

Comhairle na nÓg

Development Fund Annual Report 2020

June 2021



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



Glossary

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CAAP LK	Community Action on Alcohol Letterkenny
CARO	Climate Action Regional Offices
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
EPIC	Empowering People in Care
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ETB	Education and Training Board
FRC	Family Resource Centre
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
JPC	Joint Policing Committee
HSE	Health Service Executive
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
NCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NPCPP	National Parents Council Post Primary Ltd
NUI	National University of Ireland
PPN	Public Participation Network
RSE	Relationships and Sexuality Education
UCD	University College Dublin

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1 Introduction

The *Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund Annual Report 2020* provides an overview of Comhairle na nÓg's activities from January to December 2020.

The data and information presented in this report is based on the end of year annual reports submitted by each of the 31 Comhairlí na nÓg. Feedback from Comhairle na nÓg Participation Officers also provided additional insight into activities and developments during 2020.

Analysis of the 2020 annual reports is presented under the following headings:

- The Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- Comhairle na nÓg – membership and meetings;
- Key topics identified by young people;
- Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg;
- Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies; structures and organisations;
- Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg steering committee;
- Comhairle na nÓg staffing;
- Comhairle na nÓg administration support;
- 2020 Income and expenditure report.

The report includes a number of appendices which provide further detail in relation to local actions from all Comhairlí na nÓg and related financial expenditure in 2020.

This chapter begins with an overview of Comhairle na nÓg and the programme Development Fund, followed by some background context and the key developments reported in 2020.

1.1 Background

Comhairlí na nÓg (youth councils) give children and young people a voice in decision-making with regard to the development of local services and policies. They are recognised as the national structures for participation of children and young people in decision-making in all 31 local authorities.

Comhairle na nÓg allows young people's voices to be heard in two ways: (1) by working on topics of importance to young people and (2) acting as a consultative forum for adult decision-makers at a local level.

The Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund is overseen and administered by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). The Youth Reform, Strategy and Participation Unit within the DCEDIY has responsibility for ensuring that children and young people have a voice in the design, delivery and monitoring of services and policies that affect their lives, at both national and local level. The DCEDIY supports and sets standards for Comhairle na nÓg and funds three dedicated Participation Officers who are employed by youth organisations and provide support and training to local Comhairle na nÓg Co-ordinators.

The Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund is designed to assist local authorities to support the development of Comhairle na nÓg. The fund allocates up to €20,000 funding annually to each local authority to run an effective Comhairle na nÓg. In addition to this fund, local authorities and relevant statutory and voluntary organisations in the city/county may provide funding and resources for Comhairle na nÓg at a local level.

Pobal has administered the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund in collaboration with the DCEDIY since 2011. Pobal manages the transfer of payments, annual reporting and the funding request process. An online portal to support the Comhairle na nÓg administration process is also managed by Pobal. In addition, Pobal conducts a number of annual verification visits to ensure that the administration and expenditure of funding is in accordance with the fund criteria. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 verification checks were carried out remotely.

As part of their funding arrangement, all recipients of the Development Fund are required to report on activities and expenditure for the annual funding period. All annual reports are uploaded on to the Pobal portal for the Participant Officers to review.

1.2 Developments in 2020

1.2.1 Highlights

The past year proved a very challenging year for Ireland and globally. The COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 has radically altered our lives and our society, and caused fundamental changes to the ways in which we interact and work. The pandemic has had a huge impact on all of us, socially, economically and culturally. Within the unprecedented change brought about by various national lockdowns, restrictions and quarantine measures, young people are navigating a period of their lives which is defined by difficult transitions and change. Most research and commentary on the early impact of COVID-19 suggest that for young people in particular, increased services and provisions in the area of mental health issues and feelings of isolation and loneliness are a key factor in supporting young people through this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also been a major challenge for the youth work sector, requiring a move from physical interactions and one-to-one supports to online events and consultations, and remote working for all organisations.

Comhairle na nÓg annual reports submitted by Comhairlí outline a very positive response to COVID-19 and how organisations adapted well in their efforts to continue advocating the voice of young people and supporting its members. Below are a number of key developments and achievements outlined by Comhairle na nÓg in 2020. These developments helped provide the framework for this report and give context to the report's overall findings.

1.2.2 National Executive 2020-2021

The new Comhairle na nÓg National Executive 2020-21 commenced their term in January 2020. The National Executive comprises of 31 representatives – one from each of the Comhairlí na nÓg from all over the country. The 31 members are facilitated and supported by the DCEDIY, and a Participation Team from Youth Work Ireland and Foróige who ensure that they have the opportunity to engage with appropriate Ministers, policymakers and decision-makers.

Delegates from the Dáil na nÓg 2019 meeting, which focused on the issue of climate change, were tasked with agreeing actions to form the basis of the work on the incoming National Executive. More **climate-conscious transport solutions** was the topic selected by the meeting. The National Executive has been supported and facilitated by DCEDIY, Foróige and Youth Work Ireland in the progression of this topic throughout 2020. The first meeting of the National Executive took place in January 2020. Guest speakers assisted the National Executive on progressing their topic and included inputs by the National Transport Authority, Dublin City Council and Amsterdam City Council.

In June, Comhairlí members developed a survey on the topic of Climate-Conscious Transport Solutions. The aim was to build a nationwide picture of why young people use or don't use public transport and to identify what are the key issues for young people. The survey focused on two main areas - cycling as a sustainable form of transport and public transport in the form of buses. The survey was distributed across all Comhairlí. Five key themes arose for the topic of public transport including accessibility, affordability, reliability/safety, education and awareness. Affordability arose as the biggest issue facing young people. From this, the proposal of introducing an affordable Youth Travel Card was identified.

Climate Action Unit Jargon Busting

In 2019, the Climate Action Unit of the Department of an Taoiseach was in the process of creating a website on the government's Climate Action Plan. Eleven young people from the National Executive met with the Climate Action Unit to take part in a consultation session where they examined climate related material to identify approximately 50 terms related to climate change. The aim was to identify terms which may need inclusion and explanation on the new *Jargon Busting* section of the Comhairle na nÓg website.

A follow up meeting took place in October 2020, to review findings and consult on the aesthetics of the new website, its design and the most appropriate social media channels identified by young people. The launch of the website is planned for 2021. (www.climatejargonbuster.ie)

The following is a summary of the key actions of the National Executive and the main meetings that the National Executive were supported to attend and present at:

- Conducted two full-group meetings in person and nine full-group online meetings. There were also four sub-group meetings taking place online.
- In addition, two sub-group meetings took place with the Climate Action Unit of the Department of An Taoiseach, one in person and the other meeting took place online.
- There was one sub-group meeting with Hub na nÓg as part of the consultation work for the Hub Framework document.

1.2.3 Awards

Limerick Comhairle were awarded a Gold Medal by the World Health Organisations as part of the year's World No Tobacco Day Awards. The award was for their participation in *#NotAroundUs*, a campaign that promotes no smoking around young people. The prestigious award is recognition of the youth council's involvement in development of their campaign with Health Limerick, the HSE and Limerick City and County Local Authority. The campaign aims

to create a tobacco free generation and make it easier to quit smoking by making public areas smoke-free zones.

Roscommon won the Best Design Award at the ESB Techfest 2020 for the *Bin Drugs Not Your Dreams* campaign on the dangers of substance misuse. The Comhairle are now working with the Irish Second-Level Students Union to create a substance resource pack for distribution nationwide.

The Lord Mayor of Cork City awarded one of their Comhairle members with a Youth Award in recognition of their advocacy work within the community.

1.2.4 Comhairle na nÓg Showcase 2020

In December 2020, Comhairle na nÓg members were invited to a biannual event that celebrates the work and achievements of all members. *Showcase 2020* was a unique experience as it took place as a live virtual event. The Showcase was supported by a number of guest speakers and entertainers. An Taoiseach made the opening address to the 31 Comhairle na nÓg organisations. The Showcase itself was hosted by Doireann Garrihy. Other speakers included Astronaut Chris Hadfield, musician Niall Horan and Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD.

A highlight of the event was showcasing the outstanding work being carried by all 31 Comhairle na nÓg across the country.

1.2.5 Comhairle na nÓg networking days

The annual regional members networking events were planned to be held in Dublin, Limerick and Sligo in March 2020 but were changed to a series of online events instead. The purpose of the events was to allow Comhairle members network with each other, share information and to discuss the challenges and how to overcome them in an informal way.

In preparation for the networking days, an online survey was completed by members to allow them to provide suggestions on what the online events should include. As a result, a series of phased events over a number of weeks in April and May 2020 were rolled out.

The activities included an online quiz, a creative art workshop where Comhairle members were asked to submit artwork for a digital mural challenge. The final activity involved all members participating in a range of Comhairle talks with elected speaker. Comhairle members were given an opportunity to hear from experts in their chosen fields, relevant to the topics they were currently working on. The three key speakers were:

- Professor John Sweeney who spoke about the environment and climate action.
- Jack Kavanagh, a life coach who discussed challenges facing young people and in particular COVID-19.
- Jigsaw- Katy and Cian both spoke on the issues of young people and mental health and wellbeing.

The networking events were very successful given the challenges of moving online and a summary report of the events was completed by Comhairle na nÓg.

1.2.6 Consultations

In **February 2020**, Comhairle na nÓg engaged with the Parenting Support Policy Unit within the DCEDIY to hold consultations with young people on how to improve supports to parents. The results will feed into the development of a national model of parenting services which the Parenting Support Unit within DCEDIY is establishing.

The second consultation had to be postponed due to COVID-19 related restrictions. However, it is expected that the overall findings from the consultations will be assessed to determine whether an ongoing consultative method is required to ensure young people's voices are reflected in the parenting support policy.

In **June 2020**, a newly established Youth Advisory Group¹ met for the first time with the DCEDIY to design a national consultation with young people on health and well-being during COVID-19. The work of the Youth Advisory Group established a national online consultation with young people hosted on SpunOut.ie in June 2020. The consultation allowed young people share their experience of COVID-19 and to have their voices heard.

Following this consultation, in **October 2020**, *How's your Head: Young voices during COVID-19* report was officially launched by Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD. The *How's Your Head?* consultation set out to hear from young people directly about how the pandemic has impacted their everyday lives; what have been the challenges, but also what positives do young people want to keep from this time and how they feel about the future.

Findings from the survey highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on young people being separated from friends and family, the difficulties they have experienced with education and work, and the impact of the pandemic on their physical and mental wellbeing. Despite these challenges, many young people remain optimistic about the future.

Their feedback will help policy makers and service providers to better understand the needs of young people, in order to inform their work in the future.

In **November 2020**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a consultation with Comhairle members in relation to their next five-year strategic plan. With responsibility for protecting and improving the environment and playing a key role in environmental regulations in Ireland, the EPA were eager to engage with young people to raise awareness of the role of the EPA and understand their concerns and hopes in relation to the environment and their health.

They also wanted to hear their ideas and views on how they can promote personal and social responsibility for the environment, and what benefits young people see for their communities and society in having a healthy environment - this formed the basis of the two consultations in November. As a result of the consultations the Environmental Protection Agency Youth Advisory Group was established.

¹ Members of the Youth Advisory Group come from across the country, range in age between 15 – 24 years and are nominated by Comhairle na nÓg, Foróige, Youth Work Ireland, Spunout.ie and the National Youth Council of Ireland. Comhairle members were selected from each of the four provinces with representatives from Cavan, Cork City, Galway City and Wicklow.

2 The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Each Comhairle is required to have an Annual General Meeting. This meeting allows for election of new members, the formation of committees and discussion around topics that Comhairlí decide to adopt as part of their work plan for the coming year. This section of the report provides details on the Comhairle na nÓg AGMs, such as attendance, preparation and promotion of the AGM.

Key findings

- In 2020, a total of 2,615 young people attended a Comhairle na nÓg AGM.
- 87% of Comhairlí indicated that an AGM report was written and distributed.
- Comhairlí na nÓg spent a total of **€66,804.86** on the AGM in 2020. This represents the third highest spending category with 12.48% of the overall expenditure. This is a decrease of 24.6% compared to 2019 spend (**€88,542.23**).

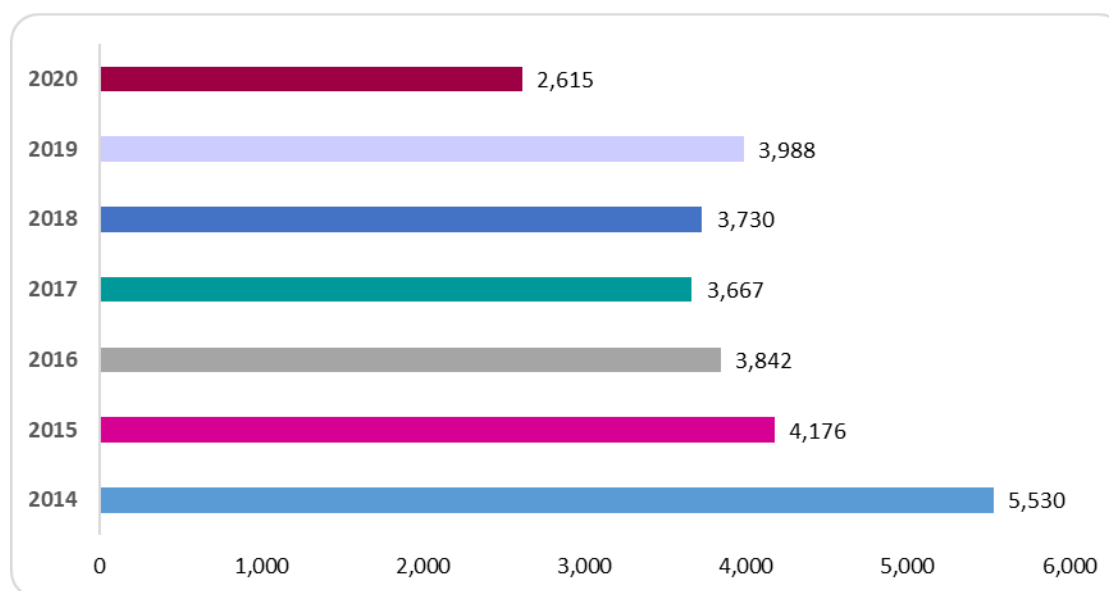
2.1 AGM

A total of 2,615 young people attended a Comhairle na nÓg AGM in 2020, representing an average of 84 attendees per Comhairle, see Table 2.1 for more details. This shows a decrease, for the first time in three years, in the number of young people attending the AGM. The number of attendees reduced by 34% when compared with 2019 figures (3,988), see Figure 2.1. A number of Comhairlí reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some schools were not in a position to attend the AGM, moving it to an online meeting did not suit some audiences or numbers had to be limited as a result.

Table 2.1 Young people who attended the AGM

Young people who attended	Number
Total	2,615
Average	84
Maximum number of attendees at an AGM	266
Minimum number of attendees at an AGM	35

Figure 2.1 Number of young people attending the AGM (2014-2020)



The majority of Comhairle na nÓg AGMs were held in November 2020 (22 or 71%), while the remaining nine AGMs took place in October (13%) and December (16%).

2.2 Planning and delivering the AGM

Comhairlí were asked to detail how existing members were involved in planning and delivering the AGM. 21 Comhairlí (68%) reported that their members planned and/or facilitated workshops / breakout sessions on Zoom/ activities (including icebreakers) on the day. 19 Comhairlí (61%) reported that their members were involved in planning the event and content / agenda. Over a third (39%) of Comhairlí reported that members performed as masters of ceremonies and/or chaired the event and 32% of Comhairlí reported that members developed presentations/presented at the AGM. Amongst the other details noted, a smaller number of Comhairlí reported that their members selected/invited guest speakers, held planning meetings prior to the AGM, organised all aspects and/or played a lead role in organising the event, assigned roles/volunteered, evaluated the AGM/workshops or were involved in the selection of their topics for discussion.

2.3 AGM preparation and promotion

Comhairlí were asked how they prepared for and promoted the AGM, what measures were adopted with schools to encourage students to attend the AGM and how they applied a particular focus on the 12-15 age group and seldom heard² children.

² 'Seldom-heard' is a term used to describe children and young people who have fewer opportunities to participate and/or who encounter more obstacles when attempting to participate - e.g. Travellers, those from a minority ethnic background, those not in school, those living in rural isolation, those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,

Many Comhairlí reported contacting schools and/or youth organisations by letter and email and made follow-up phone calls notifying them about their AGM. The communications also promoted the work of the Comhairlí and requested that young people from the specific age cohort of 12-15 year olds, or from both the junior and senior cycles, were encouraged to attend. Some Comhairlí also contacted/visited³ schools, youth clubs/projects encouraging them to nominate seldom heard young people to attend the AGM. In some cases, Comhairlí used social media (including paid promoted adverts) or print media, such as local papers, to advertise their AGMs. Several Comhairlí also sent out 'save the date' posters/emails, information packs or merchandise to schools and youth groups in advance of the AGM.

Comhairlí members also acted as ambassadors within their own schools and youth clubs by promoting Comhairle na nÓg to teachers and students. Some Comhairlí distributed videos, on their social media platforms promoting the AGM, e.g. one Comhairle included videos of the Lord Mayor and a GAA senior county hurler promoting the AGM. It was noted by some Comhairlí that promoting the AGM was additionally challenging in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.4 Election of young people to the Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairlí were asked to describe the process undertaken to elect or select young people to the Comhairle na nÓg in 2020. In many cases young people expressed their interest at the AGM and some were invited to attend a meeting following the AGM and as such, the meeting was used as the vehicle for the recruitment of new members.

