CRINAN YOUTH PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT 2025





WELCOME

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission statement is to provide a range of quality treatment interventions in a safe and supportive environment, to empower young people to end their dependence on drugs and alcohol.

OUR VISION

‘Crinan Youth Project believes that every young person with an addiction has the potential to recover and has the right to the same opportunities as other young people’.

HISTORY

Crinan Youth Project was established in 1996 in response to the heroin crisis & the lack of services for under-18-year-olds who were experiencing problematic drug use in the North Inner City.

Since its establishment, Crinan Youth Project has responded to the changing trends of drug use and the needs of young people and families affected by these issues.

OUR VALUES

DIGNITY AND RESPECT

We ensure the dignity and respect of individuals by actively listening and holding non-judgemental attitude which is supported by our service standards.

HONESTY, CONSISTENCY AND RESPONSIBILITY

This value lies at the core of what we believe and is demonstrated by accountability and transparency in all areas of the agency.

COMPASSION

We believe that compassion is demonstrated through responsible love, concern and understanding for each other.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

We believe in the physical and the psychological safety and security for all through the implementation of sound policy and procedure.

EQUALITY

We are committed to treating all individuals equally and don't discriminate on grounds of marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, race, age or membership of the traveling community.

CORE AIMS

The Crinan Youth Project is a community based drug treatment facility that offers a quality service to young people and their families. In engaging particularly with young people who seek to address their drug problems, we recognize that many of them have already experienced social exclusion and a fundamental lack of choice in their lives. They may also be trying to process the many challenging dimensions of adolescent development.

In order to provide the most effective support to young people and their families the project places special value on the following process:

- Engage young people in alternative attractive activities.
- Expose them to helpful new experiences.
- Support them to develop flexibility in responding to the programme.
- Build quality relationships.
- Nurture the positive.
- Challenge what needs to change.
- Build-up young peoples' self-esteem in creative ways.
- Bring young people to a place of choice and responsibility in their decision making.

As a youth project, we hope that by engaging in this process, young people will achieve a happier and better quality of life, both while They are on the project and in the future.

The project favours a drug-free environment. While this involves the total prohibition of drugs while on the programme and in the project, it also involves supporting young people to detox from all drugs in as short a timeframe as possible.

OUR APPROACH

We use a treatment approach called Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA).

The Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) is a treatment approach that aims to achieve abstinence by eliminating positive reinforcement for using and enhancing positive reinforcement for a sober/drug-free lifestyle. The goal of this approach is to make a sober/drug-free lifestyle more rewarding than drinking /using drugs. The approach utilises social, recreational, familial, and vocational reinforcers to assist in the recovery process. This approach underpins our care plans and group work with the young people, and to complement this, CRAFT (Community Reinforcement Approach Family Training) is used in our Family Support Services.

We use a variety of methods in our work beginning with a client centred, individualised careplan. Our young people can avail of psychotherapy, keyworking, psychoeducation, drug education, Reduce the Use programmes, communication skills, problem solving, recreational and pro-social activities/outings, family work, family meetings, family counselling/therapy, holistics/complimentary therapies, advocacy work, methadone supervision, support for court and referrals to education/employment, Art, Art therapy, Yoga, relaxation skills, Massage, Acupuncture.

FUNDING STREAMS

CRINAN YOUTH PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE (HSE)

Staffing, Core Services and Overheads

HSE THROUGH THE NICDATF

Evening Service – Staffing and overheads

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & LAW REFORM THROUGH PROBATION SERVICE

Young peoples' programmes and overheads.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS THROUGH THE CDYSB

Youth Worker post and resources.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Crinan Youth Project is managed by a Project Manager, Gemma Collins and there are 13 staff in total. ***The staff breakdown is as follows:***

- 1 Manager
- 1 full-time Senior Project Worker
- 2 part-time Administrative Assistants
- 2 part-time Therapists
- 2 full-time Project Workers
- 1 part-time Project Worker
- 1 full-time Youth Worker
- 1 full-time Family Support Worker/project worker
- 2 part-time Outreach Workers/ evening service workers

Salesian Youth Enterprises is the Limited Company, which is governed by The Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is made up of Salesian Directors, has a Memorandum & Articles of Association and has an AGM each year. The Board of Directors meets quarterly throughout the year.

The Board of Directors has appointed a sub-group to be an Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors. This subgroup is made up of representatives of local community projects/agencies, 2 Directors of the Board of Management and the Manager of Crinan Youth Project. The Advisory group meets with the Project Manager on a 6 weekly basis for reports on operational matters and for recommendations and advice to the Board on matters relating to the running of the Crinan Youth Project.

