

# newsletter

## Autumn 09



  
Comhairle na nÓg

## What is Comhairle Na nÓg?

### The History

Comhairle na nÓg & Dail na nÓg are initiatives of the National Children's office under the National Children's Strategy. It provides an opportunity for young people under 18 to have a say on issues that affect their lives. Comhairle na nÓg (Youth Councils) have been established since 2002 by City & County Development boards (CDBs) in each of the 34 local Authority areas in the country.

### To Date

Dail na nÓg (young people's parliament) campaigns such as "Fair Say" and Career Guidance charter.

- Working group on Student councils in schools
- Consultations with HSE (Mental health issues)
- Working group to select Ombudsman for Children
- Broadcasting commission on standards for advertising aimed at children.

Locally – Comhairle council has been involved in TEEN Space and Recreational policies consultations and attended relevant events.

### Young People Getting Involved

Young people are nominated to attend county Comhairle na nÓg day usually held in November in each area. The themes of this day for discussion are advertised to youth groups & schools in advance. On the day young people participate in workshops & discussions on these themes. **THE COMHAIRLE DAY CAN BE STAND ALONE OR LEAD TO FURTHER INVOLVEMENT.** At the end of the day some young people get elected to the South Tipperary Youth Council for a year.

Youth people from each years Comhairle day are asked if they would like to serve on a youth council for the year ahead until next Comhairle day. Usually 10-15 are nominated/elected to serve on this council in South Tipperary. These young people are joined by young people from the previous year. This council is facilitated by workers from local youth services and supported by County Development Board and adult steering group.

### What Do Young People Have To Commit To Being Involved??

Attend monthly meetings of youth council – 10 per year usually (transport can be arranged)

- Attend training and review residential – 2 per year
- Attend events on behalf of Youth Council on request
- May be involved in working groups or promotion of Comhairle Na nÓg
- Link back to youth group and/or schools

### National Level

Five delegates from each county are elected to attend Dail na nÓg in Dublin in Feb/March of the following year (these five are chosen by peers at first meeting of new council in December) One of the five is nominated by the five to become the National rep for South Tipperary and serve on the National Dail Council for the year ahead as well as the South Tipperary Youth council (Comhairle na nÓg) Five delegates from each county are elected to attend Dail na nÓg in Dublin in Feb/March of the following year (these five are chosen by peers at first meeting of new council in December) One of the five is nominated by the five to become the National rep for South Tipperary and serve on the National Dail Council for the year ahead as well as the South Tipperary Youth council (Comhairle na nÓg)

FOR MORE DETAILS  
[www.comhairlenanÓg.ie](http://www.comhairlenanÓg.ie) [www.dailnanÓg.ie](http://www.dailnanÓg.ie)

Bebo site– [southtippy3](http://southtippy3)

This year, Comhairle Day takes place on Friday 13th Noveber in Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary - young people from all over South Tipperary will attend on behalf of schools and youth groups.



Comhairle na nÓg  
South Tipperary County Council  
Civic Offices  
Cashel  
Co. Tipperary  
Phone: 062 64736



WATERFORD AND SOUTH TIPPERARY  
COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE



Cúirteir Eadréasacha le h-Éireann  
South Tipperary Vocational Education Committee  
Providing a Quality Education Service

## Terms of Reference South Tipperary Youth Council

- Membership Maximum on the council is 21
- Aged range for members is 12- 17 yrs (12-15 targeted in 2009 as per national aim)
- At least 10 must attend council meetings (quorum)
- At least one delegate must come from the following areas: Tipperary, Cashel, Cahir, Clonmel and Carrick (schools & mainstream nominations)
- Six delegates to be elected to remain on from year before
- Rural schools/areas and other youth groups (Disability, Traveller etc) to total five seats
- Term of office is one year with a 2nd yr option for 6 delegates elected by peers.
- Reserves delegate list will be called upon if a vacant seat occurs. (vacant seats will become available if members do not attend three consecutive meetings of the council with valid reason)

## Meetings

- Meeting to be set in advance once new council meets
- Approx ten meetings a year
- Team building day/ activity to be done with council at the beginning of term – suggestion Dec. Review of Council at the end suggestion Aug/Sept.
- Venues for meeting to rotate between Clonmel & Cashel
- Committee roles to be used in council meetings – committee skills training to be done with group (roles elected by members at teambuilding residential)
- Parents role to transport council members to meetings (youth workers to be contacted if a problem with transport arises)

**Work plan – all issues must be relevant, youth related and/or common to South Tipperary as a whole.**

The Irish Youth Council - Comhairle Na nÓg is in full swing as the current delegates prepare to host the annual Comhairle na nÓg day for South Tipperary in Ballykisteon Hotel, Limerick Junction on November 13th. The young people involved are hoping to raise the profile of Comhairle na nÓg in Co. Tipperary and become a strong presence at the national Dáil na nÓg event next year.

