



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Localise Youth and Community Service CLG
DCU Alpha Campus, Old Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11, D11 YNR2.
localise.ie
Company Registration No: 511416
CHY No: 20511
Registered Charity No (RCN): 20081393

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

There is no question that 2021 has been an extraordinary year for the world and we have all had to adapt to living our lives very differently. Counteracting uncertainty with flexibility underscores the philosophy taken by Localise during the pandemic as we engaged more young people than ever in volunteering activities in the service of others.

The agility of the Localise programmes to adapt to the needs of young people while embracing technology is particularly noteworthy. We have grown and developed our National Youth Volunteer Platform and created Micro-Volunteering opportunities that resulted in us supporting more young people than ever as they made a positive contribution to the communities in which they live. None of this would be possible without the continued support of our partners in communities and in schools all over Ireland, and the support of our adult volunteers as we worked tirelessly to maintain a focus on youth volunteerism throughout Ireland.

In September of last year, we said our final goodbye to Fr. John Wall who founded the organisation in 1972. His vision for Localise was to create opportunities to awaken the spirit of volunteerism within young people. As we look forward to a post pandemic Ireland Localise will continue its quest to make his vision a reality.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board members, Derek and his team for steering the organisation forward through turbulent times. I can honestly say that I look across with tremendous pride what we have achieved within Localise, but more importantly for how you have all helped to re-define our proposition to meet the changing needs of our schools and communities.

“When The Winds of Change Blow, Some People Build Walls, Others Build Windmills”

I am proud to say, that we in Localise, are very much in the Windmill business.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. A.', is located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Our accomplishments in 2021 were nothing short of remarkable. Despite the challenges we continued to face in the second year of the coronavirus pandemic, our amazing team has maintained an uninterrupted level of service as we supported 3,335 young people as they delivered 120 Localise Youth Volunteering Projects.

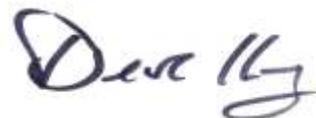
The National Youth Volunteer Platform was launched by Minister O’Gorman in March, the platform enabled Localise to continue activities and programmes throughout the pandemic. The platform has in turn increased our participation levels as community groups, schools and young people were looking to engage with their communities throughout the pandemic.

We also developed Micro-Volunteering opportunities for young people, this has resulted in Localise being in a position to support more young people than ever as they volunteered for more than 50,000 hours. In the context of the pandemic this is quite remarkable.

None of this would have been remotely possible without the support of our community partners, our adult volunteers and the young who choose to be of service in their community. I am forever grateful to my incredible team, whose perseverance, vision and agility has left an indelible imprint on the organisation.

In September of last year, we laid to rest our dear friend and founder Fr. John Wall. His vision for Localise was to awaken the spirit of volunteerism within young people. His personal mantra, taken from the Gospel of Luke, was “I am among you as one who serves”, it this fundamental principle that still guides Localise to this day. He will be sadly missed but his wisdom and passion for service to others will live on through our work.

As we look to 2022, the year we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we remember fondly our past, remain true to our core beliefs, as we proudly say that Localise has a bright future indeed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Desley".

ORGANISATIONAL SUMMARY

Vision

Our vision is a world where all young people have the opportunity to volunteer locally and become pro-active citizens and community leaders.

Mission

To enable young people, through voluntary action, to care in their community and be of service to others.

Core Values and Beliefs

Localise works to:

- Awaken a culture of service and volunteering in young people
- Promote inclusion and integration through social engagement
- Enable young people to develop their skills and realise their self-worth
- Contribute to the development of a caring compassionate society
- Empower young people to be decision makers, change makers and valued contributors to society

Operating context

We are very proud of what we achieved in 2021, particularly in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With our partners in the community and in schools, and the support of our adult volunteers, we have worked tirelessly to maintain a focus on youth volunteerism throughout Ireland, maintaining a presence in schools and in the wider community. We have grown and developed our National Youth Volunteer Platform and created Micro-Volunteering opportunities that resulted in us supporting more young people than ever as they made a positive contribution to the communities in which they live.

Programme Delivery

In 2021 Localise delivered 120 Localise Youth Volunteer Projects under the following initiatives;

- The Localise Community Youth Programme
- The Localise Classroom to Community Programme
- The Localise Volunteering For All Award

We exceeded our projected figure of 2,000 youth volunteers with a participant total of 3,335 young people in 2021. The National Youth Volunteer Platform was a key factor in our increased youth engagement. Because of their involvement in Localise programmes young people volunteered for approximately 50,025 hours.

