

RYS Quarterly Newsletter

The Autumn Edition

Welcome back to the RYS Newsletter!

It's been a little while, but we're back and ready to share what's been happening at Roscrea Youth Service! Over the past few months there have been some changes to our staff team, but the buzz hasn't slowed down one bit. We had an amazing summer full of fun, learning, and connection, and we're excited to keep that energy going as we wrap up the year. Thanks for being part of our community — let's finish 2025 with a bang!



Meet the team!



Hi, I'm Erika! I'm the Co-ordinator here at Roscrea Youth Service, and I also work as part of the UBU Project, supporting young adults aged 18–24. I love being part of RYS — every day is different, and I get to work alongside an incredible staff team and amazing young people who bring so much energy and creativity into the space.

My favourite part of the job is seeing young people grow in confidence, discover their strengths, and realise what they're capable of achieving. Whether it's through programmes, projects, or just a chat over a cup of tea, I'm here to support, listen, and help make RYS a place where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Hi, I'm Tara, a UBU project youth worker at Roscrea Youth Service. I'm here to support young people to build confidence, explore their creativity, and develop skills in a safe and welcoming environment. This is your space, so I want to hear what you want to do and help make it happen.

Our weekly groups are full of fun activities, including pool, soccer, table tennis, board games, and arts & crafts. We also offer one-to-one support if needed, we run workshops and organise fun trips. There are lots of opportunities to try new things. My goal is to create a youth-led space where everyone feels supported, heard, and empowered—while having a great time along the way.



Hi, I'm Katie! I'm a Ukrainian youth worker here in Roscrea. I support Ukrainian young people as they settle into the Irish community, helping them feel at home and connected. I also run a fun and welcoming art club that's open to everyone. We get creative with different art projects and also make time to relax, chat, and look after our wellbeing together.



Meet the team!



Hello everyone, my name is Mary Maher and I am a family support worker in Roscrea Youth Service. I love to work as part of a great team with everyone having the same common goals. My role isn't just about giving advice or pointing people to resources — it's about listening, being present, and creating a space where people feel safe and supported. Alongside practical support and education, I've seen how focusing on wellbeing and self-care helps families grow stronger together. Often, it's the little moments that mean the most: seeing a young person start to believe in themselves, or a family finding new ways to connect and communicate. These moments remind me that with the right support, families already have the strength they need to thrive."

Hi, my name is Kailyn .
I recently joined Roscrea Youth Service as a Family Support Worker. I'm really passionate about working with young people and their families, and I enjoy being able to offer support, encouragement, and a friendly ear when it's needed. I'm excited to be part of the team here in Roscrea and to play a role in helping young people feel supported and confident in reaching their goals.



I'm Bela, a New Arrival Family Support Worker, I work closely with families living in the Convent and Racket Hall in Roscrea. My role involves providing one-on-one assistance and guidance on accessing essential services such as healthcare and education.

I advise new families on matters related to accessing medical care, enrolling children in schools, and other important aspects of life in Ireland. I also organise integration trips and run group sessions for children to support their social and cultural adjustment.

Additionally, I assist families who do not speak English by providing translation support, ensuring they feel supported and understood during this transition period.



Meet the team!



I'm Sophie. As youth justice worker, working with 12–17 year olds! Never a dull moment – and that's exactly why I love it. Every day brings something new: fresh challenges, bold opinions, and the kind of energy that could power a small country. Their spark keeps me fired up to make sure their voices aren't just heard – they're amplified. I'm all about out-of-the-box thinking (bonus points if LEGO bricks are involved), whether it's in workshops, one-to-ones, or casual drop-ins. As part of a Youth Diversion Project, I support young people in making positive choices and creating their own paths forward. I also create safe, supportive spaces for LGBTQ+ teens – because everyone deserves to show up as their full, fabulous self. No matter what's going on for them, I have got their back – cheering them on, showing up, and holding space when they need it most. Best bit? Watching young people grow into who they really are.

Hi, I'm Caitlin!