The South Tipperary Youth Council (Comhairle na NÓg) enjoyed a residential trip to Woodstown in Co. Waterford which afforded the young people a opportunity to meet and discuss the issues that they feel strongly about as well as plan the format for the comhairle day and the youth council going forward. They discussed how to promote participation in the local and national events and designed a new poster to get young people in South Tipperary interested in getting involved. They also decided the two local topics for this years event which are Discrimination and Active Citizenship, these topics plus the two from national office will be discussed by all the delegates attending the Compare day in Ballykisteon hotel prior to the election of the new members to South Tipperary Youth Council and the national delegates for Dail na NÓg 2009.

The group thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Woodstown where they took part in teambuilding exercises as well as discussing Comhairle issues and are looking forward to meeting up again in the future. Youth Councils (Comhairle) are a way of young people being given a vocal on issues and we in Tipperary Regional Youth service support the concept of youth council as “giving youth a voice”.

For information on Comhairle na NÓg within TRYS contact Pauline 062-52604 - Donna 087 7720222 - Jenny 087 1344156

## Dail Na nÓg – Reflection

by Luke Corcoran  
Tipperary Town delegate

When I first joined South Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg i had only a vague idea of what the organisation was all about. Most of what I knew I had learnt during that day ie the annual local Comhairle Day held in Ballykisteon Hotel. At my very first meeting I was asked did I want to put myself forward for election to Dail na nÓg – which is the national day for local Comhairle's its An organisation to facilitate a voice for the young people of Ireland. I jumped at the opportunity and I was delighted when my fellow youth council members elected me forward to Dail Na NÓg. I was honoured to represent the young people of Tipperary.

My first step was to go to the South East Comhairle's training day. I travelled to Kilkenny with the other four nominees: Kenny Adebayo, Laura Rice, Alice Davern-Murphy and Ian Loneragan. This is to help us understand what we are a part of and to help us prepare for the day. It also allowed us to choose the topic, relating to youth affairs, that we would discuss that day. I chose Bullying. I found the day vital in order to prepare me for the actual day. It gave me the chance to do some research on bullying services in my local area.

When the actual day I arrived I boarded a train with the others at Limerick Junction. We arrived at Houston and got the bus that would take us to Croke Park where Dail na nÓg is held. We arrived and took our seats along with over a 100 other youth representatives. We were divided up into groups, based on which topic we had chosen to discuss that day, and got down to business. We discussed the problems and possible solutions of each topic which ranged from Bullying to Sexual Health. We came up with a suggestion of what we would do if we were in the government and when had finished discussing we voted on which suggestion we found the most plausible and important. We then took a break and had a Questions and answers session with several Government officials including: Barry Andrews Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (who I didn't think much of), Geoff Day head of the Suicide Prevention Office and Sharon McGrath head of the S.P.H.E. curriculum. We then found out which suggestions would be discussed by this years national council. The national council is made up of one representative from each Comhairle. Kenny Adebayo is our representative from the South Tipperary Youth council.

Overall my experience of Dail na nÓg was very interesting. I made loads of friends, discussed issues which are important to young people and hopefully influenced Government policy. If anyone wants to find out more information about anything I talked about just log on to our Bebo site “southtippy3”. While the national Dail na nÓg day is once a year, the local Youth Council (Comhairle na nÓg) is all year around and is open to young people to get involved. We are getting ready to organize this years day in South Tipperary which will be held in November 2009 so keep your eyes on local promotions on how to get involved.

Thanks,  
Luke Corcoran.