Some Comhairlí reported that those interested in becoming committee members could highlight reasons for wanting to become members through an application form, or interview process (both of which were online in 2020). Others reported having elections, that young people self-nominated or were selected via a lottery system from those that expressed an interest.

A number of Comhairlí mentioned making presentations at the AGM regarding the roles of Comhairle, their expectations or their own experiences of participating in Comhairle.

A small number of Comhairlí reported that young people were elected by local sub-committees or, those not linked to local sub-committees, were co-opted onto the Comhairle and in some cases schools selected participants, due to COVID-19 restrictions and online activities.

2.5 Selection of AGM key topics

Comhairlí were asked to describe the methods applied to select the key topics discussed at the 2020 AGM. In some cases, Comhairlí requested topic suggestions as part of a member's application/registration / expression of interest, or AGM evaluation forms. Online breakout rooms were utilised for discussion of and voting on topics by some Comhairlí. Some topics were discussed at meetings prior to the AGM and suggestions were brought forward through workshops or discussions. Some topics were discussed and chosen by the existing Comhairle members. Often, the Comhairle members either completed an online survey or voted on the suggested topics by means of a poll using, e.g. Zoom or 'Mentimeter' - an online voting tool

transgender/transsexual, intersex or questioning, those in care, those living with mental health issues, and persons with a physical and/ or intellectual disabilities etc.

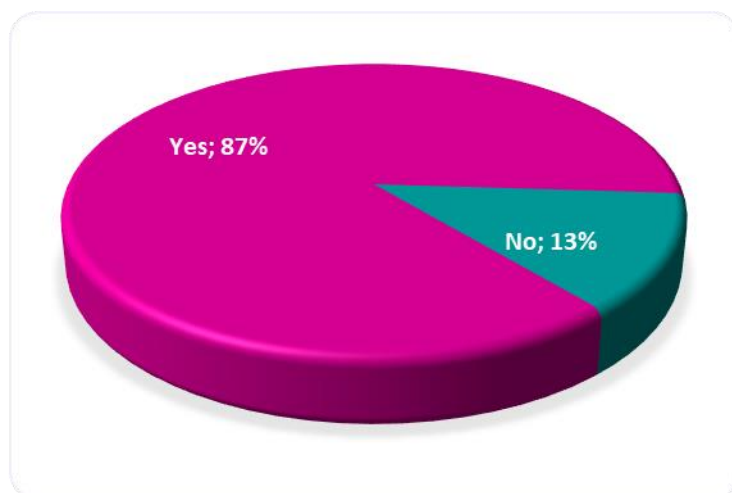
³ In line with COVID-19 protocols.

that allows young people to vote directly from their mobile phones. A number of Comhairlí, in response to the changing situation in the world in 2020, made additions to their two-year topics, such as, Climate Change Anxiety Action, COVID-19 and Mental Health.

2.6 Written report of the AGM

Comhairlí were asked if a report from the AGM was written and distributed. A total of 27 Comhairlí (87%) indicated that a report was written and distributed (see Figure 2.2.)

Figure 2.2 Report of the AGM written and distributed



3 Comhairle na nÓg – membership and meetings

This section provides information on the membership of Comhairlí in 2020, including the:

- Number of members of each Comhairlí by local authority areas;
- Gender balance and age profile of members;
- Training received by members;
- Methods of communication used;
- Supports provided with other youth participation structures;
- Strategies used to encourage participation of seldom heard young people and young people aged 12-15.

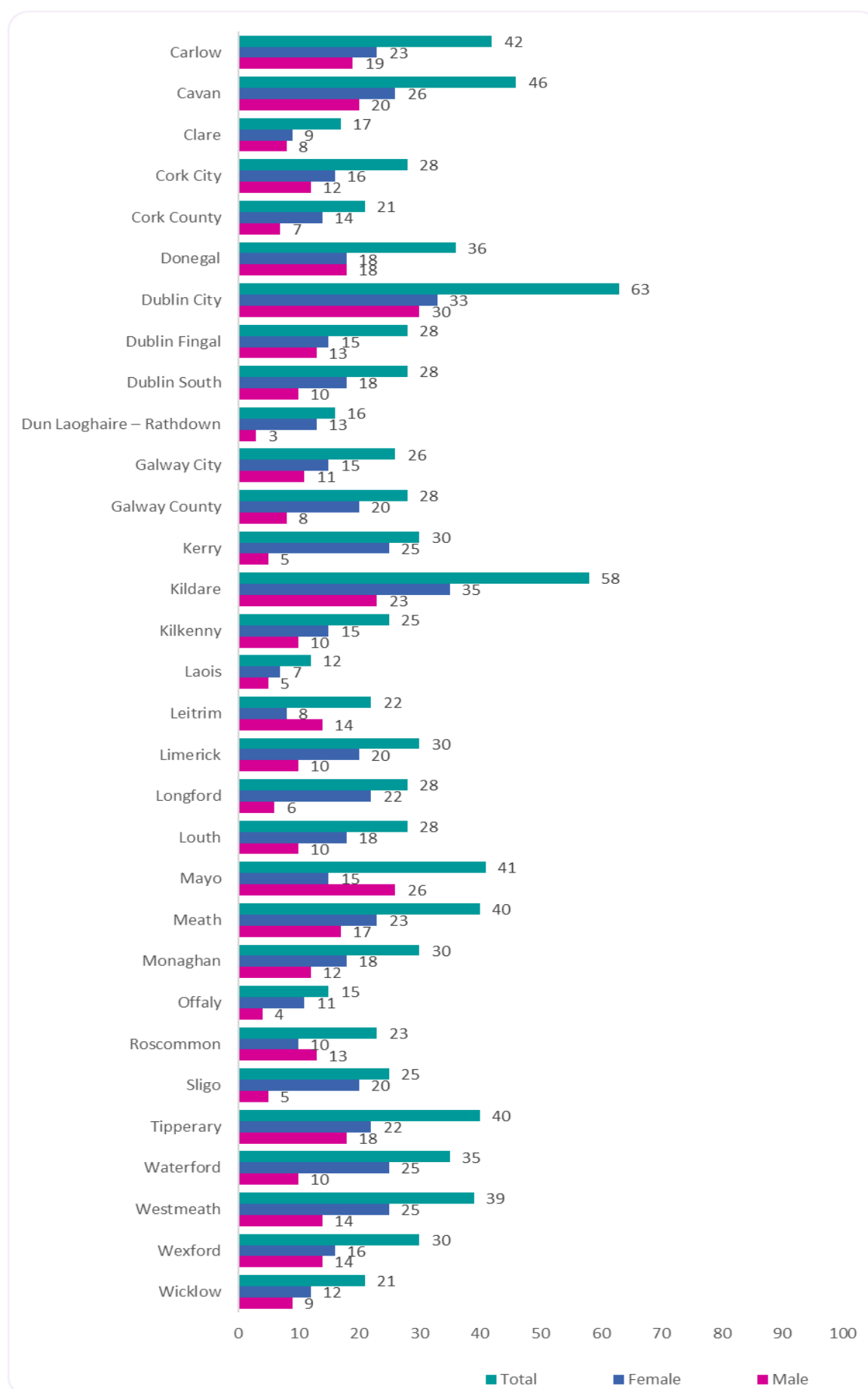
Key findings

- In 2020, the total national membership of Comhairle na nÓg was 951 with an average of 31 members per Comhairle.
- Females made up 60% of the overall membership of Comhairle na nÓg with the remaining 40% being male.
- 81% of Comhairlí provided training to their elected members during 2020.
- Nationally, a total of €62,556.47 (11.69% of overall expenditure) was spent under the budget heading Comhairle na nÓg, which relates to the costs associated with the general operation of the Comhairle – particularly the costs of running regular meetings. Due to COVID-19, 21 Comhairlí (68%) reported an underspend in this area, as meetings had to be moved online.

3.1 The profile of Comhairle na nÓg membership

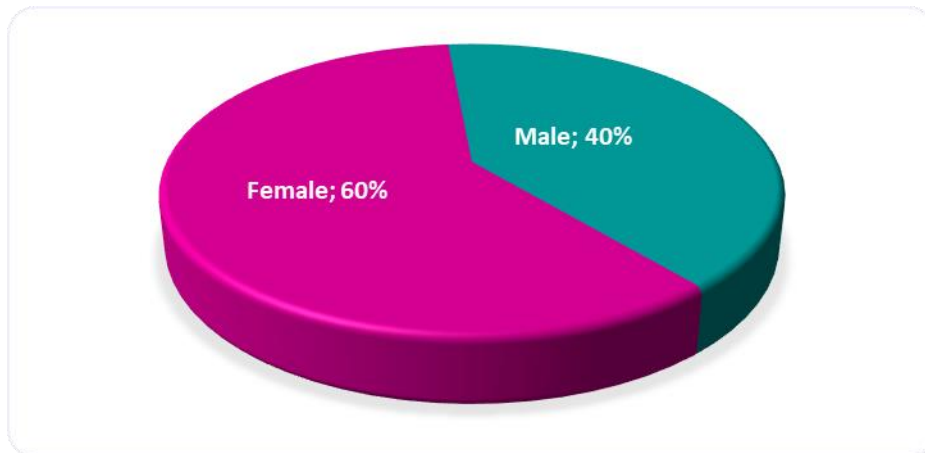
The total membership of Comhairle na nÓg nationally was 1,035 in 2020, which shows a decrease of 8% compared to 2019 figures. The average number of members per Comhairle was 31. Membership by local authority area is presented in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1 Comhairle na nÓg membership by gender and Local Authority area



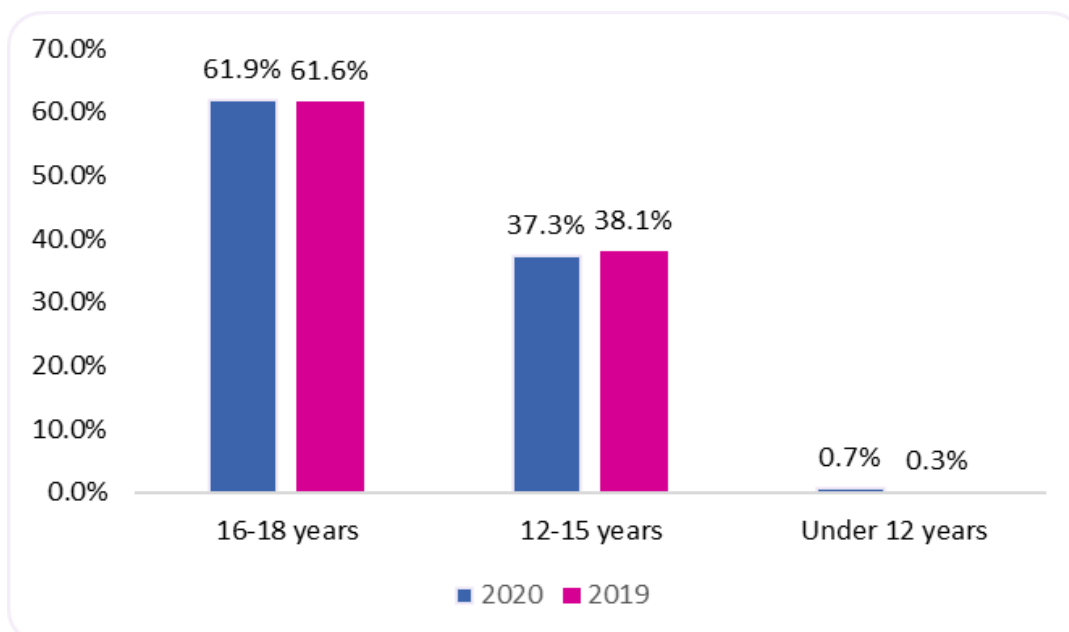
As shown in Figure 3.2, the gender breakdown of Comhairle na nÓg membership shows that 60% of members were female and 40% were male in 2020. This represents a slight change in the male and female participation rates in 2019, when 61% of members were female and 39% were male.

Figure 3.2 Gender breakdown of Comhairle na nÓg membership 2020



Each Comhairle was asked to specify the age cohort of its members under three categories (see Figure 3.3): *Under 12 years old*, *12 to 15 years old*; and *16 to 18 years old*. More than half (61.9%) of Comhairle na nÓg members were aged between 16 to 18 years, 37.3% were 12 to 15 years old and the remaining 0.7% were younger than 12. The age breakdown of the membership was similar to that recorded in 2019.

Figure 3.3: Age breakdown of Comhairle na nÓg membership 2020 and 2019



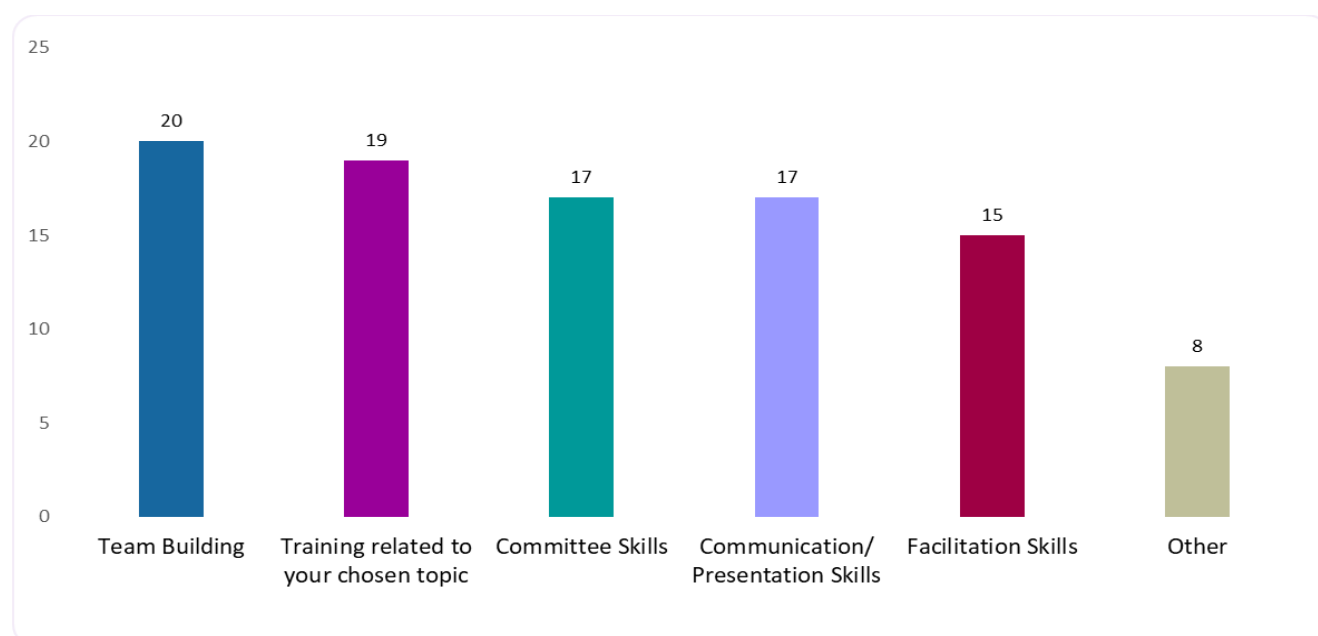
The total number of young people who regularly attended meetings during 2020 nationally was 632, with an average of 20 regular attendees per Comhairle. The number of young people who regularly attended meetings varied substantially across local authority areas from nine regular attendees in Laois to 48 in Kildare⁴.

3.2 Training of elected members

A total of 25 Comhairlí (81%) reported that their elected members received some type of training during 2020. Comhairlí chose from a prescribed list of options within the reporting template. Figure 3.4 shows the type of training provided to members. The most common area of training was team building with a total of 20 Comhairlí undertaking training in this area. The next most popular training was training related to a chosen topic undertaken by 19 Comhairlí, followed by committee skills and communication/presentation skills training undertaken by 17 Comhairlí.

In addition, a total of eight Comhairlí listed other types of training in their annual reports. Examples of the topics of other training include Introduction to Zoom / use of Zoom for delivery of AGM, Leadership for Life training, digital tools for advocacy and online anti-discrimination training.

Figure 3.4 Types of training for Comhairle na nÓg members in 2020



⁴ Data on regular attendees is derived from the question in the annual report: 'Of the total membership of the Comhairle na nÓg, how many regularly attended the Comhairle meetings?'

3.3 Comhairle na nÓg meetings

Comhairlí were asked to indicate how many full meetings and how many sub-committee or local meetings of Comhairle na nÓg took place in 2020. As shown in Table 3.1, there were 532 full Comhairle meetings and 339 sub-committee or local meetings, an increase of 17% and 1% (455 and 334) respectively on the number of meetings reported in 2019.

