Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN) wishes you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.
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1. Local news

Welcome to the December edition of the Sligo Public Participation Network’s ebulletin. Due to the forthcoming holiday season, and a number of funding deadlines in early December, we are issuing this earlier in the month than usual.

The Public Participation Network held its first Plenary at the Sligo Park Hotel on 26th November. We were delighted that 104 groups were represented at the event from all over the County and approximately 140 people participated in the lively discussions about the future and possibilities for the network and the community sector. A full report on the proceedings together with photos, presentations and feedback from the workshops is available on www.sligoppn.com. We would like to take this opportunity thank all of you who participated and contributed your ideas to shaping the network. We will be in contact with all registered nominees in relation to the plans for the PPN for 2015 in due course. (If your group is not registered with the network please log on to the web site or send us an email)

As you may be aware from our November edition, the Sligo Public Participation network is continuing to produce this e-bulletin, originally established by the County Community Forum to facilitate the flow of information to the community sector on grants, policies, job opportunities and other information. This is something delegates at the Public Participation Plenary emphasised as particularly important and useful for the sector. If you have any notifications that you would like us to include please email us with details.

Nollaig Shona Dhaoibh go Léir

The PPN Team

sligoppn@sligococo.ie

1.1. Sligo Public Participation Network Secretariat

The Election of the Secretariat for Sligo Public Participation Network took place on 26th November 2014 in the Sligo Park Hotel. For a full report on the event please see

The key responsibilities of the Secretariat will be to:

- Coordinate and facilitate activities of the Sligo PPN
- Implement the decisions of the Plenary
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN in between Plenaries
- Devise guiding documents and proposals to present to the Plenary

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN), City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, www.sligoppn.com, ppn@sligococo.ie, 0719114426, 0719114429.
- Communicate with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities
- Work closely with PPN Staff to enable them to deliver the PPN objectives
- Support the strategic development of Sligo PPN
- Work to ensure the PPN is effective in its role to influence public policy

The Secretariat will meet as often as is needed to coordinate the activities of the PPN.

The following was the result of the secretariat election:

The following candidates were elected to the PPN Secretariat at the first plenary of the PPN on 26th November 2014 at the Sligo Park Hotel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTED</th>
<th>Electoral College / Municipal District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marcella McGarry</td>
<td>Sligo Municipal District</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Tuffy</td>
<td>Ballymote / Tubbercurry Municipal District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriel Browne</td>
<td>Social Inclusion Electoral College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Van Aswegen</td>
<td>Community &amp; Voluntary Electoral College</td>
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<td>Gerry O’Connor</td>
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<td>Sue Mahon</td>
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<td>Michael Bell</td>
<td>Environmental Electoral College</td>
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<td>Michael Kirby</td>
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Secretariat Substitutes

Nominated delegates who are unsuccessful will be deemed ‘substitute Secretariat members’ in the event that the successful nominee vacates her or his seat over the lifetime of the Secretariat. The unsuccessful nominee with the highest number of votes will be the first substitute; the second highest number of votes will be second substitute and so on

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUBSTITUTES</th>
<th>Electoral College / Municipal District</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Albert Higgins</td>
<td>Sligo Municipal District</td>
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<td>2. Parvez A Butt</td>
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1. Funding

2.1. 3rd Call for CARDI Leadership Programme in Ageing Research

Submitted by paulmeade on 1 December 2014 - 12:36am

CARDI is still accepting applications for its new call for Fellows under its Leadership Programme in Ageing Research. It will fund the salaries for three years of up to four research Fellows.

The new call is the third under the Leadership Programme which aims to create a new generation of high quality research leaders into ageing issues in Ireland, North and South. The CARDI Fellows will be post-doctoral researchers who will study a topic related to healthy ageing and take part in training and development activities to build up their independence and leadership.

Postdoctoral experience
The programme is open to any EU citizen who has 2-7 years of post-doctoral research experience or part-time equivalent. Candidates must be nominated by a Higher
Education Institution in Ireland, North and South. The funding will cover salary and research expenses of £50,000/€63,000 for projects relating to health and healthy ageing.

