

# Comhairle na nÓg Report 2013 Annual Report

Compiled by Pobal  
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## 1. Introduction

The Comhairle Na nÓg Development Fund is overseen and administered by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The DCYA has lead national responsibility under the National Children's Strategy to ensure the establishment and improvement of structures that provide children and young people with a voice on topics that affect their lives at local and national level.

Comhairle Na nÓg is a forum for structured input into decision-making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies; it is supported and resourced by relevant statutory and voluntary organisations in the county/city. The Comhairle Na nÓg Development Fund is designed to assist local authorities to support the development and improvement of Comhairle Na nÓg as:

- a firmly embedded structure and key consultative/participative forum for children and young people in each local authority area CDB area;
- An effective mechanism for children and young people to improve their own lives in partnership with adult stakeholders.

In collaboration with DCYA, Pobal administers the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund. Pobal manages the transfer of payments and the annual reporting and funding request process. System development to support the Comhairle na nÓg administration processes is also undertaken by Pobal. A percentage of verification visits are conducted annually. The purpose of the verification visit is to verify administration of approved funding in accordance with the Fund criteria.

As part of their funding arrangement, all recipients of the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund are required to report on activities and expenditure for the annual funding period to Pobal. The current report summarises the 2013 end of year reports from the 34 Comhairlí under eight areas of action headings as listed below, and expenditure reported in the 2013 Income & Expenditure Report.

1. Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee
2. Comhairle na nÓg
3. Consolidating and influencing Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations
4. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
5. Addressing the key topic(s) identified by young people
6. Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg
7. Staffing
8. Administration
9. Income & Expenditure Report (January to December 2013)

During 2013, Pobal developed a Comhairle na nÓg Portal that enables the Comhairlí to complete and submit their reporting (and planning/application) documents online.

## 2. Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee

### Key Figures

- Across the 34 Comhairlí a total of 145 meetings of Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committees were held in 2013.
- 25 Comhairlí reported that (59) of its members held a place on the Steering Committee.
- 38% of Comhairlí (13) stated that members of the Steering Committee had undertaken training relevant to their role.

### 2.1 Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee

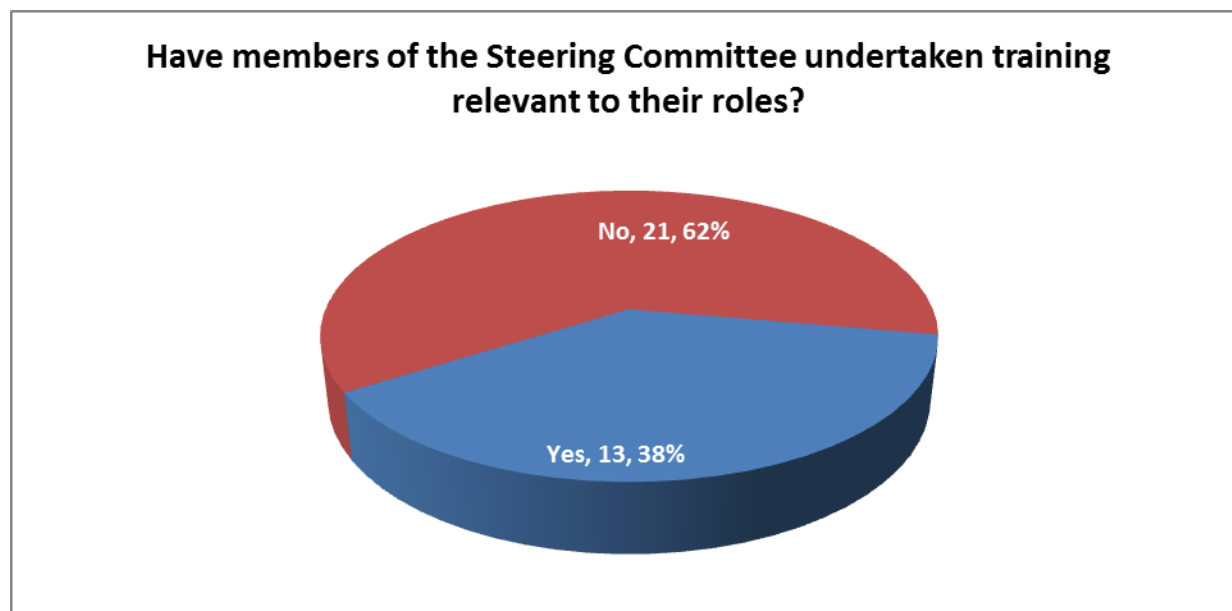
Comhairlí were asked to specify how many meetings of the Steering Committee were held in 2013. A total of 145 meetings were held nationally with an average of 4 meetings taking place each. Louth Comhairle na nÓg held the most meetings of its Steering Committee with (12) while Clare, Laois and Kildare Comhairlí all reported the lowest level with (2) each. Many Comhairlí said that the Steering Committee often acts as a planning committee in advance of the main Comhairle na nÓg meetings and for others, it acts as a sub-group of the Comhairle na nÓg. Many Comhairlí reported that the Steering Committee is beneficial to the work of their organisation. Some Comhairlí noted that no members of the Comhairle sit on the Steering Committee and this is something that needs to be addressed. One Comhairle (Clare) noted that no young people are represented on its Steering Committee which it plans to review in 2014.

**Table 1**      **No. of Steering Committee Meetings held in 2013**

Meetings Held	No.
Total	145
Average	4
Maximum (Louth)	12
Minimum (Clare, Kildare & Laois)	2

## 2.2 Training for Steering Committee members

One of the questions asked whether Steering Committee members had been provided with any training relevant to their roles. 13 Comhairlí (38%) said that they had.



Comhairle Projects were asked to provide some details of training undertaken by members of the Steering Committee. “Induction” and “facilitation” were the most common types of training identified. Some respondents noted that training was tailored to fit in with the work of the Comhairle and to that effect training on issues such as child protection, mental health, cyber safety and suicide prevention was facilitated for members of the steering committee.

Comhairlí were asked to specify how many places on the Steering Committee were held by young members members of the Comhairle na nÓg Table 2 below shows that a total of (59) places were held across 25 Comhairlí. Nine Comhairlí said they did not have any member(s) of the Comhairle Na nÓg on their Steering Committee.

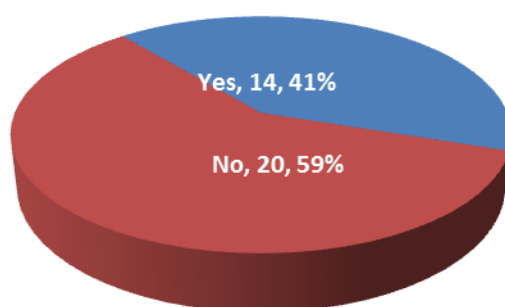
**Table 2** Places held on Steering Committee by members of the Comhairle Na nÓg

Places held on Steering Committee by members of the Comhairle Na nÓg	
Total no. places held*	59
No. of Comhairlí that do not have members on the Comhairle Na nÓg	9
Max. no. of places held (Carlow and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown)	6
Average no. of places held	2.4

\*Total no. of places held and Average no. of places held are based on figures as reported by 25 Comhairlí

Comhairlí were asked to give details of any expenditure incurred specifically towards "Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee". If no funding was spent, no details had to be provided (20 Comhairlí fell into this category). Of the 14 that did provide details, almost all referred to practical/logistical costs. Nine listed 'travel' to Comhairle meetings and events as the most common expenditure area, while 7 listed 'refreshments' for meetings. Three Comhairlí incurred expenditure for meeting room hire with one using the budget for training in order to deliver on its work for 2014.

#### **Details of Funding Expended on 'Enhancing & Managing the Steering Committee'**



Tipperary North and Fingal Comhairle na Nóg showed the highest spend under this heading with (€827.59 and €800) respectively, while Clare showed the lowest spend with (€32.98). Further details on income and spend under this heading can be seen in Section 9 of this report on 'Income & Expenditure'.

### 3. Comhairle na nÓg

#### Key Figures

- Average membership of Comhairle na nÓg is 30 per Comhairle.
- Females represent over half (59%) of overall membership of Comhairle na nÓg.
- Only two Comhairlí did not provide training to their elected members with (94%) claiming members received training during 2013.
- Over half (56%) of Comhairle na nÓg meetings took place at local/community level with 46% at county-wide level.

#### 3.1 Comhairle na nÓg Membership

The total membership of Comhairlí na nÓg in 2013 was 1,021, giving an average membership of 30 per Comhairle. The numbers ranged from 13 (Co. Cork) to 103 (Kildare). Full details are in the table below.

**Table 3** Comhairle na nÓg membership in 2013

County	No. of Members
Carlow	18
Cavan	39
Clare	20
Cork City	39
Cork County	13
Donegal	36
Dublin - City	55
Dublin Fingal	30
Dublin South	25
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	47
Galway City	17
Galway County	50
Kerry	33
Kildare	103
Kilkenny	25
Laois	23
Leitrim	24

Limerick City	17
Limerick County	31
Longford	21
Louth	27
Mayo	42
Meath	33
Monaghan	16
Offaly	29
Roscommon	29
Sligo	21
Tipperary North	24
Tipperary South	24
Waterford City	18
Waterford County	30
Westmeath	18
Wexford	20
Wicklow	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,021</b>

Comhairlí were then asked to provide the gender breakdown of its members.

