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PROJECT n° 2021-2-SE02-KA220-YOU-000049948

PROJECT NAME: Wellbeing in Diverse Youth Communities

PROJECT ACRONYM: WELLHOODY

WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon

Meetings Report

Meeting dates:

1. 29 March 2024 - 10.00 – 12.30
2. 1 May 2024 - 10.00 – 12.45

Meeting venue:

1. Kilbride Community Centre, Fourmilehouse, Roscommon
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WfU5rec8E4KGBB5cA>
2. Family Resource Centre, New Street, Ballaghaderreen, Co, Roscommon
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/HDvrgcpTYecgsmhh6>

Name of the Club: WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon

Facilitators: Orla Casey, Laurence Cole, Linda Devine

Number of attendees:

1. 17 youth work representatives and young people
2. 16 young people and 3 youth workers

Materials: White board, pens, paper sheets, post-it notes

Agenda (Meeting 1 - 29 March 2024):

Welcome to Ireland's first Wellhoody Youth and Connector Club

Icebreaker round table introductions - describe what is on your keyring and what each item means
Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum and all

Introducing our WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon

Discussion on Club's purpose and goals - what is our shared ambition - wellbeing, support, and diversity
Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum and all

The activities of WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon

<p>What exactly are we going to do? Round table discussion on potential programmes directly benefiting our youth in their individual development and programmes benefiting the community.</p> <p><i>Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum</i></p> <p><i>Linda Devine, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Head of Community Development and Youth Activation</i></p>
<p>Wellbeing, Snack and Café Break</p>
<p>Feedback round</p>
<p>Making it happen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a committee – meet quarterly, hosted in different community neighbourhoods. • Who wants to be involved in the committee? Hosting based on event plans • Next steps and agree action items • Date for next meeting

Agenda (Meeting 2 - 1 May 2024):

<p>Welcome to our second Wellhoody Youth and Connector Club</p> <p>Adjunct meeting and event at the Roscommon Intercultural Network Day</p> <p>Icebreaker round table introductions - <i>Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum and all</i></p>
<p>Progressing our WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon</p> <p>Activities progressed since meeting 1 in the areas of wellbeing, support, and diversity</p> <p><i>Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum and all</i></p>
<p>May – December 24 Planning Activities of our WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon</p> <p><i>Orla Casey and Laurence Cole, Momentum</i></p> <p><i>Linda Devine, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Head of Community Development and Youth Activation</i></p>
<p>Wellbeing, Networking and Café Break</p>
<p>Feedback round</p>
<p>Making it happen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photocall of our committee • Hosting plan May – December 2024 . • Next steps and agree action items

- **Date for next meeting**

Introduction

The WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon, held two meetings during the project's lifetime, but has a dynamic activities programme in place from May to December 2024. Both meetings have laid a foundation for engaging the participants with the Wellhoody project goals of empowering young people and equipping youth professionals through education in wellbeing and diversity. They have been very enthusiastic about the potential of the project to make a difference in neighbourhoods and communities in Roscommon and utilised the Wellhoody resources to set up the Youth Club via the Good Practice Guide and are also benefitting from the project Open Educational Resources.

Key points

MEETING 1, 29 March 2024

The initial gathering of the WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon, took place at the Kilbride Community Centre in Fourmilehouse, Roscommon, drawing a participation of 17 individuals, including youth workers and young people. The session began with an engaging icebreaker activity where attendees shared the stories behind items on their keyrings, fostering a sense of familiarity and connection among the group. The main agenda for the event revolved around defining the club's goals, including the themes of well-being, support, and diversity. Discussions were held on how the Club could directly benefit underrepresented youth in neighbourhoods and communities through various planned activities and community and personal benefit programmes.

One of the key outcomes of this meeting was the establishment of a committee tasked with overseeing the club's operations and organising future gatherings in different neighbourhoods to ensure broad community involvement. The discussions were very insightful, with suggestions ranging from setting up regular skill-building workshops to organising cultural exchange events that would allow participants to explore and celebrate diverse cultures within the community. The participants also expressed a strong desire for programmes that would address mental health awareness, aiming to destigmatise discussions around mental well-being among youth. Plans were set in motion to host the next meeting in a different neighbourhood, reinforcing the club's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity

MEETING 2 - 1 May 2024

The WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club's second meeting built upon the foundational discussions from the first gathering and introduced several innovative initiatives aimed at enhancing youth community engagement and promoting inclusivity. Notably, the participation of the Mayor of Roscommon and several young Ukrainian people provided fresh insights and contributed to a broader understanding of the Club's multicultural approach. Youth from Ireland, Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan also participated. During this session, young people reviewed progress from the initial meeting and dove into an enthusiastic planning phase for the remainder of the year with the following priorities arising:

- **World Refugee Day Event:**
 - The Club plans to host an event on World Refugee Day on June 22nd, focusing on celebrating and educating the community about the cultural richness and experiences of young refugees. The event will feature art expression, storytelling sessions, cultural exhibitions, and interactive collaborative projects, all designed to foster understanding and empathy within the community.
- **Media Engagement:**
 - To broaden the Club's reach and influence, plans were made to secure a feature on local radio, Ros FM. Additionally, the Club aims to develop a podcast that will cover important themes such as inclusivity, community support, and the ongoing activities of the club, providing a platform for extended engagement with the broader community
- **Skill-Sharing Workshops:**
 - A series of skill-sharing workshops will be organised, allowing young Club members from diverse backgrounds to teach each other valuable skills. These workshops can include language and culture exchanges, cooking demonstrations, and other skill-based activities.
- **Community Hero Project:**
 - Talk to the authorities to see if the introduction of the 'Community Hero' project is feasible to recognise and celebrate young individuals who make significant contributions to their community. This initiative will highlight the positive impact of diverse cultural backgrounds and serve as an inspiration for other youths.

Conclusion

As the WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club in Roscommon concluded its initial foundational meetings, the Club is emerging as an inclusive, supportive, and diverse environment for young people. But it is early days. Through the establishment of the Club's committee and its role in planning and hosting future events, we are fostering a sense of ownership among local beneficiaries – both the young people themselves, their wider communities, youth workers, NGOs and our local educators and municipalities. This local ownership is crucial for the long-term sustainability of the project, as it ensures that activities and initiatives will continue to be driven by the needs and interests of the young, diverse community in Roscommon beyond the project's original timeline.

Through the active participation and contributions of its youth members, the Club is working on immediate goals (achieving early wins is important to keep momentum levels high), but as the Club's facilitators, Momentum can see that we are laying a robust groundwork for sustainable inclusion.

Attendee feedback

As a conclusion to the pilot/exploratory meetings, attendees were asked their opinions on the Club and its meetings and whether they reached their expectations. According to participants, it far exceeded their expectations.

- The icebreaker activities and the interactive nature of the meetings were highly praised. Participants enjoyed the creative and engaging methods used to facilitate introductions and discussions.

- Attendees particularly appreciated the club's efforts to ensure that all voices were heard. The inclusion of diverse perspectives, especially from the Ukrainian participants, was noted as a significant factor in enriching the discussions and outcomes.
- There was satisfaction with the practical outcomes of the meetings. The establishment of a committee and the clear planning for future activities with participants citing confidence that their input would lead to tangible actions and positive changes.

Next steps:

Following the encouraging outcomes of the initial meetings and the positive participant feedback, the WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club is in a good place to begin. As facilitators for the Club, we are supporting the Committee to

- diversify and expand its range of activities. This Club needs action; it needs opportunities to convene, connect and learn, and sometimes, just to be together with no agenda. Plans include introducing access to a venue and more cultural exploration tailored to cater to the varied interests of all members.
- to extend its reach and impact, the Club intends to forge partnerships with other local groups and organisations e.g. social innovators and Club member The Melting Pot will host the next meeting in June.
- Partnering with educational institutions (GRETB is on our committee) to explore peer mentoring programmes.
- Ros FM are offering the club members the opportunity to launch a podcast series to share inspiring stories, discuss relevant topics, and engage with a broader audience. An increased presence on social media will keep the community informed and engaged, helping to attract new members and maintain visibility.
- In its commitment to inclusivity, the club will ensure that all venues and events are accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the club will organise cultural sensitivity and inclusivity training for all members and facilitators, ensuring a consistently welcoming environment for people from all cultural backgrounds.

The club is also focused on its long-term sustainability. Initiatives will include developing fundraising strategies to support ongoing operations and encouraging members to volunteer for club activities.



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PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name of activity: WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon. Activity host organization: Momentum Marketing Services
Place: Roscommon Town, Ireland Date: 29.3.24

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Name of activity: WELLHOODY Youth Connection Club, Roscommon. Activity host organization: Momentum Marketing Services
Place: Ballaghadereen Family Resource Centre, Ireland Date: 1.5.24

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PHOTOS

