



volunteer centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Maigh Eo

MAYO

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



1.1 Chairperson's Introduction



I am pleased to present the 2014 Review of Activities of Mayo Volunteer Centre.

In challenging circumstances of continued financial constraints, the Centre has continued to support and develop volunteering in Co Mayo. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in providing funding for our core activities, and to our many other supporters who have helped us to expand our reach into all areas of the community.

In particular we are grateful to Moy Valley Resources for facilitating the Centre within their organisation, and to Mayo North East Leader Partnership and South West Mayo Development Company for their valued funding contribution to our outreach programme. Thanks are due also to Ballina Beverages, Volunteer Ireland, Western Care Association, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, the Community Foundation and Mayo County Council for their generous support during the year.

Thérèse Ruane
Chairperson
Mayo Volunteer Centre

2.0 Mayo Volunteer Centre

2.1 What the Volunteer Centres do

Mayo Volunteer Centre is part of a network of Volunteer Centres around Ireland. They are a local agency that exists to improve the extent, range and quality of volunteering. They do this by providing guidance and support for anyone wishing to volunteer and to any not-for-profit organisation that involves volunteers in their work. Volunteer Centres are affiliated to Volunteer Ireland, the national volunteer development agency and a representative body for all local Volunteer Centres in Ireland and receive core funding via the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

The volunteer centres work revolves around 4 core principles:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Core Principle I: | A volunteer-centred placement and support service |
| Core principle II: | Providing support for not-for-profit organisations |
| Core Principle III: | Marketing and promoting volunteering |
| Core Principle IV: | Ensuring good practice within volunteer centres |

2.2 History of Mayo Volunteer Centre

Mayo Volunteer Centre was established in 2007 under Moy Valley Resources IRD Ballina and at that time was known as the North Mayo Volunteer Bureaux. Funding from the Department was secured in 2008 and delivered through Moy Valley Resources IRD Ballina once the centre affiliated to Volunteer Centres Ireland. Offices were based in Ballina and were staffed by a part-time Manager and part-time Placement Officer.

In 2010, funding was received to facilitate a countywide service. A second part-time office opened in Castlebar staffed by a part-time Placement Officer. In order to support a greater countywide workplan, a representative Steering Committee was formed to assist in the delivery of the Mayo Volunteer Centre programme whilst still being managed and administered under Moy Valley resources IRD.

In March 2012, extra funding was secured to facilitate a full-time Manager. This has allowed for full implementation of an outreach programme and widespread county coverage.

2.3 Core Services of Mayo Volunteer Centre

- Promoting volunteering
 - Outreach and Information Stands
 - Developing and maintaining www.volunteermayo.ie – including I-VOL, and online database of volunteering opportunities
 - Information presentations to schools, groups and networks
 - Working with local newspapers, radio stations, newsletters etc
 - Monthly e-newsletters to volunteers and organisations registered with the Centre
- Supporting people to find volunteering placements
 - Placement Officers meet with people to provide a personalised support to inform them of the volunteering opportunities that best suit their individual interests, abilities, and availability.
 - Follow-up and ongoing contacts via phone and email to ensure that referrals to volunteer-involving organisations are responded to.

- Training and supports for Voluntary Organisations
 - Volunteer Management Training
 - Co-ordinating Volunteer Managers Peer Network
 - Individual consultancy on specific volunteer management issues
 - Garda Vetting Authorised Signatory Service

- Promoting social inclusion through volunteering
 - Special projects to promote the inclusion of volunteers from minority groups
 - Involvement in projects to link corporate volunteer teams to projects in their community
 - Volunteer Showcase/Expo events to highlight the range of volunteer roles in local communities