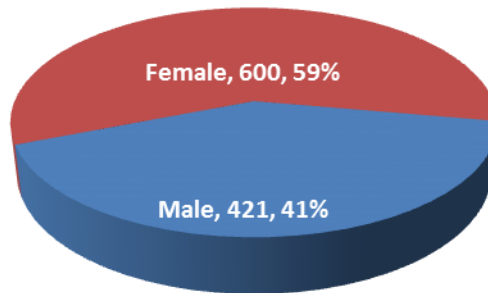
Reports showed that nationally, the membership of the Comhairlí na nÓg in 2013 was 59% female, 41% male.

**Table 4      Gender Breakdown of the Comhairle na nÓg membership 2013**

Gender Breakdown of Comhairle na nÓg members 2013		
	No.	%
Male	421	41%
Total Female	600	59%
Overall Total	1,021	

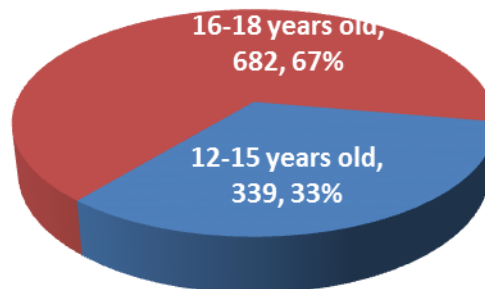


### Gender Breakdown of Membership



Each Comhairle was then asked to specify the age cohort its members fell into which were (12 to 15 year olds and 16 to 18 year olds). Two thirds of Comhairle na nÓg members are in the 16-18 year age range, with the remaining one-third being aged between 12 and 15 years old.

### Age Breakdown of Membership

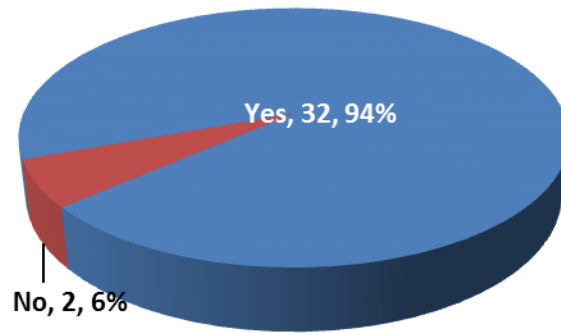


Each Comhairle was asked how many young people regularly attended meetings during 2013. The total number (nationally) was 745, with an average of 21.9 per Comhairle. (The numbers ranged from 10 (County Cork, Galway City and Monaghan) to 103 (Kildare)).

### 3.2 Training for elected members of the Comhairle na nÓg

The vast majority (94%) of Comhairlí reported that their elected members received some training during 2013. Only 2 Comhairlí said their elected members received no training.

### Did elected members receive any training in 2013?



Respondents were then asked to give details of the type(s) of training provided. Over two-fifths (43%) offered “Team Building” training to its members; one third (34%) had provided training on “Committee Skills” and a further 31% had provided training on “Presentation Skills”. Other types of training listed included Communication skills, public speaking and leadership. The type/s of training listed was not limited to the above with many listing a diverse range of training on issues pertinent to the work with the Comhairle target group i.e. young people. Training on issues to do with combatting racism, bullying and homophobia along with conflict resolution and intercultural/diversity awareness also featured in the 2013 Comhairle reports.

### 3.3 Comhairle na nÓg meetings

On average, each Comhairle na nÓg met 20 times during 2013, equating to once every 2-3 weeks. The highest number of meetings for any one Comhairle was 58 (in Galway County).

**Table 5** Meetings Held in 2013

Meetings Held in 2013	
Total no. of meetings	693
Average no. of meetings	20

Comhairlí were asked to indicate how many of their meetings were held on a county-wide basis and how many were held at local level. Overall, they were relatively evenly split – 44% / 56%, respectively.

Table 6 Meeting Location

Meeting Location	
County-wide	304
Local/community Level	389

### **3.4 Communicating the progress and work of the Comhairle na nÓg.**

Comhairle projects were asked to describe how they communicated back to the broader group of young people in the county/Local Authority area. The AGM was cited as the most common forum for reporting the work of Comhairle at a local level, with 26 of the 34 specifically making reference to this. The Comhairle na nÓg primarily reports back to the young people that attend the AGM via presentation/s, annual reports and showcasing examples of their activities. A high number of Comhairle use social media to report back on the progress of their key actions from the development of dedicated Facebook pages to Twitter and other social media such as Local Authority websites, etc. This appears to be a successful way to engage with young people and report on progress to date and specific issues. Some projects reported social media as an effective tool to recruit young people also.

A number of Comhairlí visited schools where they addressed assemblies on the work of Comhairle. Where this was not possible, they made contact with students via school noticeboards or student councils. Mainstream media opportunities such as press releases, newspapers coverage and radio were also employed by some Comhairlí to highlight their work and other key messages.

Some Comhairlí took the opportunity to participate in and “piggyback” on wider national events in order to publicise their work and engage with young people. Some examples that were listed included Mental Health week, the Fleadh Cheoil and Social Inclusion Week. In each case, the wider event proved a suitable platform to highlight some key messages from Comhairlí at a local level by using a national platform.

Youth Organisations also proved a popular choice to reach out to young people and highlight the important work of Comhairlí with examples such as Youth Work Ireland, Youthreach, and local youth groups provided. All of the above helped Comhairlí to get additional coverage and increase awareness at local, regional and national level of some key topics such as mental health, bullying, and the generation gap in addition to the particular work of Comhairle na nÓg.

### **3.5 Support for other youth participation structures**

Respondents were asked to describe how Comhairle na nÓg in 2013 supported the work of other youth participation structures such as the Comhairle na nÓg National Executive, Student Councils, and so on. The Comhairle na nÓg National Executive comprises of one member from each of the 34 Comhairlí. These elected representatives acted as the conduit for two-way communication between the Comhairlí at local level and the National Executive.

Members of the Comhairle were also active in forging linkages with student councils and schools around the country to highlight the work of Comhairle and promote increased youth participation in their local committees. Other well-known organisations with a remit to work with young people such as Youth Work Ireland, Foróige, Scouts, Youth Cafes and various youth groups and forums were engaged in ways that

varied between more formal (Comhairle members being junior leaders in the other organisations) and the less formal (meeting, sharing information, etc.). One member from the Clare Comhairle Na nÓg attended the European Youth Parliament in the Hague while members of North Tipperary Comhairle attended the 'Young Voices' consultation day in Dublin as part of European Structured Dialogue during the Irish EU Presidency.

### **3.6 Improving participation of seldom heard young people**

The 34 Comhairlí were asked to name the organisations they worked with in 2013 to improve participation of seldom young heard people. All 34 said that they had worked with at least one organisation towards this aim; nationally, a total of 155 organisations were worked with (or an average of 4-5 per Comhairle). Half of the Comhairlí reported having worked with 6 or more organisations with the specific aim of engaging the more marginalised or disadvantaged young people within their communities. This suggests a significant effort on the part of the Comhairlí to be inclusive in their work. Obviously it is more difficult to establish the extent to which these efforts were ultimately successful in increasing participation from more marginalised young people and in influencing the issues/policies discussed. This may be worthy of further examination in future.

Youthreach was the most frequently mentioned organisation; 16 Comhairlí reported working with Youthreach during 2013. Foróige was mentioned by 13 Comhairlí and 12 said that they had been involved during the year with organisations working with the Traveling Community. Seven Comhairlí also worked with or engaged with their local Education and Training Boards (formerly VECs). A number of other organisations with a national remit were also named, for example Barnardos, An Garda Síochána (Youth Diversion Project), Brothers of Charity and the Irish Wheelchair Association. Relatively small numbers reported working with sporting organisations such as local Sports Partnerships and the GAA. The strategy used by the organisations listed above focused primarily on Youth Participation with the aim to engage more young people. Some organisations who support more marginalised groups such as Travellers and persons with a disability try first to break down barriers before encouraging participation from their members in Comhairle na nÓg. Many of the linkages with the organisations mentioned above have also attempted to raise awareness of issues such as early school leaving, and have sought to encourage participation from more marginalised groups such as those with special needs or from minority ethnic backgrounds so that these young people would come to see the Comhairle na nÓg as a platform that they can use to raise their own particular issues.

### **3.7 Improving participation of young people aged 12-15 years**

Collectively, the 34 Comhairlí worked with 92 organisations during 2013 to improve participation of young people aged 12-15 years. 32 of these organisations were either schools or the staff/student councils of schools. A further 32 organisations are made up of youth organisations/groups, with Foróige being referenced 11 times. Other organisations engaged with during 2013 were Southside Travellers Action Group, Finglas Ethic Network, North Tipperary Integration Forum and Crosscare to name but a few. A number of Comhairlí also worked with the Scouts, Girl Guides and Youth Cafés to improve participation of this age group. The strategy employed is for members of Comhairle past and present to work with and support teachers and youth workers to share their experiences with Comhairlí in order to influence young people from this age cohort to become involved in the Comhairle structure. Through ongoing promotion of Comhairle within the schools, they are encouraged to nominate young people to attend the AGM and represent their peers at Comhairle events. Some Comhairlí employed a strategy to extend invitations to clubs, groups and schools within their area to encourage participation specifically from this age-group.

