OUR SHARED PLATE

SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOODS TO GROW, COOK & SHARE

Supporting Youth Diversion through Our Shared Plate

Our Shared Plate will provide a focused educational intervention, bringing young people from Youth Diversion and Support Services outdoors. The project supports positive development and encourages responsible citizenship through the creation of community food-growing spaces in Athy West Urban, developed in consultation with the wider local community.

This project will support vulnerable individuals by providing positive alternatives to engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour. It will facilitate the creation of a safe and nurturing community space, support the development of resilient communities, and enhance local services. There is currently a gap in community initiatives that engage young people in food skills and outdoor activities of this kind.

An expected outcome is an increase in pride of place and pro-social behaviour, as a result of the project approach, namely including young people in the design and use of local community food growing spaces.

This project will fund core staffing costs, including a Project Manager and Community Liaison, as well as the materials, design and educational services for co-creating community food growing spaces.

The project is made possible through multi-agency partnership including Empowering Communities, Athy Alternative Project, Extern, Sláintecare, and Kildare County Council, and will provide a model that can be replicated across the country.

"If we had a community garden in our estate, I would go there everyday before and after school"

-Nathan (8)

The Our Shared Plate project kick-started with a youth consultation session, held in the Athy Family Resource Centre. Fifteen 5-11 year olds and their parents joined and shared their ideas and preferences through methods such as sensory boxes, drawing and photo voice.

Find Out More

The Potential of Community Growing and Cooking

The need for nurturing social spaces for young people has been identified by the Athy Community Safety Partnership and Kildare County Council. Empowering Communities has also identified a strong desire among experiences relating to food and climate action.

Below are the highlights of the project to date, along with anticipated activities over the two-year period.

15 5-11yrs co-designing garden	3 community growing spaces	10 stakeholders
20 community workshops	our shared plate	2 summer fun days
8 raised beds	192 seedlings sown	3 garden designs

An initiative of:

Neighbourhood network

Kindly supported by:

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