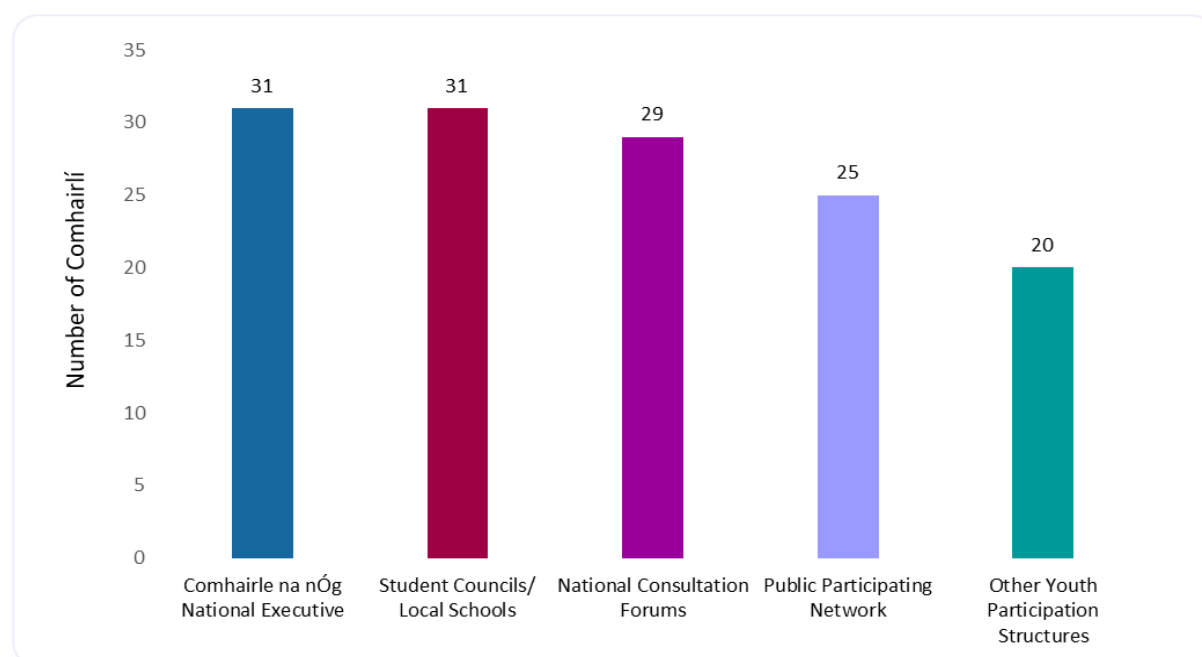
Table 3.1 Comhairle na nÓg meetings in 2020

Meeting	Number
Full ⁵	532
Sub-committee/local	339

3.4 Support for other youth participation structures

Comhairle na nÓg supports the work of other youth participation structures. Figure 3.5 shows the youth participation structures supported by Comhairlí in 2020, while the details of activities undertaken with each structure are provided below. For the majority of structures, the proportion remained the same or similar to that reported in 2019, with the exception of Public Participation Network, which increased from 22 in 2019 to 25 in 2020 (up 14%) and Other Youth Participation Structures which decreased from 22 in 2019 to 20 in 2020 (down 9%).

Figure 3.5: Supporting the work of other youth participation structures in 2020



⁵ Full meetings involve all members of the Comhairle.

A total of 31 Comhairlí reported that the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive was supported (see Figure 3.5). One representative from each of the 31 Comhairlí na nÓg is elected to the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive, which follows up on the recommendations from Dáil na nÓg to make changes for young people in those areas. The role of the representative is two-fold: to represent their Comhairle at national level, and to report back to their local Comhairle on their work progress. Three Comhairlí reported that members provided updates / engaged in theme work on the national topic of Climate Conscious Transport Solutions.

The Other Youth Participation Structures category captures a variety of support/input provided to a number of participation structures. These include:

- Presented at the webinar *Our Brave Space together* attended by Minister for Children Roderic O' Gorman who praised the work of Comhairle na nÓg.
- Established links with Cork City Local Authority initiative: City of Sanctuary⁶ and Secondary Schools subcommittee of City of Sanctuary.
- Joined an anti-racism working group run by Cork Migrant Centre.
- Engaged with Activism and Human rights lecturer at UCC, Dr Aoife Daly.
- Completed DOWTCHA (local arts company) workshops exploring the theme of multiculturalism.
- Collaborated with Wexford and Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg on a campaign video around support for young people during COVID-19.
- Established links with INAR (Irish Network Against Racism).
- Engaged with BeLonG To and LINC.
- Representation on Tusla Youth Participation Group.
- Participated in meetings with Leitrim International Community Forum.
- Took part in an event ran by Sauti Youth Project (Climate Justice Youth Group) to lobby local TDs for faster climate action.
- Recorded a video update on the work of Dublin City Comhairle.
- Took part in a three-day workshop, where the Comhairle member gave a presentation on youth participation and parliament's working. This workshop was a global initiative that saw youth groups from across the world sharing knowledge, skills and ideas.
- Representation on and/or presentations to the Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC).
- Linked in with UCD regarding survey development practice.
- Created a video for the *Not Around Us* Campaign with Healthy Galway City.
- Participated in the Galway Simon virtual Sleep Out to fundraise for the homelessness service.
- Representation on Education and Training Board (ETB) youth committees.
- Continued work on the *Tea and Talk* initiative which focuses on the topics of suicide and self-harm prevention.
- Worked alongside Longford Westmeath CYPSC in the establishment of the first CYPSC Youth Forums. Members from the Comhairle now sit on the Youth Forum,

⁶ The Cork City of Sanctuary (COS) movement is committed to making Cork a place of welcome, support and safety for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants and persons of migrant origin, where diversity is recognised and celebrated.

which informs the CYPSC Participation subgroup. Young people participated in a consultation to feedback their opinions on their work with CYPSC to date.

- Linked with the AMACH LGBT+ support to discuss youth voice consultations.
- Representation on Healthy Limerick (as part of Healthy Ireland) steering committee.
- Attended meetings with Leitrim International Community Forum.
- Attended and presented at Council meetings.

Members of the Comhairlí also support student councils and local schools, with 31 Comhairlí reported being involved in this type of work in 2020. This work involves promoting the work of Comhairle na nÓg and increasing youth participation on their local committees. Comhairle members often sit on student councils to assist in the promotion of Comhairle information and to encourage attendance at the AGM.

Examples of this type of support work reported by Comhairlí included:

- Delivered presentations to schools.
- Linked with teachers and liaised with student councils regarding the *Open Arms* - a tolerance and inclusion education” programme, specifically aimed at new communities.
- Sent invitations for the AGM to schools.
- Completed surveys with schools.
- Developed a banner to promote the Comhairle.
- Encouraged new members to join.
- Created a series of videos in English and Irish explaining the function and the role of the Comhairle.
- Promoted a mental health webinar.

Members of Comhairle na nÓg were also active in creating linkages with national consultation forums. A total of 29 Comhairlí provided support through members participating in and facilitating events and campaigns such as:

- How's *Your Head* - Young Voices during COVID-19 consultation.
- Environmental Protection Agency consultation.
- Comhairle na nÓg 5-year Plan consultation.
- Youth Justice Strategy consultation.
- ISSU/NPCPP school reopening online survey.
- Climate protest.
- National mental health events.
- JIGSAW networking event.
- United Nations Youth Delegate programme.
- World Pride Day - Instagram initiative - *MY LGBT experience*.
- National executive transport survey.
- Webinar on World Mental Health Day.
- Open house worldwide - Youth debate on climate change.
- Cavan Museum project - Stories from lockdown.

- National executive survey for climate action.
- 'How COVID-19 is affecting young people' Youth Work Ireland consultation.
- National Showcase for 2020 consultation.
- Garda Youth Awards finalist.
- Irish Secondary Students Union survey.
- DCYA (Department of Children and Youth Affairs) SpunOut survey.
- Youth Voices.
- European Youth Parliament.
- Parenting support consultation.
- DCYA Youth Forum developing national LGBTI+ Strategy.
- Léargas Eurodesk Ambassadors.
- Social Inclusion Week.
- *Mind your Mood* consultation.
- TASC – Think-tank for action on social change consultation.
- National Youth Council of Ireland consultation on climate change.
- Cruinniú na nÓg 2020.
- COVID-19 Youth Advisory Committee participation.

More than half of Comhairlí (81%) stated they were involved with Public Participation Networks (PPNs) in 2020. The purpose of this involvement is to promote the work of and enhance the participation of the Comhairlí with these networks. Examples of engagement included:

- Having a representative who attends PPN meetings or is a member of the PPN.
- A PPN member attending Comhairle Steering Committee meetings or AGMs.
- Presenting to Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).
- Engaging with PPN on their climate change action project.
- Linking with LCDC through the Healthy Ireland Programme.
- Linking with PPN on media ideas during COVID-19 lockdown.

3.5 Improving participation of seldom heard young people

The 31 Comhairlí worked with several organisations to help improve the participation of seldom heard or hard to reach young people. The key organisations worked with were:

- Local youth services or projects (21 Comhairlí)
- Foróige (7 Comhairlí)
- Organisations that support members of the Travelling Community (7 Comhairlí)
- Youthreach (7 Comhairlí)
- CYPSCs (6 Comhairlí)
- Garda Youth Diversion Projects (4 Comhairlí)
- LGBTI+ Groups (4 Comhairlí)
- Schools (4 Comhairlí)

A number of other organisations and representative groups were also named, such as County Councils, Disability Projects, Tusla, Crosscare, Empowering People in Care (EPIC), Jigsaw, organisations that support migrants, RESPOND and YMCA.

The main strategy used by Comhairlí to increase involvement among these target groups was to work with support organisations who could identify potential participants.

The key target groups mentioned by Comhairlí in 2020 included:

- Early (or potential early) school leavers (13 Comhairlí)
- Young people from the Travelling Community (12 Comhairlí)
- Young people with a disability, special needs and/or learning difficulties (7 Comhairlí)
- Disadvantaged young people (6 Comhairlí)
- LGBTI+ youth (6 Comhairlí)
- Youth at risk (6 Comhairlí)
- Minority groups (4 Comhairlí)
- Young people from new communities (4 Comhairlí)
- Young people from specific geographical areas (4 Comhairlí)

3.6 Improving participation of young people aged 12-15 years

In 2020, 22 Comhairlí (71%) reported that they worked with schools in their area to improve participation of young people aged 12 to 15 years of age. The strategies employed involved:

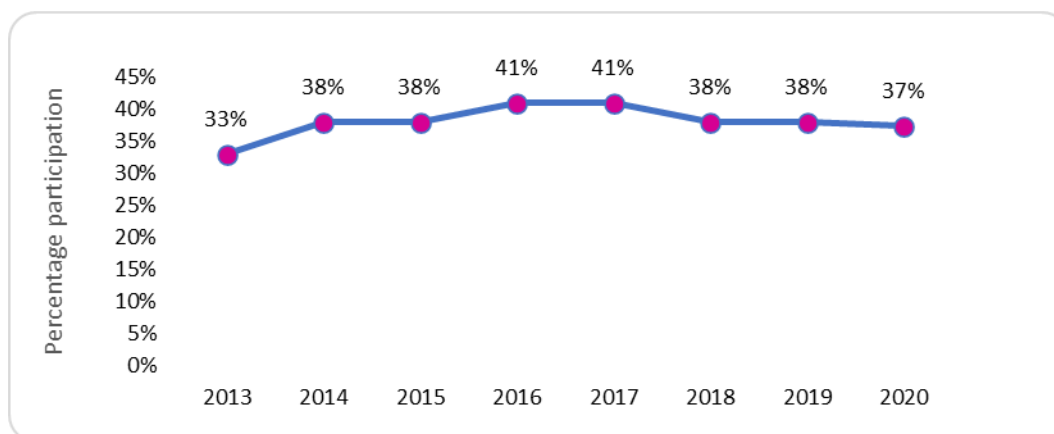
- Liaising with schools (including link teachers⁷) to encourage participation from this age group to attend the AGM and highlighting the benefits of doing so.
- Promoting Comhairle na nÓg within schools.
- Making presentations and ongoing promotion of the work of the Comhairlí which in some instances was carried out online due to government guidelines on COVID-19.
- Members represented Comhairlí in their own schools and some delivered presentations to their student councils.

A further 16 Comhairlí mentioned various youth services and eight specifically mentioned Foróige as organisations with which they worked to encourage the participation of this age group. A wide range of youth organisations were also referred to, including CYPSCs, local authorities, Crosscare and Garda Youth Diversion projects.

As can be seen from Figure 3.6, the level of participation of 12-15 year olds in 2020 has seen a decrease of 1% on the level recorded in 2019 (38%).

Figure 3.6: Participation of 12-15-year olds in Comhairle na nÓg from 2013-2020

⁷ Teachers in schools specifically identified to link in with Comhairle na nÓg.



4 Key topics identified by young people

This section provides an overview of the key topics chosen by Comhairle na nÓg in 2020 and the actions undertaken by Comhairlí to influence change in these areas.

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 key topics were selected by Comhairlí in 2020. • Climate change and mental health were identified as the key topics in 2020 with eleven Comhairle selecting climate change and a further eleven reporting mental health as their priority topic. • A total of 67 projects/initiatives across the 12 key topics were delivered by Comhairlí. • Comhairle na nÓg spent a total of €24,509.96 addressing key topics in 2020. This represents 5% of the overall Comhairle na nÓg budget. The figure indicates an increase of 13% spent on addressing the key topics when compared to 2019.

4.1 Key topics prioritised by Comhairlí na nÓg in 2020

Every year, each Comhairle identify up to three key topics through consultation with its members. The key topics are prioritised and action plans for the year ahead are framed around these topics. A key topic may be delivered for up to two years. Generally, priority topics remain very similar from year to year.

There was a wide variety of key topics reported by Comhairlí again in 2020. A total of 14 different key topics were selected across all Comhairlí to roll out – 7 of these topics were chosen as Comhairlí first priority.

Just under two-thirds (11 or 35%) of Comhairlí selected two key topics which is less than in 2019 when 19 (61%) delivered on two key topics. A further 13 (42%) Comhairlí selected to progress three topics in 2020 and the remaining seven (23%) Comhairlí selected one priority topic.

Climate change formed the basis of the work of the National Executive 2020-21 and the topic was supported by most Comhairlí (22) during 2020 with eleven Comhairlí selecting it as their key priority for the year. Actions related specifically to climate change included hosting online workshops or attending talks on the issues affecting the environment. Other sub-themes included developing green space strategies and raising awareness of the climate and biodiversity.

The number of Comhairlí supporting mental health and wellbeing as a first priority almost doubled over the past year with 11 (35%) Comhairlí reporting this as their first priority compared to six Comhairlí in 2019. Actions under this topic included awareness raising activities around Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and anxiety and support events related to suicide and harm prevention. Other Comhairlí prioritised actions specifically supporting young people through the COVID-19 pandemic, such as boosting morale and promoting positive mental health. A wide variety of other activities were identified under mental health, including suicide prevention, body image, mental health education/promotion and bullying.

Promoting equality and solidarity by bringing awareness of discrimination was a key topic for nine Comhairlí (29%) with four selecting it as their top priority. Activities included research, online training events and focus groups.

Drugs and alcohol was again a common topic in 2020, with six Comhairlí focusing on information sharing, awareness training and promoting a more positive attitude to alcohol.

Working to promote positive health and wellbeing amongst young people remained an important action for some Comhairlí in 2020. Actions encouraging a positive experience in schools was reported by two Comhairlí including the subject of transitioning from Primary to Secondary school.

The full list of priority topics is outlined in Table 4.1. The table represents the first, second and third priorities selected by each Comhairle

Table 4.1 Key topics selected by Comhairlí in 2020

Key topic	Number of Comhairlí selecting topic as their <u>first priority</u>	Percentage of Comhairlí selecting topic as their <u>first priority</u>	Total number of Comhairlí selecting topic*	Total percentage of Comhairlí selecting topic
Climate change	11	35%	22	71%
Mental health	11	35%	19	61%
COVID-19 supports	0	-	7	13%
Discrimination and equality	4	13%	5	16%
Drugs and alcohol	2	6%	4	13%
Education	1	3%	2	6%
Health and wellbeing	1	3%	2	6%
Tourism	1	3%	0	-
Safer communities	0	-	2	6%
Youth employment	0	-	1	3%
Homelessness	0	-	1	3%

*Please note - a Comhairle may have selected the same topic for more than one of their three priorities.

4.2 Actions and changes achieved in 2020

Comhairlí were asked to specify the actions/activities undertaken and the changes achieved in relation to their topics agreed for 2020. The global pandemic, which reached Ireland in March, had a huge impact on the roll out of activities for all organisations. Not only has COVID-19 impacted on the way organisations carry out their daily operations, it has also changed how organisations support their members. All Comhairlí have faced challenges as a result of the implementation of government restrictions throughout 2020 with events and networks moving to online platforms and many key priorities refocusing on supporting members through the pandemic. COVID-19 has generated enormous pressures and different needs in society, particularly for young people. It has created new demands on community organisations and businesses who are committed to positive social and environmental impact.

Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic, there was a varied range of activities undertaken by the Comhairlí to achieve their key topics. The 2020 annual reports demonstrate that Comhairlí delivered a total of 67 projects/initiatives consisting of one or more activities over the course of the year. This is an increase of 15% compared to 2019 (57). Over half (55%, 37) of the initiatives finished in 2020, while the remaining 30 (45%) projects will continue into 2021. Comhairlí reported that of the actions not completed in 2020, five (17%) are actions which were carried over to 2021 and 34 (50%) were delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Given that all Comhairlí worked remotely for most of 2020, there were particular challenges in terms of how organisations supported their members and promoted the involvement of young people in the development of local services and policies that affect them. Comhairle na nÓg had to adapt to new ways of working and raising awareness of key issues amongst young people. For almost two-thirds of organisations (11, 35%), planned activities related to their key priorities had to be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Many Comhairlí also reported that planned physical events, conferences or talks were postponed or moved to an online platform. Comhairle na nÓg continued to play a key role in developing resources, such as information booklets, videos and resource packs. For example, Mayo developed a transition booklet for first year students and distributed to 21 Secondary schools. Comhairle members in Monaghan created a youth friendly booklet on understanding common hidden disabilities and two Comhairle (Meath and Louth) launched two different resources, a video and a care package, on staying positive during the pandemic.

Actions promoting awareness of particular topics was a key element of Comhairlí work in 2020. Many campaigns and information sharing were delivered through social media platforms, in particular the topics of mental health and climate change. For Donegal Comhairle members used their social media platforms to showcase their own ways of minding their mental health.

In the absence of any physical events, workshops or visits to schools, many Comhairlí took the opportunity to identify critical issues affecting young people through research, surveys and questionnaires. This was achieved through online surveys on topics such as mental health, climate change and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs.

Comhairle na nÓg considered the collaborations with strategic stakeholders within the wider community to be vital for progressing activities. Five Comhairlí (16%), Cork, Meath, Westmeath, Monaghan and Kerry, worked with the local school councils and county councils to conduct surveys regarding the impact of COVID-19 and to create awareness of local services that are available during the pandemic. In addition, members from Mayo Comhairle

started an initiative with the local Meals on Wheels service to distribute letters and words of kindness to the elderly and those living in isolation during the restrictions. The response was very positive.

Comhairle na nÓg's reputation in its approach to identifying, prioritising and progressing topics relevant to young people continued to be recognised in 2020 with a number of Comhairlí invited as guest speakers at prestigious events and receiving awards during the year. Limerick Comhairle na nÓg were awarded a Gold Medal by the World Health Organisation as part of the year's World No Tobacco Day Awards, for their participation in *#NotAroundUs*, which is a campaign that promotes no-smoking around young people. The prestigious award is recognition of the youth council's involvement in developing the *#NotAroundUs* campaign with Healthy Limerick, the HSE and Limerick City & County Council, which aims to create a tobacco free generation and make it is easier for those who smoke to quit by making public areas smoke-free zones.

A member of Fingal Comhairle na nÓg was invited to speak at a European event, INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership – EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments. The topic of the presentation was '*How Comhairle na nÓg is working with the Irish Parliament*'.

Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg hosted their online Youth Summit. The theme of the summit was to discuss the key issues facing young people in Wicklow. The event was recognised overseas with inputs from UN Youth Delegates, the *No Hate Speech* Ambassador, climate justice activists and mental health advocates among others.

Table 4.3 outlines a sample of the actions undertaken and the changes achieved as a result of the initiatives. Given the variety of activities undertaken by the 31 Comhairlí, it is not possible to list all actions, however, this table offers a broad overview of the work conducted. As a number of key topics are implemented over two years, it may not be possible to report on outputs until 2021/22. Also, given the nature of awareness raising campaigns, which were particularly common in 2020, the impact may not be tangible or measured. However, where possible, outputs relating to the production of resources or other indicators of success are outlined. Appendix I provides an overview of the work undertaken by Comhairlí under each topic.

Table 4.2 Examples of actions and changes achieved in 2020

Key topic	Projects, actions and changes achieved
Climate change	Dublin City completed a social media campaign by developing an infographic on waste and climate change.
	Kildare completed a survey with young people for their Green Space strategy. The results fed into the wider Kildare Local Authority Regional Strategy.
Mental Health	Limerick engaged with the HSE to deliver an online wellness event for young people –titled 'Reconnect to Disconnect'. It included yoga, mindfulness and fitness.
	Care packages to help young people deal with issues during the pandemic were distributed by members of Louth and Carlow Comhairle.
	Wexford continued to provide online support under the ' <i>Tea and Talk</i> ' initiative which focuses on the topics of suicide and self-harm prevention.

Key topic	Projects, actions and changes achieved
	Activities included a social media campaign, designing promotional materials and continuing the provision of the Saturday support service. The initiative was supported by Wexford County Council and the HSE.
COVID-19 supports	Meath worked with the local student councils and DCYA to develop a positive video message on mental health and wellbeing during a pandemic.
	Westmeath and Monaghan used their social media platforms to promote to 'stay at home' campaign and mental health awareness while also promoting the importance of a positive community spirit.
	Local surveys were a very common tool for Comhairle to bring awareness to the challenges facing young people during COVID-19. Longford plan to present their findings in a video to be distributed to local schools. Kerry conducted their survey within the school setting.
Discrimination and equality	Greater awareness of discrimination issues and better understanding of direct provision was a key priority for Clare . Actions included discussions at Comhairle meetings with information gathering exercises and a creative event with a panel discussion afterwards. This action was supported by the DCYA and the PPN.
	Monaghan Comhairle focused on supporting people with disabilities with members learning Lámh sign language and creating a Lámh friendly video. The video has helped create awareness of the important work carried out by Lámh.
Drugs and alcohol	Roscommon won the Best Design Award at the ESB Techfest 2020 for the <i>Bin Drugs Not Your Dreams</i> campaign on the dangers of substance misuse. The Comhairle are now working with Irish Secondary Level Schools Union to create a substance resource pack for distribution nationwide.
	Tipperary collaborated with CYPSC and a local <i>safe from harm</i> sub-group to promote its <i>Be Sober, Be Safe</i> campaign on the dangers of alcohol in young people.
Education	Mayo linked in with local secondary schools to distribute their <i>Transition</i> booklet for first year students. The resource was created in association with Foróige.
	Kilkenny completed a consultation process with local schools to get their input into a workshop/training resource for teachers in relation to the importance of young people being able to express their unique selves in an educational environment. The action will continue into 2021.

Key topic	Projects, actions and changes achieved
Safe communities	Sligo prioritised the theme of healthy eating in 2020 and organised a series of youth events including an online cookery class for young people. The activities were supported by Sligo Local Authority and Sligo LCDC.
	Westmeath plan to hold their second road safety event in 2021 as restrictions cancelled the event in 2020. Discussions took place between various stakeholders including the Gardaí, the Fire Service, the Road Safety Authority and Irish Rail on their input into the event.
Tourism	COVID-19 restrictions impacted on the progress of Cavan's tourism project '52 reasons to visit Cavan'. Comhairle members did liaise with the tourism personnel in Cavan Local Authority and will continue this work into 2021.
Youth employment	Members from Clare Comhairle made some progress on their youth employment initiative in 2020. Due to restrictions, the Comhairle could only focus on collating information on legislation relating to employment for those under 18 years old.
Homelessness	Members from Limerick Comhairle organised summer camps for children at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Camps were two days long and centred on the theme of happiness. This action was supported by Tusla, Novas, Limerick Local Authority and the local youth services.

4.3 Trends and developments in 2020

Overall, Comhairle na nÓg progressed well on their priorities for 2020. There were fewer topics engaged with in 2020 compared to the same reporting period in 2019. There was a total of twelve key priority areas in 2020 and seventeen topics in 2019. The national COVID-19 restrictions are likely to be the reason for this as many planned activities had to be cancelled or postponed.

Comhairle na nÓg delivered activities across a diverse range of topics in 2020. Given the challenges that faced both organisations and members, a total of 12 key topics were selected for progression in 2020. This is slightly less than the 17 key topics in 2019, and a third less than the key topics reported on in 2018 (18). There has been little change in the key priorities over the years with some topics more common in 2020 and other topics not reported on at all. For example, the topics of relationships, rural transport and actions to enhance the capacity of Comhairle na nÓg were not reported on in the 2020 priorities but were reported on in 2019. Supporting members through the COVID-19 pandemic became a significant focus for many organisations particularly during the second half of the year.

Following the announcement in 2019 by Minister Zappone to create a special fund for youth action on climate justice, the key topic selected for the National Executive 2020-2022 was climate change and this was reflected in the sharp rise in actions reported by Comhairle under this topic. In 2019, two Comhairlí engaged in climate change actions. In 2020, it was selected as a first priority by 11 Comhairlí. In total, almost three-quarters (72%) of Comhairlí engaged in climate change activities throughout the year.

Mental health has been one of the most common topics for the last number of years with the number of Comhairlí delivering mental health activities increasing from seven (23%) in 2018 to 11 (35%) in 2019 and to 18 (58%) in 2020. Actions included bringing awareness to positive

mental health, developing resources on understanding pressure, anxiety and stress in relation to body image, exams and peer pressure.

Supporting mental health was also the focus for many organisations who prioritised the roll out of COVID-19 supports. Seven Comhairlí (13%) reported actions under this topic which ranged from creating awareness of positive mental health to actions promoting public health safety. Several innovative approaches were highlighted, including Mayo's collaboration with the local *Meals on Wheels* to deliver letters and pictures of hope and kindness to isolated older people across the county. Longford produced a music video on bullying and included helpline information and a message of solidarity during lockdown. The video was shared both locally and nationally by various agencies.

Activities relating to discrimination and equality were reported again in 2020 with five Comhairle reporting on actions here compared to three in 2019. There was a wide variety of activities achieved demonstrating the overall capacity of Comhairle na nÓg to create awareness of the key issues affecting its members and young people nationally.

Monaghan focused two of its priorities on supporting people with disabilities by producing a booklet on hidden disabilities addressed at young people. Members also learnt Lámh sign language and created a video raising awareness of the Lámh sign language system. Limerick supported young people affected by homelessness by hosting a two-day camp and Clare began discussions and actions to create more awareness of those in direct provision.

Activities relating to drugs and alcohol remained relatively consistent with four Comhairle (13%) focusing on these last year involving four Comhairle (13%). The key focus of Comhairlí work was in raising awareness of drug and alcohol misuse among young people through surveys, online workshops and school campaigns.

The level of activities supporting education fell considerably from five activities in 2019 to two activities in 2020. Mayo focused on the transition from primary to secondary school and produced a booklet which was distributed to local schools. Kilkenny worked on supporting teachers by producing a training video on how to support school children to express their unique selves. Both actions were impacted by COVID-19 and therefore could not be completed in 2020.

Safe communities did not feature as prominently in 2020 with two Comhairlí continuing actions from 2019 compared to five Comhairle in 2019. Westmeath engaged with An Garda Síochána to promote road safety and plan to host their second road safety event when restrictions end. Leitrim progressed with their *Use your brain not your fist* campaign and plan to roll out a video and workbook through the National Garda Schools Project and Social Media.

It was very evident that Comhairle na nÓg as a national programme embraced the new remote working conditions and online platforms by promoting key topics and delivering services through social media. Through its healthy Ireland initiative, Sligo organised online cooking classes for young people in the community to increase their skills and confidence in preparing healthy meals. Through their commitment to promoting positive mental health, Roscommon created an equinox art piece symbolising the balance of mental health, nature and the ecosystem. The artwork will be displayed locally to help promote positive mental health. Members from Roscommon also organised a social distance nature walk to research nature and the woodland, and to boost mental health & morale within the Comhairle during COVID-19.

4.4 Strategic collaboration on key topics

Central to the success of Comhairle na nÓg in supporting young people is their consultations with various stakeholders and collaborative approach to progressing actions and promoting their projects. Whilst 2020 was a very different year for the organisations, all Comhairlí continued this engagement as best they could.

The agencies/organisations most frequently engaged with continued to be:

- Schools
- Local authorities
- Children and young people's services committee (CYPSC)
- Mental health services/organisations
- Children's and youth services/youth work organisations
- Government services/agencies (e.g. HSE, Tusla, NCCA)
- An Garda Síochána

There was a slight decrease in the number of Comhairlí that worked with CYPSCs on actions during 2020 falling from 15 in 2019 to 13 in 2020 in addressing key topics. Engagement with local authorities remained a key element of the 2020 action plans with twenty Comhairlí (65%) working with their local authority across various key topics over a total of twenty-two actions. This trend is consistent with last year which reported 23 actions overall.

The level of engagement with LCDCs remained low, with only two Comhairlí working with their LCDCs. Sligo LCDC supported its local Comhairle in their online cookery classes. Louth worked with Louth LCDC and local environmental action groups to promote greater awareness of the impact we have on climate change.

Three Comhairle (Wicklow, Westmeath and Leitrim) collaborated with the Gardaí on actions linked to drugs, alcohol and road safety and two Comhairle (Meath and Clare) worked with Government Departments to progress their actions.

Comhairlí continued to deliver their actions in collaboration with local community and voluntary groups, particularly in the areas of supporting mental health, climate change and safer communities. Table 4.3 details some examples.

Table 4.3 Examples of strategic collaboration on key topics in 2020

Comhairle	Stakeholders	Activity and change achieved
Longford	Foróige Tusla	Comhairle distributed helpline numbers and an online video by an art therapist to support mental health. The music video was shared locally and nationally by various agencies.
Dublin Fingal	Biodiversity Secondary Schools Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO), Jigsaw, CYPSC	Workshops were organised from relevant organisations to develop a better understanding of climate change. Fingal will complete an awareness video based on the workshops in 2021 when restrictions are lifted.
Wexford	Ferns Diocesan Youth Service, Wexford Local Authority HSE	Wexford continued its <i>Tea & Talk</i> initiative online on the topic of suicide and self-harm prevention. Resource packs were also designed.

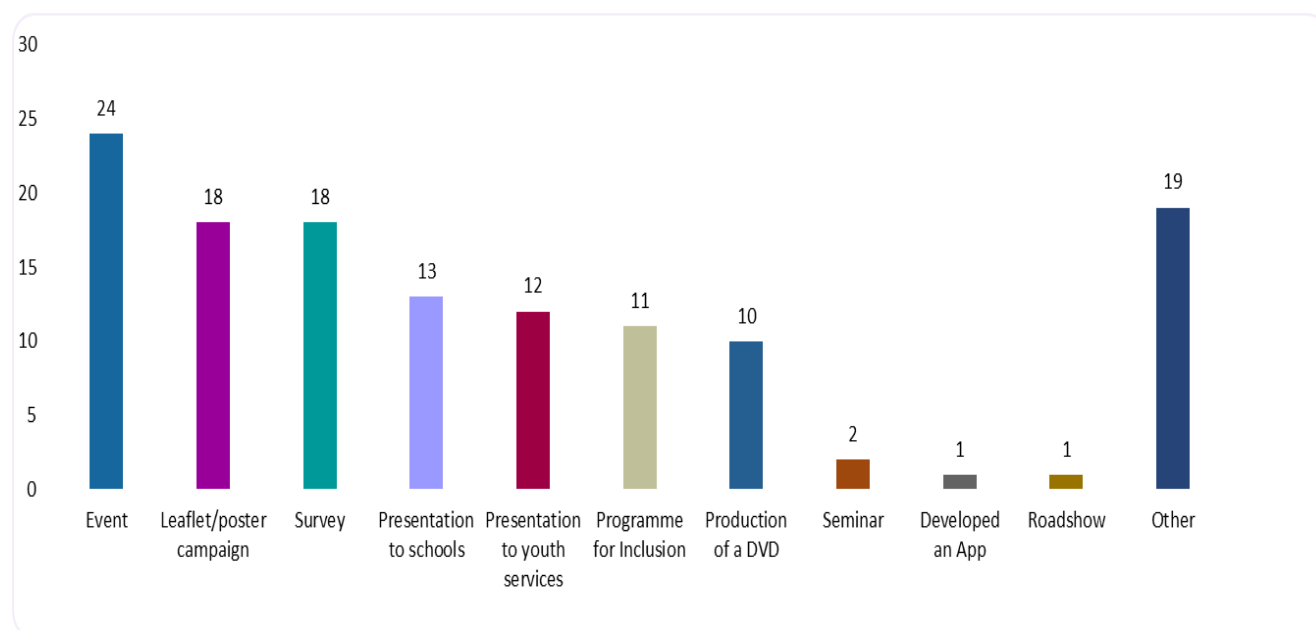
5 Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg

This section describes the methods used to raise awareness of Comhairle na nÓg in 2020.

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional events were the preferred methods for raising the profile of Comhairle na nÓg. Nationally, a total of €24,509.96 from the Development Fund was spent under this heading, representing 4.6% of overall expenditure. This is a decrease of 13% compared to 2019 spend (€2,1624.34).

Comhairlí continued to use a range of methods to raise their profile. As can be seen in Figure 5.1, hosting events were most common (24 Comhairlí), followed by leaflet/poster campaign produced by 18 Comhairlí. Surveys were also popular with 18 Comhairlí using them to raise awareness.

Figure 5.1 Promotional methods used by Comhairlí



A variety of promotional activities were listed under an 'Other' category, including:

- Social media campaigns on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.
- Production of online film / videos on YouTube / Tik Tok.
- Developing a website and hosting research sessions with invited guest speakers (via podcasts, interviews / news articles in local newspapers).
- Photo call with County Council and County Mayor.
- Launching Stand *Tall* music video shared nationally on various platforms.

- World Health Organisation Award included an RTE News spot, speaking at an international conference, and on national and local radio.
- Public distribution of badges / promotion on social media of *#IMPerfectasME* as part of the *Be Body Positive* campaign.
- Zoom sessions.
- Sending Christmas cards.
- Purchasing pop up stands to promote Comhairle.