## 4. Consolidating & Influencing Comhairle na nÓg in Local Strategies, Structures & Organisations

### Key Figures

- A total of 122 organisations presented policies/strategies/plans to Comhairle na nÓg as a consultative forum during 2013..
- 139 decision makers were worked with during 2013, with 56% of Comhairlí making specific reference to the local City or County Council.
- 20 Comhairlí (59%) had no budget allocation under this heading.

#### 4.1 Organisations and policies/strategies/plans developed within the local authority area that were systematically presented to Comhairle na nÓg as a consultative forum during 2013

Comhairlí were asked to give information on any policies/strategies/plans that had been presented to them as a consultative forum during 2013. A total of 122 organisations presented policies/strategies/plans to Comhairlí na nÓg as a consultative forum during 2013. In 24 cases, the local County or Town Council was involved. Children's Services Committees and County Development Boards were listed by 9 and 6 Comhairlí, respectively. The following bodies/ organisations were mentioned by others: ETBs/VECs (3), the HSE (3) and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) (2). Other examples of organisations that Comhairlí worked with, that fall outside the above categories, are Glaxo Smith Kline, Galway Rape Crisis Centre, UCC and Queens University of Belfast, Waterford Task Group on Suicide and Lifeline Kilkenny. In terms of strategy employed, the Comhairle is recognised in the Children's Services Committee (CSC) plan as a consultative forum and members sit on a CSC subgroup on various issues such as Mental Health. Three Comhairlí said that Jigsaw (which has projects across Ireland to work with communities to better support young people's mental health and well-being) engaged with them in the development of its youth advisory plan. Many of the linkages mentioned provided an opportunity for Comhairle Na nÓg members and representatives to feed into consultative processes and take part in focus groups that deal with issues affecting young people today. It also allows for young people to feed into local strategies to tackle substance misuse, recreational policies, and youth needs analysis in the hope that it will promote and encourage youth participation to better local communities.

Comhairlí were asked to list the policies/strategies/plans developed within the local authority area by the organisation/s they consulted with to help influence local policies and structures. Those Comhairlí who

were consulted by their local County or Town Council had an input into the County Development Plan. For some this was just an opportunity to feed into the CDP while for other Comhairlí, focus on a particular section of the plan was sought through consultation with various sections with the local authority structure. For example, Sligo Comhairle na nÓg consulted on the 'Social Inclusion' strategy of the CDP while Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg were asked to consult with the Councils 'Forward Planning' section as part of the planning process for the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plans 2014 to 2020. In the case of Limerick Comhairle na nÓg, three meetings were held with representatives of the respective Community and Enterprise Sections of both authorities regarding the proposed amalgamation of the local authorities in Limerick. The Amalgamation of Limerick City and County Comhairlí was also discussed with a plan put in place for this to happen alongside the proposed merger of Limerick City & County Councils in June 2014. A number of Comhairlí were also consulted by their local Children's Services Committee with the sole aim of feeding into the CSC Annual Plan. In some cases, Comhairle was asked to look at how they could improve youth participation in the member services. Other examples of positive engagement was when the Galway Rape Crisis Centre consulted with the invited a panel of young people from the County Comhairle to provide a youth input through a specific focus group to comment on GRCC's existing promotional literature for its services, and to make recommendations on how to make them more appealing, comprehensible and relevant to young people. In another example, the Western Regional Drugs Taskforce consulted with Comhairlí in the region on an alcohol marketing project which is due to conclude during 2014. Young people take part in a project on the marketing of alcohol targeted at young people where they give feedback centrally. This project uses a phone app which is being piloted in a few countries in Europe to tackle the issue of alcohol abuse amongst young people. In other counties, Comhairle na nÓg and the local Joint Policing Committee also worked together on various strategies for example, the JPC in Roscommon included the Comhairle in its action plan regarding 'No Alcohol Buses' in Co. Roscommon.

#### **4.2 Positive outcomes that have resulted for the young people from working as a key consultative forum with other decision- makers at local level during 2013**

When asked to provide details of any positive outcomes that have resulted for young people arising from the Comhairle na nÓg working as a consultative forum, many of the Comhairlí have reported that there is now a greater understanding and clearer focus on the needs of young people from local communities. This in turn has resulted in a number of actions which have been developed to enable young people to become more involved in community activities and decision-making. Others expressed the view that Comhairlí have established strong links with both statutory and non-statutory organisations in their area. Some positive examples provided were encouraging young people to get involved in the forthcoming local elections to encourage greater participation of young people, raising awareness through the development of apps, campaigns, etc. to highlight issues facing young people today. Limerick Comhairle na nÓg influenced the decision of Limerick City Council to provide a Youth Space in the North Side of the City while North Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg undertook a project to work on Google maps in showing the youth



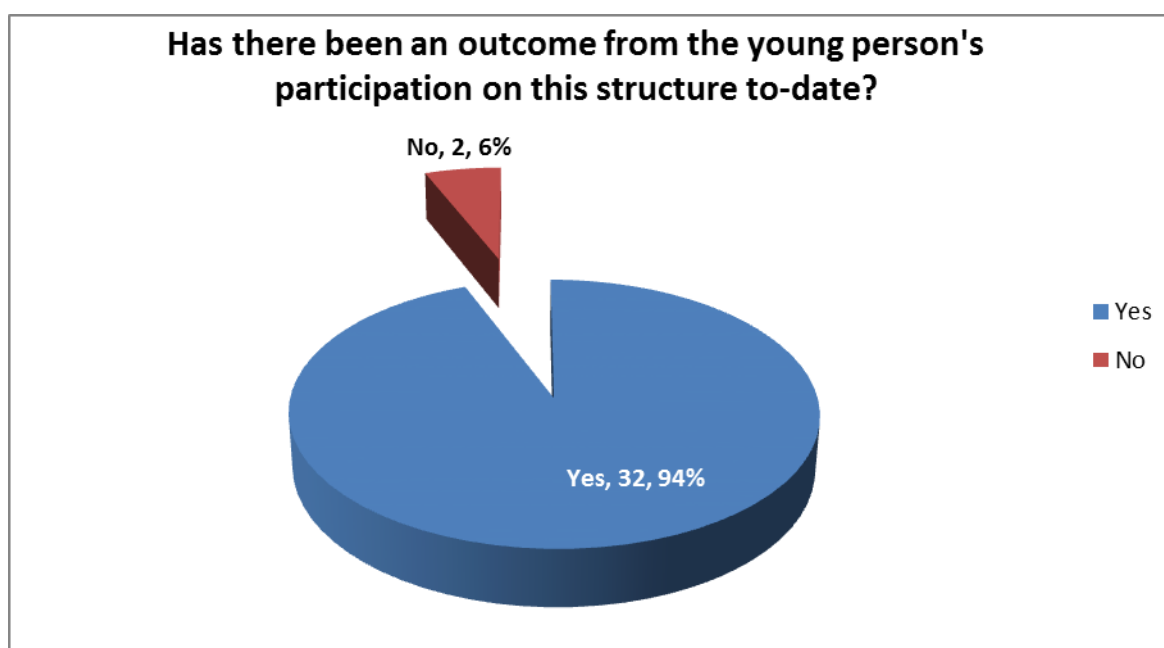
facilities in North Tipperary which will be linked to the area work plans of the Local Authority in terms of needs. Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg claim to have influenced a policy change on the local hospital A&E payment system on foot of its recommendations. The same Comhairle also helped to secure funding for a skateboard park in Mullingar Town (2013) following consultation with the Local Authority. A number of Comhairlí have led campaigns and projects to promote better youth mental health which is seen as a growing concern amongst young people today.

#### 4.3 Decision makers worked with during 2013

Comhairlí were asked to name the decision makers they worked with during 2013 and to detail how Comhairle na nÓg worked with these decision makers as a key consultative forum at local level. Comhairlí na nÓg worked with 139 different decision makers during 2013. Local Authorities again featured prominently; 56% of the Comhairlí (19) made specific reference to the local City or County Councils. Politicians (in the form of TDs, Local Councillors and local Mayors) were named by 13 of the Comhairlí. A total of 10 governmental bodies acted as decision makers with Comhairle na nÓg as a key consultative forum in 2013. These included the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, the HSE and the Department of Education and the ETBs/VEC. Through their work with the decision-makers, a two way communication channel with a certain degree of "youth proofing" was established with the aim to promote, highlight and remedy the issues facing young people. Members were invited to sit on boards, attend meetings and consult with agencies on items that affected young people.

#### 4.4 Outcome from young person's participation on this structure to-date

The vast majority of Comhairlí (32; 94%) reported that there had been an outcome from the young person's participation in the structure.



