

Ombudsman for Children

Children and Young People's Annual Report 2005-2006



Work Experience

Throughout the year

Message from the Ombudsman for Children

Hi everyone,

My name is Emily Logan. I have the honour of being the first Ombudsman for Children in Ireland. That means that I work for everyone under 18 living in Ireland, not just Irish young people. My job is to speak up on issues affecting children and young people living in Ireland and to promote their rights. I don't work for the government, President Mary McAleese gave me the job and I report to the Oireachtas. I try to make sure that when government are making decisions about young people that they really think about what is best for young people.

I was interviewed for the job by 15 young people and 3 adults; the youngest was 11 and the oldest 17. It was the hardest job interviews I've ever done. After I got the job many of these young people became advisors to me and my Office. Three years later these young people, known as YAP, have made a big impact. After all this hard work they are exhausted and feel that they want to give other young people a chance to work with us.

I have a lot to thank the YAP for; their energy, dedication, commitment, creativity and, even though the work is serious, we had plenty of laughs. So for the last three years they have added a great buzz to the office, coming to Dublin about once every six weeks. They stood in the cold waiting for buses, got out of bed unbelievably early to catch trains and still managed to turn up with a smile.

So..... a big big thank you Aoife, John, Saoirse, Graham, Áine, Paul, Laoise, Jessica, Hazel, Cally, Rachel and Mandi. You did a GRREAT job.

Emily Logan

The OCO welcomes Transition Year pupils with an interest in carrying out their work experience with the team in the Office. We have consulted with young people to put together an interesting programme of work and activities. Paulo, Shane and Sani from Firhouse Community School, Michelle and Erica from Manor House School, Raheny, Rachel from Loreto High School, Beaufort, Rathfarnham and Olivia from St Joseph's in Stanhope Street have all taken part so far.

In the Summer 2006, the OCO offered work placements to members of YAP. Saoirse, Graham and John joined us and made huge contributions to our work.

Paulo,

Shane

Sani

Michelle

Olivia

John

Saoirse

Erica

Graham

Rachel

Launch

3rd September 2005

The OCO's great new office was officially launched by President Mary McAleese in September 2005. Hundreds of children and young people attended the celebrations and were entertained by the enormously talented young people from RTÉ Cor na nÓg, Whiz Kids from Ma Samba and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.



RTÉ Cor na nÓg



Graham, Jessica, President Mary McAleese, Saoirse and Paul



Whiz Kids from Ma Samba



Grupa Ceol

Our Space

April 2004

This space was designed to be welcoming to children and young people, and we are delighted that children from Rutland Street Primary School and young people from Larkin Community College donated their fantastic artwork which we have used all around the place.

Ombudsman for Children's Office
Millennium House
52-56 Great Strand Street
Dublin 1



YAP

YAP is Emily's team of young advisors who help her with lots of different parts of her work such as advising the OCO about the best way to communicate with young people. The current group has been involved with the OCO from the very beginning and, as part of a bigger group, even interviewed Emily for the Ombudsman for Children job.

Irish Times Weekend Review,
Saturday, April 22, 2006

**'We don't
want to
be just
smiling
faces'**

Whats's it like to grow up in Ireland today? UN officials visited this week to ask young people that question, writes
Carl O'Brien



Hazel, Aoife, John, Louise, Aine, Saoirse and Paul



YAP with UN Committee Members



Graham, Jessica, Saoirse and Paul



Rachel, Aoife, Callie and Hazel



Aine, John and Mandi

Lab

October - November 2006

The 'Lab' is a set of education workshops, facilitated by OCO staff and members of YAP, to introduce children and young people to the work of the OCO and about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ten groups of children and young people from primary and post-primary schools, and youth groups from all over Ireland helped us pilot this programme in October and November 2006.



Website

Summer 06

Young people helped out with all aspects of developing the OCO's new site to make it interesting and relevant to young people. They put a huge amount of energy into the design and helped us decide on content and we are really proud of the outcome. Our new site went live in May 2006. Check it out at www.oco.ie and tell us what you think.

WWW.OCO.IE

About Us

What's New

Your Rights

Getting Involved

Issues

Complaints



Helen and Emily



Ian

Events

Throughout the year

The OCO was delighted to welcome lots of different groups of children and young people to our new space in the past 18 months. These included children from pre-schools, primary and post-primary schools, youth clubs and a variety of other organisations like Pavee Point, the Irish Association of Young People in Care and the National Association for Deaf People, Sparks, Galway, to name but a few.



