



**NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
BUREAU**



# **Community Engagement Learning from Empowering Young People Grant Holders**



**North Down Community  
Network – DICE Project**



# Our DICE Journey

**\*Development \* Integration \* Citizenship \* Education \***

2010

**NDCN**

## THE NEED

- ASB
- Lack of investment
- Hidden Need
- Use of YP
- Community centred

2012

**DICE PROJECT**  
Development, Integration, Citizenship, Education

## DICE BEGINS

- 5 partners
- Community led
- Life Skills
- Connections
- 5 Youth Clubs in local venues

2018

**DICE CONNECTIONS PROJECT**  
Development \* Integration \* Citizenship \* Education

## DICE CONNECTS

- Community Connections
- Leadership
- Zoom
- Lobbying for others
- Giving Back

2024



## DICE FUTURES

- Education Support
- Professional Development
- Taking the Lead
- The next generation
- Sustainability



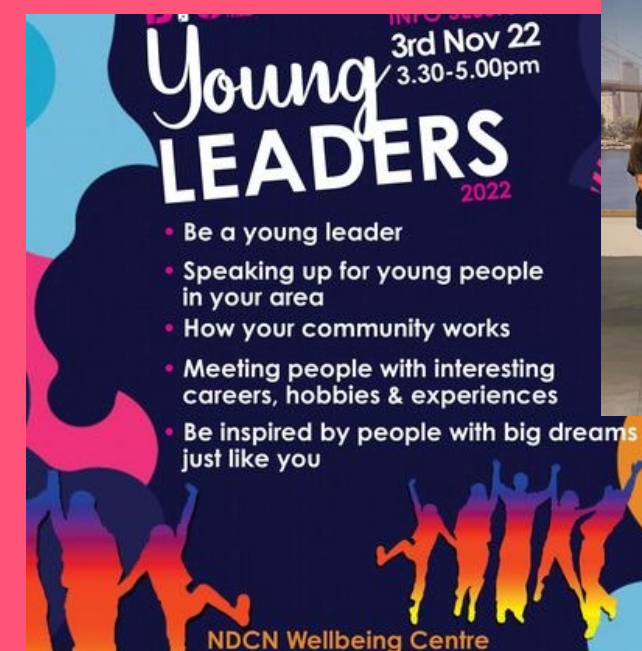
# Learning

- Listen
- Relationship is essential
- Community connection makes the difference
- Young People love giving back, communities love them when they do!
- Young people can tell their own stories
- The needs are real
- If it's broke - fix it
- Be patient
- Less talking & more doing!

