

# Introductions

---

Suzanne Duffy, AO Community Development  
Leitrim Co. Co.

Suzanne Byrne, Participation Officer,  
Comhairle na Nóg

# WHAT IS COMHAIRLE NA NOG?

Comhairle na Nóg are local councils for children and young people

Voice on the development of local policies and services

One in every Local Authority area

Supported by DCYA (Dept of Children and Youth Affairs) and

Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund.



# Role of the Local Authority

- Responsible for day to day running of Comhairle na nÓg (North Connaught Youth Services are the service provider for LCC)
- Link to decision-makers within the local authority – ensure the young people's views are listened to and have influence
- Key role in creating awareness about Comhairle na nÓg and the topics being currently working on in the local area.
- Youth Consultation on key issues with the county
- Link in with other agencies e.g CYSPC/LCDC/SPC's



# HOW DO THEIR VOICES GET HEARD?

Comhairle na nÓg member's select and work on topics of most importance to young people in their area e.g Use Your Brain

Comhairle na nÓg is a consultative forum for adult decision-makers in the locality



# Steering Committee

- Led by Local Authority
- Steering Committees provide advice and support to the young people in Comhairle na nÓg to help them progress their topic
- Meet quarterly
- Includes Comhairle members and key agencies
- Must have Agenda and Terms of Reference (TORS)
- Assists in linking to decision makers, age range, attracting & supporting seldom heard young people
- Seldom Heard – Ethnic Minorities, LGBT, Early School Leavers etc



# HOW COMHAIRLE OPERATES?

## Space

**HOW:** Provide a safe and inclusive space for children to express their views

- Have children's views been actively sought?
- Was there a safe space in which children can express themselves freely?
- Have steps been taken to ensure that all children can take part?

## Voice

**HOW:** Provide appropriate information and facilitate the expression of children's views

- Have children been given the information they need to form a view?
- Do children know that they do not have to take part?
- Have children been given a range of options as to how they might choose to express themselves?

## Audience

**HOW:** Ensure that children's views are communicated to someone with the responsibility to listen

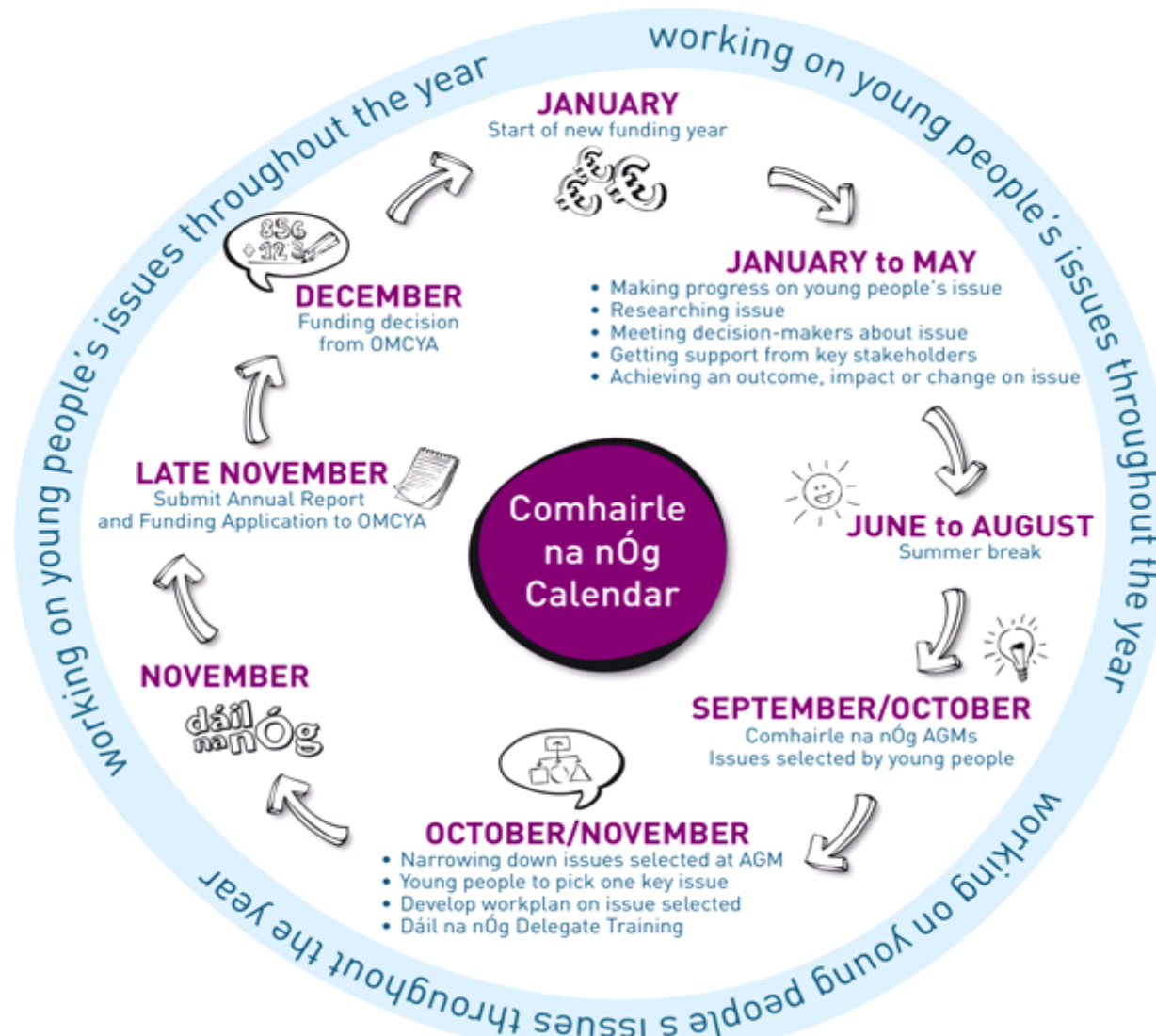
- Is there a process for communicating children's views?
- Do children know who their views are being communicated to?
- Does that person/body have the power to make decisions?