**For details on the other Comhairle days contact the County Developments Boards. North Tipperary's Comhairle Day will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Thurles while Limerick's will take place on November 7th in the County Hall.**

## Plans of the year ahead

The first of our aspirations for the coming year 2010 is getting more people from diverse communities for example youth from the disability sector and also members of the Travelling community involved in South Tipperary's Comhairle Na nÓg.

We are also planning to have more young people around the age of 12-15 to get a younger perspective around south Tipperary. Our Comhairle are planning to attend the “for the youth by youth” event in Dublin on the 5th of September 09 to give young people in Ireland a chance to voice their opinion in Europe. And through that one of our members might have a chance to go on an all expense paid trip to Sweden on the 10th-14th September.

Four members were given the opportunity to meet with politician Barry Andrews as delegates of our Comhairle. To look back on our year and to make plans for next year, the whole youth council are going an over-night residential to Woodstown. To get young people involved, advertising is one of our top priorities! Our members are planning to go to schools go on the radio, make an advertising DVD and design hoodies to spread the news that young people around Tipperary can get involved!

For aspiring young people who want a voice, this year's Comhairle day which will be held on the 13th November 2009 in South Tipperary. For more details watch the media and our bebo site, all schools and youth groups in South Tipperary will be entitled to nominate youth to attend this event.

## South Tipperary's Dail Council Delegate 2009

by Kenny Adebayo

I heard about Comhairle Na nÓg through my friends and school. I went to the local Comhairle day, it was an amazing day because I made new friends, know more about what the Comhairle is all about, I got elected for the local youth council. I went with the other Comhairle people in my local youth council to Dail Na NÓg day in Feb 2009. It really went well. Teenagers from age 14-18 were there for their local Comhairle's all over Ireland. They all spoke their mind and asked questions. The answers and feedbacks were given by Minister Barry Andrews. It all went well; I was chosen as the national delegate for my local Comhairle council. I now go to Dublin once a month for a meeting.

## Planning Ahead

On the 11th and 12th September 2009 the South Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg group set out to their residential at Tig Roy in the beautiful Glen of Aherlow. At this meeting we came together over intense games of trivial pursuit to discuss the years Comhairle day in November and look at the year gone by. We also worked on the format of the Comhairle day, what workshops to have and our promotion for the day itself an the Comhairle council such as new hoodies and radio interviews. Thankfully Comhairle na nÓg wasn't all work, it included gorgeous meals from our host Roy, a former dancer and Irish culture vulture and Deirdre who showed us our beautiful rooms and the sauna from Helsinki. We would like to thank Roy for the lovely

## Teambuilding in Woodstown

In early January 2009, the newly elected members of the South Tipperary Comhairle took a trip to Woodstown, Co. Waterford, where we would take part in team building exercises and discussions for the council.

We started by all hoping on a southward bus, arriving in co. Waterford just in time to drop off our stuff and then head into Waterford city, grab a meal go to the cinema and have a night out for us all to get a laugh and get to know each other.

The following day, the members took part in a team-building exercise. The exercise involved anomalously giving our opinions of each other with such enlightening comments as “jenny is like everybody's mother” and “There is no explanation for this child.”

We also elected Luke and Jake as co-chairman of the Comhairle for the year and Laura as secretary. We also altered the terms of reference with the suggested changes and discussed our plans for the year ahead.

After a good time and a lot of good craic, we all loaded up our stuff and after a fun stop off at the bowling alley returned to Tipperary ready to begin our work as the Youth Council (Comhairle an nÓg) for 2009.

There were two groups for the Dail Na NÓg council Physical health group which I serve on: this is based on cervical cancer vaccine to be made available free of charge for all 12-18year olds. We are doing research on cervical cancer and sex education survey for now.

**There is also the mental health group following up on that topic.**

I give the feedback from the Dail Na NÓg meetings to my local Comhairle monthly meetings and back to the Dail Na NÓg so they all know what's going on with the two councils.

venue but also his insights on culture for youth and his suggestions. We are looking forward to the Comhairle Day in November where we will welcome new members to our youth council and continue the work from this year. On the day the workshops for youth to participate in will be as follows so that young people get a voice in issues of concern to them and learn valuable facts for their future.

- Inclusion & Diversity
- Sexual Health & Identity
- Irish Culture - What is it?
- Young Health & Wellbeing
- Young People's Rights in Workplace
- Facilities for Young People