6 Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg

As a consultative forum, Comhairle na nÓg plays a vital role in representing the voice of young people in Ireland. This section of the report provides an overview of Comhairle na nÓg's role as a consultative forum for young people in a number of key areas:

- Participation in consultations
- Making submissions/presentations to key stakeholders/decision makers
- Representing young people on decision-making structures
- Other engagement with decision makers/stakeholders

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comhairlí na nÓg participated in 40 consultations in 2020. • Comhairlí delivered 33 submissions/presentations to local and national decision makers. • Members from 24 Comhairlí na nÓg sit on sub-committees of local decision-making structures. • Comhairlí na nÓg spent a total of €627.54 on consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in 2020. This represents 0.1% of the overall expenditure. This is a decrease of 83% compared to 2019 spend of €3,633.96.

6.1 Participation in consultations

Comhairle na nÓg actively engaged and participated in consultations with a range of national, regional and local bodies. However, due to COVID-19 there was a noticeable decrease in consultations in 2020 compared to previous years. In 2019, there were 66 consultations reported by Comhairlí – slightly less than the 71 consultations completed in 2018. In 2020, Comhairle na nÓg reported a 40% decrease in the level of consultations with approximately 40 consultations from 38 organisations.

In total, 20 Comhairlí participated in consultations in 2020 – which is almost three-quarters of all Comhairle (65%).

There was less variety on the types of consultations reported on last year. Apart from a number of consultations that took place during the first quarter in 2020, a very different style of remote consultations and discussions was reported for the latter part of the year. Types of consultations varied from informal discussions between organisations and Comhairle members to wider consultations where Comhairlí were one of the many stakeholders providing feedback.

Table 6.1 Top five stakeholders/organisations consulting with Comhairle na nÓg in 2020

Stakeholders/organisations consulting with Comhairle na nÓg	Number of stakeholders	Number of consultations held
Local authorities	8	10
CYPSCs	7	8
PPNs	8	8
National organisations	3	4
National Government services/agencies	4	4

6.1.1 Trends and developments in 2020

Comhairle na nÓg continued to support the voice of young people through a range of consultations with various stakeholders, although through a lesser number of consultations than in previous years. For much of 2020, organisations were tasked with progressing their priority topics and services in a very different landscape and a difficult environment. Comhairlí moved events online and regular one to one supports, discussions and organised talks were replaced with social media campaigns and information packs. This all impacted on how Comhairlí engaged in their consultations to deliver their 2020 actions.

Overall, there was less engagement with stakeholders compared to previous years. The highest number of consultations in 2020 took place with the local authorities, which accounted for a quarter (10) of all consultations. This is contrary to the last two years where CYPSCs represented the majority of consultations – 17 consultations in 2019 and 14 in 2018. Activities with local authorities generally focused on contributing to numerous plans, such as Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown's County Development Plan and Comhairle members in Cork were consulted in relation to the county's Corporate Plan. Comhairle na nÓg were also engaged in wider consultations across a number of initiatives, including Dublin City Local Authority's Climate Change Action Plan and a Waste Action Plan developed by Kilkenny Local Authority. Kildare Local Authority consulted with Comhairle members in regard to two different strategies - the Green Space Strategy and the Migrant Integration Strategy.

Consultations with CYPSCs continued again in 2020 albeit on a smaller scale with a total of eight consultations across seven (23%) Comhairlí. This compares to 17 (55%) Comhairlí in 2019. Consultations were primarily in relation to the development of and contribution to Children and Young People plans and the CYPSC strategic plans. A small number of Comhairlí (4) worked in consultation with CYPSC to deliver supports focused on mental health and staying positive during the pandemic. Fingal members consulted with the local CYPSC on their *Mind Your Mood* campaign promoting mental health issues and Carlow received funding to roll out their mental health initiative and managed a consultative forum for young people's experiences of COVID-19. Limerick consulted with CYPSC on their plan to deliver new rural counselling hubs for young people in the county.

Two Comhairlí (Offaly and Clare) reported working with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) mainly in supporting them with their strategic plans and having a voice on a number of youth committees. This compares to seven Comhairlí engaging with local ETBs in 2019.

Formal consultations with PPNs were evident throughout 2020 with four Comhairlí engaging with PPNs on their county level plans in the area of community wellbeing and climate change.

The level of consultation with other national organisations suggests the continued awareness of the integral role that Comhairle na nÓg has in influencing the issues facing young people in Ireland. The DCEDIY and the Department of Justice consulted with four Comhairlí on a number of strategies and advisory structures, such as the National Parenting Strategy, the National Model of Parenting Structures and the COVID-19 Youth Advisory Committee.

Tusla invited Sligo Comhairle to its consultations with the Sligo Child and Family Support Network on the issues facing young people in the area and to attend an event to promote the work of Tusla. The Environmental Protection Agency and Jigsaw also consulted with Comhairle na nÓg on the national development of an Environmental Protection and Regulation Plan and the development of a youth strategy.

6.1.2 Examples of changes achieved from consultations

Some examples of consultations and outcomes are outlined in the table below.

Table 6.2 Examples of consultations in 2020

Comhairle	Consulting body/bodies	Consultations and changes achieved
Carlow	Carlow County Development Partnership	Consultation process to gain insights into the challenges and barriers faced by young people who may struggle to remain in secondary school.
Cork City	Youth Work Ireland	Cork City were involved in the consultation on well-being of young people during the pandemic.
		One member represented Munster in the research project 'How COVID-19 is affecting young people' with YWI Dublin.
Donegal	Community Action on Alcohol Letterkenny (CAAP) Donegal Youth Council	Donegal Comhairle members sat on the CAAP LK committee and collaborated with Dr Helen Mc Gonagle on the new leaflet being adapted to provide facts for Young People called 'Alcohol – It's a no Brainer'. Donegal Youth Council members analysed the information and adapted it to be youth friendly.
Dublin South	Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)	CARO consulted with and briefed Comhairle members on the Climate Change Action Plan.
Laois	Laois Local Authority	Comhairle na nÓg attended consultations with Laois Local Authority on the issue of littering and bin usage in Laois.
Monaghan	Monaghan PPN	Comhairle members engaged in a consultation on the development of a Community Wellbeing Vision for Co. Monaghan.
Sligo	Sligo PPN	Sligo PPN invited Sligo Comhairle to participate in a group consultation on how best to capture and promote the efforts of local community volunteers during lockdown.

6.2 Making submissions to decision makers/decision-making structures

Comhairlí also made a number of formal submissions and presentations to key stakeholders and decision makers at both local and national level.

Presentations and submissions are broadly categorised under the following headings:

- Raising awareness of Comhairle na nÓg' as a consultative body.
- Sharing learning from delivery of key topics.

Comhairle na nÓg continues to actively facilitate and participate in consultations with a range of bodies. A total of 33 submissions/presentations were made by Comhairlí in 2020 to 30 unique decision makers. In a small number of cases, Comhairlí may have worked with a decision maker on more than one submission/presentation.

Table 6.3 Submissions/presentations by category in 2020

Submissions/presentations	Number of submissions/presentations made
Raising awareness of Comhairle na nÓg	12
Sharing learning from key topics	21

6.2.1 Trends and developments in 2020

The majority of submissions/presentations were made to local authorities with 11 Comhairlí na nÓg (35%) making such presentations. This is slightly less than the 14 presentations made (45%) in 2019. The lockdown restrictions are likely to have impacted progress in this area. Three Comhairlí (10%) also made four presentations/submissions to elected representatives (e.g. Councillors, T.D.s and Ministers). The majority of presentations focused on promoting Comhairlí's key topics and primarily took place at local steering committee meetings and at each Comhairle's AGM.

Annual reports did not refer to any policy submissions on specific issues. The focus of presentations was quite varied with 16 Comhairlí delivering a total of 21 presentations sharing learning from Comhairlí's key topics. For example, Carlow Comhairle presented their work and findings to an advisory committee with Tusla and CYPSC on the roll out of their mental health initiative. A member of Dublin City Comhairle was invited to speak about climate change at the *Climate Brave* event in the Mansion House.

Eleven presentations across nine Comhairlí focused on raising awareness of the work of the organisations. These included contributing to a number of strategies and initiatives, such as Fingal Local Authority's Strategic Plan and their Biodiversity Plan. Representatives from Jigsaw and Healthy Ireland who sit on the Cork County Comhairle's steering committee, attended Comhairle meetings and both made a presentation on the work they do in the Cork area.

A slightly higher number of Comhairlí promoted Comhairle na nÓg through presentations to their local CYPSCs – eight Comhairlí (26%) in 2020 compared to seven Comhairlí (23%) in 2019.

Similar to 2019, one Comhairle (Longford) worked with their local PPN to give input into their five year Wellbeing Statement 2020-2025 and members from one Comhairle (Kerry) engaged with their local ETB to give their input into various Youth Work strategies in the county.

Comhairle na nÓg continued their engagement with other local and national organisations and decision-making structures with seven Comhairlí (23%) making submissions/presentations to various organisations during 2020. Examples included working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on their Youth Advisory Committee to develop workshops for young people on environmental issues. Other Comhairlí members also used their knowledge to feed into the Strategic Plan from their local youth service. Foróige invited Comhairle members to demonstrate ways young people can help their mental health for their *Minding your mental health* initiative.

6.2.2 Examples of changes achieved from submissions/presentations

Table 6.4 provides a number of examples of the types of submissions or presentations made by the Comhairlí to the various key stakeholders and decision makers.

Table 6.4 Examples of submissions/presentations and changes achieved in 2020

Comhairle	Subject of submissions/ presentations and examples of changes achieved	Decision making body/ decision maker
Offaly	Presented the work of the Comhairle and participated in a QA at the local Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee meetings.	Offaly Local Authority
Meath	Local TDs took part in discussions with delegates and members at the Comhairle's 2020 AGM and has committed to working closely with the Comhairle on their key topics.	Local TDs
Leitrim	Comhairle members attended regular meetings and gave presentations on their key activities.	Leitrim Local Authority
Kilkenny	As part of the public consultation for the County's Waste Action Plan Comhairle members submitted a proposal for the introduction of a reverse vending machine policy to Kilkenny. The motion was passed.	Kilkenny Local Authority
Wicklow	Wicklow County held an Internet Safety day where the Comhairle made a presentation and engaged in workshops with the local school regarding internet safety.	CYPSC/Tusla
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	Members were invited to participate in focus groups and provide feedback on the experience of Comhairle and suggest recommendations for the future of Comhairle na nÓg.	DCYA (Citizen Participation Unit)

6.3 Representing young people on decision-making structures

There was a rise in the level of representations on sub-committees and advisory panels of local decision-making structures in 2020 with 24 (77%) members from Comhairle na nÓg sitting on 32 sub-committees/advisory panels. This compares to 19 (61%) Comhairle na nÓg members sitting on 28 sub-committees/advisory panels of local decision-making structures in 2019.

The number of CYPSCs with a Comhairle member represented on their committee/sub-committee has steadily increased over the last number of years, from 13 in 2019 to 17 in 2020. This rise in engagement demonstrates the commitment by all CYPSCs to involve Comhairle na nÓg in the planning and delivery of appropriate policies, services and initiatives for children and young people. At the same time, this interagency work helps CYPSC achieve its aim of ensuring positive outcomes for children and young people are achieved.

Membership of ETBs remained the same as in 2019 with four Comhairlí represented on committees/sub-committees. There were no Comhairle na nÓg representations on PPNs or LCDCs reported in 2020 with representation on youth services committees staying consistent at four Comhairlí.

The two national agencies with Comhairlí representation include Youth Work Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Table 6.5 Comhairlí represented on decision making structures

Organisation/decision making structure	No. of Comhairlí represented
CYPSCs	17
ETBs	4
Youth services	3
Other committees ⁸	3
National agencies	2

⁸ The three committees referred to here are 1) Roscommon Joint Policing Committee 2) Longford URB Security Committee (Longford Local Authority) 3) NUIG Steering Committee.

6.4 Engagement with Children and Young People's Services Committees

Although 2020 was a challenging year, Comhairle na nÓg continued the work of advocating their services locally and nationally. This was particularly evident in the growing interest in promoting Comhairle na nÓg within local decision-making structures. Over half (17, 55%) of Comhairlí now have a representative sitting on a CYPSC committee or sub-committee. Overall, Comhairle na nÓg had two key roles – feeding into the local CYPSCs strategic plans and sitting on various committees or sub-committees within the CYPSCs

The importance of Comhairle na nÓg's contribution and vision in delivering the CYPSC's development plans and longer-term strategic plans was evident again in 2020. Three consultations focused on the development of strategic/work plans. The remaining four consultations were primarily focused on developing initiatives to support young people during COVID-19 notably mental health and wellbeing services.

The annual reports also highlight that 15 CYPSC Co-ordinators are members of Comhairle na nÓg steering committees - this is an increase of two Coordinators since 2019.

Table 6.6 outlines examples of engagement between Comhairlí and CYPSCs during 2020.

Table 6.6 Examples of other engagement between Comhairlí and CYPSCs in 2020

Comhairle and CYPSC	Engagement
Limerick	CYPSC consulted with Comhairle about the development of remote counselling hubs to support young people in the county.
Fingal	Fingal consulted with their local CYPSC on their <i>Mind your Mood</i> initiative which supports young people's mental health during the pandemic.
Donegal	Members from Donegal Comhairle sat on a new CYPSC sub-committee focused on general youth issues. The sub-committee will work closely with youth groups across Donegal.

6.5 Other engagement with decision makers and stakeholders

The annual reports showed that a wide variety of activities were undertaken in relation to the organisations' key priority topics. Comhairle na nÓg also responded to the challenges for young people during the pandemic – Longford replaced two of their priorities in favour of delivering supports related to COVID-19 in particular examining the impact of the pandemic on young people's education, social and mental health.

A number of other Comhairle used their profile within the community to support essential services, such as meals on wheels to the elderly and vulnerable.

At local and national level, Comhairle na nÓg continues to be viewed as a consultative mechanism by decision-making bodies across the country. Comhairlí actively participated in local forums and meetings with key stakeholders to address specific issues and to help promote the organisation's work. The majority of this work took place online.

A number of Comhairlí invited stakeholders and elected representatives to attend or participate in their AGMs. For example, local Minister and local TDs attended the Meath AGM and the Louth AGM. Cork City received strong support from the city's Lord Mayor who actively advocates for the role of Comhairle, with the Lord Mayor attending their AGM and making a promotional video for the Comhairle's webinar. These activities helped boost the profile of Comhairle na nÓg and keep the organisations connected to their local community.

Comhairlí also reported inviting a number of guest speakers to discuss priority topics at their AGM. For example, Wexford invited a Suicide Resource Worker to take part in their *Tea and Talk* service.

The table below presents a number of initiatives compiled from annual reports relating to a range of collaborative actions undertaken in 2020.

Table 6.7 Examples of other actions undertaken with key stakeholders/organisations

Comhairle	Stakeholder	Activities and changes achieved
Cork City	European Children's Rights Unit	Comhairle members had the opportunity to work with Dr Aoife Daly, Deputy Director of the European Children's Rights Unit. She also contributed to the Comhairle's research in this area.
Galway City	Creative Ireland	Comhairle members recorded a podcast on the online role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons and explained how this can support positive mental health and develop skills as a storyteller.
Leitrim	An Garda Síochána	Comhairle met with members of the Gardaí and Community Gardaí to continue to roll out their <i>Use your brain not your fist</i> video and workbook.
Limerick	Local Creative Youth Partnership	Comhairle members sit on the steering committee which works on supporting the creative and cultural education of children and young people in the Mid-West.
Louth	Outcomers	Louth Comhairle collaborated with the LGBT+ local support group to develop a strategy for Outcomers in the delivery of services for young LGBT+ people.
Westmeath	Westmeath County Library	Comhairle engaged with Westmeath county library to agree a plan to deliver its environmental programme. By the end of 2020, workshops in the areas of climate action and biodiversity workshops were available online.

7 Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee

This section provides an overview of Comhairlí engagement with Steering Committees during 2020.

Key findings

- 98 meetings of the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees were held in 2020.
- 96 Comhairle na nÓg members held a place on their Steering Committees.
- Nine Comhairlí stated that members of their Steering Committee had undertaken training relevant to their role.
- This was the lowest expenditure area of the programme, with €389.5 or just 0.07% of overall expenditure being spent on enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees. This is a decrease of 74.1% compared to 2019 spend (€1,501.99).

7.1 Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee

Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees are in place to support the effective working of Comhairlí na nÓg. Steering Committee members typically include members of the Comhairlí, local authority representatives, Comhairle na nÓg Co-ordinators, local youth service representatives, ETBs, CYPSCs, and other local stakeholders who can support their Comhairle na nÓg to achieve their desired outcomes, impact and change. Additional members of the Steering Committee are drawn from organisations and bodies that are relevant to the topics being progressed by young people in a given year.

Comhairlí were asked to specify how many meetings of their Steering Committees were held in 2020. A total of 98 meetings had been held nationally with an average of three meetings taking place per Comhairle (see Table 7.1) the same average as reported in 2019. Tipperary Comhairle held the most Steering Committee meetings (six meetings).

