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# Contents

04

Testimonials

05

Message from the  
Chairperson

07

Manager's  
Report

08

Mission  
Statement

10

Why does  
Limerick need a  
Learning Hub?

12

Highlights of  
the Year

14

Music Hub

16

Music Hub  
Studios

21

Art Hub

23

Health Hub

25

Science Hub

29

Digi Hub

31

Story Hub

34

Learning Hub  
in Numbers

37

Thanks to  
our Student  
Volunteers

39

Directors and  
Company  
Information

41

Accounts

45

Thanks to Donors

# Testimonials

"There is great work being done out there. The children were very impressed with the facilities"

**Teacher, Knockea National School**

"I heard about the Hub from a neighbouring school who attended last year. Great opportunity for the children to do experiments we may not have equipment for in school. Very Interactive - kids loved it!"

**Ms. Heelan, Herbertstown National School**

"I love the Art hub because it's so much fun. I get to meet new friends and I learn new art techniques. There is also something different every week!"

**Student, Age 8**

"Thank you so much! My Children really enjoyed the camps! Can't wait for more!"

**Parent of summer camp attendees**

"I've learned so much from an amazingly inspiring staff who work with unwavering passion to improve the quality of life for the community of the Northside of Limerick."

**Anna Parkes, Co-op Student UL**

"We have always enjoyed our time at the Hub. Our experiences here have brought us a lot of wonderful memories that we are grateful for."

**TY Placement Students, Thomond Community College**

"Well done to all the staff. Everybody was courteous, polite, kind to the children, patient and very enthusiastic about their work. We had a wonderful time. Mile buíochas!"

**Ms. Franklin, Nicker National School**

"I suppose when I was in Primary School we fit into the curriculum, rather at the Hub the programmes fit around the children. You know it's just different. It's so innovative. It's thinking outside the box. It's what education should be all about"

**Mr. Tiernan O' Neill, Principal, Corpus Christi Primary School**

"I like the Learning Hub because I like playing sports. I get to play a lot of different sports with new friends. I like the Learning hub because I like the people who work there."

**Student, Age 13**

# Message from the Chairperson

## **“Maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance while focusing on programmes that raise educational aspirations remain the focus of our Board’s agenda in 2016”**

It has been a very rewarding second year in my role as Chairperson of Learning Hub Limerick. With the launch of the Youth Café alongside the continually developing sporting and educational facilities on site at the learning Hub, footfall has increased to an incredible 24,000 visitors on site. This 30% increase in footfall is something the staff and volunteers should be very proud of.

With over 12,500 volunteer hours contributed by third level students; and the opening of much needed new facilities we continue to operate sustainably and in partnership with key stakeholders both in the community and across the city.

Without the continuing and unreserved support of our partners, local schools, third level institutions, industry partners, city and county council and statutory bodies we cannot deliver on our targets each year. In 2016, we were delighted to remain fully funded and to develop a new and exciting partnership with Regeneron who have committed to supporting our Science Hub programme since 2015.

Science Hub and Digihub centres continue to grow and achieve enhanced targets each year with an increase in schools and students accessing our programmes this year. We also completed a review of our strategic plan and as a Board are keen to progress the next goal for Learning Hub Limerick. To become a leading regional centre for STEAM education for primary schools serving Limerick and its environs. We continue to build expertise in the key areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) education. The Board is keen to develop our capacity in this area in 2017 with focused funding targets set for this strategic goal. The Health and Arts element of Learning Hub Limerick’s activities continue to thrive thanks to the input of funders such as Music Generation, Limerick and Clare ETB and The JP McManus Foundation.

The Board acknowledge the continuing resource challenges faced by many families living locally and we hope that, by increasing our facilities, services and accessibility, we continue to live up our promise of offering practical support and encouragement. The interlinking issues of social exclusion and educational disadvantage remain high on our agenda; and facilitating a response to families right in the heart of the community continues to be our acute focus into the future.

The board acknowledges the complex blend of learners who attend the Learning Hub and the challenge of providing professional and innovative responses to young people. We particularly acknowledge their work in attending to all young people in a professional and holistic manner; and are continually impressed by the imagination and flexibility shown them in meeting these challenges each day.

As Chair of the Board, I am also delighted that our organisation has committed to meeting the standards as set out by the Governance Code and this commitment to the highest standards of governance remains consistent on our Board’s agenda.

I also commit, with all my Board colleagues, to ensuring that the many children experiencing social and educational exclusion will continue to have access to a well-supported, welcoming and educationally inspiring learning space for 2017 and beyond.

**Eamonn Moran**  
**Chairperson**



# Manager's Report

**“Investing in our young people is crucial to the future of our city and Limerick’s young people are its most valuable human resource. Keeping young people engaged in learning, feeling good about themselves and positive about their futures is everyone’s job.**

**The Learning Hub is committed to playing its role in supporting this vision into 2017.” Jennifer Moroney-Ward**

## **Overview:**

2016 was a very busy year here on site at the Learning Hub with a significant increase in visitor numbers to our campus. We welcomed over 23,000 visitors on site in 2016 and this represents an incredible 30% increase in visitor numbers over an 18 month period. Thanks to opening of Youth Café and our new play area we are happy to invite new partners and visitors to use our facilities and as Manager I congratulate the staff and volunteers who facilitate this activity each week with professionalism and positivity.

## **Facilities and Curriculum:**

The new facilities are also helping us to deliver our in-house programmes across the spectrum of health and wellbeing to STEAM focused curriculum. From Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths/Music we are continually developing and developing innovative responses to curriculum. With our added focus on Health and wellbeing we aim to provide a truly holistic educational experience to young people attending our campus. During 2016 we delivered over 60 projects to over 1500 young people between the ages of 5 and 18. While our main

focus is on the primary years and the transition period between primary and second level, we were delighted to pilot Positive Life Skills course focusing on mental health and wellbeing with Transition Year in Thomond Community College also this year. The Learning Hub remains focused on offering a highly creative and curriculum focused non-formal learning environment. While our “during school day” programmes are hugely successful in Science, Digital Technology and Creative Writing in particular, we continue to deliver programmes beyond the school day and during the holiday periods when young people are often bored, isolated or at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour.

## **Access**

Our challenge in 2017 is to develop this capacity while also retaining the ability to service the growing number of visitors to our campus. We know that after school facilities are of huge benefit both socially and educationally to children and young people who live in communities where poverty and inequality of opportunity continue to be an issue. For this reason, our costs remain low and access universal.

## **Volunteering**

As Manager of the Learning Hub, I am incredibly proud of the commitment shown by staff and volunteers who continue to deal with the range and complexity of needs presenting at the Learning Hub. During 2016 volunteers donated over 12000 hours to the Learning Hub and without this commitment we would have failed to maintain services at normal levels.

without this commitment we would have failed to maintain services at normal levels. This level of volunteering is crucial to our ability to deliver on our action plan and illustrates an impressive commitment by students attending UL, LIT and MIC.