When asked to provide details of the kinds of outcomes that have resulted, Comhairlí provided a range of examples, some of them in terms of outcomes for the young people themselves, others in terms of evidence of influence on how decisions are made and on the nature of those decisions. The following summarises some of the key points made:

Many of the Comhairlí reported that the feedback from young people who were consulted with or canvassed by a number of organisations at local and national level was that they felt listened to, that they had made a positive contribution, that they had learned a lot about the decision makers who affect their lives and felt more confident in themselves to contribute this way in future. This was achieved by members of the Comhairlí being asked to sit on various committees and fora at both local and national level for example, policy committees of the Local Authority, forums on mental health, etc. It also heightened the profile and work of Comhairle among decision makers who now will consult Comhairle where previously this may not have happened. The participation of young people has allowed them to be part of the decision making process at local level, being respected as valued members of the community where their views and opinions are valued. In terms of tangible evidence of young people's needs being taken on board, examples included a number of events being held and the development of tools and resources (such as the making of DVDs and mobile phone apps) and facilities such as walks, play areas and youth cafes to help young people. A number of Comhairlí have been involved in mental health initiatives in which the Comhairle members have an ongoing working role as the youth reference panel. Continuous engagement with local structures and active participation of Comhairle members on committees aligned to the Actions that the group is working on has made the subject matter relevant to the Comhairle and kept Young People motivated to progress the issues.

#### **4.5 Improving / Influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg within local policies and structures**

Comhairlí were asked to detail the actions undertaken to improve and influence the status of Comhairle na nÓg within local policies, strategies and structures during 2013. The profile of the Comhairle has been enhanced in the main through engagement with local media (radio and newspapers) and through the use of Facebook campaigns. A number of Comhairlí have made presentations at Local Authority meetings and officially launched their work in 2013. Electing members of Comhairle to sit on various steering committees, community and statutory fora, consultation workshops, etc. has served as a vehicle for the work of Comhairle in that those who sit on these are multiplying the work of Comhairle and giving Comhairle the scope to have a positive influence on their own policies, strategies and structures. The following provides a summary of some actions undertaken across the 34 Comhairle.

- Linkages with Regional Drugs Task Force
- Elect Comhairle na nÓg representatives to sit on local Policing Committees.
- Presentations to Oireachtas Committee at National level and county councils at local level.
- Participation in Dáil na nÓg 2013
- The Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg written as a Strategic Objective (2.1 and 2.2) in the County Action Plan on Play and Recreation Policy 2012-2014
- Attend training with National Youth Council of Ireland to aid the workplan for 2013/2014.
- Members of Comhairle linked with Integration fora to create links for young from non-Irish backgrounds to get involved with Comhairle
- Comhairle na nÓg committee were active members across a number of Mental Health working group committees to promote Positive Mental Health Week.
- Research into, and production of, a Study Skills booklet based on the learning achieved by a youth-led process supported by researchers in NUI Galway to be used by young people in the county.

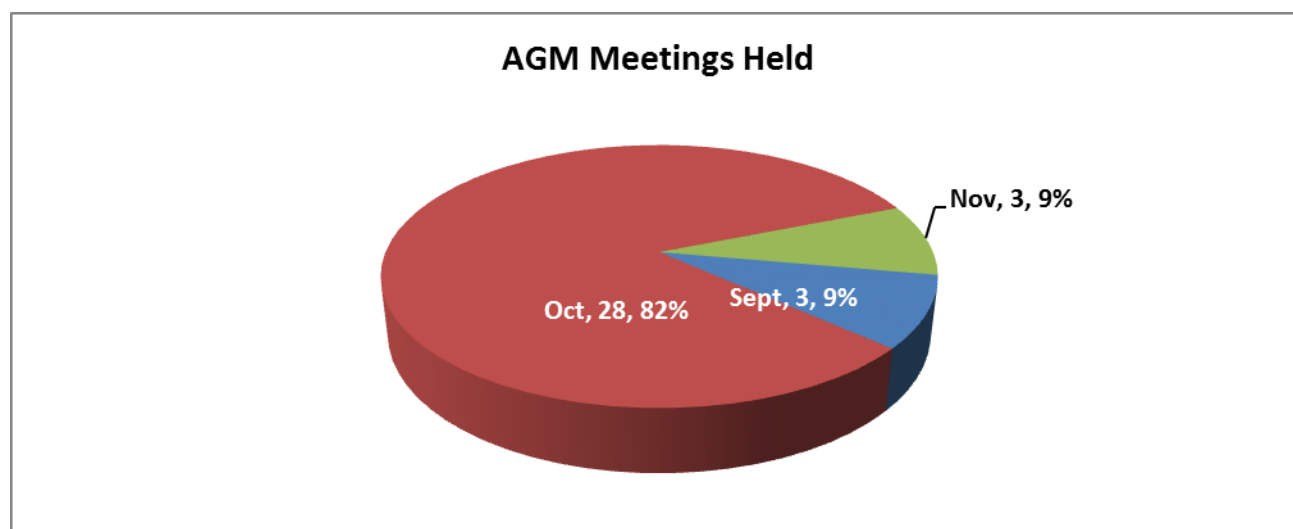
## 5. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

### Key Figures

- All 34 Comhairlí held an AGM during 2013.
- A total of 4,280 young people attended Comhairle na nÓg AGMs in 2013, an average of 126 per Comhairle.
- Nationally, a total of €80,798 was spent on the 2013 AGMs, representing 12.5% of overall spend.
- October is the most popular month to hold the AGM.

### 5.1 AGM

The vast majority (28; 82%) of AGMs were held in October 2013. A small number were held in each of September and November.



A total of 4,280 young people attended Comhairle na nÓg AGMs in 2013, an average of 126 per Comhairle.

**Table 7** Young People who attended the AGM

Total	4,280
Average	126

Max. (Donegal)	815
Min. (Galway County)	46

## 5.2 Election/Selection of young people to attend the AGM

Comhairlí were asked to describe the process undertaken to elect/select young people to attend the AGM. The most popular process undertaken to elect/select young people to attend the AGM was through schools. Almost all of the Comhairlí reported having made direct contact with all schools in their area and issued an invitation to the schools to send delegates. A standard Comhairle na nÓg letter is sent to principals of all the schools, informing them about Comhairle na nÓg and details of the AGM. Comhairlí varied somewhat in their approaches, with some asking schools and clubs to send a specific number of delegates to the AGM and others extending an open invitation. A variety of other advertising methods were employed, including posters and leaflets, again aimed largely at schools but also sent to youth clubs, sports clubs and libraries. There was some mention of use of social media such as Facebook but this featured only in a very small number of reports. Some Comhairle promoted a 'bring a friend policy' to encourage higher attendances. Particular emphasis was also placed on inclusion of delegates either from outside the mainstream education system and/or from groups and communities that might be more marginalised. Such engagement was made through organisations such as Barnardos, the Irish Wheelchair Association, Pavee Point ethnic and intercultural groups by inviting them to nominate or put forward participants. Eight Comhairlí made specific reference to such attempts to ensure inclusion of minority or disadvantaged groups.

Although no breakdown is available of the profile of the young people who attended the AGMs, the overall numbers attending (see above) suggest that the publicity was relatively successful in engaging young people and encouraging them to attend.

## 5.3 Election/Selection of young people to the Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairlí then described the process undertaken to elect/select young people to the Comhairle na nÓg. Comhairlí were asked to describe the process undertaken to elect/select young people to the Comhairle na nÓg. In a very small number of cases, 2013 was not an "election year" for their Comhairle so they did not provide information. A very small number of Comhairlí appear to operate a relatively informal process whereby young people simply "self-nominate"; this suggests that they can always accommodate the number of people expressing interest and do not have a competitive process. In a handful of cases, the selection process takes place outside of the Comhairle setting; the Comhairle defines for schools and youth clubs the numbers of members they can put forward and the schools/clubs themselves organise the selection process. In almost all other cases, the AGM was used as the vehicle for recruitment of new members. Most Comhairlí reported that an application form was provided to everyone attending the AGM.

The application form allowed those interested in Comhairle na nÓg to highlight their reasons for wanting to become members. As reported by one Comhairle, the advantage of this system is that delegates have to think about why they wish to become members. Those putting themselves forward were asked in some but not all Comhairlí to make a short presentation or “pitch” to the electors as to why they should be chosen. In some cases, an election (based on electoral areas to ensure representation across the county) took place at the AGM itself. More often, however, those expressing an interest were invited to attend a Comhairle meeting at a later date.

#### **5.4 Selection of AGM key topics**

For the most part, Comhairle na nÓg AGMs were structured around discussion of a small number of key topics for the year in question. Comhairlí were asked to describe the process for arriving at that list of topics for the 2013 AGM. There was considerable variation in the methods used to select the key topic(s) discussed at the AGM. In many cases, the Comhairle members themselves decided the topics at a pre-AGM meeting, either by bringing forward suggestions based on consultation with their peer groups or by brainstorming among Comhairle members themselves. Some Comhairlí chose to make use of their linkages with other organisations to agree the topics based on issues which are highlighted as requiring immediate action. Three Comhairlí did surveys in advance of their AGMs to get suggestions for topics (two of these were done on Facebook, the other through schools). In other cases, the agenda/topics were not decided until the day of the AGM itself. A small number of Comhairle used what they termed an “open space methodology” in which all the young people present were asked to write on sticky notes any topic(s) they considered important. All of them were then read and grouped into a number of overarching headings.

