



**Annual Conference, 2016**  
**24-26 February, Galway Bay Hotel**

[www.youthreach.ie](http://www.youthreach.ie)      @NAYCEXC      #NAYC2016

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY**

9.00-10.00	Registration <i>(with Tea/Coffee/Scones)</i>	
10.00-10.05	Introductions	Vivienne Branigan, Chairperson, NAYC
10.05-10.15	Conference Welcome Address: Session 1	David Leahy, Chief Executive, Galway Roscommon ETB
10.15-11.30	Keynote Speaker 1: <i>Developing Potential</i> Questions & Answers	Pat Lam, Connacht Rugby Coach
11.30-11.45	Break	
11.45-12.45	Youthreach Social Context Survey & Lifeskills Survey Results	Dr Mary Gordon, National Co-ordinator for Guidance, Counselling and Psychological Services in Youthreach, DES
12.45-13.15	Centre Presentation: Portumna Youthreach Questions & Answers	Isabelle Ni Dhuinn, Co-ordinator, Portumna Youthreach
13.15-14.15	Lunch (& Viewing Exhibition Stands)	
14.15-16.00	Future of Youthreach - Discussion	Facilitated by Theresa Mc Loughlin
16.00	Conference Close	<a href="#">Viewing Exhibition Stands</a>
16.30-17.30	NAYC AGM	NAYC Members Election of new officers & NAYC business
19.30	Dinner	

**DAY 2: THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY**

8.45-9.00	Registration	
9.00-9.05	Introductions	Chris O Rourke, Vice-Chairperson, NAYC
9.05-9.15	Welcome	Tomás Mac Pháidín, EO, Galway Roscommon ETB
9.15-10.00	Instructions & Wake up Energisers	Petersberg Outdoor Pursuits Staff
10.00-10.15	Tea / Coffee Break	
10.15-11.45	Keynote Speaker 2: <i>Flagging the Screenager</i> Questions & Answers	Dr Harry Barry
11.45-12.15	Quality Framework: Centre Evaluation and Improvement Plan (CEIP)	Gerry Griffin, National VTOS/Youthreach Co- ordinator & Sheila O Sullivan, QF Facilitator

12.15-13.15	Workshops: Session 1  Workshop 1: <i>Using Minecraft in Teach</i>  Workshop 2: <i>BodyRight A DRCC Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Programme for Young people: Addressing the Issue of Sexting</i>  Workshop 3: <i>Mindfulness</i>  Workshop 4: <i>SENI Centre Co-ordinators</i>	Jennifer Delaney, Resource Person, BunCrana and Glengad Youthreach Centres, Donegal ETB  Leonie O Dowd, Head of Education and Training, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  Catriona McColgan, The Sanctuary Centre for Mindfulness  Dr Mary Gordon, National Co-ordinator for Guidance, Counselling and Psychological Services in Youthreach, DES
13.15-14.15	Lunch (& Viewing Exhibition Stands)	
14.15-15.15	Workshops: Session 2	As above
15.15-15.30	Tea / Coffee Break	
15.30-15.45	Poetry Competition Launch	Ultan Mulvihill, Co-ordinator, Sligo Youthreach
15.45-17.00	Unknown Theatre presents <i>Greatest Hits and Other Bits</i>	Introduction by Chris O'Rourke, Co-ordinator, Ballyfermot Youthreach, followed by a post show discussion with students from Unknown Theatre
17.00	Conference Close	
20.00	Gala Dinner	

### **DAY 3: FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY**

9.00-9.30	Registration	
9.30-10.15	Youthreach - A Personal Reflection	Jess Mannion Programme Chair Social Care Practice / Assistant Lecturer of Psychology and Professional Studies / Social Care Practice and Early Childhood Care and Education Sligo IT
10.15-11.15	New Approaches to Work-Based Learning Questions & Answers	John O Neill, Manager, National Innovation Unit, SOLAS
11.15-12.30	Conference Review & Evaluation, Focus & Aims of NAYC 2015-2016	All Youthreach Coordinators Facilitated by NAYC Executive

## **SPEAKER NOTES**

### ***KEYNOTE SPEAKER 1: Dr Harry Barry***

Dr. Barry has 36 years experience as a GP based in Drogheda, Co. Louth. With a keen interest in the area of mental health and suicide prevention, Dr. Barry is also the author of four books, addressing various aspects of mental health including depression and toxic stress. Dr. Barry also regularly contributes to media coverage of these topics and is a Board member of Aware.