## **Stakeholders and Funders**

The last year also saw the Hub increase our network of partners, supporters and learners. We were also delighted to welcome new organisations to the Hub from different parts of the city to engage with our facilities, staff and volunteers. It must also be acknowledged that without the support of the Community Services Programme and TUS schemes many of our Hubs of activity would not have been fully resourced.

We must also acknowledge the funders who continue to generously support the Learning Hub in meeting our goals. We acknowledge the continued significant support of JP McManus Foundation, Limerick City and County Council, Music Generation, Regeneron, Science Foundation Ireland and the many other committed funders listed in this report. Their continued investment allows us to leverage significant funding from new sources each year. We thank all our funders and partners for believing in what the Learning Hub can achieve each year. Investing in our young people is crucial to the future of our city and Limerick's young people are its human resource. Keeping young people engaged in learning, feeling good about themselves and positive about their futures is everyone's job. The Learning Hub is committed to playing its role in supporting this vision into 2017.

**Jennifer Moroney-Ward**

**Manager**

# Mission Statement

1. Create an active learning environment that extends the learning experience beyond the traditional school day
2. Creatively embed technology and the core skills of literacy and numeracy into active learning projects
3. Provide a positive social environment that inspires us as individuals and as a community by recognising the potential and the talents of young people and learners
4. Prevent early school leaving and raise the educational aspirations of families, schools and the wider community
5. Work in partnership with other agencies to provide support to children identified as most in need of additional social, cultural and educational resources
6. Create an environment that promotes the positive development of physical and mental health among young people and the community
7. Work in partnership with key stakeholders to maximise the resources available to the community by harnessing volunteers, resources and energy for the development of the Hub
8. Harness the resource potential of third level volunteers to act as mentors and subject matter experts in our educational programmes
9. Provide volunteers and third level mentors with real world civic engagement experience that will enhance their social, academic and professional development

## CORE GOALS OF ACTIVE LEARNING HUB







# Why does Limerick need a Learning Hub?

We strongly believe that programmes which focus on educational attainment and civic engagement are key to the development of regeneration areas and the city as a whole. Indeed, the recent and wide-ranging report by Limerick Children's Services Committee entitled "How Are Our Kids?" clearly identifies the key educational difficulties issues facing young people and families:

*"Parents are early school leavers themselves. Low parental education affects a child in various ways, most directly by limiting their educational outcomes in the future.*

*For instance, parents with low education themselves are unable to help their children with homework, particularly as the children advance through primary into secondary school. In addition, low parental education tends to affect parents' aspirations for their children's educational progression and their*

*expectations of success. Moreover, as they have not themselves experienced success within the educational system, they tend to lack understanding of the support and conditions required in the home environment that lead to successful outcomes in education, including successful completion of second level, transition to, and progression within, third level education. In addition to its direct effects on the child's education, low parental education is also associated in this research with greater total difficulties in the child."*

**How Are Our Kids (2012), p. 46.**

- ***Children spend as little as 18% of their time in full-time education.***
- ***How and where they spend the rest of their time effects their ability to reach their potential as individuals and as citizens.***

- ***The Learning Hub provides a safe, welcoming and inspiring environment where young people can work to reach their potential in education, in society and as individuals.***
- ***Limerick city still has the highest level of early school leaving in the country and below-average educational attainment in many areas of the city.***
- ***Almost 1 out of every 2 young people in Limerick are currently unemployed. We must provide young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking skills to find and create meaningful work in the future.***
- ***We are working to raise aspiration levels by forging unique relationships that link communities and higher education in the city.***



# Highlights of the Year

**1. We started working on our new MUGA area which is planned for the old tennis court completion in 2017.**



**2. Science and Multimedia Summer Camps in July were a great experience for all involved.**



**3. Over 7000 people using the Learning Hub on an annual basis. Footfall of over 23,520 during 2016.**



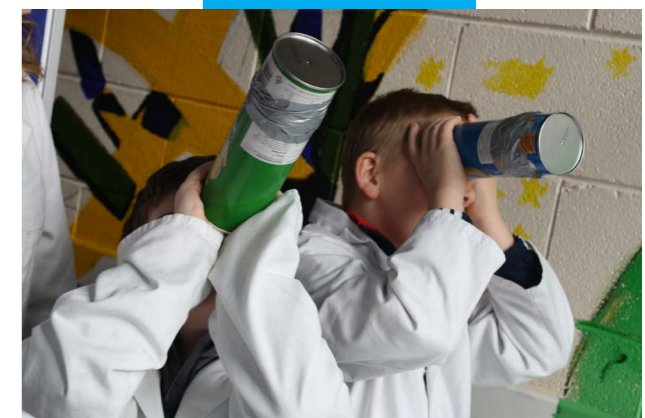
**4. Success of young people in their different areas of expertise and talent.**



**5. Students from UL, Mary I and LIT logged a total of 12,589 volunteer hours during 2016.**



**6. Science Hub was again funded by SFI for 2016 allowing us to continue to develop the project. Regeneron also supported the project this year.**





The Learning Hub Music programmes reached 310 children in 2016 through a combination of in-school and after-school programmes, Easter and Summer camps as well as collaborations with Music Generation and The University of Limerick MA in Community Music and with the constant support of Limerick School of Music. The highlights of the year are outlined below.

### **Music Classes: Music Hub (Learning Hub staff, volunteers, Music Generation)**

The Learning Hub Continued with its successful music education programme. Junior 'Introduction to Music' classes were heavily subscribed. Junior Music saw 40 children learn about an array of different genres of music from folk to classical, traditional to rock. With the untimely death of David Bowie in early 2016 the young children learned some of his songs as well folk songs in English and Spanish. Towards the end of 2016 the music the children learned about took on a more seasonal hue with a focus on Christmas music. Both traditional and modern, from home and abroad. From January to June we continued to offer guitar, ukulele, piano, violin, music technology and drums. We had some new recruits but the vast majority of our young musicians have been with us for over a year and are continuing to progress in their instrument.

The year culminated in a Christmas party/concert for the children and their families and friends. The Junior Music Children teamed up with the senior children who had been learning some of the same themes on the instrument of their choice.



Together, the children formed house choir and house band and performed an array of seasonal themes. It was wonderful to see children grow both in their personal and musical confidence and an exceptional opportunity for them to perform in public.

### **Music in the Schools**

St. Munchin's Girls (20 children)

Following on from the work done in 2015, music and drama continued in St. Munchin's Girls School. The children researched and wrote an original piece of work and composed a song to accompany it. The girls then performed the song they had written for the play at their school concert at the end of the academic year. The girls then visited the Learning Hub recording Studio for a full day and recorded an audio reading of the play as well the song they had written.