All staff receive monthly supervision from the Project Manager.

The staff team meet weekly for Clinical Meetings which are case management meetings. Team meetings/operational meetings are held monthly.

We have 3 visiting sessional workers, Dr. Gerry McCarney, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist for young people with Substance misuse and mental health issues; a yoga instructor/holistic therapist who provides holistic treatments, and a DJ programme teacher. These sessional workers are paid only for the services they provide and are not staff of the project.

ASSESSMENT

This is the first phase of accessing the programmes, where we assess the needs of the young person to establish if they are suitable for one of our programmes and if so, which programme would best suit their needs.

Assessment involves:

- Pre-entry group or 1:1 appointments
- A meeting with our Therapist, Manager, and Doctor.
- Urine analysis (where applicable)

Decisions are made in our weekly clinical team meeting, upon completion of all stages of assessment, and the individual/family member or referee (if applicable) is notified of the outcome thereafter. The approximate timeframe for assessment is 1-2 weeks, depending on vacancies on the project, the young person's attendance and completion of all scheduled assessment appointments. All young people who are on assessment are supported throughout the assessment period by a keyworker and can attend 1-2 times per week for 1:1 support and holistics while they are completing their assessment.

THE PROGRAMMES



PRE-ENTRY/APPOINTMENT BASED PROGRAMME

This programme is for young people who are experiencing problematic drug use, and need support to reduce their use.

This is a structured programme which involves the following:

- Weekly appointment with our Doctor (where necessary)
- Weekly appointment with our Counsellor
- Weekly care plan meeting with their designated keyworker
- Young People on pre-entry appointments can avail of - 1:1
- Drug Education & Relapse Prevention, Reduce the Use psycho-educational work, Acupuncture, referral to further treatment.
- Urine analysis

The aim of this programme is to support the young people to stabilize, reduce their drug use and work towards becoming drug-free. There is a natural pathway from the pre-entry appointments into a more structured programme, progression group and/or referrals to residential detox/treatment programmes (if necessary).

RECOVERY PROGRAMME

This programme is to support young people who are stable in their drug use to work towards becoming drug-free.

The aim of this programme is to support young people in maintaining their stability, to become drug-free and to work on various areas of their lives through goal-setting careplans and work towards moving on to full-time education and training in the community.

This is a structured programme which involves the following:

- A weekly individualised timetable for each young person
- Weekly appointment with our Counsellor
- Weekly care plan meeting with their designated keyworker.
- Participation in Relapse Prevention Groups,
- Drug Education group or these programmes can be delivered on a 1:1 basis also.
- Participation in daily group activities – Yoga, Art, Wind down groups, social program outings, gym/boxercise/other activities.
- Appointment with our Doctor (when necessary)
- Urine analysis
- Lunch
- Holistic treatments, massage, yoga, and acupuncture.

PROGRESSION PROGRAMME

This programme is to support young people who are have moved on to a training/education programme (including school) or employment.

This programme is also the next phase for young people who have become drug-free and are ready to engage in education/employment. This programme involves:

- Weekly appointment with our Doctor (where necessary)
- Weekly appointment with our Counsellor
- Weekly careplan meeting with their designated keyworker.
- Participation in Relapse Prevention
- Groups or 1:1 sessions
- Urine analysis
- Holistic treatments

The aim of this programme is to support young people to make the transition into mainstreamed activities, education/training, employment and other relevant community services, while maintaining their stable/drug-free status.

AFTERCARE

This programme is to support young people who have completed drug treatment and have moved on to employment/education/training. This programme involves an individualised aftercare plan to suit the needs of the young person.

This programme involves one or all of the following:

- Fortnightly meetings with their keyworker – to focus on the aftercare plan, advocacy (if needed), advice and information.
- These meetings may start at fortnightly and move out to monthly after the first couple of meetings, depending on the needs of the young person.
- Aftercare counseling/therapy.

Aftercare aims to support the young person during the early stages of move-on. We recognize that this can be a difficult stage, even for the most stable of young people, so having some regular support, which is phased out over an agreed period of time with the young person, is very effective.

CRINAN EVENING SERVICE 2025

This service was established in 2010

It initially provided information and support to people who are experiencing difficulties relating to their use of Cocaine, Crack Cocaine and Headshop Drugs. The evening service is always Evolving to suit the needs of young people; however, the core purpose remains. The programme is designed to provide a first point of support for many young people aged 14 – 21 years and at times their parents, in the North Inner City and surrounding areas. Currently, due to the poly-drug usage of many of our target group, we are providing this service to young people with a variety of drug problems, and it serves as a first point of contact for participants to progress to our day programme.

