Politis Vice Chair.

All presentations at the AGM were delivered by Dublin City Comhairle members, they also help with registration while others take on the roles of note-taker and co-facilitator.

Adults also facilitate at the AGM they are made up of Dublin City Council Staff and Comhairle steering Committee Members,

Prior to the AGM key decisions such as the venue, how to select the topics, agenda and voting procedures were decided by Comhairle.

Current Comhairle members also receive training in facilitating for the AGM.

This report was compiled by

Mary Mooney

Dublin City Comhairle Coordinator

AGM Agenda



9.15am – 9.50am	Arrival and Registration Instagram Frame Ardmhéara Mícheál Mac Donncha formally opens the AGM
9.50am – 10.20am	Welcome and Presentations By Comhairle Chair & Vice Chair Feedback on last year's topic Youth Homelessness Aftercare Video
10.20am – 10.30am	Experience of being in Comhairle Video
10.30am – 10.45am	Ice-breakers
10.50am – 11.10am	Choose topic to discuss at table
11.10am – 11.25am	Break Graffiti Wall
11.30am – 12.00pm	Vote on chosen topic
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm – 1.15pm	Feedback and Vote on Topics
1.15pm – 1.50pm	Nominations and voting for Comhairle
1.50pm – 2.00pm	Comhairle na nÓg Committee Election Results, Topic Results and Close

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Selection of delegates for the AGM:

The current Dublin City Comhairle Coordinator Mary Mooney works closely with the Dublin City Council Community Development Officers located in the following areas: North West, South East, Central, North Central and South Central. The staff and coordinator make contact with various schools and youth organisations in the area's inviting them to nominate young people to attend the AGM. Young people aged from 11-17yrs represent their area, school and youth organisation at the AGM.

When inviting young people to attend the emphasis is put on the need for a broad representation of young people from varying backgrounds, abilities and age groups. In addition the Comhairle Steering Committee Group members invite young people from their organisations to attend the AGM. Existing Comhairle members promote the AGM in their own schools and youth groups.

Age profile of the 2017 attendees:

11years- 20

12years - 33

13years -15

14years -10

15years -11

16 years - 17

17years - 9



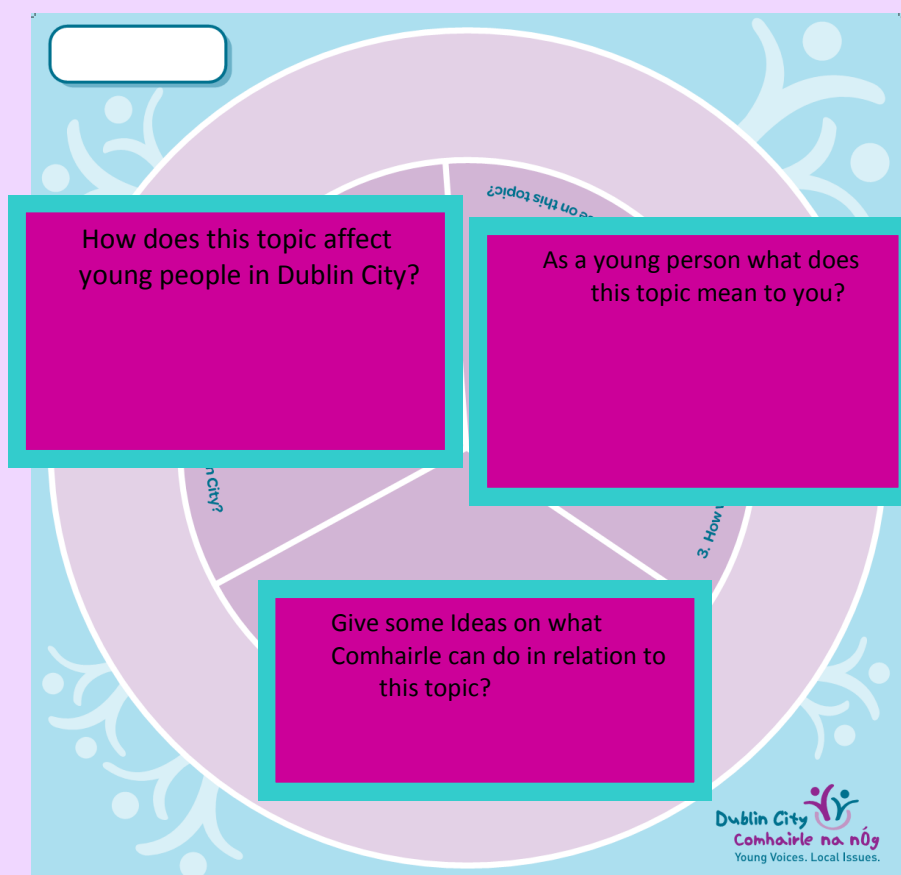
Topics Discussed

As part of the AGM registration young people attending were asked to list out their top three topics that they would like to see discussed at the AGM. The 3 most popular topics selected by members of the current Comhairle and the young people attending were:

- **Youth Mental Health & Well Being**
- **Cyber Bullying**
- **The Environment**

The above topics were discussed by the young people at each table before they decided on what topic they wanted to discuss further.

During the workshop, each table discussed their chosen topic in more detail. To support this process they used participatory placemats (see image below) they are divided into 3 segments with 3 different questions. Young people were encouraged to discuss their thoughts and share their opinions, they can also write and draw on the placemats.



Some feedback from the young people on the topics discussed

Mental health & Wellbeing

As a young Person how does this topic effect you?

“Mental health is important to young people because it shapes you as a person”

“To me personally mental health means how I can help myself and how to better myself and understand the difficulties it has on my individuality”

“The biggest problem amongst young people”

“It is a big problem in society today and it affects lots of young people”

“I think mental health should be taken seriously because it can change people’s lives”

“It could lead to anxiety, depression and at the worst case suicide and that is very sad”

“It causes problems mentally and emotionally”

“Substance abuse can lead to bad mental health”

How does this effect young people in Dublin City?

“Mental health doesn’t just affect the sufferer’s mental health it affects everyone around them and their families”

“Dublin City has disadvantaged problems so these problems can affect a person’s mental health e.g. money problems”

“It can be difficult for people to do things like get a job”

“people are aware of mental health but not enough people are coming together to stop it”

“Feel they are not being trusted or listened to”

“It affects young people because sometimes youths go through more difficult stages like puberty and self growth. There are problems we can’t face alone and need someone to give a helping hand”

“How you feel as a person/emotions/struggles”

“If a person in your family has mental health issues it can be sad and affect them in ways such as depression. It is hard on the family because the person doesn’t know what is wrong with them”

“It can affect you when you are older and can be very damaging and difficult in day to day life”

Some feedback from the young people on the topics

Mental health & Wellbeing

Some ideas on what Comhairle can do in relation to this topic?

“Talk to people and respect their mind”

“Take them places they have never been before and show them the joy in life”

“Make a help line where you can talk to people”

“They could have a place for them to talk without being judged about what they are going through”

“Host a Mental health week in school”

“We could make a video or hold an event”

“Have more fun activities like another mental health week within schools or even outside to keep a positive environment”



“Have more events
and talk about mental
health”

“If you cannot explain
how you feel draw a
picture there is always
someone who cares”

Cyber Bullying

As a young Person how does this topic effect you?

“Teachers are not taking it seriously”

“People are lying online pretending to be older then they are”

“It could lead to anxiety, depression and at the worst case suicide and that is very sad”

“It causes problems mentally and emotionally”

“Cyber bullying does not just affect the city, but people from all walks of life. The young community in Dublin have a lot of information about social media and some young people are more oblivious to the affects of it”

“People can feel hurt and alone”

“Damages mental health”

“It hurts peoples feelings”

“It’s not fair and it is embarrassing”

“Making young people feel upset and it may lead to suicide”



Cyber Bullying

How does this topic affect young people in Dublin City?

"People feeling threatened"

"Encourage people to talk out more it's not snitching its helping"

"Trying to get help can make it worse"

"Adults don't understand"

"Young people hide themselves"

"Makes you feel self conscious"

"You don't know how other people feel"

"It affects a lot of people on an emotional level because sometimes you are not aware of who is bullying you and why they are doing it"

"Teachers are not taking it seriously"

"It means that people are being bullied more on social media"

"Bullies are often forced into bullying by other bullies this does not excuse it but it is possible"

"It 's not fair and it's embarrassing"



"It's sad that People get pleasure out of bullying others "

Some feedback from the young people on the topics

Cyber Bullying

Some ideas on what Comhairle can do in relation to this topic?