### **Music in Corpus Christi**

The Learning Hub continued the 2015 Music Programme in Schools with Corpus Christi fifth class. The programme continued with children learning about different musical genres, working on percussion, tempo and different rhythms. Children learned a wide variety of songs as well as composing one piece as a group.

In addition to all of this, the children continued to learn to play the ukulele (the Learning Hub joint-purchased 30 ukuleles with Corpus Christi) in late 2015 and the children learned to play the song they had written on the ukulele

## **MA in Community Music**

2016 saw a continuation of the tradition of collaboration with the MA in Community Music in the University of Limerick from previous years. Over an eight week period, MA in Community Music student Hala Jaber taught a group of young people to make their own instruments from scratch. They also learned about Arabic music and composed their own original piece which they performed at the end of the programme for family and friends.

## **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

The instruments made in the workshop and the ability to play them were then applied to the St. Patrick's Day Parade as part of the Learning Hub's entry. Hala coordinated the percussion as children played their home-made instruments (drums, shakers, kazoos and trumpets) adding colour and life to the party.

## **Easter Camp**

Easter 2016 saw Easter Camps return at the Learning Hub. Children participated in a wide variety of activities including music. Once again, Hala Jaber from UL Community Music lent her expertise, teaching children songs, making instruments and composing pieces of music. Three different groups met each day, working on their material and developing their own music. The camp ended with a 'show and tell' where the children performed their work at the end of the Easter Camp for all the others at the camp.

## **Summer Camp: Music Generation**

The Learning Hub was involved once again in the Music Generation Summer Camp in the University of Limerick World Academy. We provided staff and volunteers for the camp which took place in the first week of

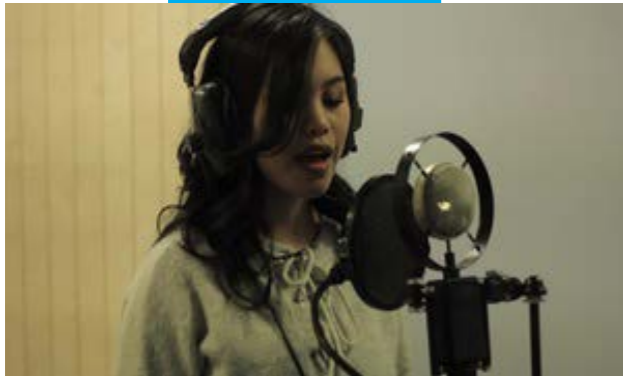
July. Ten places were offered to young people from the Learning Hub to take part in the summer camp. The camp consisted of daily workshops in song-writing, group singing, story-writing, drama, percussion, dance and puppetry. There were daily open-mics where children and staff could perform for everyone at the camp. Children were divided into smaller groups in which they devised a musical and dramatic piece which they performed for the rest of the participants and their parents at the end of the week.

## **Choir for clients of the Homeless Services in Limerick**

A collaboration between LCETB, NOVAS, FOCUS, Music Generation and the Learning Hub, the choir met for 22 rehearsal and practice sessions (1.5 hours each) from April to December. 15 homeless service users met weekly to sing and learn new songs. After two months of regular weekly meetings the group came to the Learning Hub recording studio for a day recording the material they had learned to date.

The group grew in confidence and identity over the period, engaging with and committing to the programme. As they learned more songs they became eager to show-case their repertoire. Many of the homeless services users had been struggling with an array of issues from mental health to addiction, isolation and purposelessness. The regular choir meetings helped them to establish a structure in their lives and, combined with other services on offer, gain a sense of purpose. Some of the service users also began to write their own music and have begun record their own material since. All in all, they had five public performances in 2016 held in McGarry House, the Belltable Arts Centre and Christmas concerts in St. John's Cathedral, Brother Russell House (NOVAS) and No. 1 Pery Square. They plan to go from strength to strength in 2017 and become incorporated into the national homeless service users' High Hopes choir

# Music Hub Studios



Music Hub Studios continued to grow this year with dozens of local artists using the facility to rehearse and record. As a business we are coming to the point of self-sustainability with income in the last few months of the year rising steeply and we will be doing our best to continue this trend into 2017.



We were instrumental in the creation of Limerick's homeless choir. This multi-agency project involving the LCETB, Novas, Focus Ireland and Music Generation has been a great success so far and is also set to carry on into 2017.



The Studio has branched out into several different business strands including soundtracks and voiceovers for local film-makers, songwriting and music production workshops and consultations, and live sound for concerts and events. Over a dozen third level placement students were trained at the studio, assisting the professional work of the studio and working on their own projects.

## **2016 in numbers:**

**Total income €5,655**

**Total Footfall 925**









# Community Engagement

We believe strongly in encouraging young people to participate in their community as active citizens.

## Work Experience:

During 2016 we encouraged several local transition year work placement students to choose to spend their work experience time at Learning Hub Limerick. Most of them were former students of the Learning Hub and it was great to see them back as classroom assistants and junior leaders in all our Hubs. We also welcomed a number of young people from the local community to join us work as assistant instructors in the Music and Health Hub in particular. They have talents, expertise (and relevant experience 9 being former learners here!) which makes them excellent project assistants.

## Visits and Participation:

We are committed to bringing the children and young people who attend the Learning Hub to events around the city. During the last year we ensured that children had the opportunity to enjoy several company visits, participate in community arts activities and arts/educational visits to local third level colleges. We actively encourage our youngest to oldest learners to play their part, and have their voice heard in wide range of fora and events. We welcome any opportunity to play our part in the civic life of Limerick and encourage our young people to feel the same too.

## Next steps:

In 2017 we aim to move forward with an exciting participatory budgeting element to our work and to devise a way to include our learners in deciding how a portion of our project budget will be spent!







2016 was an exciting year for the Art Hub. The junior and senior groups began the year preparing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Together with volunteers from LIT, MIC, UL, young people designed costumes, props and the float for the parade. This year More than sixty children, parents and volunteers participated on the day.

The Art Hub continued working with Bedford Row Family Support Project coming in throughout the year to facilitate art workshops in conjunction with other activities.

Building on the successful relationships with Limerick Youth Service 2015 we started a new group which focused on local culture expressed through photography. This was conjunction with a cultural exchange program from a youth centre in Sweden.



Workshops continued throughout the year on a weekly basis as children learned different artistic techniques. In what is now an annual fixture in our calendar, second only perhaps to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Halloween was definitely one to remember at the Learning Hub this year. The Art Hub team transformed our basement into one of the most frightening Haunted Houses we have ever had. From ghostly graveyards to crazy clowns, it definitely made a lasting impression on all who attended both children and adults alike!