This programme involves:

- 2 Outreach workers – 1:1 support, assessment & referral for further treatment, residential (where necessary).
- Outreach/street work
- An evening drop-in service – Monday-Thursday between 5-8pm.
- Crisis intervention
- Counseling
- Holistic therapies

We helped facilitate outings in collaboration with our teams in Crinan. We had a fitness group that went on hikes and walks biweekly. We also went to the driving range and The Nightmare Realm. As well as continuing our successful DJ Programme within Crinan.

The programme has and is constantly developing and adapting to the drug trends and needs of young people, which are quickly identified by the street engagements and the continuous interagency work with other projects. Some of the new initiatives for 2025 are collaborative street work with other mainstream youth projects in the NEIC area. This initiative aims to take advantage of the already established relationships that youth projects have with young people. Our outreach team meets the young people in their environment and identifies young people with drug and alcohol problems/use. Also, for young people who are engaged with Crinan to get to meet staff from youth projects in the area and progress to pro-social activities. This is proving very positive and successful, with young people identified and relationships built, with a significant number of referrals coming directly from this process.

The success of the evening/outreach service is due to the flexibility, adaptability, and the ability to respond to a young person immediately. With a high focus on building the relationship and trust in a non-judgmental and understanding approach. We quickly identify the needs of the young person and create a pathway to further treatment, which usually is progression to more acute treatment within Crinan and/or residential treatment. The late evenings of the evening service offer the space for young people who are going to school, college, or working.



The main Drugs young people presenting to Crinan Evening Service for support are Weed, Alcohol, Cocaine (Powder), Tablets with the majority being poly drug users.

OBERSTOWN
HARM REDUCTION WORKSHOPS

During 2025, we delivered harm reduction workshops within Oberstown to two groups of young people over a two-week period. Amongst these groups we had a total of 16 youth participate. These workshops were delivered at the request of Oberstown and targeted participants who were actively engaged in substance use in their personal lives. Many of the young people were on remand or serving shorter sentences and were assessed as being at high risk of returning to substance use following their release.

By the end of the programme, participants were better equipped with accurate information about the risks associated with substance use and the specific dangers of mixing substances. The workshops aimed to ensure that participants understood how to seek help during a drug emergency and to encourage engagement with health and support services for underlying mental and physical health issues that substance use can exacerbate.

The primary aim of the workshops was to reduce the risk of harm associated with substance use by providing accurate, evidence-based information. The programme sought to:

- Dispel common myths about drugs and substance use.
- Assess participants' existing knowledge of different substances and associated risks.
- Increase understanding of the effects of drugs on mental and physical health.
- Highlight the dangers of mixing substances, including the risk of fatal overdose.
- Promote harm reduction strategies, including seeking support from health professionals and relevant support services.
- Provide clear guidance on recognising and responding to drug-related emergencies.

The overarching message of the programme emphasised that the safest option is not to use drugs and that substance use is never recommended. Harm reduction was presented as a pragmatic approach that acknowledges risk factors and aims to minimise potential adverse health outcomes where substance use occurs.

Overall, the programme contributed to increased awareness, informed decision making, and improved capacity among participants to recognise risk and seek appropriate support, aligning with our broader commitment to health promotion and harm reduction among vulnerable young people.

RELAPSE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

The Relapse Prevention Programme applies cognitive behavioural strategies and lifestyle-based interventions to support individuals experiencing addictive behaviours. Grounded in social learning theory, the programme is based on the understanding that behaviours such as problematic drug use are learned habits and can therefore be unlearned. Through increased awareness, structured skills training, and lifestyle moderation, participants are supported to achieve and maintain meaningful behaviour change.

The programme places a strong emphasis on self-management, equipping participants with practical tools and strategies to support the long-term maintenance of positive habit change.

As a maintenance-focused intervention, the specific goals of the Relapse Prevention Programme are to:

- Equip participants with skills to anticipate, identify, avoid, and cope with high-risk situations that may lead to a slip or relapse.
- Provide strategies to prevent a lapse from developing into a full relapse.
- Increase participants' sense of personal effectiveness and confidence in managing their behaviour.

Participants are supported to:

- Identify sources of stress within their lifestyle.
- Recognise and change unhealthy habit patterns.
- Discover and engage in pro-social activities.
- Understand how effective time management can reduce stress.
- Develop and maintain a more balanced and moderate lifestyle.