Some of you might know me from when I worked as a Family Support Worker, but since June I've been with the Youth Diversion Project. I work with 12–17-year-olds, and you'll usually catch me running groups, drop-ins, one-to-ones, iScoil and other events for my teenagers. The best part of my job is the amazing young people I get to work with — helping them see new possibilities, find their voice, and know they've got someone in their corner when things get tough. I'm here to remind them that there are loads of opportunities out there (even if it doesn't always feel that way) and to have their back whenever they need it.



My name is Mary, and I've been delighted to be part of the youth service team for the past 4 years. I work as an Early Intervention Worker with the YDP, supporting children aged 8–11 years. What I love most about my role is getting to know each young person through the fun activities and projects we do together. For me, it's all about creating a space where children feel happy, safe, and free to be themselves—whether that's trying something new, making friends, or simply having a laugh. One of the best parts of my job is seeing children's confidence grow and watching them discover their own strengths and talents. I'm really looking forward to many more adventures, games, and good times with the group!



Meet the team!



Hey, I'm Tammy!

I'm a part-time Youth Worker here at Roscrea Youth Service. I first joined RYS while I was in college, doing my work experience — and I loved it so much that I stayed on as a volunteer! After that, I got the chance to join the team through Tús, and I've been here since.

I help support staff with running groups, activities, and events for young people. I really enjoy getting involved in all the fun things we do and being part of a team that makes a difference. It's great to see young people enjoying themselves, learning new things, and building confidence along the way.

Hello I'm Jake,

I am working with the Roscrea Youth Service (RYS) as part of the Tús programme. My background involves working with some of our societies most vulnerable adults; with that in mind, I'm very pleased to say it has been a joy to work within a team of diverse, diligent, and conscientious professionals in RYS to date. A space is given to young people, where they can grow, learn, and find their voice, and I'm proud to be a (small) part of that.



Hi, I'm Cadence, I am on my Placement at RYS. So far has been such a rewarding experience. I have really enjoyed getting to know the young people and taking part in the different activities and programmes. The Staff are absolutely wonderful so kind, supportive and genuinely passionate about their work. They have made me feel like part of the team from day one, and their guidance and encouragement have helped me grow both personally and professionally.



Group Reps

Congratulations to the young people who were selected by their peers to represent their groups as Group Reps! 🎉

Group Reps play an important role in speaking on behalf of their group, highlighting any issues or concerns, and sharing ideas to help improve programmes and activities. This gives every young person a voice and helps make sure their opinions are heard and valued.

Well done to all our new Group Reps — we're looking forward to working with you!



Michael Delaney
YDP Rep



Maja Bochnak
UBU Rep



Sam Kirwan
UBU Rep



Gleb Katerinuks
UBU Rep



Eli Carroll
UBU Rep



Emilija
Aleksandraviciute
UBU Rep



Malwena Skolzen
UBU Rep



RYS News



Back in July, we said goodbye for now to our Family Support Worker, Kate, as she headed off on maternity leave. Baby Robyn arrived in August and has the honour of being our very first RYS baby! She's now an honorary member of our team, and we can't wait to watch her grow alongside all of us here at Roscrea Youth Service.

Huge congratulations to Kate, Jamie, and Frankie on welcoming baby Robyn! What a little cutie — she's already stolen all our hearts and is officially the tiniest (and cutest!) member of the RYS crew.



RYS News

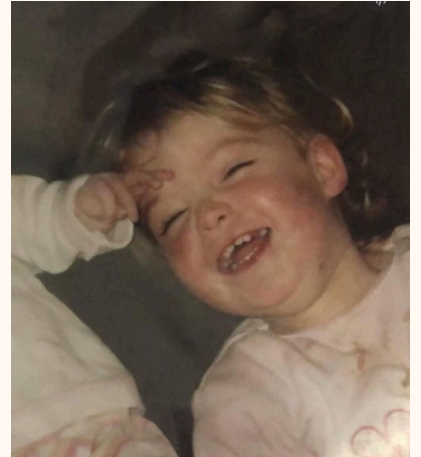
In honour of welcoming our first RYS Baby, can you guess who these baby faces are?



This kid was always loved dogs and is still a regular puppy foster mom!



Clearly destined for the Youth Diversion Project — already negotiating with the Gardaí.