## 6. Addressing the Key Topic(s) Identified by Young People

### Key Figures

- Mental Health and Bullying were the most commonly addressed topics in 2013.
- Over half (56%) of all Comhairlí had not concluded their plan of work in 2013 with many reporting to work across a two-year cycle.

### 6.1 Topic(s) chosen by for progression in 2013

Comhairlí were asked to list up to five topics they had chosen to work on during 2013. By far the most frequently chosen topic was mental health; approximately half of the Comhairlí specifically mentioned this topic. Also featuring very prominently were issues of bullying (9 Comhairlí) and cyber-safety/bullying (6 Comhairlí). Other topics progressed in 2013 included health/sexual health among young people (8 Comhairlí), facilities for young people (6 Comhairlí) and drug/alcohol use and misuse (5 Comhairlí). Among the variety of topics covered by smaller numbers of Comhairlí were youth enterprise, community safety and policing, educational issues, peer pressure and body image. A handful of Comhairlí listed among their topics ones that made specific reference to minority groups (one was a Traveller horse project, the other related to inclusion of LGBT persons, persons with a disability and young people from ethnic minorities).

### 6.2 Actions to influence change in relation to the identified topic(s)

A number of different approaches were adopted across the 34 Comhairlí in 2013 to influence change in relation to the topics identified above. Some very interesting examples were given and the following are some examples of actions undertaken to influence change related to these topics.

**Table 8 Examples of actions undertaken to influence change related to the identified topics**

County	Action	Name of Action	Brief Description
Cork	Seminar	'Missing Link'	On 17 April, 2013, we hosted our big event in Cork City Hall. 50 people attended. We had keynote presentations from Dr. Sharon Lambert of Matt Talbot Adolescent Services and Sarah Simkin from Jigsaw Galway. They both spoke about the importance of cross-sector approaches to dealing with the problems of Mental Health and Drugs in the lives of young people.
Donegal	Roadshow	SPARKS	The SPARKS roadshow, which took place in 5 different locations and worked with over 800 young people, was developed following extensive research and consultation with their peers, and aimed to offer information and advice on how to manage stress in your life during exam times and other difficult situations and how to be more aware of what supports you have around you and how you can be a support to others.
Dublin City	Production of a DVD	'Dare to Talk'	Comhairle members made a DVD called "Dare to Talk" which will be a resource for young people, schools, youth services and community groups to support young people in maintaining good mental health. The DVD comprises of 5 different clips which highlight the importance of communication and one good adult.
Dublin South	Developed an App	MindMindR App	Promote positive mental health by developing an app for young people on services and supports that address this issue.
Kildare	Campaign	Give 5 Mins	A campaign to raise awareness and improve positive mental health which was rolled out to all schools in the area.



County	Action	Name of Action	Brief Description
Laois	Survey/Campaign	IMIND – Stay Connected	Year 1 of a 2yr project was aimed at developing awareness around the concept of “IMIND – Stay Connected” and minding your mental health and staying connected to friends, family and your local community, but most importantly with yourself. A survey carried out that will inform a toolkit to be devised in addition to a campaign that will be rolled out with wristbands, social media outlets, etc.
Louth	Programme for Inclusion	‘Challenge for Inclusion Programme’	Comhairle encouraged schools and youth organisations to join in the challenge for inclusion. to focus attention on the inclusion of Young people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, Young People with Disabilities and Young People from Ethnic Minorities. We wanted to shout out loud that schools and youth organisations in our county are welcoming and supportive to all young people by signing a charter for inclusion and displaying the inclusion flag outside or in a prominent place in the school.
Monaghan	Leaflet/Poster Campaign	‘Don’t worry be Happy’	They designed, printed and produced 10,000 leaflets and 500 posters. The leaflets contained information on support services available both locally and regionally for those needed advice on support for their Mental Health. The wallet sized leaflets were entitled "Don't Worry Be Happy" and were colour coded in a traffic light system, offering different support services depending on the severity of their issue or concern.

County	Action	Name of Action	Brief Description
Waterford	Radio Cyber Day	Cyber Day	County Wide Cyber Day - Comhairle members went into every school in County Waterford on 3rd of October and educated over 4,350 students on Cyber Bullying and implemented the Cyber Code. Presentation to TD's and Senators in Dáil Éireann attended by DCYA. Outside Broadcast held in August with WLR FM (Waterford's Number 1 Radio Station) Beat 102 103 Beat fleet on Cyber Day

### 6.3 Changes achieved in relation to the identified topic(s)

Comhairlí were asked to identify what, if any, changes had been achieved in relation to the topics on which they had worked. In some cases, the information provided was quite general and did not point to specific achievements/gains (e.g. “linking with existing structures with a focus on mental health”, “informed key decision makers”). For many others, however, they were clearly able to demonstrate tangible outputs from their work on particular issues, for example in the form of DVDs, apps and YouTube videos created to highlight issues and communicate messages to young people.

A key achievement cited by many of the Comhairlí was in relation to awareness raising on their chosen topics – as mentioned above, these were most often around issues of mental health and bullying/cyberbullying. Such awareness raising is clearly important but is not always easily quantified. There were some strong examples where Comhairlí were able to make statements such as “4,350 young people were educated in relation to cyber-bullying” and “over 800 young people have a better understanding of mental health” following their activities. Others were able to state that their work and research carried out through some of the campaigns has led to a revision of anti-bullying and cyber-bullying policies in many schools and youth organisations. This is the result of greater understanding of the topics highlighted not just for young people but also for parents and teachers. The actions have also resulted in more information being readily available on issues such as bullying, sexual health, and mental health amongst young people and also on the services and organisations that deal with these issues. It has also allowed counties across Ireland to become better informed about local youth services and facilities and issues. Table 9 below gives a small number of examples of the changes described by the Comhairlí.

The question of being better able to quantify the results of their work and the numbers of people availing/benefitting from it is one that should be further developed among Comhairlí and future reporting templates should also seek to better capture this. The table below shows some examples where topics addressed by some Comhairlí resulted in positive change as a result of actions undertaken.

**Table 9**      **Changes Achieved in Relation to Identified Topic(s)**

Name of Comhairle	Topic	Change Achieved
Carlow	Bullying in Schools in Carlow	Designed a survey on bullying following extensive research. Visited all schools in Carlow and raised awareness on the issue to encourage young people to partake in the online survey. Findings presented to the AGM of the Carlow Children's' Services Committee (CSC). Recommendations will be presented to the Co Carlow Principals Network Forum in 2014 to address the issue of bullying.
Cork County	Young Peoples Voices in Local Reform	Field research is currently being undertaken. As part of our AGM the theme was the CORK/World we want which explored youth issues in Cork and provided valuable feedback to be developed into a youth election manifesto for the European/Local Elections. Public Representatives have invited the youth council to Dáil Éireann to discuss county youth issues.
Laois	Mental Health and Young People	Heightened awareness in schools and among student councils and youth leaders in Laois that a toolkit will be available to them in the near future, for delivery to students. A presentation made by members of Laois Comhairle as part of a talk given by Mr. John Lonergan, Youth Justice Advocate, as part of "Laois CONNECTS" Mental Health Awareness Week in October 2013. The project also received a nomination by Cllr. Pdraig Fleming of Laois Comhairle for a Local Authority Members Award 2013 for their work on the "IMIND" Youth Mental concept and conference in the previous year. This nomination was shortlisted and a certificate of nomination received at the LAMA Awards in January 2013.

Limerick County	Sexual Health	Wristband Campaign on 'Sex Matters'. Members now feel more comfortable talking about sexual health with peers and teachers. The wristband campaign got their peers talking about the importance of positive sexual health and adequate sexuality education. This resulted in the SPHE/RSE regional manager is now aware that the material covered in the curriculum is not comprehensive enough to fulfil the educational needs of young people today. Teachers of SPHE/RSE are now aware of the importance of the relationships and sexuality section of the SPHE curriculum and now realise that they need to begin teaching the subject at an earlier age.
Westmeath	Cyberbullying	Young people created a DVD to highlight the effects of cyberbullying and how young people can address this issue themselves and where to seek help. Young people created a Positive Mental Health information template which can be used as a poster as an accompaniment to the DVD.

#### 6.4 Particular aspect of the topic(s) the Comhairle na nÓg progressed in 2013

A number of examples were provided on how a particular aspect of the topics progressed by the Comhairle in 2013 were listed. In some examples, it led to a multitude of new resources around mental health made by young people for young people which are now available in schools and youth clubs around the country. It also resulted in a number of exchanges between groups of young people from different areas/backgrounds as well as information exchange across organisations that deal with the topics identified. One Comhairle reported that it reduced stereotypes and helped increase diversity in its county. Others felt that it improved media relations in highlighting local issues amongst young people as well as allowing them inform decisions and solutions to the issues that effect young people in their area.