“Hold workshops such as.. is this bullying? for young people”

“To give more education in schools”

“Social media project, certain words should be blocked”

“Support opening up a community or care-line so young people can talk”

“Comhairle could organise to talk to kids about online bullying”

“Instead of punishing cyber bullies. Try talk to them to try to understand they might be hurting someone”

“Buddy system: have more buddy benches and match people in local area to talk and have fun when they are struggling”

“It can be more serious in cases than traditional bullying because it stays “up there”

“Comhairle could organise to talk to kids about online bullying”



Some feedback from the young people on the topics

Environment

As a young Person what does this topic mean to you ?

“Create Awareness”

“To me it means living a happy and healthy life”

“The environment is the space around us the air we breath, the plants and grass”

“It’s our play space and it is being damaged by bonfires, fireworks and bangers”

“Trees are being cut down”

“It’s the green life that we see”

How does this topic effect young people in Dublin City ?

“If there isn't enough green space kids have no place to play”

“It can effect us enjoying our areas of play”

“The environment means a lot, make areas nice”

“Not enough trees”

“We live on earth
and it cares for us yet
we don't care for it”

Some ideas on what Comhairle can do in relation to this topic?

“Encourage young people not to litter, run a campaign”

“Educate on global warming”

“Arrange a clean-up day”

“Talk to young people about pollution”

“Encourage people to re-use recyclable things”

“Get more CCTV on lamp posts in the playgrounds and park”



The Election process

- There are 63 places on Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg and a further 8 places are allocated to seldom heard young people.
- Young people are elected from each of the five administrative area to sit on Comhairle. All young people who attend the AGM are assigned to a group. These are divided up by area e.g. North West, South East, Central, North Central and South Central.
- Elected members hold a two year term on Comhairle. The entire membership does not change annually; at the AGM places are filled for members that have completed their two year term.
- The election is carried out by area. All young people are welcome to run for election. Anyone who is interested in being part of Comhairle puts their name forward. Each person then delivers a short speech(1-2minutes), saying why they were interested in being on Comhairle.
- Each young person is then given a ballot paper and they vote for one person, this is carried out by secret ballot. The votes are then counted by the facilitators and the numbers of places available for that area are filled. Subs are also elected they will fill positions where an elected member cannot.

What happens next:

- Elected representatives meet monthly.
- The Planning Committee once elected will meet monthly before each meeting.
- Various consultations and sub group meetings take place as the members get more established and as their working topic develops.



Working Topic 2018

The 2018 working topic for Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg as voted for by the young people who attended the AGM in Croke Park is Youth Mental Health & Well Being. Since the AGM in October elected members have been working on progressing the topic further.

They have explored what Mental Health and Well Being means to them and what they can do to highlight the issue. In February they meet with staff from the following organisations Jigsaw Dublin, First Fortnight, Walk in My Shoes, Webwise, SpunOut.ie and St. Patrick's Mental Health Services. They were a big help to the young people in guiding them on what is already happening around the topic and looking at what Comhairle could focus on.

At their March meeting members voted on the actions they wanted to take in relation to the topic. After all votes were placed the most popular actions were an Event and a Social Media Campaign. Their Mental Health & Well Being event will take place in September and they are in the process of developing their online campaign.

Dublin City Comhairle have also developed a “Positivity Box” as part of their working topic. Each young person submitted a tip on how they to mind their mental health and well being.

The “Positivity Box “will be trialled in three schools to further encourage the conversation around youth mental health.





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In conclusion the Annual General Meeting met it's three main objectives:

1. The young people discussed three topics of importance to young people and they identified the working topic of for 2018.
2. Comhairle members provided feedback on last year's topic and the progress they made during the year.
3. Young people were elected to fill the vacancies on Comhairle.

More Information:

For more information on Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg contact:

Mary Mooney Comhairle Coordinator on 01-2225394 or email mary.mooney@dublincity.ie

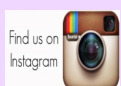
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