## Kickboxing Classes

The Learning Hub Kickboxing Club grew in numbers and in reach during 2016. Its role in the community, not just as a kickboxing club but as a centre of fitness, positive mental health and Classes on a weekly basis continued with Little Ninjas (25 children aged between and 7 years old) reaching capacity. The Junior Club (8-16 years of age) continued to draw children (75 members) from the area, retaining member from the previous year and taking on graduates from the Little Ninjas Programme. The Senior Kickboxing grew even more with over 70 adults participating regularly. Many milestone events took place throughout the year that helped to publicise the activities of the Kickboxing club, increase membership and strengthen partnerships and affiliations with other kickboxing clubs.

## Partnerships

Throughout the year Learning Hub Kickboxing Club organised and participated in a number of events. Taking to the road, we took part in 'The Best of the Best' in Tallaght, the Junior International Kickboxing Federation Championships in LIT, 'King of the Ring' in Shannon, Mountmellick Inter-Club Tournament and Galway Inter-Club Kickboxing Show. Those taking part from the Learning Hub really enjoyed the experience. Special sparring sessions were organised with a variety of local clubs and others from around the country. The Learning Hub hosted LIT, Limerick Combat, Galway Kickboxing, the Black Dragons of Tipperary and Courage Muay Thai from Clonmel.

## Mid-West Vs. The Rest

2016 was a very special year as it saw the Learning Hub also organised its first large-scale event in LIT in June. Based on the relationships built on all of the interactions with other clubs from around the country as well as recognition from the Kickboxing Federation of Ireland, 'Mid-West Vs. The Rest' hosted 62 individual fights. The ages of participants ranged from 8 years of age to fully grown adults drawn from kickboxing clubs in Clare, Galway, Dublin, Meath,

Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Laois and Donegal. Three national titles were fought for and over 300 people attended. Requiring tremendous organisation, logistics, expertise and manpower, the tournament was an unqualified success and we hope to organise more like it in the future.

## Health Programmes

Under the umbrella of Health Hub, our kickboxing instructor Paul O'Brien delivered 10 week cooking programmes to parents and children from the local area. Aimed at improving diet, encouraging healthy weight loss and increasing general well-being, Paul showed how tasty, healthy and nutritious can be prepared using fresh and inexpensive ingredients. Such was the success of and interest generated by the programme that it is hoped that it will run again in 2017.

## Use of GYM

As well as the regular kickboxing activities, partner groups, schools and youth programmes used both our facilities and expertise. Groups as diverse as St. Augustine's, Bedford Row Family Project, Youthreach, St. Munchin's Boys National School and Thomond Community College availed of regular classes and one-off events. Other groups used the facility on a regular basis for dance classes and practice, women's fitness programmes and Pilates. We also had a one-off Kung Fu showcase and delivered kickboxing classes as part of Easter and summer camps. With a total footfall of 8627 in 2016, Learning Hub Kickboxing Club has reached capacity and cannot currently take on new members. We hope to expand the current gym to enable us to take on new members. Plans are afoot to raise funds for this purpose. We hope to reveal all of the details of the expansion in our Annual report for 2017!







The Science Hub project is aimed predominantly at Junior Infants to 6th class primary schools pupils, particularly those in schools with designated disadvantaged status (DEIS). Statistics suggest that pupils in these schools are less likely to choose science subjects at post primary level. This in turn decreases the likelihood of these people placing value on science later in their lives. The Science Hub works to combat this trend by introducing the Primary Science Curriculum to pupils and teachers in a fun, interactive learning environment and hence increasing interest and engagement in science from an early age. Science and Engineering faculties, as well as individual academics and students, from the University of Limerick (UL) and Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) support this project. Science Foundation Ireland are also key supporters of the Science Hub.

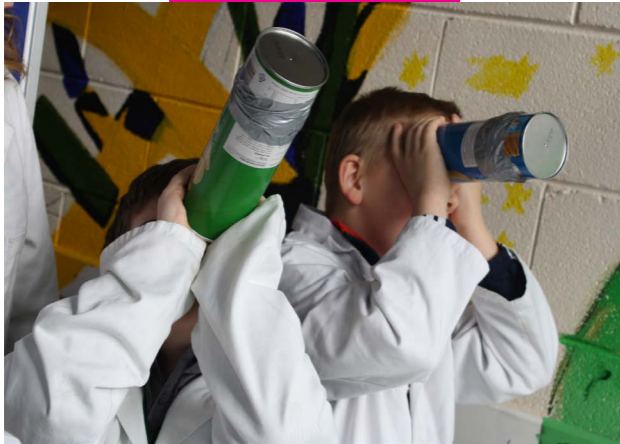
The 'Science Hub' is based on the Learning Buddies model which partners young people with undergraduate mentors and is the bedrock of Learning Hub activity. This partnership is one which spreads the message of 'Science for all', through the involvement of all involved partners; third level institutions, pupils and teachers in partner schools, the Learning Hub, industry and the community.

## Science Hub Schools Project

This year, we developed this aspect of the project significantly to incorporate the entire Primary Science Curriculum. We developed several new sets of resources, which were piloted with schools early in the year and then rolled out to all of our participating schools throughout 2016. We also added a new aspect to this project by allowing schools to participate in a series of 6 weeks of workshops instead of the one-off workshops we offered up until now. As a result we saw the footfall for this aspect of the project increase to 940 children. Feedback on our new workshops was extremely positive.

## Science Magic Shows

This strand of the project allows younger children (and adults!) to engage with the Science Hub. These groups are not typically suited to attend our schools or after-school workshops so the magic show aspect allows us to extend our target audience greatly. The show is mobile and so can be performed at virtually any location or event. As part of the Limerick European City of Culture 2020 the show was performed for over 250 people on the day the judges visited the city. In total, approximately 1,113 people attended shows during the year.



### **After School Club**

Our After-School workshops remained very popular throughout the year with footfall of 392 children. Our retention rate for this aspect of the project was quite high also and currently stands at 81%. The current group participated in several new events during the year including an industry visit to Vistacon, the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival and the BT Primary Science Fair in Mary I where they received excellent feedback on their project "The Science of Baking".



### **Sci-fi Movie Nights**

This element of the project was run monthly from September to Christmas and was focused on informally engaging the general public in STEM. Attendance at these events was steady at approximately 15 attendees at each screening.

### **Science & Multimedia Summer Camps**

In June of 2016 we ran 2 weeks of summer camps with a focus on digital photography and the science behind it. As part of these camps we looked at the basic principles of photography, the science of light and how cameras operate, digital image manipulation, animation and basic coding. The camps were fully booked out for the 2 weeks



and feedback from both the participants and their parents was excellent. One parent stated that "This was the best camp my boys have done in years. They thoroughly enjoyed it!"