CARDI Fellows
The new Fellows will join the five CARDI Fellows appointed to date: Joanne Feeney, Joanna McHugh, Charlotte Neville and Mark O’Doherty based in Queen’s University Belfast, and Aisling O’Halloran based in Trinity College Dublin.

The new call is open until Friday 30 January 2015 and full terms of reference and application procedures are available here.

“We are delighted to announce this expansion of the CARDI Leadership Programme in Ageing Research and look forward to receiving high quality nominations for this call,” said CARDI Co-Chair, Professor Robert Stout. “We are particularly pleased to be collaborating with the internationally renowned American Federation for Aging Research’s Paul Beeson Awards to grow this innovative programme”.
Deadline for applications: 30 Jan, 2015

“We hope that this investment will help foster a strong community of ageing focused researchers in Ireland, North and South, by supporting outstanding scholars to carry out top quality research and to develop all aspects of their research including knowledge translation,” said CARDI Co-Chair, Professor Davis Coakley.

The programme is overseen by the CARDI Steering Group and advised by an International Scientific Advisory Panel consisting of: Professor Anne Martin-Matthews, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor William R Hazzard, J Paul Sticht Center on Aging, USA; Professor Carol Jagger, Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University, UK; and Dr Giovanni Lamura, National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy.

The CARDI Leadership Programme in Ageing Research is funded by the Health and Social Care Research and Development Division, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland (NI), The Atlantic Philanthropies and the American Federation for Aging Research’s Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research Program.

www.cardi.ie

source: www.wheel.ie
2.2.  **EIL Seed Fund Micro Grant Scheme Now Open**

Submitted by paulmeade on 20 November 2014 - 8:04pm

Have you recently volunteered overseas? Do you want to continue to make a difference by sharing your experience and raising awareness in Ireland? If so, you may be interested to learn that the EIL Seed Fund Micro Grant Scheme is once again open for applications.

**Background**

EIL recognizes that it can be difficult for returned volunteers to continue their engagement here in Ireland. They may face financial barriers, time constraints or be unable to access the necessary help and support. The EIL Seed Fund Micro Grant Scheme exists to assist returned volunteers to overcome these barriers by providing successful applicants with funding, guidance and support to implement their own awareness-raising projects. Volunteers can apply to the Seed Fund as individuals or as part of a group.

By providing successful individuals and groups with grants of up to €200, EIL wants to help you to organise activities or events which will raise awareness about the people and issues you have encountered during your time overseas. Your project can have a real impact on the way Irish people think about global issues and in turn bring about real change in the world. Grow your idea into action!

**More Info...**

**Application deadlines are as follows:**

- Deadline for submission of proposals: Open until 12 December
- Projects must be completed by: 26 of February 2015
- Receipts of expenditure must be supplied to EIL before the 26 of February 2015.
- All money unspent must be returned to EIL for redistribution to future projects.
- Grant winners must submit a report on their project by the 26th of February. Where possible this should include photos, videos or other media documenting your action or event. These photos and videos may be used for EIL for further promotional use.
- Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback from the judges as to why their application was not successful and how it could be modified for any subsequent submission.
- Once selected, applicants will be required to provide more detailed information on the planning and implementation of their project.

**Deadline for micro grant apps: 12 Dec 2015**

*Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN), City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, www.sligoppn.com, ppn@sligococo.ie, 0719114426, 0719114429.*
Contact tara@eilireland.org for an application form. Filled applications can be submitted by email or by post to EIL Intercultural Learning, 1 Empress Place, Summerhill North, Cork.

Visit the EIL website now.

source: www.wheel.ie

2.3. Time is Ticking for Training Links Grant Applications

Submitted by paulmeade on 20 November 2014 - 7:53pm

A brief reminder The Wheel's Training Links Grants Programme, 2014 – 2016 closes for applications in just a few weeks (15 December). Preparing a solid application takes time - so this might be the ideal point at which to get the ball rolling.

Please read on to find out how...

What is the Training Links Grants Programme?

The Training Links Grant Programme: 2014 - 2016 is a support service designed to enhance the skills and employability of people working in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland.

How does it work?