Table 7.1 Number of Steering Committee meetings held in 2020

Meetings held	Number
Total	98
Average	3
Maximum	6
Minimum	1

7.2 Steering Committee members

Comhairlí were asked to specify how many places on the Steering Committee were held by members of the Comhairle na nÓg. Table 7.2 shows that a total of 96 places on Steering Committees were held by members from 31 Comhairlí.

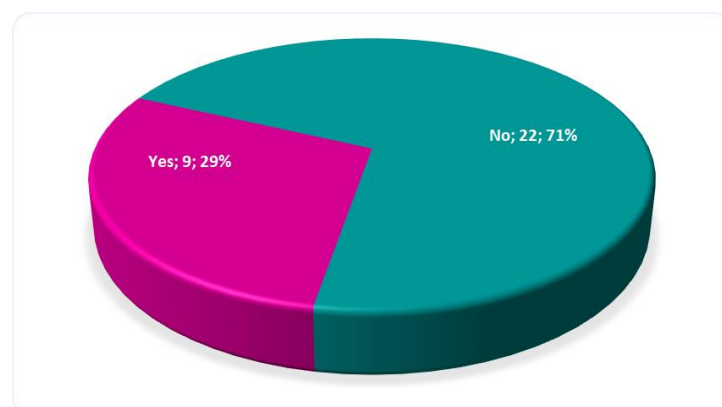
Table 7.2: Places held on Steering Committee by members of the Comhairle na nÓg 2020

Places held	Number
Total number of places held	96
Maximum number of places held on a committee	15
Average number of places held per committee	3

7.3 Training for Steering Committee members

Comhairlí were asked to indicate whether members of the Steering Committee had undertaken any training relevant to their role in Comhairle na nÓg. As shown in Figure 7.1, 29% of Comhairlí (nine Comhairlí) provided training for Steering Committee members. This marked a three-point percentage decrease on the proportion reported in 2019 (32%).

Figure 7.1 Steering Committees whose members were provided with training relevant to their role in Comhairle na nÓg



Of the types of training undertaken by Steering Committee members⁹, induction was the most common type of training, with two Comhairlí stating that members from their Steering Committee undertook training in this area. Child Protection, a declaration confirming that they comply with *Children First* and which is signed by all Comhairlí, was listed by one Comhairle in the report. Other type of training was listed by one Comhairlí and related to Comhairle Co-ordination training for the Co-ordinator and for the Council.

⁹ Of the 7 Comhairlí that said "Yes" whether members of the Steering Committee had undertaken any training relevant to their role in Comhairle na nÓg, 6 did not indicate details of what training took place.

8 Comhairle na nÓg staffing

This section provides an overview of staff members working on Comhairle na nÓg in 2020.

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund¹⁰ made a contribution to 42 staff salaries (a decrease of three salaries compared to 2019). Nationally, staffing costs account for the largest category of spending, with a total of €311,811.78 or 58.27% of overall expenditure being spent in this area. The 2019 staffing expenditure was higher, at €323,255.59, however it represented a lesser proportion of overall expenditure at 52%.

8.1 Roles of staff members

Where an allocation of the Development Fund was provided towards paid staff, Comhairlí were asked to outline the title/position and key responsibilities of staff members funded in relation to Comhairle na nÓg, see Figure 8.1 presenting type of positions funded. A total of 42 individual staff members were listed, which is a decrease¹¹ of 7% on 2019, when 45 staff members were reported. Dublin City was the only Comhairle that did not report any allocation of funding towards staffing. 21 Comhairlí reported having one paid staff member¹², nine reported having two paid staff members and one Comhairle reported having three paid staff members.

Comhairlí were also asked to provide the same details in relation to staffing assigned through local authorities or other related agencies. Details on 38 staff were provided under this section by 31 Comhairlí. 24 Comhairlí reported having one staff member from the local authority or other related agencies, while seven reported having two staff from local authorities and other related agencies.

As can be seen from Figure 8.1, the position of co-ordinator continued to be the position funded most often (31 positions or 74%) amongst paid staff. Eleven staff members (26% of positions) were facilitators.

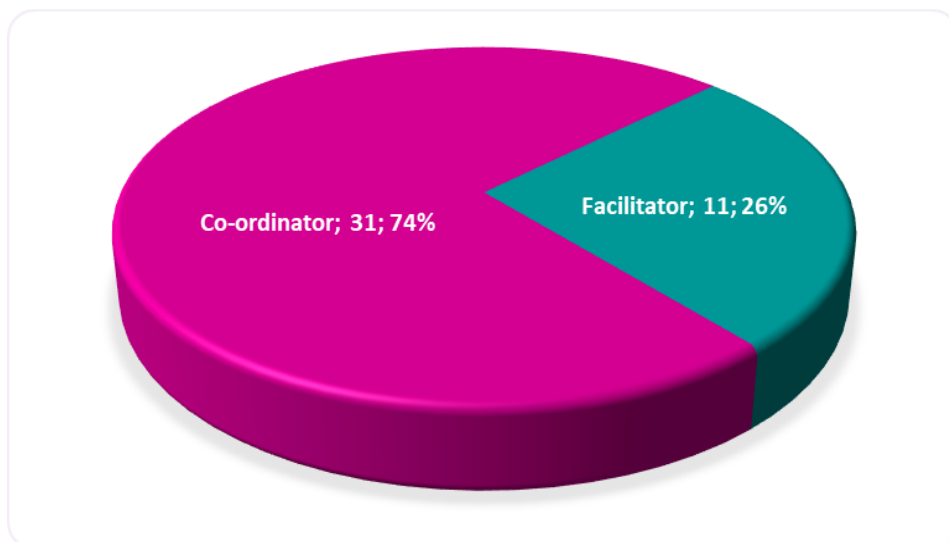
Of the local authority staff working in the Comhairlí, the position of administrative officer or staff officer was the most prevalent staff position reported (six or 16%), four staff members (11%) were co-ordinators. The remaining positions included amongst others: area community officer, CE support worker, community development worker, facilitator, liaison officer and link contact.

¹⁰An additional 38 local authority staff members were reported as working in the Comhairlí in 2020.

¹¹This increase refers to the number of individuals not Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). The data provides no information on the number of FTEs or the number of hours worked.

¹² Dublin City was the only Comhairle that did not report an allocation of funding towards staffing but reported having one staff member.

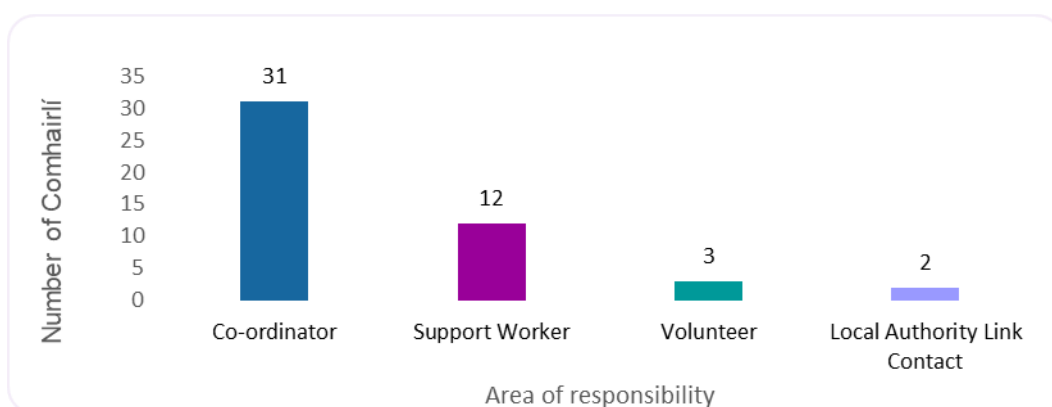
Figure 8.1: Staff member positions/titles (paid staff)



8.2 Areas of responsibility

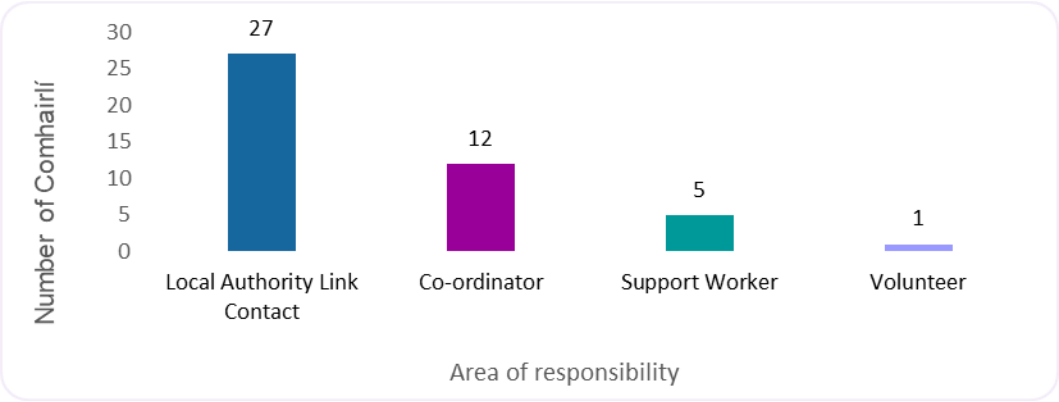
Comhairlí were asked to select the main areas of responsibility of each staff member from a list of prescribed headings. The most commonly cited areas of responsibility for paid staff were those relating to co-ordinator and support worker. These were followed by volunteer and local authority link contact (see Figure 8.2).

Figure 8.2: Main areas of staff responsibility in relation to Comhairle na nÓg



Comhairlí were also asked to select the main areas of responsibility of each of the local authority staff members. The most commonly cited areas of responsibility for these staff were those relating to local authority link contact and co-ordinator. These were followed by support worker and volunteer (see Figure 8.3).

Figure 8.3: Main areas of staff responsibility in relation to Comhairle na nÓg (local authority staff)



9 Comhairle na nÓg administration support

This section of the report provides a brief overview of the administrative arrangements in place to support the Comhairle na nÓg in 2020.

Key findings

- Printing / photocopying / typing was the most frequently cited administrative activities in place to support the Comhairle.
- Over two thirds of Comhairlí (25 or 81%) sought an allocation of funding towards administration costs.
- Nationally, a total of €30,584.24 or 6% of the total expenditure was spent on administrative costs, which marks a 9% increase in the overall expenditure spent in this area in 2019 (€28,048.68).

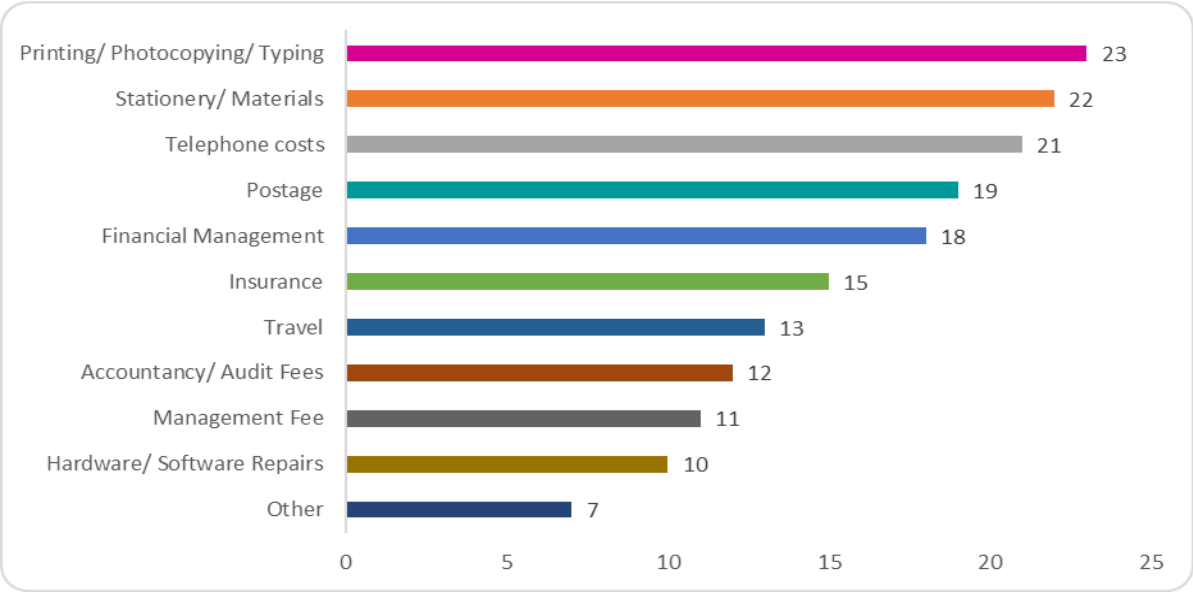
9.1 Administration supports

Comhairlí were asked to provide the details of administrative arrangements in place (where an allocation of funding was sought towards administration costs). As outlined in Figure 9.1, in 2020, of all Comhairlí, who sought the allocation of funding towards administration cost, 23 Comhairlí incurred administrative costs in relation to printing/photocopying/ typing supports. Almost two thirds (22) availed of stationery/ materials, while 21 Comhairlí made reference to telephone costs. Postage also featured prominently on the list of items covered under administrative costs, with 19 Comhairlí availing of it, and financial management costs were listed by 18 Comhairlí.

Comhairlí listed 'Other' costs which included the purchase of premium Zoom, Padlet or Kahoot! accounts to support the work of the Comhairle, the purchase of software to support online Comhairle meetings and improve efficacy of consultations and the delivery of welcome packs and resources.

Of the 25 Comhairlí that allocated funding to administrative supports, three Comhairlí reported zero spend against the category for administrative costs and cited COVID-19 restrictions / not proceeding with planned activity as the reason.

Figure 9.1: Administrative arrangements in place to support Comhairle na nÓg



10 Income and expenditure report (January to December 2020)

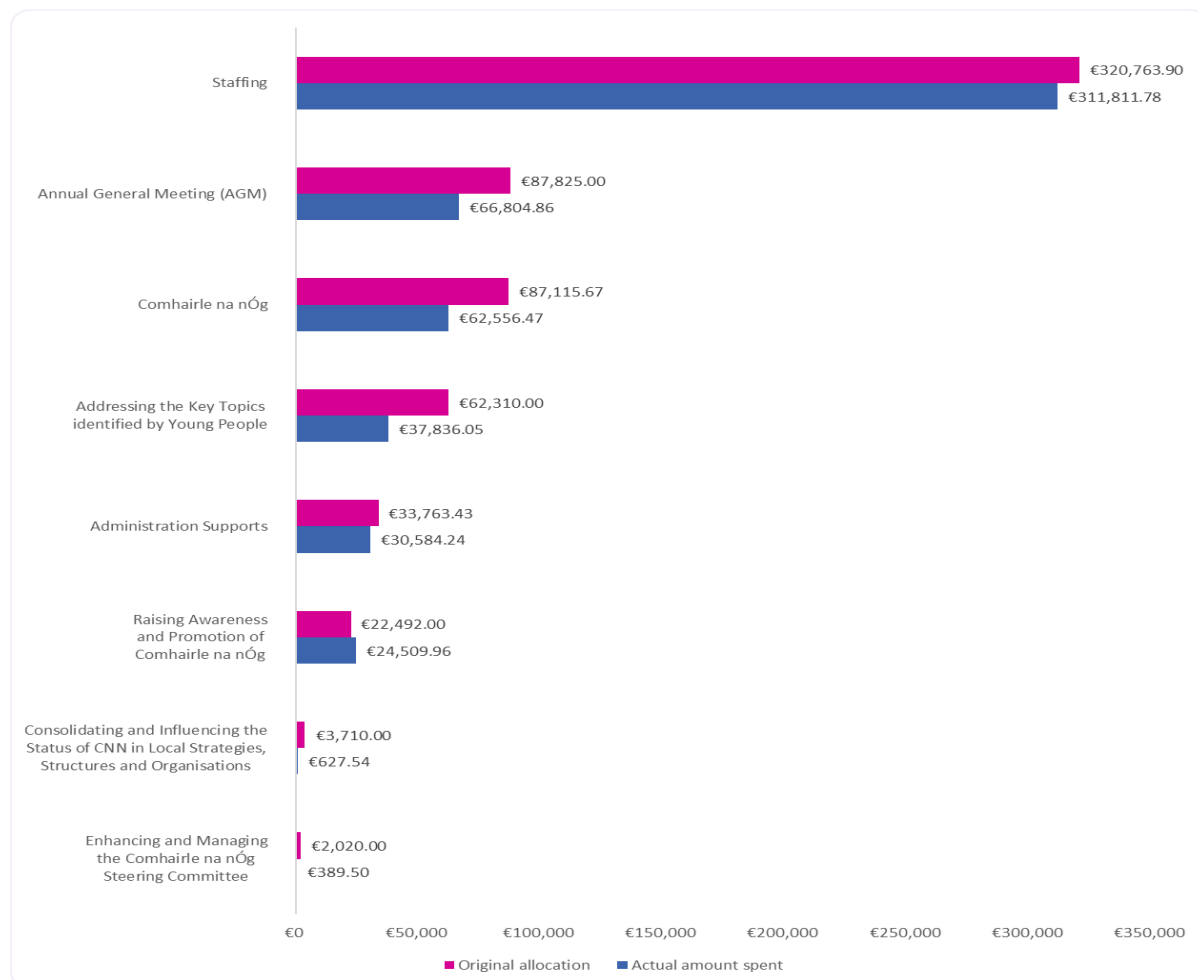
This section of the report provides an overview of the Comhairle na nÓg 2020 income and expenditure in relation to the Development Fund, and a breakdown of expenditure by category as shown in Figure 10.1.