### **Limerick Festival of Science**

The Science Hub was one of the activity centres for the first Limerick Festival of Science which took place as part of Science Week in November. We ran activities every day at the Learning Hub involving several DEIS schools, Parents, Teachers and the wider community.

### **Plans for 2017**

2017 is already looking to be a very busy year for the Science Hub and we plan to meet if not exceed our user numbers for 2016.

Having advertised our newly developed curriculum with schools in the City and County, we are fully booked until mid-June for our Science and Story Hub workshops. Schools have also shown high levels of interest in our 6-week workshop programmes and by the end of the first quarter we will have run these for 3 class groups. We should see us booked out until the summer holidays.



Science Magic Shows have been booked well in advance by schools in the city and county with a waiting list that should see us booked out until the summer holidays. Programme development will continue this year in the form of a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programme at the Hub.

This project will aim to integrate STEM and the Arts across all of the existing Hubs and will aspire to get users interested in STEM through cross curricular programmes such as robotics, computer programming and Science/ Health Hub workshops. The project will also aim to upskill teachers in using the STEAM concept for delivering the Primary Science Curriculum in their own classrooms.

The Science Hub will be highly involved in the Limerick Festival of Science (Science Week – November 2017) this year. In partnership with UL, LIT, Mary I and several other key groups we will deliver a wide range of STEM activities over the course of the week long festival.

### Relevant links

YouTube:

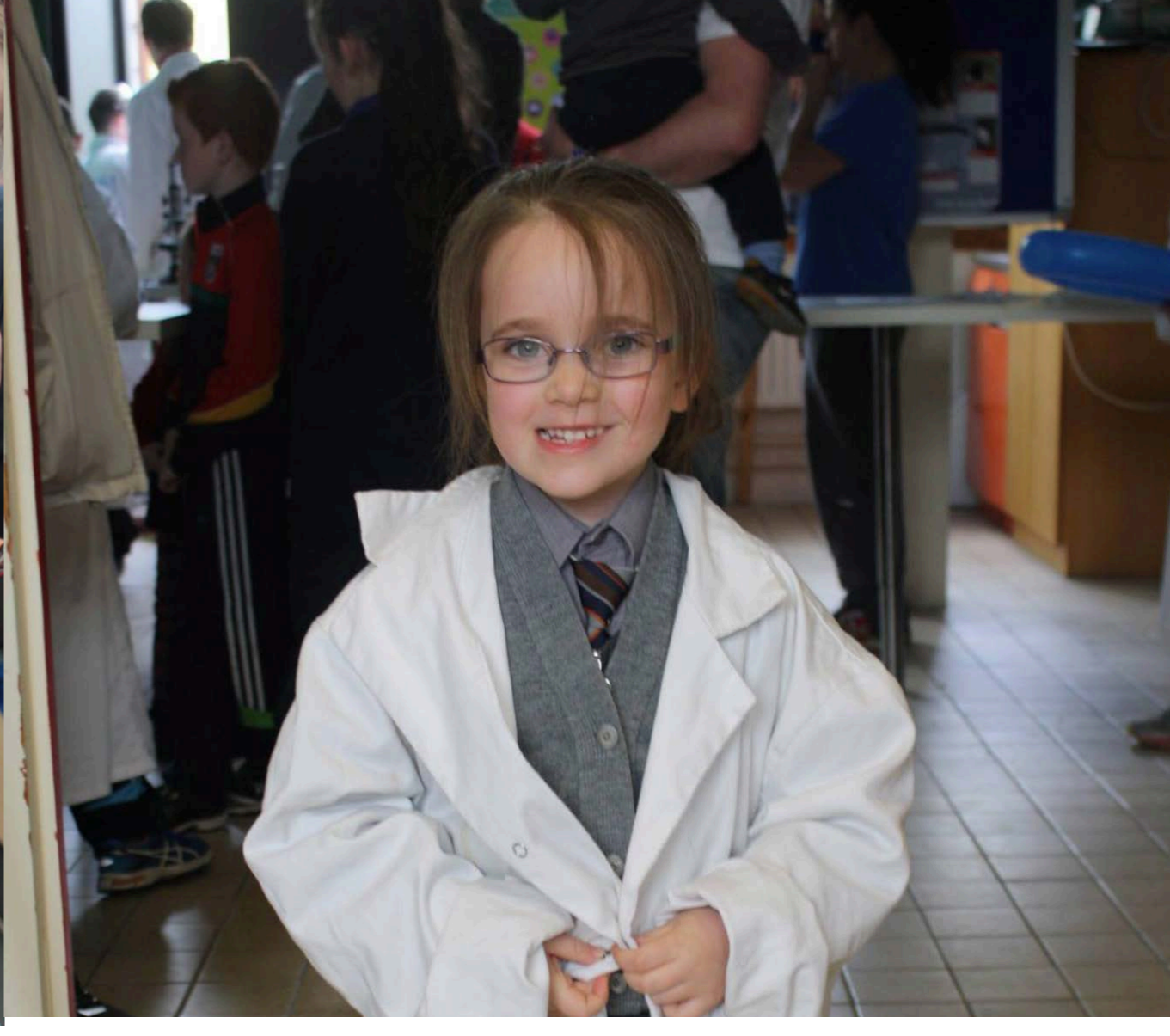
<http://tinyurl.com/mevqqx5>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceHub>

Blog:

<http://www.learninghub.ie/category/by-theme/science-hub/>



The Digi Hub played a key role this year in terms of integrating Technology into all of our other Hubs. Art, Science, Music, Health and Youth Café all made use of this facility to introduce ICT elements into projects throughout the year.

### **STEAM Workshops**

During the year we piloted a new range of workshops aimed at local primary schools. The aim of these was to integrate STEM and the Arts through the use of Digital Technology. Schools were invited to take part in our 6 week course which covered several aspects of ICT including Scratch programming workshops, digital photography and editing. Staff received training from LERO (the Irish Software Research Centre) in Scratch and workshops were developed in order to introduce pupils to this extremely interactive programming tool. Feedback on the initial workshops was excellent and we will continue to deliver this programme in 2017.

### **Science and Multimedia Camps**

We ran several Science and Multimedia camps during the year with the largest and most popular of these taking place in July. This year we integrated Science, Music, Art and Technology into the camps. The children learned about light and sound waves and then used these and the Science behind them to create sound sculptures in sand. They also learned about some of the principles behind photography and learned how to edit images using GIMP. Finally, the pupils created their own characters and used Scratch to animate them. Overall, 111 children attended Science/Multimedia Camps in the Digi Hub during 2016.

### **External Organisation**

Various external groups made use of the Digi Hub facility throughout the year including Foroige Tech Space and the Limerick Youth Service for various technology related projects. Digital mapping, Digital photography, animation and general computer literacy were just some of the projects carried out by these organisations.