The Training Links Grant Programme provides funding opportunities to groups of organisations that chose to come together and work collaboratively to address their shared training needs as a Training Network. Organisations are free to choose the training methods, courses, trainers or priorities that are most relevant to them and have those choices supported to make them happen.

The Wheel will provide funding, facilitation, information and advice to assist organisations to deliver the solutions that they feel are most appropriate to their size, area of activity and employee developmental needs.

How many networks will be funded?

We expect to fund between 15 - 20 networks.

How much funding is available?
Between €5,000 (minimum) and €25,000 (maximum) per network.

**What is the deadline?**


**How do I apply?**

Visit [www.wheel.ie/traininglinks](http://www.wheel.ie/traininglinks) now to learn more about this innovative grants programme and to download the full guidelines / application pack.

**Need assistance?**

We’re happy to help. Please contact Bridie Matthews with your questions: applications2014@wheel.ie.

source: [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

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2.4. **Arts participation bursary award**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closing date</th>
<th>17:30, Thursday 22 January 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum awarded</td>
<td>€10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artform and practice(s)</td>
<td>Arts participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant type</td>
<td>Individual Artist, Organisation,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>01 61 80 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awards@artscouncil.ie">awards@artscouncil.ie</a></td>
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**The purpose of the award**

The purpose of the award is to support professional artists to develop their art practice. It provides artists with the time and resources to think, research, reflect and critically engage with their art.

**How do I apply for this?**
1. Download and read the guidelines available at the top right-hand corner of this page.

2. Check if there is any mandatory supporting material that must accompany your application. We may provide a template for the supporting material. If so, you can download it from the supporting materials section at the top right-hand corner of this page.

3. All applications must be made through the online services website. You will be able to upload a wide range of support materials in electronic format along with your application form.

4. You must be registered with the online services website to make an application. If you are not already registered, we recommend you register for online services as far in advance of the deadline as possible, as it may take five days for your online services registration to be processed.

Still need help?

**FAQs**

A listing of frequently asked questions about making an online application

**YouTube**

A step-by-step video guide on how to download, complete and upload an application form for funding.

**Twitter**

A listing of funding-related tweets

source: [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie)

2.5. **The Community Men’s Sheds Small Grants Scheme is Now Open**

Submitted by paulmeade on 2 December 2014 - 7:30pm
The Irish Men’s Sheds Association has again secured funding from The Ireland Funds. €6,000 is available to support the early development of new Community Men’s Sheds in Ireland.

The Irish Men’s Sheds Association announces, and welcomes applications for, The Community Men’s Sheds Small Grants Scheme 2014.

Deadline for applications: Fri, 16 Jan @ 5pm

Due to the limited funds available those Men’s Sheds which have not received financial support from other voluntary or statutory sources will be prioritised when the applications are being assessed. The closing date for applications is Friday 16 January 2015 at 5.00pm. Late applications will not be considered.

Applications will only be considered if the official application is fully completed. Applications are accepted in hard copy to The Irish Men’s Sheds Association, Block 2, 55 Priory Quay, New Ross, Co Wexford or via email to info@menssheds.ie.

To download the application form in Microsoft Word, click here: Application Form Word, or in PDF Format, click here: Application Form PDF. If there are any questions either email info@menssheds.ie or call the office on 051 448 725/448 003.

www.menssheds.ie

source: www.wheel.ie

3. Training

3.1. Key Management Skills - 'Learning Together' with the Open Training College

Key Management Skills - 'Learning Together' with the Open Training College - a third level, practical management course worth 10 credits leading to a QQI award (Level 6 on the NFQ) specifically developed for supervisors and managers working in the nonprofit/human services sector.

Course Schedule:
Online Module preparation: Monday, December 29th, 2014
Course commences online: Monday, January 5th, 2015
Workshop/Seminar: Monday, January 19th, 2015
Assignment submission: Monday, February 16th, 2015

Who Is This Course For?

The course is for current/prospective first line supervisors and managers who are looking to enhance their leadership, motivational, team-building and management skills in an accredited programme developed specifically for the non-profit and human services sector.