This kid is a Wedding Celebrant and rumour has it will be officiating Taylor Swift's wedding!



This UBU Worker already planning activities and risk assessments.



The last and only time this guy was ever photogenic!



YDP News



It's been a busy and exciting summer here in the YDP! In April, we said goodbye to James and welcomed Caitlin to the team. Over the summer, we packed in plenty of fun activities — from, gym/swim, fishing trips, movie nights and a day out at Emerald Park to our first-ever Sleepover in RYS, which was a huge success! We also had 2 groups running weekly.

We're very lucky to work with such a fantastic group of young people who bring energy, laughter, and positivity to everything we do. Here's to more great memories ahead!



YDP News

Local Sports Spotlight



A big congratulations to Tomzie Harty on his incredible win at the Monkstown International Box Cup this summer! This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to Tomzie's hard work, dedication, and talent in the ring. Everyone here at RYS is so proud of him — well done, Tomzie! 🥊👏

Court Accompaniment Training

Back in September, Caitlin and Sophie took part in Court Accompaniment Training in Limerick, run by the Department of Justice. This training provided valuable insight and practical skills to help support young people and families who may be involved in the Court process. It was a great opportunity for learning and professional development, and the knowledge gained will be a real asset to the YDP going forward.



YDP News

YDP Schedule

Mondays – Drop In
5:30 –7pm
(Caitlin)

Thursdays – Teen Group
5:30–7pm
For Original Group Members
(Caitlin)

Fridays – Drop In
2– 2:45pm
(Sophie)

YDP facilitate 3 group sessions per week.

In addition to this we offer 1:1 sessions and gym/swim sessions to young people upon request. .

If you or your young person feels they could benefit from the YDP, feel free to contact

Caitlin - 087 709 1195
or
Sophie - 087 697 8868



UBU



Roscrea Youth Service

UBU

Are you between 18-24?

Figuring things out? Let's do it together.

Available Supports

1. Confidential, friendly, and local — no pressure, no judgment.
2. We offer a non-judgemental listening ear — whatever's going on, we're here to talk
3. Get help with job applications, CV prep, and interview tips.
4. Support with college, apprenticeships, or training options.
5. Guidance on social welfare, passports, or driver theory test.

 **Drop in: Roscrea Youth Service, Rosemary St.**

 **Call / WhatsApp Erika - 087 620 0633**



UBU



RYS
ROSCREA
YOUTH
SERVICE

UBU
YOUR PLACE
YOUR SPACE

Looking For Somewhere Fun To Hangout?
We've Got You Covered!

Weekly Groups!
Pool, Table tennis, Soccer,
Board Games, Arts and
Crafts and much more

RYS is a place For every
Young Person In our local
area, aged 10-17, to chill
have fun and Build
friendships

Summer and Midterm
Trips, Workshops and
Activities

Dedicated LGBTQ+ Groups
where you can be yourself
and have fun

**Contact Tara on
0877444103 for
information**

 Rosemary Street, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

 **etb**
Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Thíobraid Árann
Tipperary Education and
Training Board

NTDC
North Tipperary
Development Company

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

UBU project is aimed at young people aged between 10 years of age up to 24 years of age. The main aim of our service is to provide out of school supports to the young people.

The UBU hold groups weekly and focus on encouraging the young people in the community to fulfil their potential by improving their personal and social development through various programmes in a safe environment.

If you or your young person is interested in joining contact Tara!



UBU

This summer with UBU has been full of fun, creativity, and adventure! From thrilling days out at Bay Sports, Emerald Park, the circus, and the cinema, to getting hands-on with arts and crafts and baking sessions, our young people have embraced every opportunity to learn, create, and connect. These activities aren't just about having fun — they help build confidence, teamwork, and communication skills, while encouraging imagination, resilience, and a sense of achievement. It's been a fantastic summer of growth and shared experiences, and we can't wait to see what adventures next year brings!