## Influence

**HOW:** Ensure that children's views are taken seriously and acted upon, where appropriate

- Were the children's views considered by those with the power to effect change?
- Are there procedures in place that ensure that the children's views have been taken seriously?
- Have the children and young people been provided with feedback explaining the reasons for decisions taken?

# COMHAIRLE NA NÓG LIFECYCLE



# Role of DCYA

## DCYA oversees Comhairle na nÓg:

- Facilitating the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive, which is made up of one member from each Comhairle na nÓg
- Employment of and regular reporting from the Child and Youth Participation Support Team
- Information gathered from the annual reports submitted by Comhairlí na nÓg
- Contact with key personnel at the Information and Networking Days





# Role of the Participation Officers

## Three Participation Officers

**Martin Donohue – 14 LA Areas (Western/Midlands/North)**

**Suzanne Byrne – 10 LA Areas (Eastern Region)**

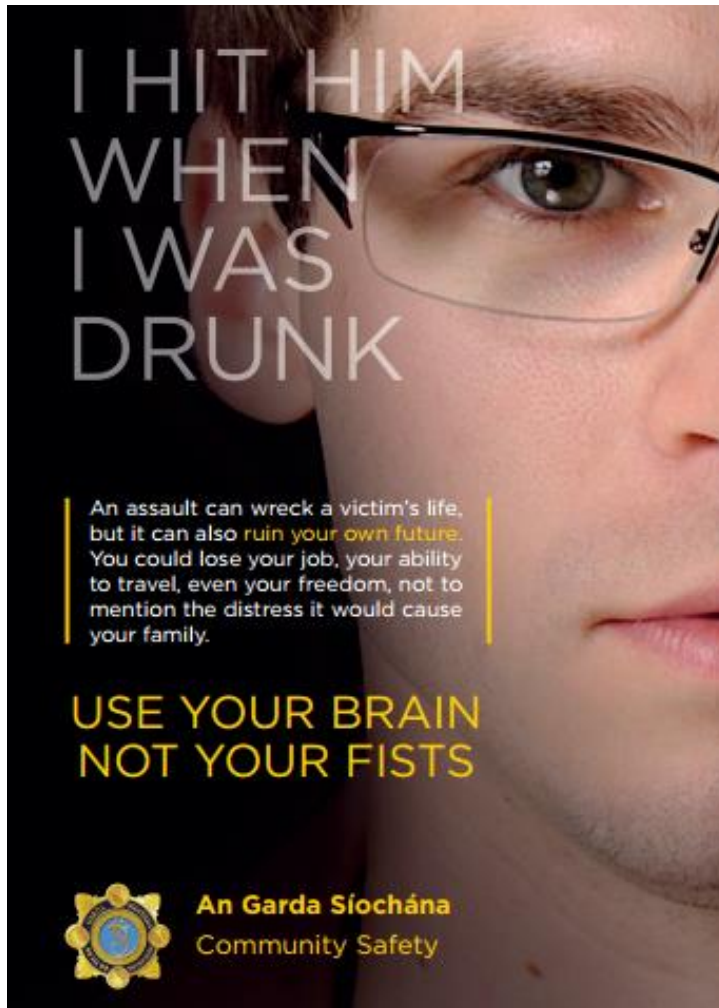
**Edel McGrath – 7 LA Areas (South East/Midlans Regions)**

**Provide Training for Co-Ordinators and Comhairle Members**

**Supporting Comhairle na nÓg e.g Steering Committee, AGMs, Sharing Good Practice**

**Practical Supports; link between Comhairlí and DCYA, Strategies to engage seldom heard young people, Funding and Networking Eventss**


# Leitrim Youth Project – ‘Use Your Brain Not Your Fists’




I HIT HIM  
WHEN  
I WAS  
DRUNK

An assault can wreck a victim's life, but it can also ruin your own future. You could lose your job, your ability to travel, even your freedom, not to mention the distress it would cause your family.