Through innovation and perseverance, Localise was able to provide young people with a sense of purpose, self-worth, belonging and value as they directly supported those in need. Localise Youth Volunteers reached out through the lockdowns and provided support and assistance to the following key areas during 2021:

- Over 900 vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness and those living in isolation
- Over 2,000 senior citizens in care facilities throughout Ireland
- Over 5,000 frontline workers in hospitals and care facilities

What's New?

The National Youth Volunteer Platform was launched by Minister O’Gorman in March 2021. The platform enabled Localise to continue activities and programmes throughout the pandemic. The platform has in turn increased our participation levels as community groups, schools and young people were looking to engage with their communities throughout the pandemic.

During the Covid-19 lockdowns, we began to develop a blended learning and socially distant approach to the delivery of our programmes. Community groups and schools were able to access an online platform that will have instructional videos and a range of other support materials and resources that will allow for the implementation of our programmes autonomously. This enabled Localise staff and adult volunteers to remotely facilitate the programme in a blended format ensuring young people continued to meet all the same outcomes and outputs of a traditional Localise programme.

In September we launched a new initiative called Micro-Volunteering, this programme allows young people to engage in volunteerism remotely. Our first initiative was Caring for the Carers where we partnered with Nursing Home Ireland, so that give young people across Ireland had the opportunity to show their appreciation to frontline workers. The closing date for submissions to this initiative is January 24th 2022.

GOVERNANCE

Governance Structure

Localise works with a Board of Directors. There are 9 members of this Board, including a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary, and 3 subcommittees which are Governance & Strategic Planning, Child Protection and Finance.

Organisation Organogram



Legal Status

Localise is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital.

Charitable Status

Localise is a non-profit organisation and is registered as a charity as such, it is regulated by the Charities Regulator.

Organisational Constitution

As per the legal requirement of a company, the constitution of Localise comprises of a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Board

The Board of Localise is appointed by registered Localise members, under the directive of the Not For Profit Company Limited by Guarantee. The rotation of Board members is laid out in our Memorandum and Articles of Association. A term of office for a Board member is one year, whereupon members can be re-elected. The positions of Board member or officer of the Localise Board are entirely voluntary and no Board member or officer receives payment from the organisation for this work. Upon appointment each Board member the Localise Governance Handbook and participates in Board training.

Board Members

Directors	Appointed on
Seán Jevens (Chairperson)	3 rd December 2020
Peter Foran (Treasurer)	3 rd December 2020
Aideen Cassidy	3 rd December 2020
Leo Gibson	12 th October 2020
Mary Wall	1 st September 2020
Adam Harris	30 th September 2020
Cora O'Farrell	12 th October 2020
Aoife Drumgoole	14 th October 2020
Paul Malone	AGM Date (Stepped down AGM 9 th December 2021)
Finance Sub-Committee	Description of activities
Peter Foran (Treasurer)	<p>The Treasurer has the role of guiding the finance strategy and financial procedures with the assistance of the Finance and Audit Subcommittee.</p> <p>The Finance and Audit Subcommittee has the responsibility to monitor and review the accuracy of the financial statements of the organisation and announcements about the organisation's financial performance and</p>

	financial controls and to monitor risk management systems.
Strategic Planning Sub-Committee	Description of activities
Mary Wall	<p>In 2021, a subcommittee of the board was established with special responsibility for beginning the process of reviewing the five year Strategic Plan as it comes to an end in 2022 and developing the next Three Year Strategic Horizon.</p> <p>The development of the National Youth Volunteer Platform and the National Youth Volunteer Portfolios as key strategic tools for the implementation of the National Youth Volunteer Programme.</p> <p>In 2021, Localise developed a roadmap for strategic action, “Realising Potential, Reaching the Parts.”</p>

Governance Standards

Localise is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Localise is in full compliance with the rules and regulations in accordance with CHY status and its obligations to the Companies Registration Office. In 2021 Localise continued on with our compliance journey with the Charity Regulator working on the 6 key principles as outlined with the Charity Regulator.

Localise is fully compliant with the Charities Regulator Code as of 29th October, 2021. In addition to this, Localise is affiliated to both the National Youth Council of Ireland and the Wheel and operates best practice governance codes and standards as set by both bodies. We follow all six principles within the Charities Governance Code.

Localise are engaged with Shared Services run by the DCEDIY Compliance Unit with support by The Wheel and Bradan Accountants. This is for Small to Medium organisations to support these organisations with CRO Compliance.

In 2021, all our Policies and Procedures were in accordance with Annual Charity Regulator Requirements reviewed and then subsequently approved at our Board AGM. Our current GDPR Policy is under review in relation to our increased online programmes and services and will be due for updating approval by the Board in Q1 of 2022.