UBU

🏈🏈 Inclusive Soccer and Rugby Tournaments 🌈

Our recent inclusive soccer and rugby tournaments have brought together young people from all backgrounds across our local area — celebrating teamwork, respect, and community spirit. It's been inspiring to see how naturally our young people welcome and include everyone, creating a space where difference is celebrated and everyone feels part of the team. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and sportsmanship truly reflect the best of our community, and we couldn't be prouder of the positive example they set both on and off the field. 💜



Purple Hearts

Our Purple Hearts group is a welcoming, supportive space for LGBTQ+ young people to connect, share, and celebrate who they are.

Each week we meet for fun activities, creative projects, and open conversations in a safe and inclusive environment. Whether you're confident in who you are or still figuring things out, you're always welcome here.

It's a great place to make new friends, express yourself, and be part of a community that values acceptance, positivity, and pride.



If you are interested in joining Purple Hearts contact
Tara - 087 744 4103
or
Sophie - 087 697 8868



Purple Hearts



Over the summer our Purple Hearts Group attended Limerick Pride and other Pride Month events.



🎨 A Special Gift for Purple Hearts 💜

We're thrilled to share that one of our Purple Hearts over-18 members' family created a fabulous painting for our group at RYS! This beautiful piece of art captures the spirit of inclusion, pride, and community that Purple Hearts represents. We're so grateful for this thoughtful contribution — it's a wonderful reminder of the love and support that surrounds our group. 🌈



Early Intervention

Circus Skills

On the 7th of July, our group, along with some Ukrainian young people from the convent, travelled to Cloughjordan for an exciting circus skills workshop. Everyone had the chance to try out a variety of fun activities, including hula hoops, feathers, wire walking, the balance beam, parachute games, and skipping ropes. The young people threw themselves into the challenges with great energy and enthusiasm, learning new skills while sharing plenty of laughter. To top it all off, we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather, making it a fantastic day of fun, creativity, and connection.

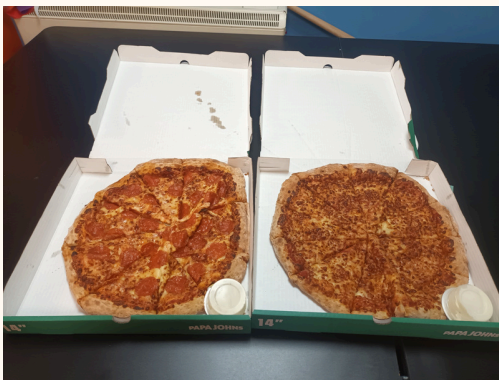
Following on from this success, we came together again on the 29th of July in Muintir na Tíre Hall, Roscrea, for an even bigger workshop with a larger group. This time, the activities included hula hoops, hats, unicycles, and juggling. Once again, the hall was filled with energy, laughter, and teamwork as everyone got the chance to try something new and show off their growing circus skills.



Early Intervention

Drumming

On the 15th of July, we held a lively drumming workshop that proved to be very popular. The young people had the chance to try out new beats, learn about different types of drums and how they are made, and, most importantly, enjoy making music together. This was also a fantastic integration workshop, giving participants the opportunity to connect, make new friends, and share in the fun of rhythm and sound in a supportive environment. To everyone's delight, the facilitator, Dave, surprised the group with a treat of pizza, rounding off a fantastic and memorable day for all.



Meditation and Sound Bowls

Recently, our Youth Service hosted two very special wellbeing sessions – one for young people and another for parents. Both gatherings offered the chance to slow down, relax, and experience the soothing effects of guided meditation alongside the calming sounds of crystal sound bowls. The atmosphere was truly serene, with everyone leaving the sessions feeling grounded, peaceful, and refreshed. For many, it was a rare opportunity to step away from busy routines and find a moment of quiet calm. We were delighted by the positive feedback from both groups, with participants describing the sessions as “restorative,” “zen,” and “exactly what was needed.” We hope to offer more meditation and sound bowl sessions in the future.



Early Intervention

Stop Motion

Two stop motion workshops took place during the summer, with one group of ages 8–11 years and another for ages 12–17 years. These sessions were all about creativity, imagination, and teamwork, as the young people worked together to plan, design, and create their very own animations. They spent a full day from 10am to 3pm bringing their ideas to life, with plenty of fun, laughter, and a shared lunch along the way. The finished pieces can be viewed on Mike's YouTube channel, Let's Animate with Mike, showcasing the fantastic talent and effort of everyone involved.