### **Plans for 2017**

During 2017, we plan to develop the Digi Hub as a central resource for all things Digital and Technology based in the community.

We are currently applying for funding to upgrade the existing equipment (Computers etc.) in the Digi Hub as well as to purchase new teaching tools such as Arduino Boards, Lego We-Do Kits and Little Bits Kits.

We also hope to employ a Digi Hub Coordinator to develop teaching resources and workshops based on the already quite successful Science Hub model which we plan to roll out to local schools by the end of the year. This will allow us to greatly enhance our ability to deliver meaningful Digital and Tech activities to our target schools and the community as a whole.







## Limerick's literary future is in great hands!

The art of story-telling has deep roots in our culture and has played a strong role in the Irish tradition of remembering real historic events and keeping myths and legends in the minds of people for generations. The Learning Hub has been playing its part in maintaining this ancient tradition with an emphasis on creating new stories by teaching children how stories can be written, getting young people to engage in creative writing. Throughout 2016 Story Hub continued to go from strength to strength. Our staff and trained-up volunteers received schools from all over the city and county (and further afield) to learn simple and effective forms of creative writing (and having a lot of fun at the same time). Children write collectively and individually, with an emphasis on creativity and expression of their ideas. All in all, we were visited by 28 schools (328 children) for Story Hub with many budding creative writers emerging from their ranks. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition into 2017







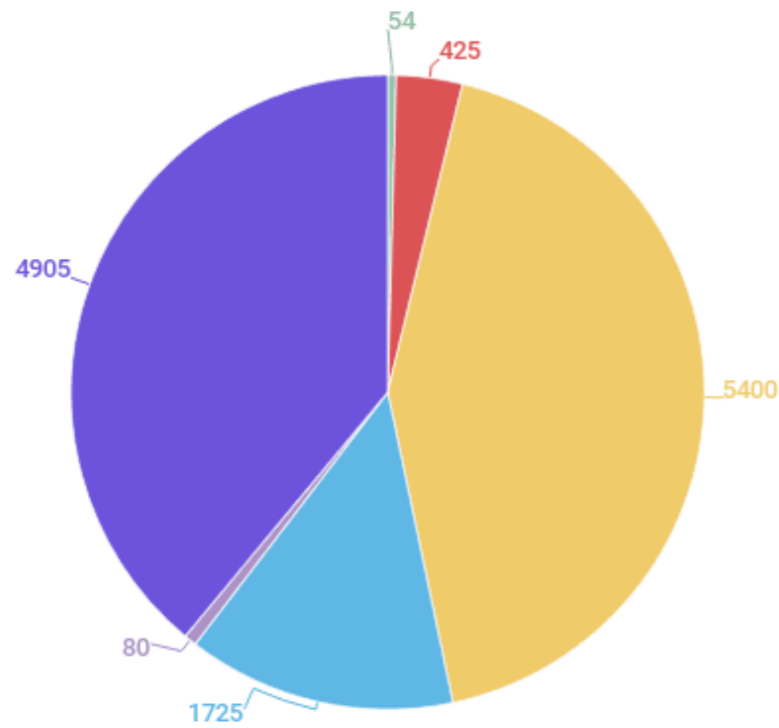


# Volunteer Hours by Institution



12,589

The number of hours donated to the Learning Hub by our Volunteers in 2016

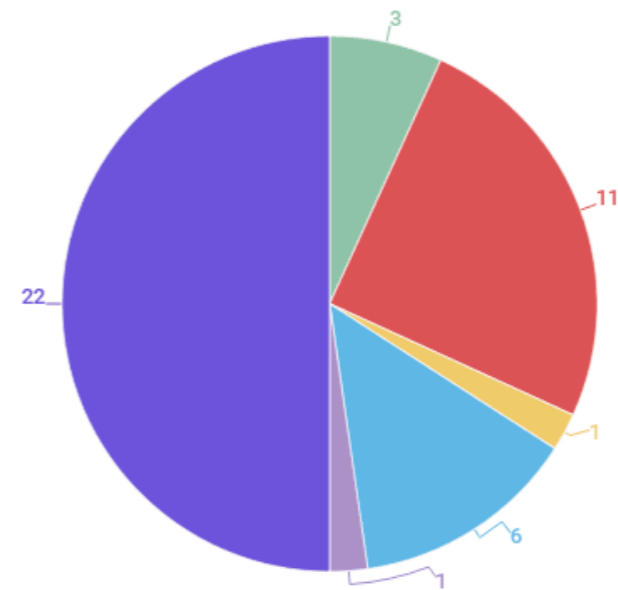


- LSAD
- LIT
- UL
- MIC
- LCFE
- OTHER (Tus, Gateway, TY, Music Generation)



# Learning Hub in Numbers

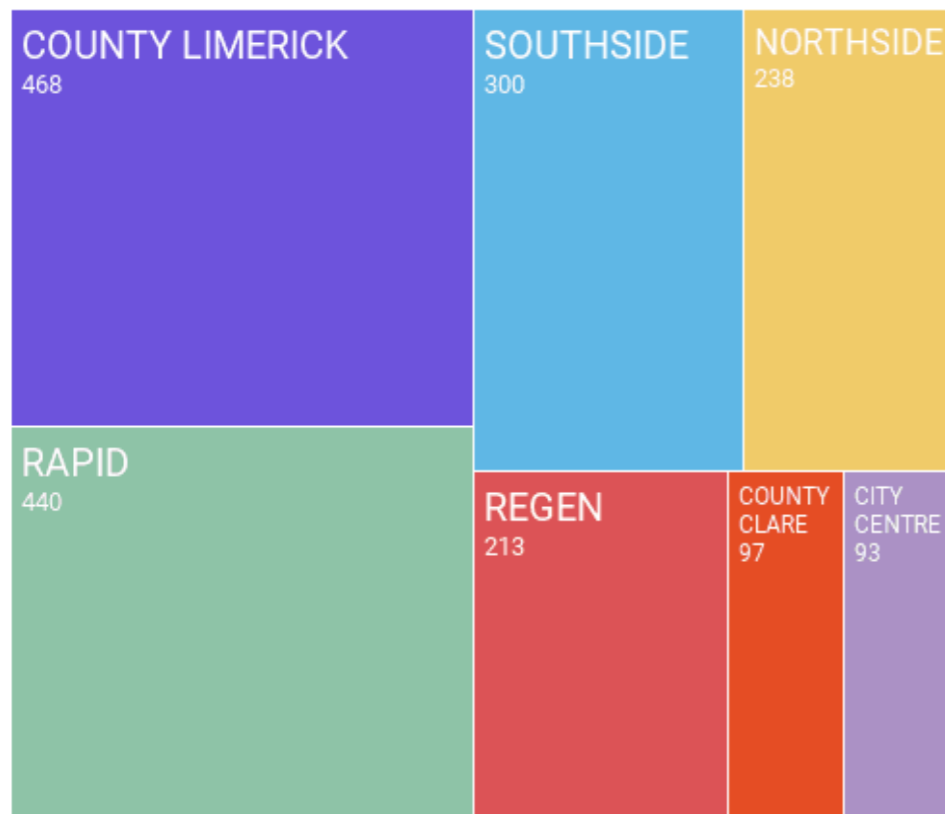
## Volunteer Numbers by Institution



- LSAD
- UL
- LIT
- MIC
- LCFE
- OTHER (Tus, Gateway, TY, Music Generation)