#### 6.5 Decision-making structures the Comhairle na nÓg worked with during 2013 to influence change on the identified topic(s)

Comhairlí worked with a wide and varied number of organisations and structures during 2013 to influence change on the topics identified. Statutory structures such as schools, Education and Training Boards (ETBs), the HSE, an Garda Síochána as well as City and County Councils were all involved either individually or as part of a collective in addressing the key topics identified. Each Comhairle worked with at least three organisations with the HSE, ETBs and City and County Councils being the most common. Organisations which sit outside the statutory structure but have a national remit to work with young people such as Foróige, and Youth Work Ireland were engaged with by almost all of the 34 Comhairle on one or more issues. Not surprisingly, given that 'Mental Health' was the topic most identified in 2013 across all

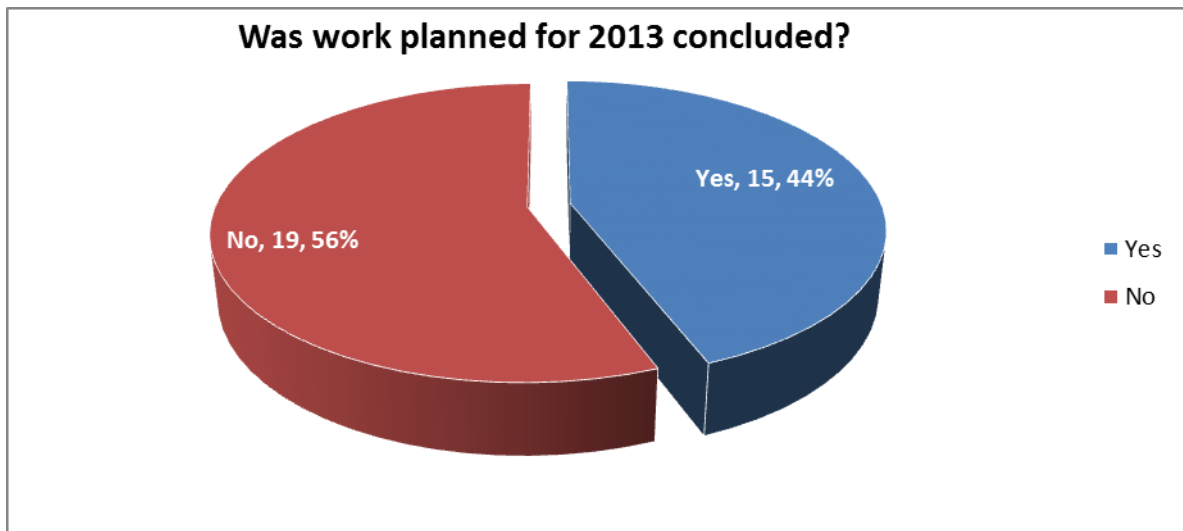
Comhairlí – organisations known for their work in this area e.g. Headstrong, Pieta House and Mental Health Ireland were also consulted regularly to influence change in relation to positive mental health. The table below shows the most common organisations and structures the Comhairle na nÓg worked with during 2103 to influence change across a range of topic(s).

**Table 10 Organisations and Structures worked with during 2013 to Influence Change**

Organisation	No. of Comhairlí who worked with them
City /County Council	20
Schools	16
Youth Services	13
Education & Training Board	11
HSE	10
Councillors, Senators, TD, Minister and MEPs.	9
Children's Services Committee	8
Headstrong	7
Foróige	6
Gardaí	5
County Development Board	4
Mental Health Ireland	4

## 6.6 2013 Workplan - Conclusion

Over half (56%) of all Comhairlí reported that by the end of 2013, they had not concluded the plan of work they had set out for the year. It is noted however, Comhairlí implement a two-year workplan cycle and on closer examination, it emerges that some of the pieces of work are not concluded because of where they are in the workplan cycle.



#### **6.7 Topic(s) to be brought forward to next year (2014)**

Most of those who had not completed their work on a particular topic cited time pressures as the main reason. In some cases, final stages of a piece of work such as finalisation of a dvd or dissemination/communication of the outputs of a project were being carried over into early 2014 but most of the work had been completed. In a very small number of cases, Comhairlí responded that their original plans had been too ambitious and that they had not been realistic in what they had set out to deliver. For the most part, however, any delays were due either to the complexity and/or sensitivity of the issues they were working on and the need to “get it right” in relation to their messages and resources on mental health, sexual health and bullying, for example. Some pieces of work involved the conduct of research or the hosting of events that yielded findings and recommendations. The follow on work as regards analysis of the feedback/findings and dissemination of the findings was yet to be completed in some of these projects by the end of 2014. As mentioned above, many of those who said they had not completed particular projects said that this was because the project was an ongoing one or part of a longer (e.g. 2 year) project that wasn’t due to be completed until a later date. Others have planned to present their work in 2014 as part of an upcoming local event such as the local elections, etc.

## 7. Raising Awareness and Promotion of Comhairle na nÓg

### Key Findings

- Media campaigns and social media were the preferred methods of choice used by the majority to raise the profile of Comhairle.

#### 7.1 Raising the profile of Comhairle na nÓg

All Comhairlí provided some details of the actions they had undertaken during 2013 towards raising the profile of the Comhairle. In some cases, little detail was provided beyond, for example, stating that there had been a number of press releases or articles in local press. Most Comhairlí, however, provided more detailed information on their actions taken to promote awareness of the work of Comhairle na nÓg and the topics they focus on such as mental health, bullying, etc. This was done through media campaigns, social media, production of promotional literature such as DVDs and leaflets as well as annual newsletters, e-zines and website updates. Mainstream media through radio, newspaper and press releases were also used as effective ways of raising the profile of Comhairle na nÓg in 2013. Feature pieces were also included in the county annual reports as well as leaflets issued to all schools and youth organisations in the county to promote and highlight the work of Comhairle na nÓg amongst young people. Many of the Comhairlí work with the Children's Services Committee in their area which has allowed them to include their work in the CSC Annual Plan. Branding (e.g. logos) featured in a number of Comhairle reports; some of them used distribution of promotional goods such as hoodies, t-shirts, wristbands, etc. to raise awareness of their existence and to attract young people. With many events being organised throughout the year to launch a project or present findings on an issue, many have used this as an opportunity to attract high profile people which can result in better media coverage of an event/launch. Information and invitations are regularly sent to schools in the area asking them to highlight the work of the Comhairle na nÓg and encourage active participation amongst young people. Many members of Comhairle na nÓg also sit on statutory committees as well as community and voluntary committees which presents opportunities to promote the work of Comhairle and build better linkages for the future.

## 8. Staffing

### Key Figures

- Over half of the total expenditure (55.5%) on Comhairle in 2013 was spent on 'staff' costs
- A total of 2 Comhairlí reported no staff costs in 2013

#### 8.1 Roles/Responsibilities of staff members.

Where an allocation of funding was put towards staff costs, Comhairlí were asked to provide the title/position of staff member(s) and main areas of responsibility related to the work of the Comhairle na nÓg in 2013. 30 of the Comhairlí provided details of staff positions with areas of responsibility. Fingal and Cavan allocated funding from the staffing budget towards facilitation costs to support the actions of the Comhairle. Dublin City and Laois both showed no allocation of funding or details of staff due perhaps to each local authority contributing their own resources to the work of the Comhairle.

The most common staff position is that of a Co-ordinator with 18 Comhairlí having one in place. The remaining staff positions comprise of development staff, liaison staff, youth workers and facilitation staff. One Comhairle had a staff member from the Community Employment (CE) scheme. It must be noted that not all staff are directly employed instead through a tendering process are contracted. Respondents were asked to provide detail on the main area of responsibility of each position, the majority listed co-ordination of Comhairle meetings and administration associated with the work of Comhairle as the main tasks. A large amount of staff time is spent on planning for Comhairle meetings as well as facilitation and follow-up with members and stakeholders. Some positions have responsibility for building relationships through networking and attendance at local and regional events. Another aspect of the roles of staff employed to promote the work of Comhairle is to encourage participation of young people at local and national level. Some roles involve liaising with local services that work with young people, and identify issues and topics that Comhairle needs to address.

**Table 11 Breakdown of Staff Titles**

Staff Titles/Positions 2013 (All)			
Co-ordinator	18	Youth Officer	1
Development Officer	3	Youth Worker	1
Liaison	3	Youth Work Assistant	1
Volunteers	3	Intern	1
Manager	1	CE Staff	1
Youth Worker Manager	1	Support Worker	1
Youth Service	1	Ground Staff	1
Comhairle Worker	1	Facilitator	1





## 9. Administration Support

### Key Figures

- Two thirds of Comhairlí (65%: 22) received a budget allocation towards administration support in 2013. (12 received no funding towards administrative support.)
- 3.4% (€22,151) of total expenditure in 2013 went towards administration support

### 9.1 Administration expenditure

A breakdown of the types of items covered under the Administration heading shows that many Comhairlí incurred costs associated with printing/photocopying (11) and postage (10) Telephone costs, financial fees (accountancy/audit) and stationery and materials also featured on the list of administrative costs.

**Table 12 Breakdown of Administration Support Costs**

Item of Administration	No. of Comhairlí
Printing/ Photocopying	11
Postage	10
Telephone costs	7
Financial Management/ Accountancy/ Audit fees	6
Stationery / Materials	6
Insurance	3
Administration	2
Staff Support	1
Travel	2
Typing	1
Rent	1
Equipment	1
Management Fee	1
Operational Support	1
Hardware/ Software Repairs	1
Overheads	1

## 10. 2013 Income and Expenditure Report (January to December 2013)

### Key Figures

- Total reported expenditure across the 34 Comhairlí was €646,455, 5% lower than the overall allocated budget.
- Staffing accounts for the highest portion overall of the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2013 (55.5%).
- The Comhairlí spent a total of €80,798 (an average of €2,346) on their AGMs.

