

Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg

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Title	The NASA Initiative
Description of Project	<p>NO ALCOHOLIC SUBSTANCES ALLOWED - NASA</p> <p>The NASA Initiative is a response to young people’s experiences of travelling to and from underage events. These experiences were having a negative effect on some young people and taking their choice away to travel on public transport due to some young people drinking alcohol.</p> <p>Bus Companies have committed to a zero tolerance policy of alcohol on board while transporting passengers to and from an underage event. It applies to journeys both to and from events and clearly states that</p> <p><i>“If a passenger is intoxicated, suspected of being intoxicated, has been observed drinking or carrying alcohol entry onto bus will be refused, and Parents/Carers/Gardaí will be contacted”.</i></p> <p>This initiative not only listens to the needs of young people but also increases support for parents, youth clubs, sports clubs, local transport facilitators and An Garda Síochána. The outcomes will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in alcohol use for Under 18’s • Safeguarding our Young People • Sends a clear message to the next generation of young people accessing local transport • Increase in Young people accessing local transport • Decrease in Driver Distraction • Increase in Road Safety • Reducing underage and binge drinking, whilst breaking the cycle of public drinking, and safeguarding the next generation.
Aims of the Project	Promote an effective message of zero tolerance with the use of alcohol on transport while travelling to and from underage events.

<p>How have you identified the need for this project?</p>	<p>These issues were identified by members of Comhairle, explaining to the committee that they were not permitted to access transport to go to discos as in some cases there were many people getting on the bus with some level of alcohol consumed and in some cases were continuing to drink alcohol on the bus. It was agreed by the Comhairle Committee to take on the issue to ensure all young people have access to transport facilities if they so choose.</p>		
<p>Who will benefit from this project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People 12-17 years of age • Local Transport Providers • Parents • Ambulance/Hospital Services • Local Communities • An Garda Síochána/Criminal Justice System 		
<p>Proposed start date:</p>	<p>2015</p>	<p>Finishing date:</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>How do you plan to evaluate the project?</p>	<p>We will be measuring outcomes and evaluating the ongoing effectiveness of the initiative through clear communication and consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bus Operators ✓ An Garda Síochána ✓ Young People ✓ Event Organisers <p>There will be regular meetings, a clear complaints procedure, direct phone line to support everyone involved</p>		
<p>Quotes from various partners</p>	<p><i>“The problem was that young people were finding it difficult to access transport to and from local discos” – Comhairle committee member</i></p> <p><i>“Parents are left scared and worried about their teenage children travelling on buses to underage discos, but the NASA initiative will help bring peace of mind” – Comhairle committee member</i></p> <p><i>“The members of the Joint Policing Committee were very impressed with the proposed project and agreed to support if whole heartly” – Cllr. Paddy Kilduff Chair of Roscommon JPC</i></p> <p><i>“Through the hard work and determination of the young people of Co. Roscommon and many meetings and lots of public support, I am delighted to see that they are at the stage of launching this initiative” – Cllr John Cummins Cathaoirleach of Co. Roscommon He also hopes that NASA will have a ripple effect with Comhairle groups throughout the country taking up Roscommon’s lead.</i></p>		

“The NASA programme will help to reduce the amount of alcohol that young people are getting their hands on and help curb the problem of binge drinking” – Emmet Major Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

“It really heartens me to see this initiative coming from young people themselves; sometimes adults tend to speak to young people and tell them what to do but in this case young people have identified the problem and came up with the solution.” – Superintendent Fran Nicholson on behalf of Chief Superintendent Padraic Rattigan.