



St Malachy's  
Youth Centre

# ST. MALACHY'S YOUTH CENTRE STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-21



St. Malachy's Youth Centre is a full-time youth provider for young people aged 6-25 years old. Its new premises were officially opened by Bishop Noel Treanor, (Diocese of Down and Connor), in December 2013.

### **THE KEY PRIORITIES ARE TO**

- A) DEVELOP** a programme of activities to meet the needs of young people.
- B) INCREASE** the staffing levels of the Youth Centre.
- C) PROVIDE** skills training and build a team spirit among staff members.
- D) FOSTER** good relationships with families within the local community.
- E) ESTABLISH** a working partnership with other youth providers including the local Primary School.
- F) PROVIDE** governance training for the Management Committee members.



**Since 2013**, the membership of the Youth Centre has steadily grown and now provides a range of age appropriate activities and programmes in accordance with 'Priorities for Youth' (Department of Education). The alignment of Youth work Policy with the strategic priorities of education contained in 'Priorities for Youth', has provided our Management committee with a framework for the development of this three-year Strategic Plan. Throughout the plan, it has been our intention to keep in mind the need to provide measurable quality learning experiences for young people, so that they have excellent opportunities to achieve their potential, while embracing diversity and overcoming disaffection.

Along with closing the performance gap for our young people and increasing opportunities for them to access youth services, we have been mindful of the need to provide skills training for staff, both paid and voluntary. Fostering the leadership potential of all staff will be a critically important aspect of capacity building over the coming years, as the number of young people wishing to avail of the Youth Centre's services increases within South Belfast.

The development of this Strategic Plan has been a collaborative effort involving our Funders, Management Committee members, staff, volunteers, young people, parents and the parish. I wish to thank all of them for their willingness to engage in the process. I also wish on behalf of the Management Committee to thank all those involved in facilitating this process.

We trust that the implementation of our Strategic Plan will help us provide services that produce the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

**Fr Michael McGinnity**  
**Chairperson**



# ACHIEVEMENTS

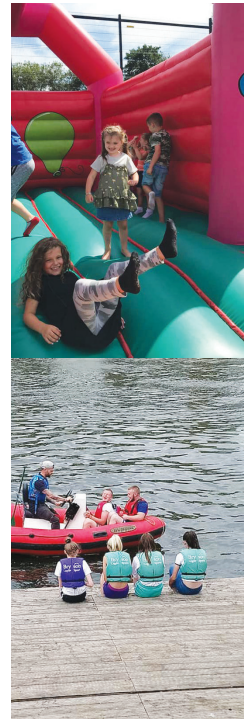
St Malachy's Youth Centre is now in its fifth year of operating as a full-time youth provider from our premises in Lower Stanfield Street in the Markets Area of South Belfast.

We have created a working partnership with other youth providers within the South Belfast area.

We are proud of what we have achieved and continue to be driven by the belief that all children and young people need to be supported in reaching their potential.

During the past 5 years we have engaged with a large number of young people and have delivered a range of programmes, projects and events.

These activities are aimed at increasing resilience levels of young people, increasing employability, addressing low educational achievement, promoting healthy relationships, challenging values and beliefs and encouraging young people to play a full and active role as positive citizens.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have set out our plan of what we want to achieve over the next three years. The plan is set out against the background of a rapidly changing environment with the establishment of the Education Authority, emerging new structures, and proposed new mechanisms for funding the voluntary youth sector.

Our plan clearly seeks to address the DE Priorities for Youth "Improving Young People's lives through youth work"

- Raising Standards for all
- Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access & Equality

It also seeks to encompass actions in line with the Department of Education Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education Policy. In going forward we will continue to work with our partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.