Learning Objectives

After successfully completing the course you should be able to:

- Describe and critically discuss key aspects of managing people
- Employ a number of theories that are used to explain the management of people
- Critically examine how people are managed in your organisation
- Analyse and evaluate how you manage other people
- Formulate development

Contents

The course covers the following topics:
- Who do you manage?
- Providing feedback
- How to support your staff
- Managing your manager
- The key skills required to manage volunteers
- Group dynamics, development and performance factors
- The elements of effective teamwork
- Team building: a process model
- Leadership theories
- The traits of an effective leader
- How managers can lead
- Motivation theories
- How to motivate yourself and your team
- The cause and effect of conflict
- The difference between position and issue in conflict situations
- The ACT model
Assessment

To complete the course you will need to write a 2,000-word paper that explores the relationship between the course materials and your role as a manager. Very much a practical assignment, it will provide you with the opportunity to evaluate and expand your working practices in an environment where you have access to expert advice and the support of professional contemporaries. Having access to this learning community provides an opportunity to extend your management abilities in a uniquely supportive environment.

Taking the Course

The course uses a 'blended' approach which combines online learning, virtual tutorials and face-to-face workshops. Discussion, collaboration and the sharing of experiences are actively encouraged in order for the workshop to achieve one of its primary goals: Facilitating the application of knowledge and skills acquired during the course to address real world challenges in a practical and effective manner.

Underpinning all of this is our learning community. This is made up of tutors who have extensive first-line experience, learning support staff who understand the human challenges people can face when attending college and our learners who are defined by their commitment to supporting each other.

Qualification

The course is certified by the QQI/HETAC as a Level 6 Award. Successful participants will be awarded a Certificate in Key Management Skills: Teamwork Leadership & Communications. Successful participants will hold 10 credits against the Certificate in Applied Management (Non profit / Human services).

Cost

The course costs €395 and payment is due with a completed Short Course Application form which should be received by the College a couple of weeks before the commencement date.

The Student View

'The course gave a very good overview of what is involved in leadership. The area of teamwork, group dynamics, how teams evolve and how best to motivate your team was also very interesting and gave a lot of food for thought.'

Orla Donnelly, Social Care, St. Michael’s House

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN), City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, www.sligopnn.com, ppn@sligococo.ie, 0719114426, 0719114429.
Enquiries

More information is available HERE or contact the College on (01) 2988544 or email enquiries@opentrainingcollege.com for an application form.

Region: Nationwide

Expiry date: 12/01/2015

Date Entered/Updated: 14/11/14

2.2 Community Education Scheme 2015

Applications are invited from community and voluntary groups, based in County Sligo, who wish to avail of community education grants under the above scheme. Community Education refers to adult education and learning, generally outside the formal education sector, with the aims of enhancing learning, empowerment and contributing to civic society. It is firmly community-based, with local groups taking responsibility for, and playing a key role in, organising courses and deciding on programme content.

The scheme which is funded by the Department of Education and Skills enables disadvantaged adults to avail of community education at minimal or no cost. Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB’s (Sligo Area) Community Education Scheme allocates paid tuition hours or grants to a range of community and voluntary groups for educational activities.

Please note the scheme is subject to approval by the Department of Education and Skills.

Application forms are available from Community Education Service, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB Office, Quay Street, Sligo, Tel. (071) 9138304 or email catherinetaheny@msletb.ie or www.sligovec.ie. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday, 19th December 2014.

Source: www.sligovec.ie
4. Job opportunities

4.1. Virtual Careers Fair Opens For Jobseekers

Thousands of graduates and other job-seekers are expected to tap into a new tech-savvy way of finding career opportunities which was launched by the Connacht-Ulster Alliance on Monday.

The CU Alliance is a strategic partnership of three Institutes of Technology – Galway-Mayo, Letterkenny and Sligo – who are committed to achieving the criteria for designation as a Technological University.

They are holding an internet based “Virtual Careers Fair” which will provide “visitors” with real time fingertip access to “exhibitor” companies without even having to step outside home, college or workplace.

It is expected that up to 200 companies will register as exhibitors. The Fair runs until December 19.

The use of the technology was successfully pioneered by IT Sligo earlier this year. Subsequently, the CU Alliance decided on a joint event so as to expand its impact.