The 2013 Income & Expenditure section of the report first requested each Comhairle under 'Income' to insert the amount of funding carried forward from the previous annual funding period (2012) and second to insert the 2013 net-funding approval amount. 32 of the Comhairlí were approved the standard annual funding amount of €20,000. Two Comhairlí (Carlow and Waterford City) were approved slightly under based on the amount of funding sought for (€19,980 and €19,400 respectively). Under 'Expenditure' each Comhairlí were asked within each of the eight action areas to insert the 'original amount allocated', this figure is what the Comhairle 'projected' to spend for the action in 2013, then to insert the 'actual amount spent'. The variance between the 'original amount allocated' i.e. projected to spend and the 'actual amount spent' shows where funding allocations were either under or over spent. Each Comhairle is required to seek approval prior to transferring funding between action areas. Analysis across each action areas will be provided in detail below.

Some action areas, most notably "Enhancing and managing the Steering committee" deviated more than others from the allocated budget (actual spend was 31.5% lower than anticipated). At a glance one can see that "Staffing" accounted for the largest portion of overall expenditure (55.5%) Comhairle Development Fund 2013. The area that received the lowest portion of overall budget allocation was "Consolidating and influencing the status of the Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations" with less than one per cent (0.8%). The following provides a brief summary on the income and expenditure of the eight action areas.

### 10.1 Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee

The first, and one of the smallest, of the expenditure headings relates to activities aimed at "enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee". Overall, 0.8% of overall spend by Comhairlí

during 2013 fell under this heading. Fewer than half of the Comhairlí (16) reported having spent under this heading but amounts were small (an average of €317.09 per Comhairle).

### **10..2 Comhairle na nÓg**

€75,959 was spent in 2013 under the heading “Comhairle na nÓg”, very much in line with the budget originally allocated to it (spend was 1% lower than anticipated). 32 of the Comhairlí reported spend, an average of €2,373.72 per Comhairle. Details on spend provided showed that travel and transport costs, refreshments/food and meeting costs such as room hire, etc. made up the bulk of spend in this area. Nine of the Comhairlí reported having spent more than originally intended on this particular area, most notably Wexford and Tipperary North, although it should be noted that amounts are relatively small.

### **10.3 Consolidating and Influencing the status of the Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations.**

This heading accounted for only 0.6% of overall expenditure among Comhairlí na nOg in 2013. Average spend (among the only 11 Comhairlí reporting spend) was €363. Much of the work under this overall heading, as detailed earlier in this report, related to engagement with local authorities and other agencies (attending meetings, making presentations, and so on) and is therefore likely to have been encompassed within the cost of staffing rather than incurring significant costs in its own right. Expenditure was 29% lower than had been anticipated in the budget allocations, perhaps contributed to by the fact that 3 Comhairlí budgeted for expenditure but did not in the end incur any costs under this heading.

### **10.4 Annual General Meeting**

The AGM, as mentioned above, is a key event (and therefore cost) for the Comhairlí na nOg. After staffing costs, it was the single biggest area of expenditure in 2013 and represented 12.5% of all money spent during the year. Every Comhairle reported expenditure on its AGM, with total spend of €80,798 and an average spend of €2,376 per Comhairle.

### **10.5 Addressing the key topic(s) identified by young people**

12% (€79,722) of the money spent by Comhairlí na nÓg in 2013 went towards “Addressing the key topic(s) identified by young people”. Obviously all of the expenditure (staffing, administration, etc.) has this as its ultimate aim; this heading focusses on specific activities associated with the topics. After staffing, this heading along with the AGM are the main cost areas across the Comhairlí nationally. With a total of 30 Comhairlí receiving an allocation under this heading, only 29 reported expenditure, an average of €2,345 per Comhairle. A total of 5 Comhairlí reported an overspend (relative to their original allocation) in this area, with Louth reporting expenditure of over six times its budget allocation of €500, reporting €3,251 instead.. Eleven Comhairlí reported an underspend relative to their original allocations in this area with Mayo and Laois showing the highest levels, with 64% and 59 respectively.

## **10.6 Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg**

A total of €19,701 was spent on actions aimed at raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg during 2013 (representing 3% of the total spent across Comhairlí). Only 25 out of the 34 Comhairlí registered spend under this heading; the amounts ranged from €20 (Cork City) to over €2,000 (Cork County, Dublin Fingal, Galway City and Monaghan), with an average of €788 per Comhairle.

## **10.7 Staffing**

As highlighted above, staffing represents the single largest cost area for Comhairle na nÓg. A total of €359,053 was spent on staffing costs in 2013 (slightly less than the €364,161 that had been allocated). 32 of the 34 Comhairlí recorded a spend on staffing in 2013 (Dublin City and Laois having no budget allocated under this heading) and the average spend under this heading was €11,220. Most (19) of the Comhairlí reported that their spend was in line with expectations. Six spent more than anticipated (the greatest variance was in Clare where the staffing costs were 32% higher than had been originally allocated) and 7 Comhairlí spent less than they had allocated to staffing (in the case of Cork County, 40% less than anticipated).

## **10.8 Administration Support**

A total of €22,151 was spent on administrative costs by Comhairlí during 2013 (somewhat less than the €26,277 they had originally allocated to that heading). Administration therefore accounted for 3.4% of overall national spend and accounts for (3.3%) of overall budget allocation of the Comhairle na nÓg Fund 2013. A total of (21) Comhairlí reported a budget allocation under this heading with (19) reporting spend. Average expenditure reported for this action area was €1,165..83 For the Comhairlí that did not report administration spend, it is assumed the costs have been met by a contribution by the Local Authority.

**Table 13**      **Projected Allocations Vs Actual Spend Summary**

	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Average Amount Spent	% of Total Expenditure
Enhancing and Managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee (20/16/17 Comhairlġ)	€7,410.56	€5,073.38	31.54%	€317.09	0.78%
Comhairle na nÓg (32 Comhairlġ)	€76,845.00	€75,959.16	1.15%	€2,373.72	11.75%
Consolidating and influencing the status of Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures and organisations (14/11/10 Comhairlġ)	€5,595.65	€3,997.39	28.56%	€363.40	0.62%
Annual General Meeting (34/34/33 Comhairlġ)	€83,277.71	€80,798.19	2.98%	€2,376.42	12.50%
Addressing the key topic(s) identified by young people (30/29/27 Comhairlġ)	€93,704.30	€79,722.14	14.92%	€2,749.04	12.33%
Raising Awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg (25/25/24 Comhairlġ)	€23,870.00	€19,701.03	17.47%	€788.04	3.05%
Staffing (32/32/26 Comhairlġ)	€364,161.00	€359,053.42	1.40%	€11,220.42	55.54%
Administration Support (21/19/19 Comhairlġ)	€26,276.95	€22,150.77	15.70%	€1,165.83	3.43%
Gross Total Expenditure	€681,141.17	€646,455.48	5.09%	€19,013.40	100%

Table 14 Projected Allocations Vs Actual Spend by County Breakdown (1-4 Action-headings)

	1. Enhancing and managing the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee			2. Comhairle na nÓg			3. Consolidating & Influencing the status of the Comhairle na nÓg in local strategies, structures & orgs.			4. Annual General Meeting		
County	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference
Carlow	€200.00	€200.00	0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	0%
Cavan	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€1,800.00	€1,800.00	0%			0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Clare	€900.00	€32.98	96.34%	€2,000.00	€1,793.83	10.31%	€400.00	€219.40	45.15%	€2,140.00	€1,703.63	20.39%
Cork City	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,825.00	€1,932.00	31.61%	€400.00	€0.00	100%	€2,300.00	€1,899.00	17.43%
Cork County	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€1,949.26	2.54%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€2,866.00	4.47%
Donegal	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Dublin City	€0.00		0%	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0%	€0.00		0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Dublin Fingal	€700.00	€700.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	0%
Dublin South	€300.00	€300.00	0%	€1,200.00	€1,200.00	0%			0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€400.00	€400.00	0%	€2,600.00	€2,600.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,100.00	-3.33%
Galway City	€275.00	€0.00	100%	€1,900.00	€1,900.00	0%	€700.00	€700.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Galway County	€500.00	€450.00	10%	€2,870.00	€2,947.43	-2.70%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€2,275.00	€2,278.61	-0.16%
Kerry	€100.00	€100.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00		€100.00	€100.00	0%	€3,000.00	€2,995.61	0.15%
Kildare	€400.00	€400.00	0%	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	0%			0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0%
Kilkenny	€300.00	€0.00	100%	€2,450.00	€2,542.20	-3.76%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€1,200.00	€1,368.30	-14.03%
Laois	€400.00	€77.25	80.69%	€4,550.00	€3,942.97	13.34%	€500.00	€120.51	75.9%	€3,000.00	€2,956.00	1.47%
Leitrim	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€5,500.00	€2,516.70	54.24%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€2,540.00	15.33%