# ST. MALACHY'S YOUTH CENTRE STRATEGIC PLAN

## VISION STATEMENT

For every young person to reach their potential and actively participate in their community.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Providing children and young people in St Malachy's parish and the local community with personal and social development opportunities

# AIMS

## AIM 1

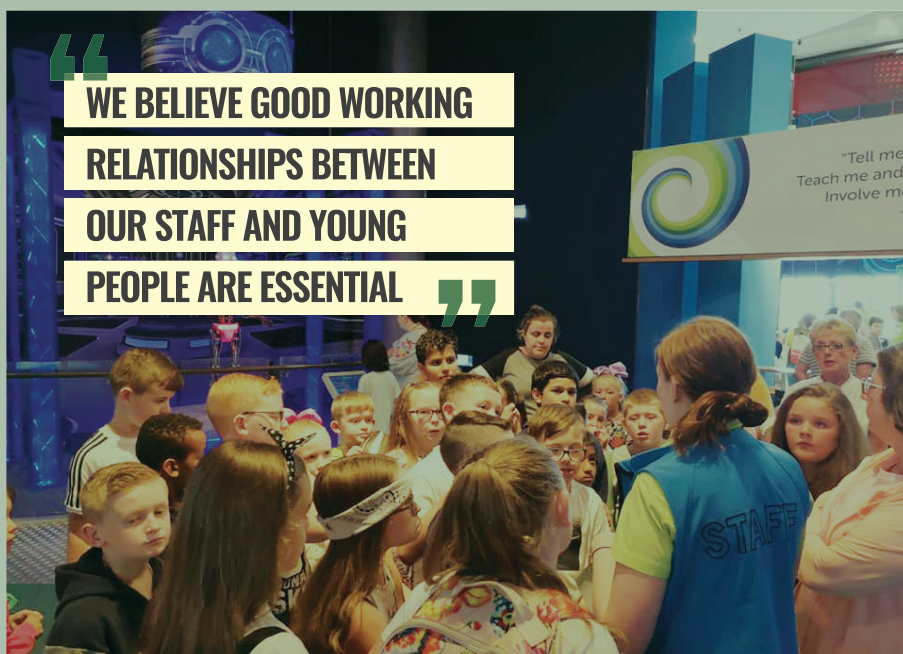
To improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the local area

## AIM 2

To enable children and young people to develop healthy relationships with others

## AIM 3

To enhance the social inclusion of children and young people in the local area  
(A socially inclusive society is defined as one where all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met)



# OBJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVE 1

**To improve the health and wellbeing children and young people in the local area**

- 1 Run activities/programmes that encourages healthy lifestyles among children and young people
- 2 Provide awareness-raising sessions on health and well-being
- 3 Support and enable children and young people to make informed choices

## OBJECTIVE 2

**To enable children and young people to develop healthy relationships with others**

- 1 Provide opportunities to explore and celebrate cultural and religious difference
- 2 Provide support to children and young people to engage positively within the Centre, and within their community and beyond
- 3 Facilitates links and relationships with external groups and agencies

## OBJECTIVE 3

**To enhance the social inclusion of children and young people in the local area**

- 1 Provide an accessible drop-in facility for children and young people and a range of personal and social development opportunities
- 2 Facilitate training and other opportunities for children and young people to develop thinking, life and work skills
- 3 Offer intervention programmes for young people particularly in times of potential social unrest





# VALUES & PRINCIPLES

## RESPECT

We promote a culture of respect with the Youth Centre and wider community.

## POTENTIAL

We help children and young people to reach their potential through education, fun activities and the learning of skills.

## INCLUSION

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone within our culturally diverse society.

## EMPOWERMENT

We enable children and young people to engage in decision making processes as part of their personal learning.

## POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

We encourage staff, volunteers, children and young people to be positive role models within the Youth Centre and the wider community

## PARTNERSHIPS

We work collaboratively with other agencies in the belief that we can achieve more in partnership with others than we can by working alone.

## COMMITMENT

We recognise the contribution and commitment of our staff and volunteers, rewarding them appropriately and offering relevant training and development opportunities.

## IMPACT

We are committed to ongoing planning, assessment and review and demonstrating the impact of our work to others.



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