Through participation in the Relapse Prevention Programme, 72 young persons developed increased insight into their substance use patterns, greater confidence in managing high-risk situations, and enhanced skills to support sustained behaviour change. The programme supports participants to build healthier lifestyles, strengthen coping strategies, and engage with positive supports, contributing to improved long-term outcomes and reduced risk of relapse.

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

This programme is designed to support family members of young people who are experiencing drug problems.

Family members can avail of one or all of the following services:

- One to one meetings with the family support worker – formal/informal, crisis intervention, advocacy work.
- Family Therapy (one to one for family members and/or family therapy sessions.
- Family support groups/social evenings/outings for parents.
- Parent Talks
- Community Reinforcement Family Training (CRAFT)
- 5 Step Method
- Holistic treatments; stress management for parents

Parent Information evenings were well attended and the feedback was very positive from those involved.

The response given by the families was that they felt that by being offered information that was evidence based, researched and relevant to them, it empowered them to respond to the drug use in a more practical manner. All of the parents/guardians agreed that initial responses to their loved ones drug use was emotionally led which then became the pattern for responding.

Crinan understands that when the families become involved with the young person's drug use, there is a better chance of a successful outcome for all involved.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Crinan Youth Project provides programmes designed to offer support to the family members of the young people who are experiencing drug problems. Family members can avail of one or all of the following services.

- 5 Step Method
- 5 Step Aftercare
- Friday Social Group
- Kinship Group
- 1:1 meetings with family support worker
- Information Evenings
- Holistic Treatments

In 2025, Crinan Family Support Services saw 44 family members accessing our services, with a total of 137 sessions of our various supports being availed of. We had a total of 5 different Family Support Groups.

“Since engaging with the Family Support group I have been genuinely amazed with their non-judgemental, open-minded, support and encouragement. It is a vital service.”

-Family member

APPOINTMENTS WITH OUR DOCTOR

Young People at Crinan can attend weekly appointments with our Doctor (Senior Consultant Psychiatrist) when requested/necessary.

Dr. Gerry McCarney is a consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist who has been working fulltime with the HSE Addiction Service since 2005, specifically with young people.

Dr. McCarney attends Crinan Youth Project for an afternoon session each week, usually on a Tuesday.

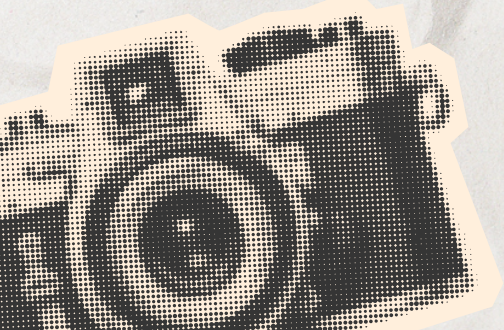
His role involves discussing the case context with colleagues in Crinan and then assessing the young person from the point of view of drug use history, mental health, family and support structure, and the client's goals.

The connection between a person's drug use and feelings or behaviors is explained, and in cases where there may be a clinical issue, the assessment may lead to a diagnosis and treatment if appropriate. Conditions seen include ADHD, depression, anxiety, self harm, ASD and young people with a history of trauma.

Not every person assessed requires ongoing input from Dr. McCarney as he reviews every new case put forward by the team, but in cases where treatment is required, then it can make it much easier for a young person to reduce drug or alcohol use if coexisting mental health difficulties are managed well.

Treatment can continues as they are attending the service, with intermittent review. We can ask a GP to take over prescribing if a young person reaches a point where they are leaving the Crinan services, whether due to age or abstinence.

2025 PROJECTS



Movember

Crinan Youth Project

Throughout November, Crinan hosted three Men's Mental Health Awareness sessions, creating a relaxed and supportive space for young men to connect and engage in conversations around mental health. Three young men participated overall, with two attending every session. The initiative also supported one young man to re-engage with the service and another to increase his attendance. Feedback was very positive, highlighting the value of providing dedicated spaces for young men's wellbeing.

Crinan staff also took part in Movember by growing facial hair throughout the month, helping to raise awareness and spark conversations with young people

SUMMER PROJECT JULY 2025

Glendalough Hike



Three young people headed out on a hike to Glendalough and had a great time exploring the woods, lakes, and stunning views. It was a good chance to get moving, breathe in some fresh air, and chat along the way. Being out in nature helped everyone relax and get to know each other a bit better, which made for a really positive start to the group.

Flynn Park Water Activities

Five young people got stuck into the water activities at Flynn Park, climbing, slipping, and laughing their way through the inflatable course. It was all about having fun and trying something different, and it definitely helped everyone let their guard down. There was loads of teamwork involved, and the buzz from the day brought the group even closer.