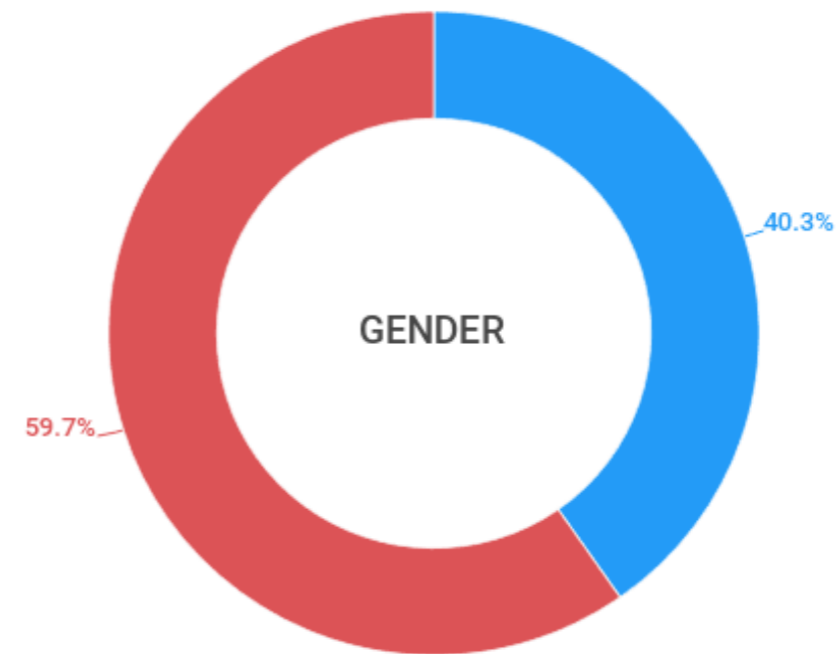


## User Breakdown by Region



## USER BREAKDOWN BY GENDER 2016

### GENDER



MALE FEMALE

# Footfall Figures 2016 - On Site Activities



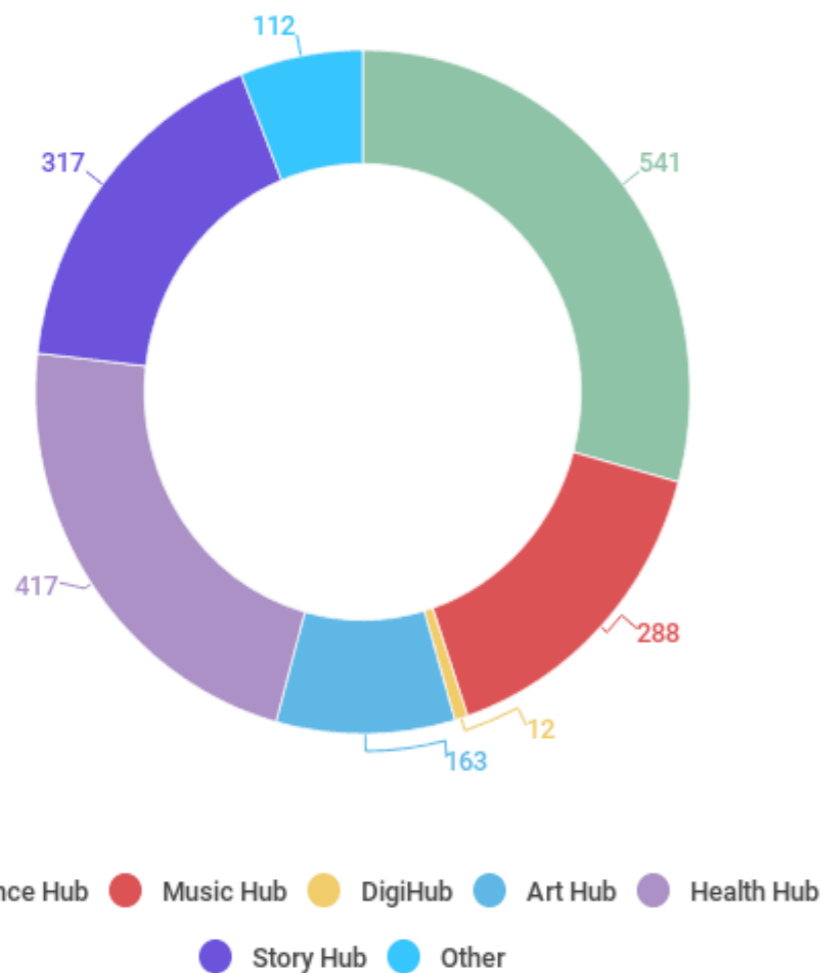
23,520

Children and young people used the Hub in 2016



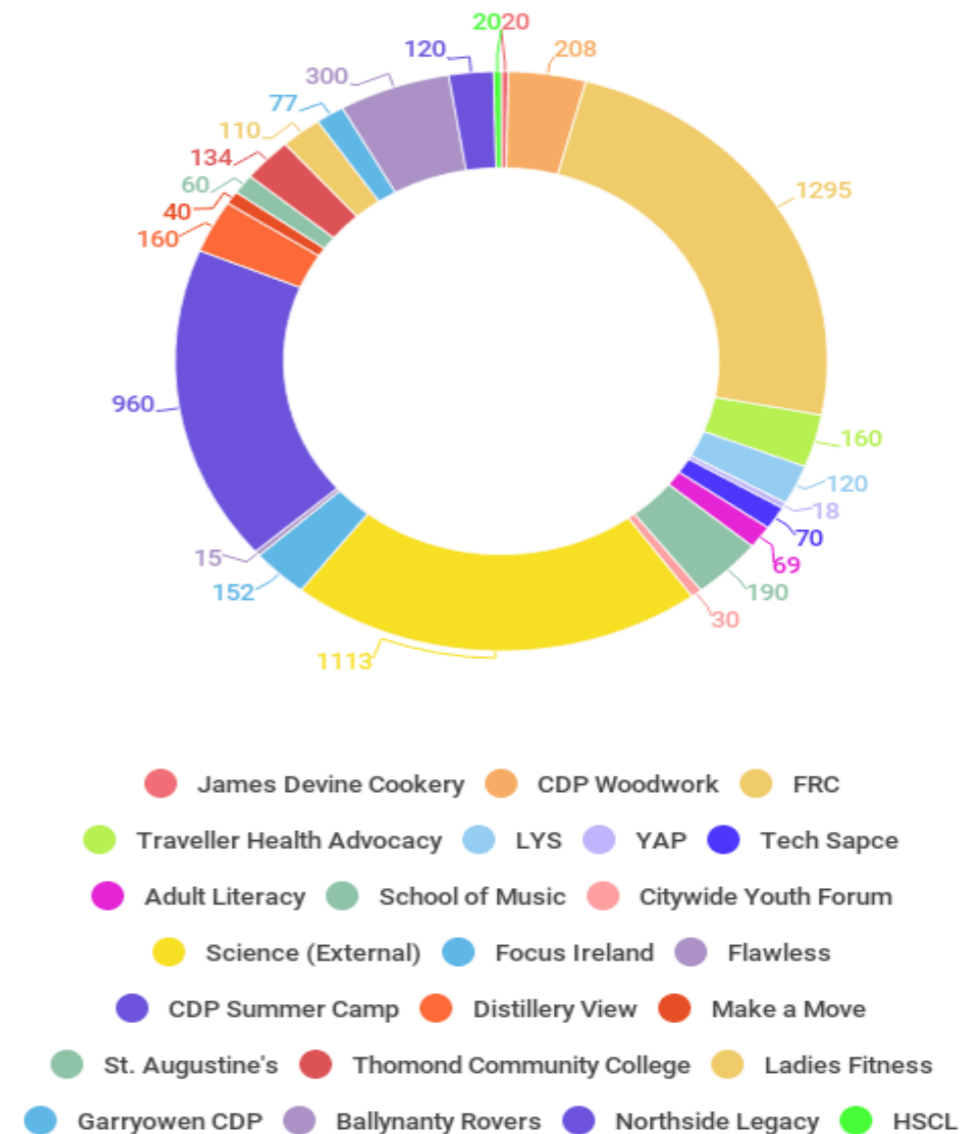
62%

Increase on footfall for 2015



# Learning Hub in Numbers

## Footfall Figures 2016 - External Activities/Organisations



# A Special Thank You to all of our Student Volunteers!





# DIRECTOR'S AND COMPANY INFORMATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

Eamonn Moran (Chair, May 15)

Gillian Barry (vice chair)

Yvonne Lane (Secretary)

David O'Connell

Padraig McDonald

Tiernan O'Neill

Marcus Horan

Bridget O'Connell

Gary O' Brien

## SECRETARY & REGISTERED OFFICE

Yvonne Lane

Kileely House,

New Road, Thomondgate,

Limerick

REG NO: 42724

## AUDITORS & ACCOUNTANTS

Liston Lonergan Meade

Fourth & Fifth Floor,

Cornmarket Square,

Limerick

## SOLICITORS

Dundon Callinan

17 The Crescent

Limerick





# ACCOUNTS

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2015

INCOME	2016	2015	
Social Regeneration - Limerick City & County Council *note below	44,100	49,000	
McManus Foundation *note below	40,000	150,000	
POBAL - Community Services Programme	38,066	38,066	
POBAL - Youth Cafe Capital Programme 2013	0,000	5,000	
TUSLA - Child and Family Agency	21,756	21,756	
PAUL Partnership	23,209	23,485	
Limerick Institute of Technology	24,300	20,000	
University of Limerick	10,000	10,000	
Science Foundation Ireland	22,500	15,000	
Fundraising and Donations	1,509	3,802	
Regeneron	20,000	10,000	
Limerick City Council- Astro turf	31,900		St.
St. Martins Trust		10,000	
<b>Internally Generated Income</b>			
Minibus Hire / sale	4,750	2,332	
Project /Learninghub income	23,498	15,181	
Total	<u>305,588</u>	<u>373,622</u>	

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) continue to support Learning Hub Limerick by providing funding in the form of paid teaching hours. The value of these teaching hours has not been recognised in euro terms in the income statement.

\* Income is recognised on a cash receipts basis, as a result not all income relating to 2015 is included in income in the financial statements. Social Regeneration awarded us €49k in 2015, 20% balance outstanding.