2.4 Mayo Volunteer Centre Team 2014



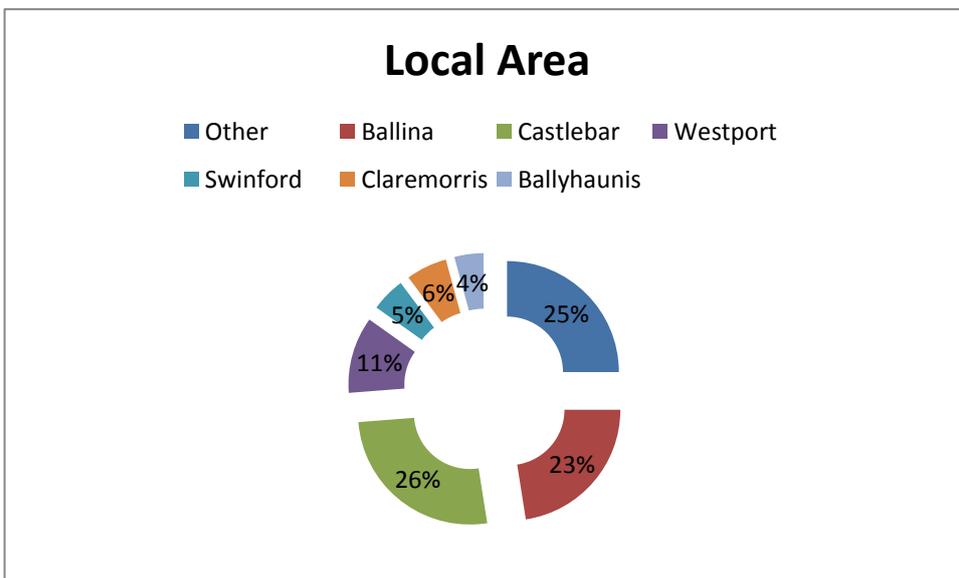
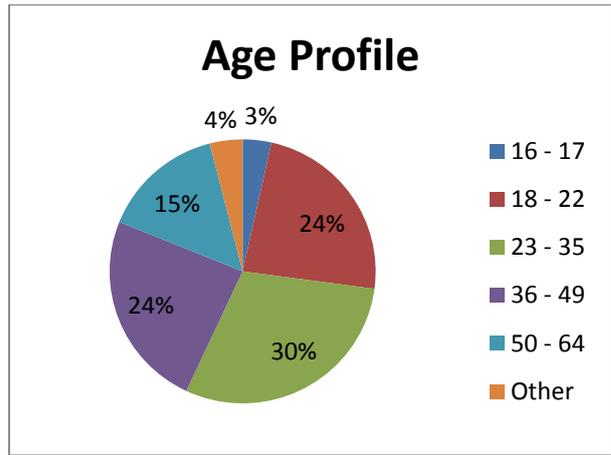
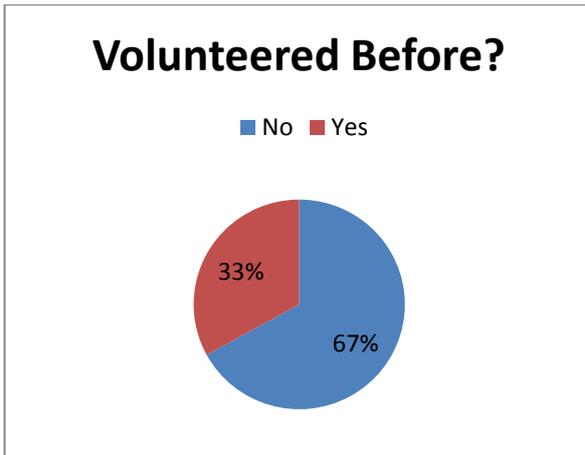
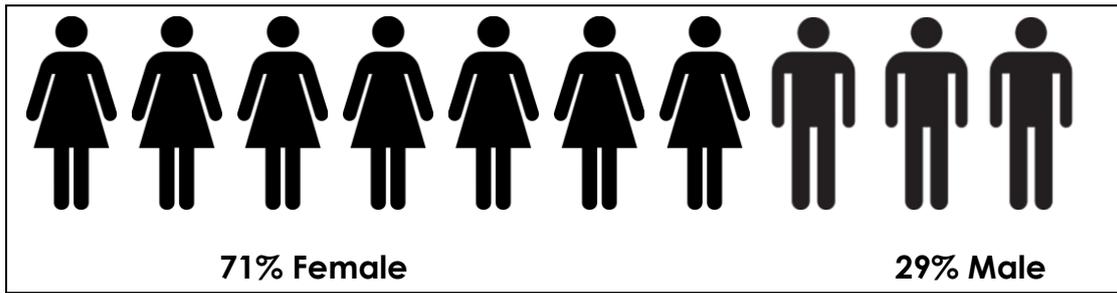
Steering Committee:

Thérèse Ruane (Chairperson)
 Kevin Corrigan (Treasurer)
 Rita Hopkins
 Norita Clesham
 Noreen McGarry
 Helen O'Hara
 Peggy Corcoran

Staff:

Shauna Jackson – Manager Jan – Mar 2014, Fiona Cunnane – Manager from Mar 2014
 Edel Gallagher – Placement Officer (Mon – Wed, Ballina Office)
 Brenda McNicholas – Placement Officer (Wed – Fri, Castlebar Outreach Office)
 Mary McDermot – Placement Support (CE Worker, Ballina Office)
 Christine Kennedy – Placement Support (TUS Work, Castlebar Office), Jan – June 2015.