Portmarnock Sea Swim

Five young people in our after care programme enjoyed a chilled night on the beach in Portmarnock. One of the young people brought a guitar and played some music while others went out for a swim.



Howth Hike

Two young people joined the Howth hike and enjoyed a chilled walk along the cliffs with some lovely coastal views. It was a smaller group, which made it easier to chat and connect. The pace was easy-going, and it gave everyone a chance to open up, build confidence, and just enjoy the day without any pressure.

HellFire Club Hike

Two young people took the opportunity to Hike to the top of Dublin. It was a good chance to get moving, breathe in some fresh air, and chat along the way. Being out in nature helped everyone relax and also have the great achievement of making it to the top.



Go Quest Adventure Centre

Four young people took on the challenges at Go Quest, racing around different rooms filled with fun puzzles and activities. It was full of energy and laughs, and really brought out everyone's problem-solving and teamwork skills. The group encouraged each other and had a great time working together – it was a properbonding experience.

27 young people engaged. All the trips were brilliant in their own way – whether it was chatting on a walk, solving challenges, or getting soaked on a water course, everyone had a chance to join in and connect. Bit by bit, the group got more comfortable and started to gel, and it's clear a strong foundation has been built for something really positive going forward

GIRLS GROUP

The Girls Group was designed to provide a safe, supportive, and educational space focused on healthy relationships, consent, personal safety, and positive mental health.

Crinan Youth Project intends to build on the foundations established in 2025 by continuing the Girls Group into 2026, with a renewed focus on evaluation, participant feedback, and further development of relationship and safety education for young women in the community.

Programme sessions delivered in 2025:

- Week 1 (4/9/2025): Initial meeting and pizza night (2 participants)
- Week 2 (23/9/2025): Group walk and informal engagement (2 participants)
- Week 3 (14/10/2025): Sauna outing and group discussion to shape the purpose and direction of the group (6 participants)
- Week 4 (21/10/2025): Healthy relationships workshop (Consent Education – Senior Cycle content) (4 participants)
- Week 5 (4/11/2025): Consent education session – Part 1 (4 participants)
- Week 6 (11/11/2025): Consent education session – Part 2 (4 participants)
- Week 7 (18/11/2025): Mindfulness session facilitated by Karen (5 participants)
- Week 8 (25/11/2025): Yoga session (1 participant)
- Week 9 (16/12/2025): Sexual violence awareness session followed by sauna outing

Throughout the programme, participants demonstrated increasing engagement, trust and openness in discussions around sensitive topics. The combination of educational content and wellbeing-focused activities supported relationship-building, self-care and peer connection in a safe, female-only setting.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION & WATER ACTIVITIES

Malahide Estuary

- 3 young people attended
- Borrowed equipment through Woodale Youth Justice Project.
- Kayaking was followed by a cliff walk and ice cream at Tower Bay, with all participants engaging positively throughout the day.

Ballyfermot

- 2 young people attended
- Free water session delivered in partnership with Ballyfermot Youth Service.
- Both participants engaged well, with one young person later progressing to an Outdoor Education PLC course.

Dun Laoghaire Harbour

- 3 young people attended
- Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) session delivered in partnership with WHAD.
- The activity was highly engaging and encouraged continued interest in outdoor and water-based activities.

Flynn Park

- 5 young people attended
- Inflatable water park outing during the Summer Project.
- Our highest-attended water activity, providing an exciting and memorable experience that the group well received.

Rock Climbing:

- 1 young person attended
- Indoor climbing session at Awesome Walls.
- The participant engaged well and was introduced to the Crinan therapist in a relaxed, informal setting.

Canal WALKS:

- Multiple young people participated
- Walks took place at Glendalough, Howth Head, the Hellfire Club, and along the canal and River Liffey.
- One-to-one walks created valuable opportunities for meaningful conversations and case management in an informal environment.

Swimming:

- Multiple young people participated
- Pool, gym, and sea swimming sessions supported individual case management and group engagement.
- Partnerships with DCC Community Development Officers also provided free swimming and gym access for a hard-to-reach young person.

Partnering with relevant agencies has provided access to water-based activities and equipment, allowing us to deliver high-quality adventure activities while reducing costs. In 2025, outdoor education (OE) has continued to play an important role in individual case management.





Outdoor and water-based activities have proven to be highly effective in engaging young people, creating opportunities for peer learning, meaningful conversations with staff, and the development of positive relationships. The mental health benefits, peer support, and pro-social engagement fostered through these activities align with the ACRA model that underpins the evidence-based practice at Crinan Youth Project.