\* The JP Mc Manus foundation income comprises of €50K 2015 operational income €50k 2015 capital income & €50k 2016 operational income.

**OPERATING EXPENDITURE**

	2016	2015
STAFF COSTS	203,302	198,614
STAFF TRAINING	589	1,265
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	69,690	62,348
PROJECT FUNDING	23,912	15,289
DEPRECIATION	55,436	49,124
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	352,929	326,640
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## LEARNING HUB LIMERICK LIMITED BALANCE SHEET

	2016	2015
	€	€
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>108,174</b>	<b>115,177</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	<b>75</b>	
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>60,631</b>	<b>91,340</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>(21,972)</b>	<b>(12,268)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>38,734</b>	<b>79,072</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>146,908</b>	<b>194,249</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Members' Funds</b>	<b>146,908</b>	<b>194,249</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>



# THANKS TO DONORS

## WHO INVESTED IN THE LEARNING HUB DURING 2015

### SUPPORT US

To find out how you can donate to or volunteer at Learning Hub Limerick please contact [jennifer@learninghub.ie](mailto:jennifer@learninghub.ie) or visit [www.learninghub.ie](http://www.learninghub.ie)

### ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

Thanks to all of you who work so hard to help us make the Learning Hub the very special place it is!

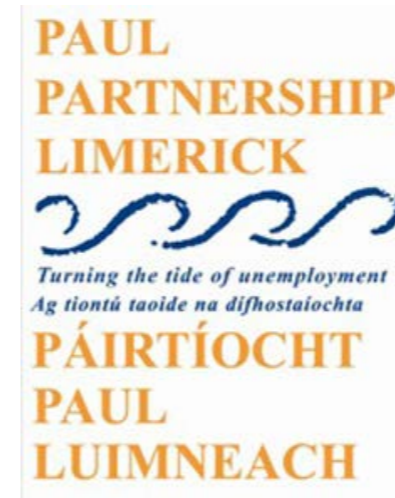


An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency



**lcetb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Luimnigh agus an Chláir  
Limerick and Clare  
Education and Training Board



**Limerick**  
CITY & COUNTY  
COUNCIL

**REGENERON**



Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál



Mary Immaculate College



LIMERICK INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY  
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA  
LUIMNIGH



government supporting communities



LIMERICK CITY / CATHAIR LUIMNIGH



Social Inclusion &  
Community Activation  
Programme



UNIVERSITY  
of  
LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

The Learning Hub also would like to thank the many individual donations and private supporters of our work during 2015.