MIFI



Club 4 u Awards



Pavee Point



Donegal



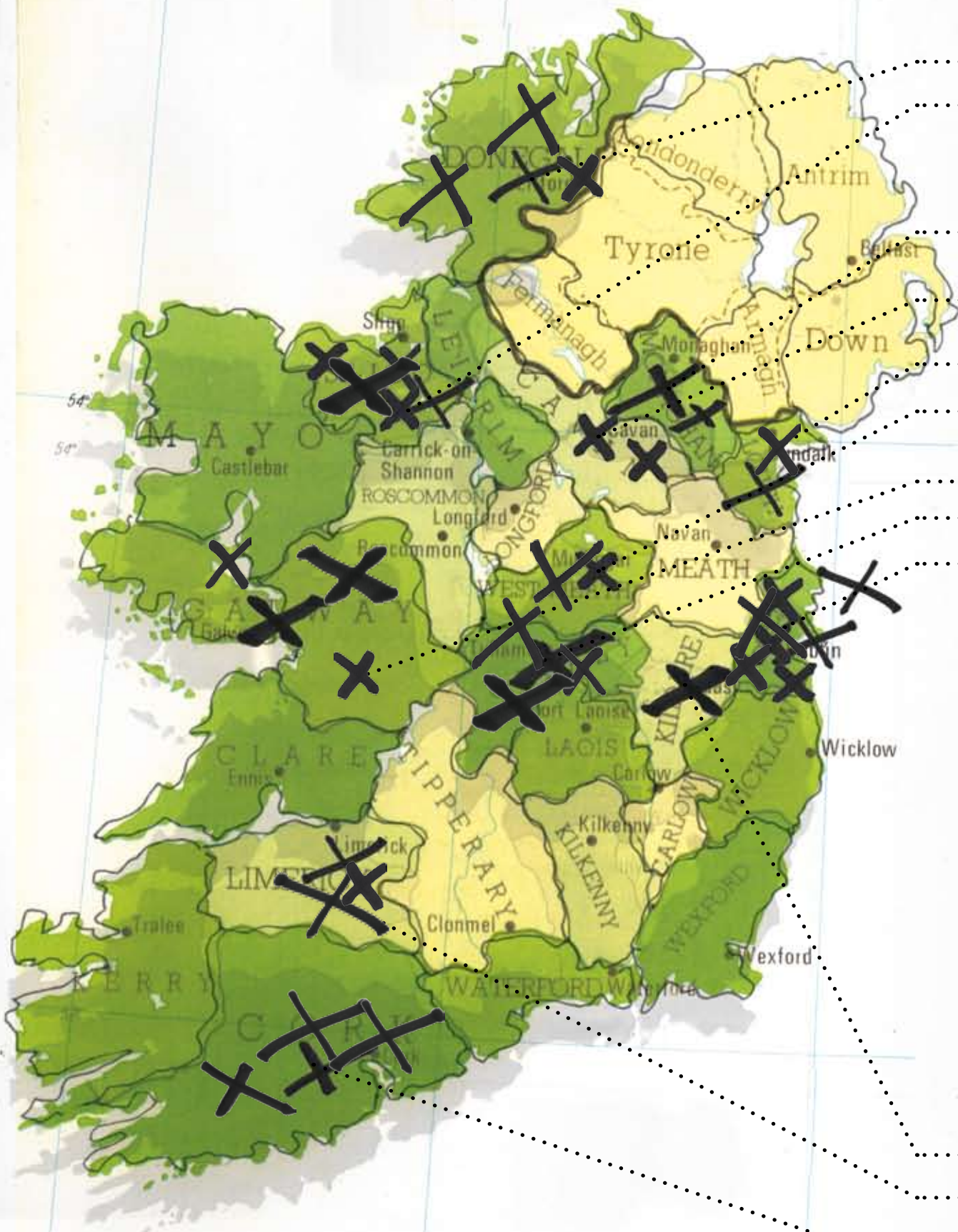
Brighter Future's Transition Year Project, St Patrick's Parade



IRELAND

Where

we have met children and young people



- Youth Council, Co Donegal
- The Crib Youth Café, Co Sligo
- HSE Summer School, Co Sligo
- Letterkenny Youth Conference, Co Sligo
- Youth Participation in Policy and Planning Project, HSE North West Area, Co Sligo
- Comhairle na nÓg, Co Monaghan
- Neighbourhood Youth Project, Co Monaghan
- Cootehill Youth Service, Co Cavan
- St. Aidan's Comprehensive School, Cootehill, Co Cavan
- St. Paul's Senior National School, Drogheda, Co Louth
- Midlands Regional Youth Services, Athlone, Co Westmeath
- SPARK project, Galway City
- St Mary's Youth and Community Centre, Co Offaly
- BeLong To, Dublin
- Northside Partnership, Dublin
- Colaiste Bride, Clondalkin, Dublin
- Colaiste na hIde, Tallaght, Co Dublin
- CSPE at Mercy College, Coolock, Dublin
- Youth Service, Dun Laoghaire
- Firhouse Community School, Dublin 24
- Francis Street C.B.S. Dublin 8
- Dublin South City Action Group (part of Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg)
- Larkin Pre-school, Dublin 3
- Larkin Street College, Dublin
- Loreto College, Crumlin, Dublin
- Notre Dame Secondary School, Dundrum, Dublin
- Pobalscoil Iosolde, Palmerstown, Dublin
- Rockford Manor, Blackrock, Co Dublin
- Rutland Street Pre-school, Dublin
- Rutland Street National School, Dublin
- Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa, Mulhuddart, Dublin
- Scoil Mhuire, Ballyboden, Dublin 16
- Scoil Mochua, Clondalkin, Dublin
- St David's, Artane, Dublin
- St Joseph's School, Stanhope St, Stoneybatter, Dublin
- St Paul's C.B.S., North Brunswick Street, Dublin
- St Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills, Dublin
- Trinity Comprehensive Ballymun, Ballymun, Dublin
- Kildare Town Youth Project, Co Kildare
- Salesian's Secondary School, Co Limerick
- St Munchin's College, Limerick
- Ógra Chorcaí, Cork City

From April 2005 to December 2007 the OCO has met with thousands of children and young people from all over Ireland at different events, some organised by the OCO, others attended by the Ombudsman or her staff. Many of the children and young people we met were involved in or connected with the following organisations:

- Barnardos
- Children Detention Schools
- Children's Rights Alliance
- Young People's Reference Group
- Common Purpose
- Enable Ireland
- Irish Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
- Irish Association of Young People in Care
- Irish Fostercare Association
- Irish Wheelchair Association
- ISPPC
- Ma Samba
- No Name Club
- Northside Partnership
- Pavee Point
- RTE Cor na nÓg
- School Completion Programme
- Scouting Ireland
- Spunout.ie

2009