REPORTS FROM 2025





2025 REPORTS

Throughout 2025 Crinan Youth Project continued to provide vital support to young people aged 14-21 in the North East Inner City of Dublin who are experiencing substance misuse issues. Our keyworking and ACRA (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach) interventions remained central to our work, ensuring young people received structured, strengths-based support tailored to their individual needs. Keyworking sessions focused on harm reduction, relapse prevention, emotional well-being, and goal setting, while ACRA helped build positive social connections and alternative coping mechanisms.

This year, we observed notable trends in substance misuse, with an increase in the use of benzodiazepines, cannabis, and polydrug use, particularly among younger attendees. The growing accessibility of high-potency substances, combined with the impact of social and economic pressures, contributed to heightened mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, and disengagement from education and employment.

Cannabis and cocaine use amongst young people attending the programme remains high. An increase of street tablet use and polydrug use is evident within key work. Nitrous oxide and HHC are two drugs that are commonly being used young people, both with physical and psychological impacts that we are still just beginning to understand the harms relating to the use of these particularly HHC and other synthetic cannabinoids.

The pink cocaine (Tuci)-a new psychoactive substance containing a mix of several drugs including ketamine and 2cb has become more commonly used by some of the young people attending the service. This is concerning as the ingredients in this substance can contain a multitude of things and can potentially increase the harms to the user.
Young people experiencing dual diagnosis unfortunately are still falling between two stools, and demand for services catering to those with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders remains high.

Many presented with complex needs, including homelessness, family breakdown, justice system involvement, and co-occurring mental health difficulties. Our team worked closely with external agencies, including social workers, mental health services, and educational supports, to provide a holistic response to these challenges.

Outcomes from our interventions have been positive. Many participants successfully reduced or ceased substance use, re-engaged with education and training, improved their emotional well-being, and strengthened relationships with family and community supports. Through a combination of one-to-one support, group work, and outreach, we empowered young people to make healthier choices and build a more stable future. As we move forward, Crinan Youth Project remains committed to adapting our approaches to meet emerging challenges and ensuring young people have the support they need to thrive

2025 REPORTS

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Activities to support families around the stress, strain, anxiety and helplessness that carers go through when impacted by a loved one's drug and alcohol misuse. Family members gain the skills and tools they need.

As well as Family Support Groups, Social outings/activities for family members and stress management tools like massages.

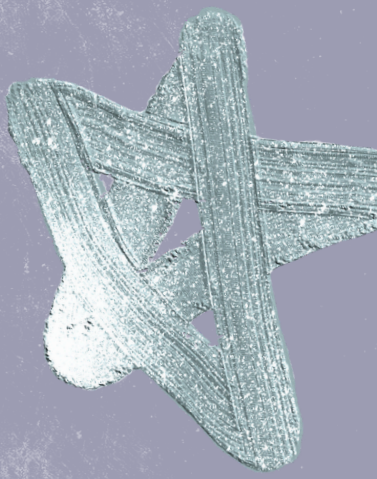
Some for these services include: One to one Family Support, practical and emotional support, Family Therapy/counselling for family members, Sibling support – group and/or one to one support.

Families have shown themselves to be resilient not only managing the challenges of dealing with their loved one's drug use but accessing the supports available.

Family Member Outcomes 2025

Family Members supported	**44**
Family therapy sessions	**137**
Family support 1:1	**57**
Phone Support & Keyworking	**83**
Groups for family members	**10**
Holistic	**72 massages & 104 acupuncture sessions**
Social/Self Care groups for parents	**13**

OUTREACH EVENING SERVICE



Crinan Evening service began in 2010 in response to the increased use of cocaine, crack cocaine, and headshop substances among younger people in Dublin, and since then, it has been constantly changing to suit the needs of young people in crisis. Due to the flexible and adaptive nature of the service, it quickly reacts to ever-changing drug trends. Through outreach/street work and networking, strong relationships have been built with the young people, professionals, and youth organizations in the community, and 14 years on, the outreach/evening service has evolved into an essential part of our service provision.

2025 was a busy and productive year for the Outreach team. Despite some staffing challenges, the team remained active in the community by strengthening partnerships, expanding outreach efforts, and finding creative ways to engage young people. Through consistent street work, networking, harm reduction education, and innovative programs, the service continued to support young people in making healthier choices while responding to emerging drug trends.
We have broken our aims into four sections. These sections include Street Work, In-Reach & Networking, Evening Service, and Trends & Emerging Issues.