Limerick City	€150.00	€0.00	100%	€1,200.00	€1,237.49	-3.12%	€100.00	€100.00	0%	€1,900.00	€1,900.00	0%
Limerick County	€150.00	€150.00	0%	€1,200.00	€1,200.00	0%	€100.00	€0.00	100%	€1,900.00	€1,900.00	0%
Longford	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€1,732.00	13.40%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,045.00	-2.25%
Louth	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€1,500.00	€350.00	76.67%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€1,896.70	36.78%
Mayo	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,983.00	-49.15%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,600.00	-30%
Meath	€200.00	€200.00	0%	€800.00	€800.00	0%	€0.00		0%	€1,700.00	€1,700.00	0%
Monaghan	€0.00		0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%	€0.00		0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Offaly	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€1,787.46	10.63%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€2,928.50	2.38%
Roscommon	€35.56	€35.56	0%	€4,200.00	€4,200.00	0%	€45.65	€45.65	0%	€1,862.71	€1,862.71	0%
Sligo	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€100.00	€113.31	-13.31%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€1,657.15	17.14%
Tipperary North	€1,000.00	€827.59	17.24%	€2,400.00	€3,797.75	-58.24%	€750.00	€711.83	5.09%	€3,000.00	€3,208.24	-6.94%
Tipperary South	€600.00	€600.00	0%	€4,700.00	€4,700.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Waterford City	€200.00	€0.00	100%	€2,000.00	€2,351.82	-17.59%	€500.00	€0.00	100%	€2,000.00	€2,290.93	-14.55%
Waterford County	€100.00	€100.00	0%	€1,900.00	€1,900.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0%
Westmeath			0%				€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0%
Wexford	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,150.00	€5,546.69	-76.09%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€3,000.00	€2,237.06	25.43%
Wicklow	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€1,500.00	€1,635.25	-9.02%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€2,500.00	€2,364.75	5.41%
Total	€7,410.56	€5,073.38	31.54%	€76,845.00	€75,959.16	1.15%	€5,595.65	€3,997.39	28.56	€83,277.71	€80,798.19	2.98%
Average Amounts	€370.53	€317.08	17.77%	€2,328.64	€2,373.72	-0.63%	€399.69	€363.40	12.53%	€2,449.34	€2,376.42	13.31%



Table 15 Projected Allocations Vs Actual Spend by County Breakdown (5-8 Action-headings)

	5. Addressing the key topic(s) identified by young people			6. Raising awareness and promotion of Comhairle na nÓg			7. Staffing			8. Administration Support		
County	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference	Original Amount Allocated	Actual Amount Spent	% Difference
Carlow	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€300.00	€300.00	0%	€14,980.00	€14,980.00	0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0%
Cavan	€1,700.00	€1,700.00	0%	€1,400.00	€1,400.00	0%	€11,600.00	€11,600.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Clare	€3,000.00	€2,719.78	9.34%	€1,200.00	€781.85	34.85%	€8,000.00	€10,574.30	-32.18%	€2,360.00	€0.00	100%
Cork City	€1,300.00	€1,530.00	-17.69%	€300.00	€20.00	93.33%	€14,000.00	€14,619.00	-4.42%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Cork County	€3,000.00	€2,358.00	21.40%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0%	€10,000.00	€6,000.00	40.00%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Donegal	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Dublin City	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0%
Dublin Fingal	€5,000.00	€3,500.00	30%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0%	€6,300.00	€5,000.00	20.63%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Dublin South	€600.00	€600.00	0.00%	€900.00		0%	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	0%	€700.00	€700.00	0%	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	0%	€300.00	€300.00	0%
Galway City	€1,900.00	€1,900.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,001.35	-0.07%	€9,725.00	€9,725.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%
Galway County	€1,000.00	€966.83	3.32%	€500.00	€519.00	-3.80%	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	0%	€355.00	€355.15	-0.04%
Kerry	€900.00	€905.80	-0.64%	€400.00	€400.00	0%	€14,700.00	€14,700.00	0%	€800.00	€798.59	0.18%
Kildare	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€10,000.00	€10,000.00	0%	€600.00	€600.00	0%
Kilkenny	€3,300.00	€2,917.50	11.59%	€250.00	€250.00	0%	€12,500.00	€12,689.71	-1.52%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Laois	€9,800.00	€4,054.25	58.63%	€1,250.00	€601.77	51.86%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€500.00	€414.78	17.04%
Leitrim	€1,000.00	€440.00	56.00%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€8,500.00	€6,680.34	21.41%	€2,000.00	€620.36	68.98%
Limerick City	€2,047.00	€2,048.48	-0.07%	€650.00	€641.98	1.23%	€13,603.00	€13,722.05	-0.88%	€350.00	€350.00	0%
Limerick County	€2,047.00	€2,260.90	-10.45%	€650.00	€435.38	33.02%	€13,603.00	€13,689.74	-0.64%	€350.00	€363.98	-3.99%

Longford	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€15,000.00	€14,511.00	3.26%	€1,000.00	€1,719.00	-71.90%
Louth	€500.00	€3,251.02	-550.2%			0%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Mayo	€3,700.00	€1,343.24	63.70%	€1,000.00	€803.24	19.68%	€11,000.00	€10,000.00	9.09%	€300.00	€0.00	100%
Meath	€2,300.00	€2,300.00	0%	€0.00		0%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0%	€0.00		0%
Monaghan	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%	€2,000.00	€2,000.00	0%	€9,000.00	€9,000.00	0%	€0.00		0%
Offaly	€0.00	€0.00	0%			0%	€15,000.00	€15,284.04	-1.89%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Roscommon	€1,319.13	€1,319.13	0%	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	0%	€10,000.00	€10,000.00	0%	€1,536.95	€1,537.91	-0.06%
Sligo	€100.00	€95.90	4.10%	€100.00	€128.00	-28.00%	€15,000.00	€15,000.00	0%	€2,700.00	€2,716.00	-0.59%
Tipperary North	€5,341.17	€3,053.88	42.82%	€1,770.00	€394.37	77.72%	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	0%	€1,375.00	€1,375.00	0%
Tipperary South	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	0%	€700.00	€700.00	0%	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%
Waterford City	€3,250.00	€0.00	100%	€1,200.00	€250.00	79.17%	€8,000.00	€7,992.00	0.10%	€2,250.00	€2,250.00	0%
Waterford County	€3,500.00	€3,500.00	0%	€500.00	€500.00	0%	€9,000.00	€9,000.00	0%	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	0%
Westmeath	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€13,000.00	€13,000.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Wexford	€3,250.00	€3,107.43	4.39%	€600.00	€474.09	20.99%	€7,000.00	€6,636.24	5.2%	€3,000.00	€2,250.00	25%
Wicklow	€1,350.00	€1,350.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%	€14,650.00	€14,650.00	0%	€0.00	€0.00	0%
Total	€93,704.30	€79,722.14	14.92%	€23,870.00	€19,701.03	17.47%	€364,161.00	€359,053.42	1.40%	€26,276.95	€22,150.77	15.70%
Average Amounts	€3,123.48	€2,749.04	-5.11%	954.80	€788.04	11.18%	€11,380.03	€11,220.42	1.71%	€1,251.28	€1,165.83	6.9%

Table 16

## Income and Expenditure 2013 by County

County	Total Income	Total Allocation	Total Spend	Amount Difference	% Difference	% Total Expenditure
Carlow	€19,980.00	€19,980.00	€19,980.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Cavan	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Clare	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€17,825.77	€2,174.23	10.87%	2.76%
Cork City*	€20,000.00	€21,125.00	€20,000.00	€1,125.00	5.33%	3.09%
Cork Co.	€19,510.00	€20,000.00	€15,173.26	€4,826.74	24.13%	2.35%
Donegal	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Dublin City	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Dublin Fingal	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€17,200.00	€2,800.00	14.00%	2.66%
Dublin South	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,100.00	-€100.00	-0.50%	3.11%
Galway City	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€19,726.35	€273.65	1.37%	3.05%
Galway County	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,017.02	-€17.02	-0.09%	3.1%
Kerry	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Kildare	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Kilkenny	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€19,767.71	€232.29	1.16%	3.06%
Laois	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€12,167.53	€7,832.47	39.16%	1.88%
Leitrim	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€12,797.40	€7,202.60	36.01%	1.98%
Limerick City	€20,000.88	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Limerick County	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Longford	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,007.00	-€7.00	-0.04%	3.09%
Louth	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,497.72	-€497.72	-2.49%	3.17%
Mayo	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€17,729.48	€2,270.52	11.35%	2.74%
Meath	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Monaghan	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Offaly	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Roscommon	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.96	-€0.96	0%	3.09%
Sligo	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€19,710.36	€289.64	1.45%	3.05%
Tipperary North*	€20,000.00	€20,636.17	€18,368.66	€2,267.51	10.99%	2.84%
Tipperary South	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Waterford City	€19,400.00	€19,400.00	€15,134.75	€4,265.25	21.99%	2.34%
Waterford County	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Westmeath	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
Wexford	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,251.51	-€251.51	-1.26%	3.13%
Wicklow	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€20,000.00	€0.00	0%	3.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>€678,890.88</b>	<b>€681,141.17</b>	<b>€646,455.48</b>	<b>€34,685.69</b>	<b>5.09%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*These two Comhairlí overspent on their allocation versus income.