The Fair creates a “virtual city” with districts accommodating a range of industry sectors, including, science, technology, computing, business and engineering.

It is aimed at graduates, third-level students and other job seekers. Anyone anywhere can “enter the city” by using the internet.

Participation is free of charge to users and companies due to the project’s sponsorship by the recruitment and HR services company Collins McNicholas, which has offices in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Sligo and Athlone.
Careers advisers from the Institutes were among those who attended the launch at the Castlebar campus of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology.

It was performed by Mr Niall Murray, general manager, Collins McNicholas, representing the companies taking part, and Mr Gordon Ryan, Head of Development, IT Sligo, representing the Institutes.

By using a mobile phone, tablet or other device, individuals can “walk around the city”, trawl the exhibitors’ virtual stands, arrange one-to-one webchat with company representatives, upload CVs, build networking personal profile and add audio or visual content.

It is an opportunity also for companies to interact with potential new recruits and assess the overall knowledge and personal qualities of people who are about to enter the jobs market.

Niall Murray said: “Collins McNicholas has a long association with the Institutes of Technology and we are delighted to sponsor this innovative project which harnesses the power of technology for job seeking graduates. Our regional offices in Galway and Sligo are fully committed to supporting this project which we hope will be an annual Flagship Event for the West.”

Gordon Ryan said: “We estimate that we’ll have around 200 companies taking part and we’re expecting about 10,000 unique visitors to the ‘virtual city’. This is an excellent example of collaboration by the Connacht-Ulster Alliance in providing graduates and job seekers in general with high quality information and valuable access to leading companies.”

Participant registration http://cuacareersfair.prospects.ac.uk/fairs/2014/splash.html

Exhibitor registration http://employer.cuacareersfair.prospects.ac.uk

Full details are also available via www.itsligo.ie/careers

source: www.itsligo.ie
4.2. **Sligo Family Resource Centre: Vacancies**

The Sligo Family Resource Centre wishes to invite applications for the following posts:

**Family Support Service Coordinator**
16 hours/week

The ideal candidate will have:

- Community development/social studies or equivalent 3rd Level qualification
- Min of 3 years experience of managing staff and coordinating projects/services

**Family Support Workers (2)**
17.5 hours/week
Mon-Sun including evening work.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Community development/social studies or equivalent 3rd level qualification
- Have an open, friendly and caring personality and be able to work on own initiative

All candidates must have full drivers licence and access to a car.
Positions located in Leitrim, West Cavan, Sligo

**Closing date:** Friday 12 December 2014 at 5.00pm
Interviews will be held on the week beginning 15 December 2014

Sligo FRC is an equal opportunities employer. Shortlisting will apply

Applications will only be accepted on the official application form available from:
The Administrator
Sligo Family Resource Centre
49 the Mall
Sligo
4.3. West Sligo Family Resource Centre: Project Administrator (Maternity Cover)

West Sligo Family Resource Centre invites applications for the post of Project Administrator (Maternity Cover 6 Months Position).

The ideal candidate should have:

- Experience of working in an administrative capacity
- Experience of budgeting and financial record keeping
- Experience of computerised and manual payroll systems
- Experience of preparing financial reports
- Excellent reception skills and experience of dealing with the public
- Strong secretarial skills
- Wide knowledge of computer programmes and applications.

This position is 17.5 Hours per week.

This project is an equal opportunities employer.

For information and an application form, please contact: mary.seale@westtraining.ie

Email: mary.seale@westtraining.ie

Tel: 091 567827

The closing date for applications is 31st Dec 2014.
Interviews will be held on the 12th January 2015, in West Sligo FRC, Enniscrone.
Applications will only be accepted on the official application form.
West Sligo FRC is an equal opportunities Employer

Region: Sligo

Expiry date: 31/12/2014

Date Entered/Updated: 03/12/14

source: www.activelink.ie

5. General information.

5.1. Progress on Children’s Rights Celebrated at Launch of New Guide

Joint ICCL/Children’s Rights Alliance Press Release - 26.11.2014 Progress made in entrenching the rights of children and young people has been celebrated at the launch of a new guide to their rights by Dr James Reilly TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs today. The guide, 'Know Your Rights – The Rights of Children and Young People', is a joint publication of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) and the Children’s Rights Alliance.