### ***KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2: Pat Lam***

Pat Lam is a New Zealand born rugby union coach of Samoan descent. He played for Samoa first in 1991 and went on to captain them and represented them in three World Cups, retiring from international rugby after the 1999 tournament. Samoa reached the 1991 and 1995 quarter-finals against expectations. He was capped once by the All Blacks in 1992 (All Black no. 928) in a non-test game against Sydney. Lam has also represented the Barbarians. He was called up to the squad in 2002, and made his debut against England as a replacement, scoring a try. In his second game for the side, Lam captained the team to victory over Wales, and scoring another try in what was his final game before retirement. Lam's first managerial position was as an Assistant Coach to Scotland at the 2003 Rugby World Cup. He was Head Coach of Auckland from 2004 until 2008. During his Auckland tenure he also coached the Pacific Islanders in 2006. He was Head Coach of Super Rugby team the Blues from 2009 to 2012. He worked with Samoa on the team's 2012 tour. Samoa's victories saw it reach eighth in the IRB rankings, and a secure second tier position for the 2015 Rugby World Cup. Lam is now Head Coach of the Pro 12 side, Connacht Rugby in Ireland, a position he was appointed to ahead of the 2013-14 season.

### ***Jess Mannion***

Jess Mannion is a Psychology and Professional Studies Lecturer in the School of Social Sciences in IT Sligo. She is also Programme Chair of the Social Care Practice Programme. Jess is currently doing a PhD on the area of disability in Trinity College Dublin. She also set up a group and volunteers on it raising awareness on mental illness, substance misuse, eating disorders and suicide for young people in Sligo. Other volunteer work she is involved in includes that of a UK based group that raises money for a different charity each month and to raise awareness and break the stigma on the modified community. Jess was an early school leaver and after a break in education returned to attend Youthreach. Her presentation will focus on why the mainstream system did not work for her and the benefits of attending Youthreach. She will talk through her career and how she went from early school leaver to academic.

## **WORKSHOP NOTES**

### **WORKSHOP 1:**

#### **USING MINECRAFT TO TEACH**

***Jennifer Delaney, Resource Person, Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach Centre, Donegal ETB***

Minecraft is a sandbox video game which has massively increased in popularity since it was released six years ago. The video game puts players in a randomly-generated world where they can create their own structures and contraptions out of textured cubes. It now has more than 60 million users worldwide which probably includes many of your learners! MinecraftEdu is a special version of Minecraft specifically for classroom use. It contains many additions to the original game that make it more useful and appropriate in a school setting. It also provides a cloud-based solution for hosting Minecraft classroom servers so students and teachers can connect and play together. A library of lessons and activities are available for free and there is a vibrant, active teacher community exploring uses of Minecraft in the classroom. Over 5,500 teachers in 40+ countries have used MinecraftEdu to teach subjects from STEM to language to history to art to coding. This workshop will provide a short introduction to the use of MinecraftEdu in the Youthreach classroom.

### ***About Jennifer***

Jennifer has worked as Resource Person in the Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach centres since 2001. She has been teaching Maths for the past nine years. In recent years she has begun using MinecraftEdu and Lego to provide an exciting and innovative dimension to her maths teaching.