OUTREACH EVENING SERVING

UNDER -18'S OUTREACH

Throughout 2025, the extension of dedicated outreach hours for the Under-18s has led to a marked increase in engagement, visibility, and coordinated multi-agency support across the NEIC. The increased presence on the streets, in community hotspots, and in high-risk locations has allowed staff to build deeper, more meaningful relationships with young people who are disconnected from education, justice services, and positive networks.

As the year progressed, ongoing collaborative work has been strengthened with Brádóg, Swan, Belvedere, HAY (Foróige), Safety Partnership, JLOS, Probation, Solas, WHAD, & Diamond project. These partnerships have been essential in identifying hard-to-reach groups, sharing information effectively, and providing coordinated, wrap-around support to young people engaged in substance use, drug distribution, anti-social behaviour, chronic non-attendance, and early school leaving.

The extension of outreach hours has resulted in faster responses to emerging risks, increased joint outreach in high-vulnerability areas, improved communication pathways between services, and earlier identification of exploitation, conflict, or substance use patterns.

"The team is incredible. I personally could not have got through the last year without their support and guidance."

–young person



OUTREACH EVENING SERVING

UNDER -18'S OUTREACH OUTCOMES

The extended hours have ensured a regular and recognisable presence in the areas where young people spend their time, leading to several significant outcomes. Improved trust has developed as young people increasingly approach staff independently, having come to recognise the outreach team and understand their supportive role. Higher levels of engagement have followed, with consistent visibility helping to break down barriers that once limited contact, particularly among young people who may be wary of formal services or who have had previous negative experiences with authority figures. This ongoing presence has also allowed the team to identify emerging needs such as substance use, peer conflict, exploitation risks, mental-health struggles, and disengagement from school.

Working With Young People at High Risk of Police and Justice System Involvement

A significant proportion of the young people we are currently engaging with are involved in behaviours that place them at heightened risk of contact with the police or entry into the youth justice system. Many are involved in criminal networks, ongoing antisocial behaviour, or peer groups where offending is normalised, increasing the likelihood of police intervention.

To better support these young people and respond proactively to these risks,
we have strengthened our links with community policing teams, this partnership has been essential in identifying new locations this supports the outreach staff to position themselves where they are most needed, ensuring that young people who are involved in high-risk activity receive consistent support if needed.

Crinan Outreach Engagements

Crinan Outreach continues to see increased engagement from young people across key locations in the area, including communities where the service has experienced a mix of positive progress and ongoing challenges.

In 2025, Crinan outreach engaged with 812 young people. The additional outreach hours have played a major role in this, enabling the team to spend more time on the ground, build trust, respond more quickly to issues as they arise, and support young people who might otherwise remain completely off the radar.

Referrals and Partnership

The strengthened presence in the community, combined with improved partnership links, has resulted in eight additional referrals to the service. These referrals have come directly from stronger connections with local agencies and services, demonstrating the value of more consistent communication and joint-working.

The benefits of these enhanced relationships include earlier identification of young people at risk, smoother pathways into support, and a more coordinated approach to meeting their needs. This not only increases access to Crinan's services but also ensures young people receive timely, holistic support.

OUTREACH CASE STUDY

Through networking and collaboration with Solas Youth Diversion, we were able to meet a HTR 14-year-old who had previously refused to engage with any drug service. By providing both community outreach and casual in-reach to Solas, we created a safe and flexible environment that allowed the young person to slowly build trust and feel comfortable engaging with Crinan. A major barrier to their engagement was the ongoing conflict in their local community, which made attending D1 unsafe and inconsistent. The additional outreach hours significantly reduced this barrier by enabling us to maintain regular contact, offer guidance, and support them during periods of heightened risk. Before this intervention, the young person was highly involved in anti-social behaviour and substance misuse, but through sustained outreach and close collaboration with community partners, their engagement has increased, their risk-taking behaviour has reduced, and they have begun to show clear signs of positive change.

Our current work continues to focus on stabilising their circumstances and encouraging gradual re-engagement with structured routines. Moving forward, we aim to maintain consistent outreach, strengthen multi-agency collaboration, and support the young person in developing healthier coping strategies. This case highlights the effectiveness of targeted, flexible outreach in improving access for hard- to-reach young people and demonstrates the importance of relationship based practice in promoting long-term behavioural change.

The extended Under-18 outreach service has delivered measurable improvements in engagement, collaboration, and early intervention throughout 2025. Despite staffing challenges, the commitment of the team and strong multi-agency partnerships have ensured that some of the most vulnerable young people those most disconnected from supports remain visible, supported, and connected.