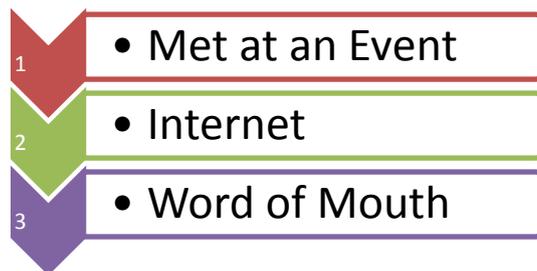
3. Overview of Volunteers Registering with Mayo Volunteer Centre in 2014



Top 3 Areas Of Interest



Method of Recruitment



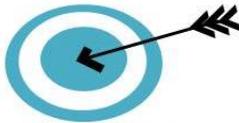
4. Main Achievements of Mayo Volunteer Centre 2014

VOLUNTEERS

687 Volunteers
used our service
in 2014

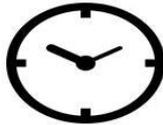
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

OVER 280
ORGANISATIONS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH US IN 2014



HOURS

We estimate in 2014
our volunteers delivered
23,915 HOURS
of voluntary work



TRAINING

111
Volunteer Managers
Attended our Training Events in 2014



VALUE OF THESE HOURS

€503,890
If volunteers were paid
THE AVERAGE WAGE



GARDA VETTING SERVICE

275
VETTING FORMS
PROCESSED FOR
voluntary groups




2,300
VOLUNTEERS
IN TOTAL ARE REGISTERED
WITH MAYO VOLUNTEER CENTRE

4.2 Outreach and Events

Mayo Volunteer Centre has held 18 outreach information stands in the following locations: Ballina Intreo Offices (x4), Bangor Erris, Claremorris, Belmullet (x3), Ballyhaunis (x2), Achill, Westport (x2). The Centre held two "Open Days" at our offices in Ballina and Castlebar to mark National Volunteering Week. The Ballina office hosting a site visit from the "New Beginnings" group in December – this is a group of long-term unemployed persons, supported by Mayo North East Leader Partnership to re-engage with employment, training and personal development opportunities.

4 Volunteer Expo/Showcase events were organised – each planned and delivered in partnership with other organisations including Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Moy Valley Resources IRD, Westport Family Resource Centre, and Mayo Intercultural Action. Each event was a high profile initiative which showcased a variety of voluntary organisations and volunteering opportunities.

4.3 Training of Volunteer Managers

Training and upskilling of volunteer managers is a cornerstone of the work of the Mayo Volunteer Centre, and training is delivered in a variety of ways – information seminars, 2 or 1-day training courses, presentations at

peer networking meetings, and guest speaker input into community events. Topics covered at these events in 2014 were:

- The national 2 –day Volunteer Management Training course
- 1-day Fundamentals of Volunteer Management course
- Garda Vetting
- Using Social Media in your volunteer programme
- Performance Management of volunteers
- Engaging Volunteers for Small Community Groups
- Involving Migrant Volunteers

Overall, we had 111 attendees at our training events in 2014.

5. Additional Projects

5.1 Migrant Volunteering Project

The Centre worked in partnership with Mayo Intercultural Action to develop a volunteering programme to encourage and support non-Irish nationals to successfully find volunteering placement. The Centre took the lead in organising “Intercultural Awareness” and “Training for Trainers” sessions for other Volunteer Centres around the country, to upskill them to support migrants and to deliver the “GIVE” Training programme (previously piloted by Volunteer Ireland).

Mayo Volunteer Centre then became the first Centre to deliver this “GIVE” Training (Managing Migrant Volunteers) to local voluntary organisations in a rural setting. 10 Volunteer Managers attended the session in December.

The final element of this programme was to support asylum seekers living in the Ballyhaunis Direct Provision Centre to become more involved in volunteering. An information session about volunteering was delivered to a group of 15 people there in May, and a number of follow-up outreach sessions were held to find volunteering placements for those interested. This work will continue in 2015.

The project is supported by funding provided by the Community Foundation.

5.2 Older Adults Active Citizenship Project

The Centre worked in partnership with Moy Valley Resources IRD in the delivery of an Active Citizenship project aimed at older people. The Centre assisted in 3 “Community Showcase” events in Castlebar, Ballina and Belmullet to make it easier for older people to find out about volunteering options in their local community. The project was supported by funding provided by the Community Foundation.

An intergenerational aspect to the project involved inviting Transition Year groups to the Ballina Showcase, and volunteering information workshops were delivered to 150 students on that day.

6 Funders and supporters

Core funding for Mayo Volunteer Centre is received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. We also receive ring-fenced funding from Mayo North East Leader Partnership and South West Mayo Development Company. This funding is used to support our outreach programme.

6.1 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals whose financial support and/or time, has ensured that 2014 has been a resounding success for Mayo Volunteer Centre.

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
Mayo North East Leader Partnership
South West Mayo Development Company
Moy Valley Resources IRD
Community Foundation
Volunteer Ireland
Western Care Association
Ballina Beverages
Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
Mayo County Council

We would also like to thank the many volunteers and organisations registered with Mayo Volunteer Centre. Their support and belief in the programme and promotion of the services, has allowed us to keep volunteering very much alive in County Mayo.