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total Development Fund allocation in 2020 was €619,999.41. • The total expenditure was €535,120.40. • Staffing continued to be the single largest area of spend accounting for 58% of overall expenditure reported. • Overall, the proportion of expenditure in relation to each category was comparable with 2019 spending patterns.

As illustrated in Figure 10.1, the funding allocated by Comhairlí across all the actions saw one action area where the amount of reported spend was higher than what had been originally budgeted: 'Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg'.

In all other action areas the overall spend reported was lower than what the Comhairlí had originally budgeted. The largest proportion of underspend was reported under the action area 'Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations' category (83% underspend), followed by 'Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee' (81% underspend).

Figure 10.1: Allocation and expenditure by action area in 2020



10.1 Development Fund - income 2020

The 2020 annual report requested each Comhairle na nÓg to provide the balance carried forward from 2019 as well as the DCEDIY net approved funding amount under the Development Fund for 2020. The total amount that Comhairlí carried over from 2019 was €4,825.80 and the total net funding amount for 2020 was €615,173.61, consequently, the total Development Fund income, as reported for 2020, amounted to €619,999.41.

10.2 Development Fund - expenditure 2020

Overall, the total amount allocated to Comhairle na nÓg through the Development Fund was **€619,999.41** and the total amount of reported expenditure was **€535,120.40**. This accounted for an underspend of 13.7% or €84,879.60 of the total budget allocation. However, two Comhairlí reported overspends, one of which was met by other sources of funds - Government Departments¹³. Overspend occurred under one category: 'Raising awareness and promotion

¹³ One Comhairle did not report how part of an overspend of €1.95 was met.

of Comhairle na nÓg'. The funding that the Comhairlí allocated across all the actions, was **€620,000** (which in some cases, includes the additional funding secured from other sources).

For eight Comhairlí (26%) their reported expenditure was in line with their original budget projections. 21 Comhairlí (68%) spent less than originally anticipated and a further two (6%) spent marginally more than their original allocation.

Each year, Comhairlí have the option to submit a budget change request as required and, therefore, the final expenditure figures are likely to differ from the original projections under each action area.

Each Comhairle was asked to outline the original amount budgeted and the actual amount spent under each of the eight areas of expenditure. More money was budgeted than was actually spent in all funding categories with the exception of one ('Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg'), where the amount spent slightly exceeded the initial allocation. For example, while €3,710 was allocated under 'Consolidating and influencing the status of CNN in local strategies, structures and organisations', the reported spend was 83% less, at €627.54. The next sections provide a brief analysis of the spending under each action funding heading as reported by the 31 Comhairlí.

Table 10.1: Projected allocations vs actual spend – summary

Action area	Maximum % of allocation that can be spent on action area	Amount allocated	Actual amount spent	% difference	Average amount spent*	% of total expenditure
Staffing	75%	€320,763.90	€311,811.78	2.8%	€10,058.44	58.3%
Annual General Meeting (AGM)	15%	€87,825.00	€66,804.86	23.9%	€2,155.00	12.5%
Comhairle na nÓg	30%	€87,115.67	€62,556.47	28.2%	€2,017.95	11.7%
Addressing the key topics identified by young people	70%	€62,310.00	€37,836.05	39.3%	€1,220.52	7.1%
Administration supports	15%	€33,763.43	€30,584.24	9.4%	€986.59	5.7%
Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg	10%	€22,492.00	€24,509.96	-9.0%	€790.64	4.6%
Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations	15%	€3,710.00	€627.54	83.1%	€20.24	0.1%
Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	5%	€2,020.00	€389.50	80.7%	€12.56	0.1%
Total		€620,000.00	€535,120.40	13.7%	€17,261.95	100.0%

*Average amount spent based on expenditure of all 31 Comhairlí

10.3 Staffing

Staffing continued to account for the highest proportion of spending under the Development Fund, with **€323,255.59** or **58%** of expenditure spent in this area. The actual expenditure reported was 2.8% below the initially anticipated budget allocated under this heading. As outlined in Chapter 8, this funding contributed to the salaries of 42 staff members who have a role in Comhairle na nÓg (as reported by 31 Comhairlí). The average spend under this heading was **€10,058.44** per Comhairle. 15 Comhairlí reported expenditure on staffing in line with their allocated amount, five Comhairlí spent more than anticipated and 10 spent less than expected. One Comhairle did not allocate any money under this heading and, therefore, reported no spend.

10.4 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The second largest spending category, with **€66,804.86** or **12.5%** of the overall expenditure, was AGMs. The actual expenditure came in 23.9% below the initially anticipated budget allocated under this heading. The average spend in this area was **€2,155.00**. Eight Comhairlí (26%) reported that their spending was in line with their allocated amount. 19 Comhairlí (61%) reported underspends in this area, with a further three (10%) reporting overspends under this budget heading. One Comhairle did not allocate any money under this heading and therefore, reported no spend.

10.5 Comhairle na nÓg

The total expenditure on *Comhairle na nÓg* amounted to **€62,556.47** or **11.7%** of overall expenditure. The actual expenditure came in 28.2% below the initially anticipated budget allocated under this heading. The average spend reported in this area was **€2,017.95**. A total of six Comhairlí (19%) reported that their spending on Comhairle na nÓg was in line with their expectations, with 21 spending less and four spending more than originally anticipated. The underspend for this category was the most significant, with 68% of Comhairlí reporting an underspend – this is a notable increase compared to 2019, when a 39% difference was reported.

The expenditure under this heading relates to the costs associated with the general operation of the Comhairle – particularly the costs of running regular meetings, i.e. venue hire, transport, food and refreshments, and materials and equipment. Due to COVID-19, and the necessity to move most meetings (from March 2020) online, this significantly impacted the spend. Some Comhairlí also allocated budgets to, for example, cost of running county panel, purchasing face masks, programme cost, supporting the development of the committee, purchasing hoodies to raise awareness and identify Comhairle members, online yoga, pre-production and design of an educational video resource.

10.6 Addressing the key topics identified by young people

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Addressing the key topics identified by young people accounted for **€37,836.05** or **7.1%** of the overall expenditure. The actual expenditure came in 39.3% below the budget allocated under this heading.

While other areas of expenditure also work towards progressing the key issues and concerns for young people, this category is specifically intended to fund activities associated with the key topics chosen.

Almost all Comhairlí (29) reported expenditure in this area (two Comhairlí did not allocate any money under this heading and, therefore, reported no spend). The average spend was **€1,220.52**. A total of five Comhairlí reported expenditure that was in line with their original budget allocation in this area with 20 spending less than anticipated and four spending more than planned. Four Comhairlí made an allocation under this heading but no expenditure was reported.

10.7 Administration supports

A total of **€30,584.24** or **5.7%** of total expenditure was spent on *administrative supports*. Overall, there was a 9.4% underspend in this category. In terms of reporting for those Comhairlí that do not have a specific allocation to this budget heading (six), feedback suggests that administrative costs are either covered by the local authority or other organisations, or are often subsumed into other categories of spending, such as staffing costs. The average amount of spending on administrative costs (from the Development Fund) was **€986.59**. A total of ten Comhairlí reported expenditure that was in line with their original budget allocation in this area with 11 spending less than anticipated and four spending more than planned. Three Comhairlí allocated money under this heading but expenditure was not reported. Another Comhairle did not allocate any money under this heading but expenditure was reported.

10.8 Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg

The total amount of expenditure on actions aimed at *Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg* was **€24,509.96** or **4.6%** of the overall national spend. 24 Comhairlí reported spending on awareness raising while seven Comhairlí did not allocate any budget to this heading and therefore reported no spend.

Of those that reported expenditure under this budget heading, five Comhairlí reported expenditure that was in line with their original budget allocation in this area. 10 Comhairlí spent less than anticipated and nine spent more than planned. Overall, there was a 9% overspend in this category and as noted previously, it was the only category that had an overall overspend. Two Comhairlí allocated money under this heading but expenditure was not reported. Another Comhairle did not allocate any money under this heading but expenditure was reported. Overspend in this area was covered by either taking from an underspend in another area or funding from other sources i.e., Government Department.

Although 23% of Comhairlí did not report expenditure specifically related to raising awareness/promotion, all Comhairlí reported engaging in promotional activities to raise the profile of the Comhairle (see chapter 5). The average amount of spending on promotional actions was **€790.64** per Comhairle. There was significant variance for some Comhairlí between allocations and actual reported expenditure in this category with one Comhairle reporting an

underspend of 63% (€1,500 allocated and €553.05 spent) and another reporting an overspend of 833% (€150.00 allocated and €1,400 spent).

10.9 Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations

A total of **€627.54** or just **0.1%** of total expenditure was spent on activities relating to *Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairlí na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations*. This remains a low expenditure area with only 13 Comhairlí (42%) reporting any spending under this heading. A total of 18 Comhairlí did not allocate any money under this heading and, therefore, reported no spend. Eight Comhairle made an allocation but did not report any spend.

Overall, expenditure in this area was 83% less than allocated, whereas, in 2019, the expenditure was 3% less than allocated. The average spend per Comhairle under this heading was just **€20.24**.

As this area of expenditure relates to liaising and engaging with organisations and agencies (attending meetings, making presentations etc.), costs tend to be low and may be funded under other budget headings and the COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact on spending in this area.

10.10 Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees

A total of **€389.50** or just **0.1%** of overall expenditure related to *Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees*, making this, the lowest category of expenditure in 2020 (consistent with expenditure reported in previous years).

Overall, in 2020 reported expenditure in this area was 81% less than allocated, whereas, in 2019, the expenditure was 54% less than allocated.

A total of 11 Comhairlí (35%) reported spending under this heading and the amounts were relatively low. The average expenditure for this budget heading was just **€12.56**. Costs under this heading relate to meetings of the Steering Group, including transport and refreshments and similar. Again, expenditure in this area has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

20 Comhairlí (65%) did not allocate any money under this heading and therefore, reported no spend. Eight Comhairlí made an allocation but did not report any spend.

11 Appendices

Appendix I: Projects, actions and changes achieved

Key topic: Mental health				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project	Action completed
Carlow	✓ Designed and distributed a youth mental health kit with new logo and customised face masks.	✓ Greater awareness of mental health.		Yes
Donegal	✓ A consultation was held with members to contribute to the development of the Children's and Young People Plan 2021 – 2023 alongside CYPSC and other stakeholders.	✓ New youth subcommittee has been established.	Yes	No
Dublin Fingal	✓ Workshops with various stakeholders completed on the topic of peer pressure to develop a better understanding of the issues.	✓ Workshop completed. ✓ Information video on the topic postponed due to COVID-19.		No
Galway City	✓ Surveyed young people on how the lockdown and pandemic influenced their mental wellbeing.	✓ Survey results posted online. ✓ Art analysis designed to help raise awareness of mental health.		Yes
Limerick	✓ Completed an online wellness event for young people - "Reconnect to Disconnect". ✓ Yoga, Mindfulness, & Fitness element.	✓ Increase awareness of mental health issues. ✓ Good engagement during Ireland's first lockdown in 2020.		Yes

Key topic: Mental health				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Galway County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed Mental Health Awareness and Destigmatizing workshops. ✓ Top Tips post on social media and leaflet produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Workshop was completed. ✓ Greater awareness of mental health issues. 		No
Clare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Five A day</i> model used during with members the year. ✓ Art events took place. ✓ Care packs distributed. ✓ Letter writing to older people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Those involved reported a boost to their positive mental health. 	.	Yes
Limerick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed a Wellness Recovery Action Plan. ✓ Training for Comhairle members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The 3-day programme to improve young people's resilience, coping strategies and wellness was postponed due to COVID-19. 		No
Longford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comhairle distributed helpline numbers and an online video by an art therapist to support mental health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Music video completed by under the topic of bullying was adapted to include helpline information and a message of solidarity during lockdown. ✓ This video was shared nationally and locally by various agencies. 		Yes
Louth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Online Campaign rolled out during first lockdown. ✓ Care packages provided for 865 young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greater awareness of mental health issues. ✓ Young People received a care package to help them deal with the issues during lockdown. 		Yes

Key topic: Mental health				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Offaly	✓ Video made and distributed online for young people in the area of exam stress and pressures.	✓ Greater awareness of the issues.		Yes
Meath	✓ Positive body image campaign rolled out in schools (pre-COVID-19).	✓ Raised awareness amongst the young people of Meath on body image.		Yes
Roscommon	✓ Equinox art piece based around balance of mental health created. ✓ Nature walk in Lough Key Forest Park to research nature & the woodland and to boost mental health & morale within the Comhairle during COVID-19.	✓ Equinox to be mounted in prominent place in Roscommon Town to promote balance of mental health. ✓ CYPSC used image for new Mental Health Support Services poster.		Yes
Sligo	✓ Poster campaign to promote positive messages on mental health.	✓ Raised awareness of mental health issues.		Yes
Tipperary	✓ Survey completed on titled <i>How are you in Tipp?</i>	✓ Results set the work plan for all mental health actions.	Ongoing action	No
Wexford	✓ Continued to provide an online presence on the <i>Tea & Talk</i> initiative. ✓ Development & design of resource pack for Tea & Talk on the issue of suicide and self-harm prevention.	✓ Continued provision of Saturday support service for young people in Wexford.		Yes

Action delivered by	Key topic: Climate Change			
	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Dublin Fingal	✓ Hosted workshops from relevant organisations to develop understanding.	✓ Script prepared and ready to shoot an awareness video post COVID-19.		No
Galway County	✓ Hosted a climate justice workshop	✓ Raising awareness of climate justice issues.		Yes
Dublin City	✓ Designed Infographics on climate change and waste. ✓ Future <i>Talks</i> virtual event held.	✓ Awareness raising campaign completed.		Yes
Dublin South	✓ Planning for planter/bike racks in key positions in the county to promote biodiversity and sustainable transport. ✓ Promoted topic of biodiversity locally on social media.	✓ Funding was secured and plan for installation of bike racks in place. ✓ Awareness raising campaign completed. ✓ Two climate change promotional videos produced.	Yes	No
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	✓ An online questionnaire was developed and circulated as part of a research project to determine young people's habits, opinions and awareness of <i>Fast Fashion</i> . ✓ Tree planting project.	✓ The results of this survey will determine the specific project Comhairle will undertake in 2021. ✓ Comhairle participated in the first afforestation project - one of many nature-based solutions to Climate Change.		No Yes
Kerry	✓ Developed a clean beach campaign.	✓ Beach was cleaned.		Yes



Action delivered by	Key topic: Climate Change			
	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Waterford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An app was developed to further engage young people. ✓ Developed a Native Irish Tree Trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communitree App will be ready to launch in Q1 2021. ✓ 2,300 native Irish trees have been purchased and will be planted in Q1, 2021. 		No
Westmeath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prioritised 3 areas under the topic of environment that were achievable and necessary. ✓ Identified relevant services who could support them in progressing these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Worked in partnership with local services and created 3 youth friendly workshops, including a quiz and educational videos. 		No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation in Strategic Policy Committee. ✓ Gave input into the Climate Justice Manifesto at Youth Summit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased contribution of young people to the Local Authority policy agenda for climate and biodiversity. ✓ Increased awareness among young people in Co. Wicklow. 		Yes

Action delivered by	Key topic: Discrimination/Equality			
	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Clare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discussions at the Comhairle meetings with information gathering exercises. ✓ Attendance at a creative event with a panel discussion afterward. ✓ Delivered online anti-discrimination training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Greater understanding of direct provision and support for changes. ✓ Greater awareness of discrimination. ✓ A number of members engaged in peaceful civil action around the topic independent of Comhairle. 		No
Cork City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developing knowledge about the topic by linking in with various agencies and organisations working in the area of segregation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members made podcasts with our invited speakers and these are now hosted on our website. ✓ The research stage has allowed our members to clearly identify the most effective way they can promote solidarity for young people in Cork. 		No
Leitrim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comhairle facilitated focus groups with the Intercultural Forum and other community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due to COVID-19 the event was postponed. 		No
Monaghan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members researched, designed and created a booklet, "<i>Hidden Disabilities, Learn The Facts, Debunk The Myths, A more Inclusive Society</i>". The booklet contained information on 7 common hidden disabilities. ✓ Comhairle members learned Lámh sign language and created a Lámh friendly video. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A youth friendly booklet full of valuable information on some common hidden disabilities. ✓ Comhairle members learned large amounts of 'signs'. ✓ Helped create awareness of disabilities amongst young people. 		Yes Yes

Action delivered by	Key topic: COVID-19 supports			
	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Cork County	✓ Collaborate with Cork Local Authority CARE campaign.	✓ Helped raise awareness of promoting public health during the pandemic.		
Kerry	✓ Completed a survey of local schools.	✓ Raised awareness of challenges for young people during the pandemic.		Yes
Leitrim	✓ Comhairle members distributed a survey examining the impact of COVID-19 on young people regarding education, social health and mental wellbeing.	✓ The results were reported back to the steering committee. ✓ The Comhairle group planned to create a video with local schools on what the school day would look like under restrictions.		No
Westmeath	✓ Developed the #Stayathome campaign, #Everydayhero's campaign. ✓ Produced information leaflet on positive changes in the environment since lockdown.	✓ Comhairle lead by example and drove social media campaigns to urge their peers to follow Government Guidelines in relation to staying safe during the 2020 pandemic.		Yes
Mayo	✓ Delivered a positive message to combat inactivity and mental health issues throughout COVID-19. ✓ Made a Thank you video for frontline workers. ✓ Comhairle organised letters and pictures to be sent to over 300 isolated older people across the county giving messages of hope and kindness.	✓ Members recorded podcasts with local mental health organisation. ✓ Action had a significant impact on older people living in isolation and cocooning.		Yes
Meath	✓ Developed a positive video on mental health during the pandemic.	✓ Young people spread the message of positivity during pandemic.		Yes