‘Know Your Rights – The Rights of Children and Young People’ is the latest in the ICCL’s Know Your Rights public information series. It is the first guide of its kind which seeks to comprehensively and accessibly outline the rights of children and young people in Ireland, and has been awarded a Plain English mark by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

Speaking at the launch today, ICCL Director Mr Mark Kelly said:

“This month marked the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. During the last quarter of a century, and since Ireland signed the Convention in 1992, we have seen great strides in the recognition and protection of children’s rights in Ireland. However, much work remains to be done to cement this progress. We still await the outcome of a Supreme Court case in order that the will of the people as expressed in the 2012 children’s rights referendum can be given effect. And although a framework for modern child-centred child and family legislation has been prepared, the Children and Family Relationships Bill has yet to be enacted.

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN), City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo, www.sligoppn.com, ppn@sligococo.ie, 0719114426, 0719114429.
“In this time of continued progress for children, we are delighted to make this new resource available to children and young people seeking accessible information on their rights”

Tanya Ward, CEO of the Children’s Rights Alliance said:

“The Alliance is delighted to team up with the ICCL in publishing this much-needed resource for children and young people. Recent Ombudsman for Children statistics show that even though there has been a steady increase in the number of complaints made to their office, only 3 per cent were made by children themselves. There is indisputably a gap in access to information for children and young people. We hope that this guide, and its promotion at roadshow events around Ireland in 2015, will fill this gap.”

Source: www.activelink.ie

5.2. SAFE Ireland: Statement by Taoiseach and Justice Minister on Violence Against Women Brings Voice and Visibility to Tragic Issue

Press release - 25.11.2014 SAFE Ireland warmly welcomes the strong statements today from An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald on the need to challenge and condemn all forms of domestic and sexual violence.

Sharon O’Halloran, CEO of SAFE Ireland, said that the statements were hugely significant as it was the first year that the Irish government had made such a committed statement to mark the start of the 16 Days of Action to raise awareness about gender based violence. With this statement, she said, Irish leaders were bringing determined visibility, voice and urgency to an issue that has not been treated with the seriousness it requires.

“We applaud the Taoiseach and the Justice Minister for making this strong statement today,” O’Halloran said. “Revelations over the past few weeks have shown the tragic consequences for women when they are ignored and not treated seriously or with sensitivity when they come forward to report abuse and violence.”

“This statement from two of our government leaders tells us that things are changing, that there is a commitment to better legislation, that there is a move towards respecting and believing women and that there is a determination to change and influence attitudes. We believe that Ireland can be the safest place for women and children.”
An Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice join other world leaders, including the President and Vice President of the United States, who have for many years made an annual statement about violence against women and children on this day, which is designated UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

SAFE Ireland is the national organisation of 40 domestic violence services.

For more information contact: Edel Hackett, Tel: 087-2935207

Source: www.activelink.ie

5.3. Open Libraries Pilot Project

What about opening hours? For many people, access to the library beyond regular business hours is essential, and although most libraries open late at least once a week, this isn’t always sufficient due to work and family commitments. The new public libraries’ strategy, Opportunities for All, outlines plans for an innovative approach to flexible opening hours.

In 2014, an 'Open Libraries' initiative will be piloted in three branch libraries located in Counties Sligo and Offaly, offering seven day opening from eight in the morning until ten at night. Staffing levels and hours will remain the same as present, while the extended hours will be unstaffed. An innovative service, Open Libraries grants members the freedom to use the library at the hours that suit them best.

During the extended hours, the services are available to the public on a self-service basis for borrowing and returning items, using the internet via library PCs or via Wi-Fi using their own devices, browsing, printing, photocopying, individual study and community activities and meetings. During extended hours, users gain access to the library via an automated system by using their unique membership card and an authorised pin number. Membership is confined to adults 18 years + for the purposes of the pilot. At scheduled times; library staff continue to provide expert and additional services, support users and develop community engagement and programming.