### **WORKSHOP 2:**

#### ***BodyRight* A DRCC SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF SEXTING**

Leonie O'Dowd, Head of Education and Training, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

This workshop will provide a brief introduction to the DRCC BodyRight programme. As part of this programme DRCC has developed a module which can be used to raise and consider the issue of Sexting with young people. The workshop will introduce participants to this module and the materials accompanying it. Having attended the workshop participants will be in a position to use this module in their Centres.

DRCC has scheduled a four day training for Youthreach and youthwork staff who wish to facilitate the BodyRight programme which will take place at DRCC in April. Further information [etadmin@rcc.ie](mailto:etadmin@rcc.ie)

### ***About Leonie***

Leonie O Dowd is Head of Education and Training with Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. In that role she develops and delivers training programmes for a wide range of professionals who offer support or services to victims of sexual violence and other trauma both in Ireland and overseas. Leonie has led the development of the DRCC BodyRight A SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. DRCC has since 2008 provided training for school, Youthreach and other youthwork staff to equip them to use the BodyRight programme with the young people they work with. Leonie worked in a variety of educational and residential childcare settings prior to joining DRCC in 1998 and is a Psychotherapist accredited with IACP, IAHIP and the EAC.


### **WORKSHOP 3:**

#### **Mindfulness**

This workshop will be an opportunity to nurture and strengthen the energy of mindfulness and the practice of meditation in the company of your colleagues. Guided practice and mindful movement will develop a felt sense of what it means to inhabit the body in being mode as opposed to doing mode, allowing an understanding of automatic pilot to unfold. We will also explore being in relationship with ourselves and with each other as part of the mindful listening exercise.

### ***About Catriona***

Catriona is the Executive Director of the Sanctuary. She has a professional background in education and has been practicing and teaching mindfulness based programmes in schools for over 10 years. She has an appreciation of the complex needs of young people and experience working with diverse groups. Additionally, she is qualified in Addiction Studies, is a Yoga teacher and is trained with the Institute of Mindfulness Based Approaches. Her interest throughout her career has been focused on tackling educational disadvantage. She is a firm believer that stillness has the potential to transform and that teaching young people how they can experience this is important for both mental and emotional health. Caitriona is both the co facilitator for the Sanctuary

Mindful Warrior Programme and the lead teacher trainer for  (Mindfulness in Schools programme) in Ireland.

### **WORKSHOP 4:**

**SENI Coordinators - This workshop is for SENI Centre Coordinators only.**

### ***About Mary***

Dr Mary Gordon is a Senior Psychologist with the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) and the National Co-ordinator for Guidance, Counselling and Psychological Services in Youthreach and Community Training Centres.

## THEATRE NOTES

### Unknown Theatre presents *Greatest Hits and Other Bits*

The idea was simple. Could you take a courageous group of Youthreach students, most of whom had never set foot in a theatre before, never seen a play or attended a drama class, and get them to engage with theatre in a meaningful way? Telling their stories in their own way at a level equal to their peers? The answer was a resounding YES! shouted from The New Theatre in July 2014 with *Streets and Stories*, with the hugely successful *If Walls Could Talk* following on in July 2015.

Students from backgrounds where theatre may not at first be appreciated often have different needs. Many conventional drama programmes don't address this. These students often have a different energy, a different set of life experiences and words like "safe place" don't have the same meaning they might for others. Working with Unknown Theatre we learnt so much about the amazing abilities of these outstanding young people. Abilities which saw Zoe Kelly become the first recipient of the prestigious Olympia Theatre Rising Star Award, two other cast members successfully audition for places in Dublin Youth Theatre, others being invited to talk on the Ryan Turbidy Radio Show as well as a strong interest in taking *If Walls Could Talk* to the Edinburgh Festival later this year.

## EXHIBITOR NOTES

Information stands will be provided by the following organisations during the conference:

1. BKS Assessment
2. Classroom Guidance
3. Educoot
4. Age and Opportunity- An Intergenerational Approach
5. Harmony Programme
6. Western Region Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
7. Road Safety Authority
8. Careers Portal
9. Safefood
10. The Sanctuary Centre for Mediation and Mindfulness
11. Gaisce