



TOBIN YOUTH CENTRE (MOORTOWN) LTD

MOORTOWN, Co. Tyrone

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Theme	Social
Type	Hall refurbishment; Children and Young People; Enhanced service provision
Location	Mid Ulster District
Population	Small rural village, population of less than 1,000 (2011 census)

Established in 2019, Rural Action is a not-for-profit social purpose company borne out of a desire to make a positive contribution to the everyday lives of rural communities.

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Project Summary

Tobin Youth Centre is located within the Moortown area of Co Tyrone, not far from Lough Neagh.

Operated by a Voluntary management committee the project provides local facilities for children, young people and those with additional needs.

Having identified a lack of suitable facilities in the area the committee identified the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme

as an opportunity to address this and sourced funding from the its Rural Services Scheme.

The project involved the enhancement of Tobin's existing facilities, both to the interior and exterior and these enhancements now allow for the accommodation of children with additional needs and toddlers, providing a welcoming, safe and secure environment for all attending the Centre.

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Background

Formed in 2011 the Tobin Youth Centre Committee set out to purchase and refurbish the former St Malachy's Football Hall which acted as the main focal point for community activity in Moortown and its surrounding area.

The facilities needed upgrading to accommodate an expanding range of children and young people using the Centre. The Project was designed following detailed consultation with the local community and the delivery of 2 Pilot Projects, thus

ensuring the Centre would be suitable for all children including those with additional needs and toddlers.

Activities and Work Undertaken

Tobin Youth Centre was awarded Rural Development funds of £58,845 with additional monies received from Mid Ulster District Council and with a group contribution of £15,692, raised locally, they set about undertaking the refurbishment of their facility in 2018. The project involved the enhancement of disabled toilets and the installation of a play surface for exterior play.

Undertaking the project has enabled the facility to support 25 families per annum; provide a minimum of 12 Saturday Clubs annually; establish a parent support group; provide a minimum of 30 Baby & Toddler sessions per annum; work with the Empower Project and SureStart to deliver their services within Tobin; and organise a minimum of 2 family advice programmes each year.



Benefits

During the development of the project, the group carried out an extensive consultation exercise to help identify gaps in existing services as well as learn from pilot programmes

operated through the SureStart and Empower programmes.

The delivery of these services are based on inclusiveness. Services are provided within the local community,

addressing the deprivation measure of proximity to services and making the families and children with special needs feel part of the community again.

Tobin have built their model of childcare delivery through networking and the sharing of best practice with statutory agencies and SureStart. Importantly, continuous engagement with parents has

been a key driver for continuous improvement of services.

A parent of a Saturday Club user confirmed “*Having the new outdoor play area at Tobin has allowed my*

daughter to have her own space to be free to play in a safe environment. This is something that would not be ordinarily possible.

The improved toilet facilities has encouraged my daughter to be more independent when using the toilet outside of her home and allows me to help support her when needed.”

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For More Information



Laura Hagan (Chairperson) on tobinyouthservices@gmail.com



www.tobinyouthcentre.weebly.com



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