Culture Afternoon

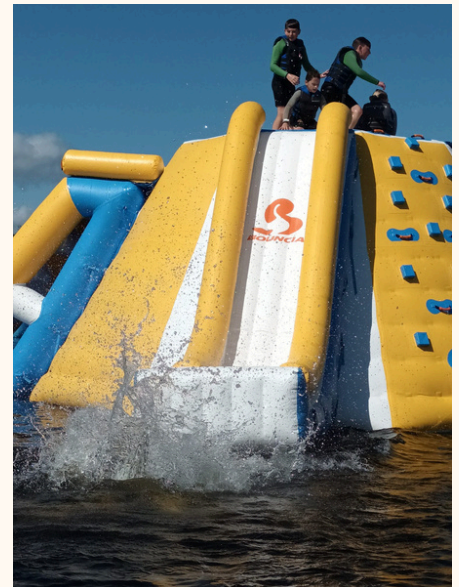
On the 9th of July, we enjoyed a wonderful Culture Afternoon where young people shared dishes from their own cultures, giving everyone the chance to try a wide variety of foods and flavours. The group also worked together on word searches about different countries around the world and teamed up for a lively quiz. The afternoon was rounded off with outdoor group games, a fun soccer match, and some board games indoors. It was a great mix of learning, teamwork, and enjoyment — with plenty of new tastes and new friendships along the way.



Early Intervention

Bay Sports

On the 31st of August, we brought 28 young people to Athlone for an exciting day at Bay Sports. The group had the chance to try out kayaking, before heading to the inflatable water park where the real fun began! From climbing, jumping, sliding, and splashing, the young people encouraged each other, built friendships, and shared plenty of laughter along the way. This was also a fantastic integration activity, giving everyone the chance to connect, support one another, and strengthen relationships in a fun and relaxed setting. After all the action, we gathered together on the green to enjoy lunch as a group, before heading home tired but happy after a full day of adventure, fun, and memory-making.



Early Intervention



Upcycling - Creative Keyrings

In a collaborative session between New Arrivals and Early Intervention took place on the 10th of July, young people had the opportunity to design, colour, and sew their very own keyrings. The room was full of focus and concentration as everyone worked on their creations, and the sense of achievement when each piece was completed was wonderful to see. Many participants commented on how relaxing they found the sewing process, making it not only a creative activity but also a calming and rewarding experience. This workshop was a fantastic way for young people to express themselves, develop new skills, and take home a personalised keepsake they could be proud of.



Early Intervention

Crime Prevention Programme

Over the past number of weeks, our team has had the pleasure of visiting several of our local primary schools to deliver the Crime Prevention Programme. The programme took place in Moneygall, Dunkerrin, and Scoil Eoin Naofa and ran over the course of four weeks.

Each week, the children took part in discussions and activities designed to raise awareness about making positive choices, understanding consequences, and learning how to stay safe in different situations. The final week was a real highlight, with pupils getting creative in a poster competition and also welcoming a special visit from members of An Garda Síochána. This gave the children a valuable opportunity to meet their local Gardaí, ask questions, and gain a better understanding of the important role they play in our community.

We were delighted with the level of engagement shown by the pupils throughout the programme — their curiosity, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn made each session both lively and meaningful. It has been wonderful to see such strong collaboration between the schools, the Gardaí, and our youth service in supporting young people's learning and development.

A huge thank you goes out to the staff in the schools, the Gardaí, and of course the pupils themselves for their participation and support in making this programme such a success.



Early Intervention

Connect Safely

Recently, we had the opportunity to facilitate the Connect Safely Programme with 3rd Class in Scoil Eoin Naofa, delivered in partnership with Barnardos. This five-week programme focused on helping children learn how to stay safe online in a fun and engaging way. Using games, interactive activities, and discussions, the sessions explored important topics such as privacy, cyberbullying, consent, and making good digital choices.

