

UPDATE

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LETS TALK PHOTOS



LETS TALK EVENT 2019

Meabh Ni Chiosog, St. Louis, Monaghan

"On the 8th of May we held our "Lets Talk" event in Ballybay Wetlands Centre ahead of our local elections. This event gave the young people of our area an opportunity to highlight their needs.

Some of the candidates who wished to be elected to the Monaghan Comhairle appeared before young people from all over the county to answer questions on *Education, Transport, Environment, Sexual Orientation and Health, Mental Health and Well Being, Relationships and the Safety of Young People*. Questions on the night included interest in the need for mental health services across the county.

Across is a picture featuring the *Comhairle Na nÓg* members, *Comhairle* candidates and *Youth Work Ireland* who attended the event. Free transport was provided across the county for all the young people who were interested and just in case we missed anyone, Brendan Mallon, our Public Relations Officer, live streamed the whole event on our *Facebook* page which allowed accessibility for the young people who were unable to attend.

We would like to thank our local radio station *Northern Sound* for allowing Kendra Fagan and Méabh Cusack to advertise with an interview which took place the day previous to the event, our local newspaper *The Northern Standard* who featured an article highlighting its success and *Youth Work Ireland* for supervising the event. Finally we would also like to thank the election candidates and all of the amazing young people who showed up to the event "

WHAT IS THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Ombudsman for Children and Youth Affairs investigates complaints about any public service that provides a service to young people under the age of 18.

The Ombudsman for Children and Youth Affairs also promotes the rights and welfare of any young people (under 18) that lives in Ireland.

The Ombudsman listens to concerns from young people and bring these concerns to the people who directly make decisions affecting young people.

The Ombudsman is an independent organisation and is not linked to any political party. The service is free to use.

Anyone can make a complaint about a public service for young people in Ireland.

To find out more information or to find out how to make a complaint please see:

www.oco.ie or just simple look up the Ombudsman for Children online.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE TRIP .

Meabh Ni Chiosog, St. Louis, Monaghan



"On Friday June 7th, three of our members received the amazing opportunity to meet Dr. Niall Muldoon, The Ombudsman for Children and Youth Affairs. Eadaoin McCarron, Méabh Cusack and Kendra Fagan travelled with peers from Comhairle Na nÓg Dún Na nGall. In the bus provided, the group travelled from the early Ulster morning to the bright lights of Dublin City Centre. They bonded quickly over a common love of the Irish language with many of the Donegal members hailing from Gaeltacht regions.

The young people benefited hugely from a talk explaining the rights of children and the function of the Ombudsman for Children and Youth Affairs. They were shocked to hear that less than 5% of complaints sent in actually came from children. At the end of the day, the girls had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Muldoon, particularly about the possibility of mental health services for young people in our area which they are now following up on. "

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