Key topic: COVID-19 supports				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Cork County	✓ Collaborate with Cork Local Authority CARE campaign.	✓ Helped raise awareness of promoting public health during the pandemic.		
Monaghan	✓ Members actively engaged in vlogs showing what they were doing to look after their mental health during lockdown. ✓ Comhairle engaged in a campaign called "Mind Your Selfie". ✓ Shared information on what local services offered in supporting young people during the pandemic.	✓ Raising awareness of mental health. ✓ The activities helped Comhairle members stay motivated throughout the first lockdown.		Yes

Key topic: Drugs and Alcohol				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Kildare	✓ Rolled out a social media campaign.	✓ Shared information with young people on the issues of alcohol during lock down.	Yes	No
Wicklow	✓ Survey/Research young people's attitude to drugs.	✓ Full survey to be rolled out in 2021.		No

Key topic: Drugs and Alcohol				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Roscommon	✓ Launched Bury <i>Drugs Not Your Dreams</i> substance misuse information booklet.	✓ Raised awareness of the dangers of substance misuse.		Yes
	✓ RCNN collaborated with Irish Second Level Students Union on a substance resource for national distribution.	✓ RCNN won Best Design Award at ESB Techfest 2020 for the launch video. ✓ Raise awareness of the dangers of substance misuse nationally.		No
Tipperary	✓ Launched the Be Sober, Be Safe campaign.	✓ Raise awareness of teenage drinking & drug use		Yes

Key topic: Safe communities				
Action delivered by	Action	Change achieved		Action completed
Leitrim	✓ Continued to promote the <i>Use your brain not your fist</i> campaign. ✓ Met with the local GAA, An Garda Síochána and North West Drug Taskforce.	✓ Plan in place re roll out video and workbook through National Garda Schools Project and a social media campaign.		No
Westmeath	✓ Agreed with the local services to host a second road safety event.	✓ Event postponed until 2021.		No

	Key topic: Health and wellbeing			
Action delivered by	Project and actions	Changes achieved	2 year project?	Action completed
Cork County	✓ Webinar titled Building resilience around stress and pressure in young people delivered with input from Minister of State for Mental Health.	✓ Structures identified in association with Steering Committee and will be the focus of work in Year 3.	Yes	No
Sligo	✓ Organised a series of youth events under the theme of healthy Ireland.	✓ Online cooking classes organised for young people to increase skills and confidence for healthy meal prep.		Yes

	Key topic: Education/student life			
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2 year project?	Action completed
Kilkenny	✓ Developed a workshop/training for teachers in relation to the importance of young people being able to express their unique selves in an educational environment.	✓ This did not go beyond consultation as the main stakeholder were schools & COVID-19 restricted progress.		No
Mayo	✓ Transition booklet produced in association with Foróige and distributed to all 1st years students.	✓ The booklet had a positive impact on young people leaving primary school.		Yes

Key topic: Youth employment				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Clare	✓ Comhairle activity related to gathering information on the topic of youth employment.	✓ The action resulted in greater knowledge about the legislation relating to employment and those under 18 yrs.		No

Key topic: Homelessness				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Limerick	✓ Provided summer camp for children experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	✓ At risk young people engaged in a fun 2-day programme.		Yes

Key topic: Tourism				
Action delivered by	Projects and actions	Changes achieved	2-year project?	Action completed
Cavan	✓ It is hoped that on completion of this project Comhairle will publish a book <i>52 reasons to visit Cavan</i> which will include how to take care of our environment.	✓ Comhairle members have liaised with the tourism personnel and will liaise with the environment section post COVID-19 restrictions.		No

Appendix II: Projected allocations Vs actual spend - by Local Authority breakdown (action areas 1-4)

	1. Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee			2. Comhairle na nÓg			3. Consolidating and Influencing the Status of CNN in local strategies, structures and organisations			4. Annual General Meeting (AGM)		
Local Authority	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference
Carlow	€0.00	€0.00	-	€1,200.00	€1,297.33	-8.1%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,000.00	€386.35	80.7%
Cavan	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,500.00	€1,566.14	37.4%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€3,998.57	0.0%
Clare	€260.00	€0.00	100.0%	€2,800.00	€271.52	90.3%	€160.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,140.00	€3,060.28	2.5%
Cork City	€0.00	-	-	€1,095.00	€1,088.73	0.6%	€0.00		-	€605.00	€595.40	1.6%
Cork County	€0.00	€0.00	-	€3,248.00	€2,769.90	14.7%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€3,300.00	€2,115.69	35.9%
Donegal	-	-	-	€2,906.57	€2,906.57	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin - Dublin City	€0.00	-	-	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	0.0%	-	-	-	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	0.0%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€300.00	€0.00	100.0%	€2,500.00	€452.00	81.9%	€100.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,000.00	€200.00	93.3%
Dublin - Fingal	€300.00	€251.00	16.3%	€2,000.00	€165.61	91.7%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€2,921.92	27.0%
Dublin - South Dublin	€100.00	-	100.0%	€1,400.00	€3,100.00	-121.4%	€0.00	-	-	€1,400.00	€1,400.00	0.0%
Galway City	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,460.00	€2,503.40	-1.8%	€100.00	€92.71	7.3%	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	0.0%
Galway County	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,500.00	€1,749.88	30.0%	€500.00	€0.00	100.0%	€4,000.00	€1,383.36	65.4%
Kerry	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,000.00	€449.60	77.5%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€3,000.00	€1,634.23	45.5%
Kildare	€400.00	€0.00	100.0%	€4,290.10	€4,051.70	5.6%	€400.00	€0.00	100.0%	€2,250.00	€1,659.82	26.2%
Kilkenny	-	-	-	€2,550.00	€1,370.61	46.3%	-	-	-	€2,750.00	€940.96	65.8%
Laois	€0.00	-	-	€2,000.00	€543.43	72.8%	€300.00	€127.05	57.7%	€2,200.00	€1,894.00	13.9%
Leitrim	€120.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,516.00	€1,425.00	59.5%	€600.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0.0%

	1. Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee			2. Comhairle na nÓg			3. Consolidating and Influencing the Status of CNN in local strategies, structures and organisations			4. Annual General Meeting (AGM)		
Local Authority	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference
Limerick	€20.00	€0.00	100.0%	€2,850.00	€2,103.14	26.2%	€150.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,180.00	€1,279.96	59.7%
Longford	-	-	-	€600.00	€138.00	77.0%	-	-	-	€2,000.00	€201.73	89.9%
Louth	-	-	-	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0.0%	-	-	-	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0.0%
Mayo	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,000.00	€1,992.54	0.4%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€2,632.43	34.2%
Meath	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,000.00	€1,781.81	10.9%	€450.00	€169.28	62.4%	€3,500.00	€2,791.44	20.2%
Monaghan	-	-	-	€4,000.00	€2,019.50	49.5%	-	-	-	€2,000.00	€957.83	52.1%
Offaly	€0.00	€0.00	-	€6,000.00	€2,255.38	62.4%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€4,596.95	-14.9%
Roscommon	€100.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,000.00	€3,133.87	-4.5%	€300.00	€0.00	100.0%	€3,200.00	€3,387.03	-5.8%
Sligo	€0.00	€0.00	-	€300.00	€300.00	0.0%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0.0%
Tipperary	€120.00	€38.50	67.9%	€6,000.00	€4,954.41	17.4%	€250.00	€38.50	84.6%	€4,000.00	€3,560.26	11.0%
Waterford	€100.00	€100.00	0.0%	€3,500.00	€3,500.00	0.0%	€200.00	€200.00	0.0%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0.0%
Westmeath	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	0.0%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	0.0%
Wexford	€0.00	€0.00	-	€5,600.00	€2,966.40	47.0%	€0.00	-	-	€3,200.00	€3,649.35	-14.0%
Wicklow	€200.00	€0.00	100.0%	€800.00	€200.00	75.0%	€200.00	€0.00	100.0%	€2,600.00	€1,057.30	59.3%
Total	€2,020.00	€389.50	80.7%	€87,115.67	€62,556.47	28%	€3,710.00	€627.54	83.1%	€87,825.00	€66,804.86	23.9%
Average Amount (based on 31 Comhairlí)	€65.16	€12.56		€2,810.18	€2,017.95		€119.68	€20.24		€2,833.06	€2,155.00	
Average Amount (based on number with allocation under heading)	€77.69	€17.70		€2,810.18	€2,017.95		€148.40	€28.52		€2,927.50	€2,226.83	

Appendix II (continued) Projected allocations Vs actual spend - by Local Authority breakdown (action areas 5-8)

Local Authority	5. Addressing the Key Topics identified by Young People			6. Raising Awareness and Promotion of Comhairle na nÓg			7. Staffing			8. Administration Supports		
	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference
Carlow	€800.00	€2,315.41	-189.4%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0.0%
Cavan	€6,000.00	€2,774.01	53.8%	€1,500.00	€1,892.76	-26.2%	€4,000.00	€3,010.78	24.7%	€2,000.00	€0.00	100.0%
Clare	€1,500.00	€1,482.00	1.2%	€140.00	€150.00	-7.1%	€10,000.00	€7,732.84	22.7%	€2,000.00	€1,119.92	44.0%
Cork City	€400.00	€396.74	0.8%	€800.00	€798.53	0.2%	€15,000.00	€14,707.52	1.9%	€2,100.00	€2,207.64	-5.1%
Cork County	€0.00	€0.00	-	€1,452.00	€1,451.27	0.1%	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	0.0%	€0.00	€0.00	-
Donegal	-	-	-	€1,100.00	€1,100.00	0.0%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	€993.43	€993.43	0.0%
Dublin - Dublin City	€7,000.00	€7,000.00	0.0%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0.0%	€0.00	-	-	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0.0%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€1,250.00	€1,100.00	12.0%	€150.00	€1,400.00	-833.3%	€12,700.00	€9,000.00	29.1%	-	€2,000.00	-
Dublin - Fingal	€2,000.00	-	100.0%	€200.00	€0.00	100.0%	€11,000.00	€11,000.00	0.0%	€500.00	-	100.0%
Dublin - South Dublin	€1,600.00	€0.00	100.0%	€0.00	-	-	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	0.0%	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0.0%
Galway City	€2,850.00	€2,782.52	2.4%	€2,000.00	€2,035.75	-1.8%	€9,470.00	€9,470.00	0.0%	€620.00	€646.38	-4.3%
Galway County	€1,730.00	€1,855.00	-7.2%	€1,000.00	€1,266.87	-26.7%	€9,470.00	€10,005.90	-5.7%	€800.00	€260.00	67.5%
Kerry	€1,000.00	€220.00	78.0%	€0.00	€0.00	-	€12,000.00	€9,485.43	21.0%	€2,000.00	€2,642.19	-32.1%
Kildare	€2,000.00	€1,447.00	27.7%	€150.00	€0.00	100.0%	€9,509.90	€9,519.00	-0.1%	€1,000.00	€717.80	28.2%
Kilkenny	€2,700.00	€725.06	73.1%	-	-	-	€11,000.00	€11,000.00	0.0%	€1,000.00	€493.64	50.6%
Laois	€4,500.00	€835.00	81.4%	€1,000.00	€950.00	5.0%	€9,500.00	€9,500.00	0.0%	€500.00	-	100.0%
Leitrim	€1,655.00	€500.00	69.8%	€500.00	€525.00	-5.0%	€7,609.00	€5,984.18	21.4%	€3,000.00	€3,111.00	-3.7%
Limerick	€500.00	€187.00	62.6%	€350.00	€242.00	30.9%	€11,800.00	€8,457.36	28.3%	€1,150.00	€934.32	18.8%
Longford	€400.00	-	100.0%	-	€1,273.59	-	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	€2,000.00	€1,831.00	8.5%

Local Authority	5. Addressing the Key Topics identified by Young People			6. Raising Awareness and Promotion of Comhairle na nÓg			7. Staffing			8. Administration Supports		
	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference	Original allocation	Actual spend	% Difference
Louth	€500.00	€500.00	0.0%	-	-	-	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	-	-	-
Mayo	€2,000.00	€836.35	58.2%	€1,000.00	€1,563.93	-56.4%	€11,000.00	€11,000.00	0.0%	-	-	-
Meath	€700.00	€571.91	18.3%	€1,850.00	€1,300.59	29.7%	€10,500.00	€10,484.24	0.2%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0.0%
Monaghan	€2,000.00	€1,657.09	17.1%	€1,000.00	€840.00	16.0%	€10,000.00	€11,000.00	-10.0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0.0%
Offaly	€6,000.00	€0.00	100.0%	€1,000.00	€990.75	0.9%	€3,000.00	€151.75	94.9%	€0.00	€0.00	-
Roscommon	€2,000.00	€2,146.73	-7.3%	€800.00	€1,174.65	-46.8%	€10,000.00	€9,630.80	3.7%	€600.00	€526.92	12.2%
Sligo	€200.00	€200.00	0.0%	-	-	-	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	0.0%
Tipperary	€4,000.00	€1,627.23	59.3%	€1,500.00	€553.05	63.1%	€3,730.00	€8,830.00	-136.7%	€400.00	€400.00	0.0%
Waterford	€1,725.00	€1,725.00	0.0%	€500.00	€500.00	0.0%	€8,975.00	€8,975.00	0.0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0.0%
Westmeath	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	0.0%	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0.0%	€6,500.00	€6,500.00	0.0%	€0.00	€0.00	-
Wexford	€400.00	€520.00	-30.0%	€800.00	€801.22	-0.2%	€8,000.00	€10,366.98	-29.6%	€2,000.00	€1,600.00	20.0%
Wicklow	€900.00	€432.00	52.0%	€200.00	€200.00	0.0%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0.0%	€100.00	€100.00	0.0%
Total	€62,310.00	€37,836.05	39.3%	€22,492.00	€24,509.96	-9.0%	€320,763.90	€311,811.78	2.8%	€33,763.43	€30,584.24	9.4%
Average Amount (based on 31 Comhairlí)	€2,010.00	€1,220.52		€725.55	€790.64		€10,347.22	€10,058.44		€1,089.14	€986.59	
Average Amount (based on number with allocation under heading)	€2,077.00	€1,351.29		€833.04	€907.78		€10,347.22	€10,393.73		€1,205.84	€1,132.75	

Appendix III: Income and Expenditure 2019 by Local Authority

Local authority	Total allocation	Total spend	Amount difference	% Difference	% Total overall expenditure
Carlow	€20,000.00	€19,999.09	€0.91	0.0%	3.7%
Cavan	€20,000.00	€13,242.26	€6,757.74	33.8%	2.5%
Clare	€20,000.00	€13,816.56	€6,183.44	30.9%	2.6%
Cork City	€20,000.00	€19,794.56	€205.44	1.0%	3.7%
Cork County	€20,000.00	€18,336.86	€1,663.14	8.3%	3.4%
Donegal	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Dublin - Dublin City	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€20,000.00	€14,152.00	€5,848.00	29.2%	2.6%
Dublin - Fingal	€20,000.00	€14,338.53	€5,661.47	28.3%	2.7%
Dublin – South Dublin	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Galway City	€20,000.00	€20,030.76	-€30.76	-0.2%	3.7%
Galway County	€20,000.00	€16,521.01	€3,478.99	17.4%	3.1%
Kerry	€20,000.00	€14,431.45	€5,568.55	27.8%	2.7%
Kildare	€20,000.00	€17,395.32	€2,604.68	13.0%	3.3%
Kilkenny	€20,000.00	€14,530.27	€5,469.73	27.3%	2.7%
Laois	€20,000.00	€13,849.48	€6,150.52	30.8%	2.6%
Leitrim	€20,000.00	€14,545.18	€5,454.82	27.3%	2.7%
Limerick	€20,000.00	€13,203.78	€6,796.22	34.0%	2.5%
Longford	€20,000.00	€18,444.32	€1,555.68	7.8%	3.4%
Louth	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Mayo	€20,000.00	€18,025.25	€1,974.75	9.9%	3.4%
Meath	€20,000.00	€18,099.27	€1,900.73	9.5%	3.4%
Monaghan	€20,000.00	€17,474.42	€2,525.58	12.6%	3.3%
Offaly	€20,000.00	€7,994.83	€12,005.17	60.0%	1.5%
Roscommon	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Sligo	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Tipperary	€20,000.00	€20,001.95	-€1.95	0.0%	3.7%
Waterford	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Westmeath	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0.0%	3.7%
Wexford	€20,000.00	€19,903.95	€96.05	0.5%	3.7%
Wicklow	€20,000.00	€16,989.30	€3,010.70	15.1%	3.2%
Total	€620,000.00	€535,120.40	€84,879.60	13.7%	100.0%