There was fantastic engagement from the pupils, with plenty of thoughtful questions and contributions throughout the weeks. It was great to see the children taking such an active interest in their own online safety.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part and supported the programme. We are delighted to share that we will be bringing Connect Safely to Sacred Heart Primary School after the Halloween break, and we look forward to continuing this important work with more young people.



Family Support

The Family Support team at Roscrea Youth Service continues to provide practical and emotional support to parents, carers, and young people across the community.

Our work focuses on strengthening family relationships, promoting positive communication, and helping families build skills and confidence to navigate life's challenges. Through one-to-one support, parenting programmes and group sessions for both parents and young people, we aim to create a safe and supportive space for families to thrive.

We also have some staff updates to share! Mary Maher and Kailyn Egan have recently joined the Family Support team, bringing their experience from previous roles. We're delighted to have them on board.

Meanwhile, we say a brief farewell to Kate, who is taking maternity leave, and Caitlin, who has moved to the Youth Development Programme (YDP). We wish them both all the very best and look forward to welcoming Kate back in the future.

As always, families can reach out to us directly through Roscrea Youth Service for advice, information, or support — we're here to help.

Mary Maher - 087 903 3123

or

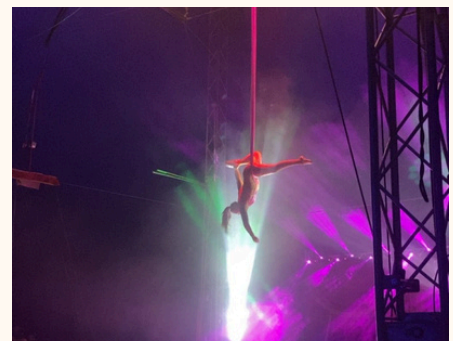
Kailyn Egan - 087 952 9041



Family Support

Circus Gerbola

Young people from Roscrea Youth Service recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Circus Gerbola in Birr, Circus Gerbola kindly provided tickets for the group, and everyone had an amazing time filled with laughter, fun, and fantastic performances. The children had an absolute ball and created wonderful memories together!



Roscrea Youth Service

Roscrea Youth Service is a community-based youth space managed by North Tipperary Development Company. We provide a wide range of targeted youth projects for young people aged 8 to 24 years, alongside family support services.

Who we Are

Roscrea Youth Service (RYS) brings together several projects under one roof at our dedicated youth centre on Rosemary Street, Roscrea. Operating under the umbrella of North Tipperary Development Company, the service combines expertise and resources to best meet the needs of the community.

Our Mission

The mission of Roscrea Youth Service is to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space where children, young people, and their families are supported through all stages of life—from primary school to secondary education, and into early adulthood.

What We Do

Our work is delivered through a number of projects, including:

- UBU (Your Place Your Space) Project
- RAY Project (Youth Diversion Project)
- Early Intervention Initiative
- Youth Counselling Service
- Roscrea Family Support Service

These projects work in close collaboration, ensuring children, young people, and families have access to integrated supports that promote positive development and wellbeing.

Social Media

 [@roscreayouthservice](https://www.facebook.com/roscreayouthservice)

 [@roscreayouthservice](https://www.instagram.com/roscreayouthservice)

**For more info or
to make a
referral
contact:**

Youth Service Coordinator / Youth Counselling

Erika Barnett – 087 620 0633 | 0505 24462
ebarnett@ntdc.ie

UBU Project – Your Place Your Space

Tara Moloughney, UBU Youth Worker – 087 744 4103
Kateryna Korolchuk, P/T Youth Worker (New Arrivals) – 087 876 2597

RAY Youth Diversion Project

Caitlin Moyne, Youth Justice Worker – 087 709 1195
Sophie McCarter, Youth Justice Worker – 087 697 8868

YDP Early Intervention

Mary Grace, Early Intervention Youth Worker – 087 210 6606

Family Support Services

Mary Maher, Family Support Worker – 087 903 3123
Kailyn Egan, Family Support Worker – 087 952 9041
Bela Abushova, P/T Family Support Worker (New Arrivals) – 087 036 5292

Website:

<https://www.ntdc.ie/programmes/youth-services/>