USE YOUR BRAIN  
NOT YOUR FISTS




An Garda Síochána  
Community Safety



I HAD A  
FIGHT  
AFTER  
A MATCH

An assault can wreck a victim's life, but it can also ruin your own future. You could lose your job, your ability to travel, even your freedom, not to mention the distress it would cause your family.

USE YOUR BRAIN  
NOT YOUR FISTS



An Garda Síochána  
Community Safety

# Comhairle na Nóg Liatríoma

- Leitrim AGM
- Rosie and Joe's Story
- Need to educate Young People from 12-18
- Garda Síochána Campaign for over 18's
- Video made by Young People for Young People
- Message
  - One Punch can ruin your life.
  - Victim and perpetrator
- Interagency Approach
  - Leitrim County Council, North Connaught Youth Service, An Garda Síochána
  - North West Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Creative Ireland.

# Andrew Dolan

- From Carrick on Shannon
- Biomedical student
- Aged 20
- “fabulous, witty, funny guy, loved by everybody”
- “adored by his family, by his uncles, aunts, his cousins, his friends, by his mates in Wilson’s Mullingar and Galway”



# Andrew Dolan

- Assaulted on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec
- Died in Beaumont Hospital following an assault
- “How many more innocent young people must die or suffer life changing injuries and how many more families must be ruined before someone cries stop? In God’s name can someone call a halt to this senseless carnage?”



# Shane Grogan

- From Tuam, Co Galway
- Graduated in Business studies at GMIT Castlebar
- Worked in financial department of Merit Medical in Galway.
- Was a keen athlete and marathon runner
- Avid Liverpool Supporter





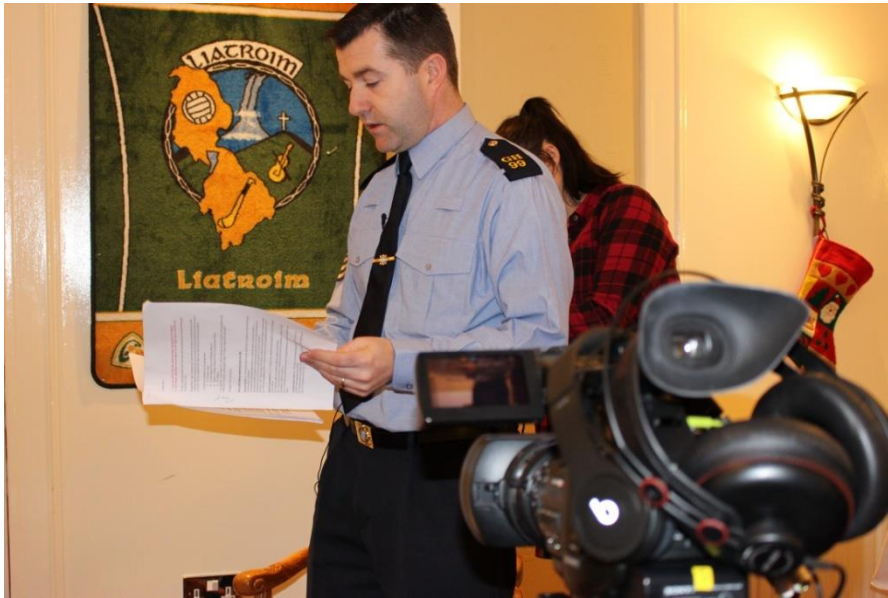
# Shane Grogan

- Assaulted in 2012
- Hit by a brick on while walking his girlfriend home
- Remains in a minimal conscious state with some eye movement. Requires 24 hour nursing care.
- Joe Grogan urges young people to be aware that 'in a split second' everything can change as his wheelchair-bound son now needs constant care



# 'Use Your Brain Not Your Fists' - Making of the video

- 22 Young People
- StoryBoard,
- Filming,
- Interviews,
- Media Preparation





# Our Goals – ‘Use Your Fists Not Your Brain’

- Accessible to schools/youth settings
- On the Curriculum (SPHE)
- Social Media Campaign
- Worksheets/Workbooks Developed
- Poster Campaign to all Business owners, Hoteliers, Off Licences etc
- Over 18 Campaign to be reinvigorated with An Garda Síochána



# 'Use Your Brain Not Your Fists' Video

- [https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=5ajj2tYkCfFfT9Ngsn\\_rVHEN3G\\_O-xaDPHYxt-Fw9g&s=383&u=https%3a%2f%2fyoutu%2ebe%2flmtWJbgoVBE](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=5ajj2tYkCfFfT9Ngsn_rVHEN3G_O-xaDPHYxt-Fw9g&s=383&u=https%3a%2f%2fyoutu%2ebe%2flmtWJbgoVBE)



# 'Use Your Fists Not Your Brain'