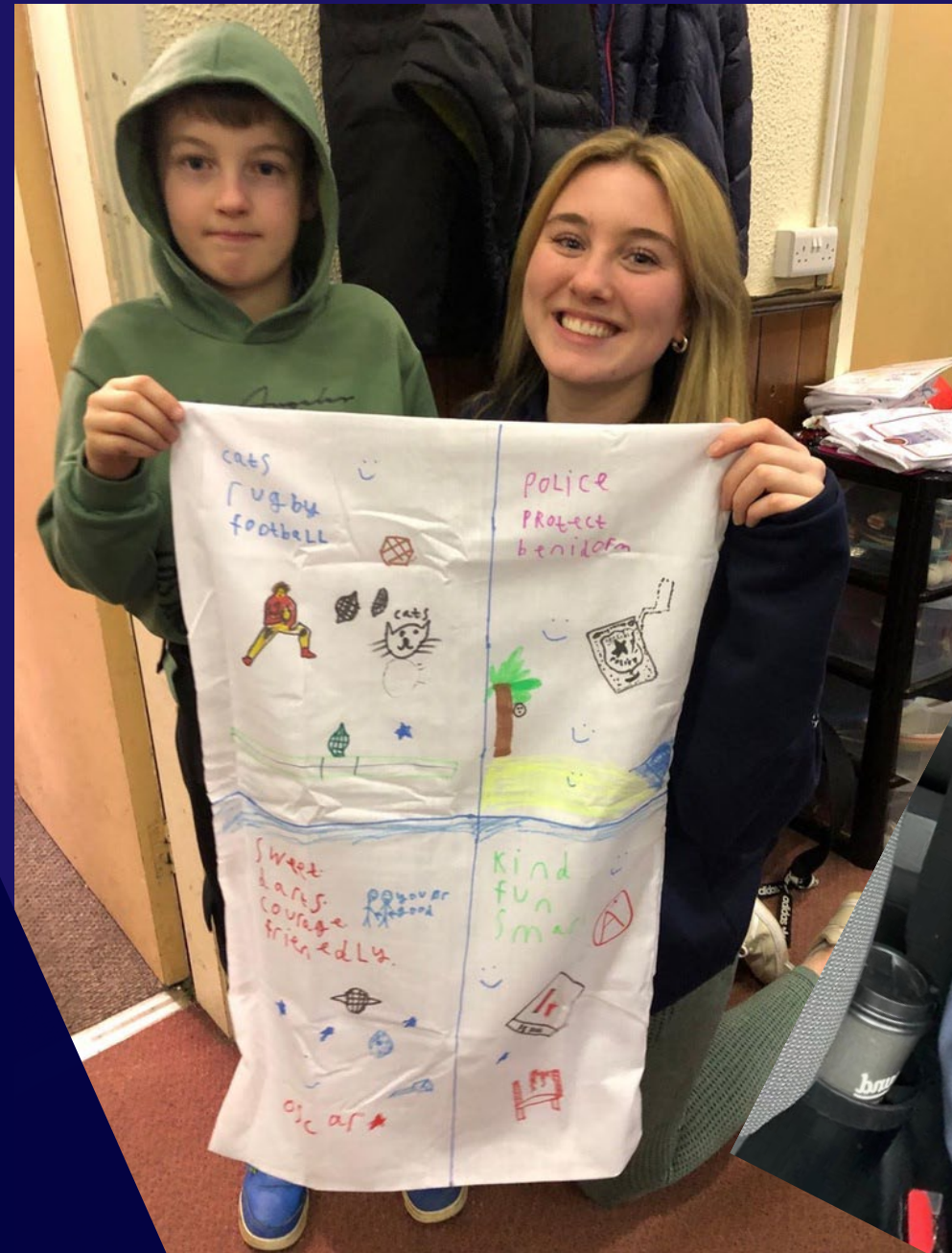


# Impact

- Sustained youth club provision for 10+ years in areas of need in Bangor.
- Engaging 150+ individual young people annually.
- Young people taking their place & expressing their needs.
- Supporting: life skills development, education, personal aspirations and career development.
- Bringing through the next generation.
- Demand for more continues.
- Young people own this project.



# Chloe Carson



# Thankyou!

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# **Community Engagement**

## **- learning from Empowering Young People Grant Holders**



**Beat Carnival**



# Our Space

**Our Space** – an inclusive, safe (physical and mental), and welcoming space, open to all youth aged 8 - 25, from within the Greater Belfast area and beyond.

Co-designing a journey with young people that focuses on 4 key outcomes. Our Space participants will be able to:

- **Self-reflect and critically analyse their identity and values**
- **Develop confidence in expressing ideas, thoughts and opinions**
- **Effectively listen to, and give space to others, creating safe spaces for others' ideas, thoughts and opinions**
- **Be empowered to exercise their autonomy and have belief in their own problem-solving and decision-making.**



Developing our own participation model and methodology for community building and creating safe spaces.

# Programmes within Our Space



- **Creative Youth:** Multi-arts classes for children and young people aged 5-18.
- **Youth Arts for Social Action:** Multi-arts classes for youth aged 14-25.
- **Outreach programme:** outreach classes in schools, youth and community
- **Future Leaders:** Professional and personal development for 16-25 year olds through coaching and mentoring.
- **Summer Scheme:** annual summer project encourages young people to develop, design and implement a one-week event



# Learning

- **The importance of partnerships:** LINKS network connecting to fellow TNLCF grant holders.
- **Taking time to reflect:** Use reflective ways of working collaboratively through co-design & participatory processes
- **Cultivating a community:**  
Creating a space for sharing and collaboration
- **Investing in our young people:**  
More opportunities = more benefits to learning, growth and development.



# Impact



**Our Space has resulted in a range of benefits for diverse groups of young people:**

- ✓ confidence
- ✓ personal development
- ✓ social skills
- ✓ self-awareness
- ✓ active citizenship

What is most valuable about the programme? – ***"being able to be fully yourself without judgement"***  
(Young Person)

***"This programme is absolutely amazing, it has definitely increased her confidence, has allowed her to make amazing new friends, and enjoy being creative and encouraging diversity. The staff are fabulous, they provide great opportunities for the kids and are so highly spoken of. Communication is great and it is definitely a great safe space for children"*** (Parent)

# Impact



## Community outreach sessions

- ✓ reached individuals who might not otherwise have access to such opportunities

Sessions resulted in

- ✓ a sense of community and connectedness
- ✓ reduced feelings of isolation
- ✓ encouraged mutual support among participants.

***"It gave our LGBTQIA+ group a chance to be creative and express themselves through art and share this comfortably in a group setting"***  
(Youth Worker)

# Stories: Carnival School programme



- Young people learned to express themselves via a range of carnival arts mediums
- Carnival celebration within their school/youth group setting.
- Year 1: collaborated with 14 diverse schools, youth and community groups
- Hosted sessions with 3 different groups in the SEN department, Belfast Metropolitan College.
- Groups came together to create a 'Carnival in the Corridor', expressing and celebrating their individuality.



# Stories: 'Carnival School' programme



# Thankyou!

**Rebecca Boyd & Tanya Kearns**

Beat Carnival

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