HOLISTIC SERVICES

ACUPUNCTURE BENEFITS:

- Relieves pain and promotes healing.
- Reduces stress and anxiety.
- Improves circulation and immune function.
- Enhances sleep quality and relaxation.
- Reduces inflammation and aids digestion.
- Boosts mood and mental clarity.
- Helps manage chronic pain and addiction recover.

MASSAGE BENEFITS:

- Manages pain
- Lowers stress
- Improves circulation
- Promotes better sleep
- Relieves headaches
- Boost immune function

HOLISTIC OUTCOMES:

- Overall, we had 256 parents and young people combined attend appointments with our holistic treatments such as acupuncture or massage in 2025

holistic services







YOUNG PEOPLE OUTCOMES 2025

Referrals received	61
Young People Engaged	88
Successfully completed their treatment program	15
YP that became drug free	21
YP began and engaged in pro social activities	33
YP maintained or gained employment/education	19
1:1 keyworking sessions	869
Number of Youth Served	812
Number of 1:1 Sessions	869
Reporting Drug free	21
Reported Reduced Drug use	30
Successful Completion	15



REFERRALS BREAKDOWNS

Month	No. of Referrals	No. of Probation Referrals	Other Referrals	Outcome
January	7	2	• 1 C/S • 2 Self-Referral • 1 Family Referral • 1 Residential Housing	Crinan
February	8	0	• 3 C/S • 3 Self-Referral • 2 Family Referral • 1 Residential Housing	Crinan; 1 referred on, due to age
March	5	0	• 2 C/S • 2 Social Work • 1 Family Referral	Crinan
April	5	0	• 2 C/S • 1 Social Work • 1 Family Referral • 1 School	Crinan
May	3	0	• 2 C/S • 1 Self-Referral	Crinan
June	4	0	• 3 C/S • 1 Social Work	Crinan
July	3	1	• 1 Self-Refferal • 1 Family Referral	Crinan
August	4	0	• 2 C/S • 1 Social Work • 1 Residential Housing	Crinan
September	8	2	• 2 Self-Referral • 1 Social Work • 2 Residential Housing • 1 Hospital	Crinan
October	5	0	• 2 Self-Referral • 1 Social Work • 2 C/S • 1 Social Work	Crinan; 1 referred on, due to age
November	4	0	• 1 Self-Refferal • 2 C/S • 1 Residential Housing	Crinan
December	5	1	• 2 C/S • 2 Social Work	Crinan
Total:	**61**	**6**	**57**	

We had a total of 6 probation Y.P and 57 other justices Y.P in 2025.

DRUGS EDUCATION LIST 2025

- Drugs Ed Marino College secondary school- 21/01/2025 (28 total Attendees)
- Vaping Workshop Georges Hill Primary School- 23/01/2025 (20 total Attendees)
- St Paul's Secondary School (Brunner) Vaping presentation 30/01/2025 (40 total attendees)
- Henrietta street school – 10/02/2025 (4 total Attendees)
- TUD Blanchardstown – 11/02/2025 (40 total Attendees)
- Bradog Staff team- 20/02/2025 (13 Total Attendees)
- Henrietta street school – 24/02/2025 (4 Total Attendees)
- CDYS network- 03/04/2025 (37 Total Attendees)
- TUD Blanchardstown- 09/04/2025 (40 Total Attendees)
- Family support group- 17/04/2025 (5 Total Attendees)
- Bradog youth club- young people- 06/05/2025 (17 Total Attendees)
- BMYI- 15/07/2025 (10 Total Attendees)
- Iolar House- Staff team- 26/08/2025 (12 Total Attendees)
- CDYS South Dublin- 28/08/2025 (19 Total Attendees)
- CDYS North Dublin- 18/09/2025 (24 Total Attendees)
- Eastwall/Bradog/Swan youth- 9/10/2025 (16 Total Attendees)
- Clonturk Community College (Parents) – 16/10/2025 (45 Total Attendees)
- Olwyn Lodge Staff- 28/10/2025 (7 Total Attendees)
- Family Support- 13/11/2025 (4 Total Attendees)
- Vaping Workshop 3 rd years Larkin CC- 13/11/2025 (45 Total Attendees)
- Candle Trust Young People-18/11/2025 (14 Total Attendees)
- Vaping Workshop 1 st Years Larkin CC- 20/11/2025 (61 Total Attendees)
- Vaping Workshop 2 nd Years Larkin CC- 27/11/2025 (39 Total Attendees)

Total Sessions: 22
Total Attendees: 544