Localise has as its foremost priority the welfare and safety of its youth participants. We are committed to providing a safe environment for young people enabling them through their volunteer work to care in their community. Localise has a number of procedures in place designed to safeguard every young member involved in our programmes. Our staff and adult volunteers endeavour to ensure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while taking part in any of the Localise Programmes.

Safe practice in our work is essential and Localise have in place the following procedures and guidelines for good practice, which govern our work:

- Mandatory Garda Vetting and Child Protection Training for all Localise personnel and adult volunteers.
- Localise Code of Good Youth Work Practice which applies to all Localise personnel and adult volunteers.
- Localise Health and Safety Policy.
- Localise Volunteer's Charter.
- Localise Community Group's Affiliation Policy.
- Localise Virtual Meeting Policy.

Garda Vetting is in place for adults working with young people in a paid and voluntary capacity in line with the National Vetting Bureau.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Objective 1:

- To enable young people through voluntary action to develop their skills, realise their self-worth and make a positive active contribution to their community
 - We exceeded our projected figure of 2,000 youth volunteers with a participant total of 3,335 young people. The National Youth Volunteer Platform was a key factor in our increased youth engagement.
 - Over 900 vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness and those living in isolation.
 - Over 2,000 senior citizens in care facilities throughout Ireland.
 - Over 5,000 frontline workers in hospitals and care facilities.

Objective 2:

- To launch the National Youth Volunteer eLearning Platform
 - The platform was launched by Minister O’Gorman in March 2021.
 - The platform enabled Localise to continue activities and programmes throughout the pandemic.
 - The platform has in turn increased our participation levels as community groups, schools and young people were looking to engage with their communities throughout the pandemic.

Objective 3:

- To create opportunities for individual young people to engage in youth volunteerism remotely
 - Created micro-volunteering opportunities through localise.ie
 - Our first initiative was Caring for the Carers where we partnered with Nursing Home Ireland, so that give young people across Ireland had the opportunity to show their appreciation to frontline workers.
 - The closing date for submissions to this initiative is January 24th 2022.

FUTURE PLANS

Vision for the National Youth Volunteering Portfolio

As Ireland's National Youth Volunteering Agency, working in local communities, in and through schools, Localise is changing the lens through which volunteering is viewed. We will achieve this by reimagining how we value and recognise the skills developed through volunteering, and by presenting the opportunity to young people to develop an accredited youth volunteering digital portfolios that recognise informal learning.

The National Youth Volunteering Portfolio will be a form of digital learning profile that leads to an educational passport, where young people build a profile of themselves through the prism of volunteerism. The platform provides young people with a space and a place to record their achievements, store their certificates of achievement, have their skills and attributes endorsed, outline their key learnings, reflect on their experiences and outline a vision for their future.

Localise envisages that certain courses of study in Further and Higher Education will take into consideration a profile of non-formal education in the form of volunteering achievements, as systematically recorded evidences of accomplishments when allocating places for study. This pathway aims to increase the inclusive dimensions of education because of evidence based volunteerism which highlights the learners transversal skills and personal attributes. Such a profile will be captured in the National Youth Volunteering Portfolio, which also holds significance for the future world of work and successful life outcomes.

COMPANY FINANCES

Audited Accounts

A copy of the 2021 audited accounts can be found on localise.ie on this link

<https://virtual.localise.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Final-Audited-accounts-for-2021.pdf>

Income and Expenditure

Localise Youth and Community Service CLG				
Income and expenditure account				
Financial year ended 31 December 2021				
	Note	2021 €	2020 €	
Income	5	268,794	235,730	
Gross surplus		<u>268,794</u>	<u>235,730</u>	
Programme expenses		(4,787)	(5,510)	
Administrative expenses		(290,596)	(291,221)	
Other operating income	6	15,695	40,207	
Operating deficit		<u>(10,894)</u>	<u>(20,794)</u>	
Deficit before taxation		<u>(10,894)</u>	<u>(20,794)</u>	
Tax on deficit	10	-	-	
Deficit for the financial year		<u>(10,894)</u>	<u>(20,794)</u>	

The notes on pages 12 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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AUDITORS REPORT

Independent auditor's report to the members of Localise Youth and Community Service CLG

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Localise Youth and Community Service CLG for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, statement of income and retained earnings, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2021 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Localise Youth and Community Service CLG (continued)**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Localise Youth and Community Service CLG (continued)**

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Tim Regan

For and on behalf of
Regan & Co.
Chartered Accountant & Statutory Audit Firm
7 Bridgecourt Office Park
Walkinstown Avenue
Dublin 12
D12 W657

26 May 2022

**Tacaíonn na nithe seo a leanas lenár gcuid oibre:
Our work is supported by:**



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Localise
Celebrating 50 Years
of Youth Volunteering
1972 - 2022