Technological and infrastructural requirements for an Open Library include the provision of automatic doors, entrance control with trackers and associated software, RFID and self-service, monitoring and security systems, loudspeakers, locked staff areas and some reconfiguration of the layout of the library for ease of monitoring. Incidences of disturbance are mitigated and a sense of security strengthened through monitoring and surveillance.
technology, appropriate lighting, explicit information on the use of facilities, and access restrictions for children. Library staff in other countries in which Open Libraries operates, including Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Taiwan, report extremely positive experiences with the Open Libraries approach and that despite initial apprehension, very few disturbances occurred; in fact those which did occur were of a minor nature. It was also noted in Denmark that fewer incidences occur during the extended hours than during the traditional opening hours.

Current, rapid developments in self-service technology also greatly facilitate the introduction of the open library system. Self-service technology “RFID” allows the efficient checkout and check-in by library users of all library materials which are identified by a barcode. RFID self check has been in operation in Tubbercurry for the last three months in preparation for the pilot. Tubbercurry library users across all generations find the self-issue system easy to use, with intuitive touch screen and step-by-step instructions provided.

The reactions of library users to Open Library systems abroad have also been very enthusiastic. The new concept has been found to strengthen the prominence of the library service in the local community by providing a town’s only non-commercial, in-door meeting place, welcoming to all and open daily from early morning to late evening. It has also been observed that communities feel greater ownership of their local library where the open library concept operates as well as a sense of greater community protection of the library space and services.

Open Libraries clearly have the potential to transform the use and value to the public of the services and the civic space provided by local authorities while also directly addressing community needs. The open libraries’ system is particularly well established in public libraries throughout Denmark where it had been introduced to 180 libraries by 2013. The Danish experience has shown that libraries open during longer hours are attracting a broader range of customers with significantly increased usage from the 35–55 year old group in the evenings.

Through the Open Libraries pilot it is hoped to increase efficiencies in terms of time-saving and to provide the opportunity for releasing staff from the performance of time-consuming, mechanical tasks to deliver a more user-focused and enhanced library service during serviced hours. In other countries, the Open Library has been described as a success not only by library staff but also by local politicians and media, with increased user satisfaction levels, visitor rates and numbers of loans.

Sligo County Council has been approved as one of five Library Authorities to carry out a twelve month pilot of the Open Libraries concept. The commitment from Sligo County Council is to provide a seven day 8am to 10pm point of access to the service for members over 18 years of age.
Each participating Library Authority will receive a grant of up to €20,000 per Open Libraries site. In addition to the Open Libraries grant Sligo County Council will also benefit from a grant towards the implementation of RFID. This grant will be €19,000. Matching funding of €25,000 for this project will be provided from the accrued savings from the library services operational budget from 2013.

Donal Tinney
County Librarian

source: www.sligococo.ie

5.4. Youth Work Ireland’s Christmas Appeal 2014
Win 2 All Ireland Football & Hurling Final Tickets for 5 Years including Accommodation on Match Nights.

Youth Work Ireland is working to support over 106,000 young people on a weekly basis across the country through a range of clubs, activities, programmes, projects, supports and services. All the proceeds of this raffle will go to support and promote young people and quality youth services within Youth Work Ireland.

1st Prize – 2 All Ireland Football & Hurling Final Tickets for 5 years
2nd Prize - €500 Cash
3rd Prize – iPad
4th Prize - €100 Cash

Tickets cost €5 and can be bought online here

Region: Nationwide

Expiry date: 31/01/2015

source: www.activelink.ie

5.5. Annual Grants Survey from The Community Foundation for Ireland
Submitted by paulmeade on 1 December 2014 - 12:46am

The Community Foundation for Ireland would like to hear from you!

Each year The Community Foundation for Ireland welcomes feedback and comments from community and voluntary organisations across Ireland in relation to it’s grant-making, through it’s annual grants survey.

The Foundation uses this feedback to ensure that it is being responsive to the needs of the community, and also to help it enhance it’s working relationship with organisations seeking funding.

The Foundation welcomes feedback across three areas:

1. general feedback on The Foundation and our work
2. 2014 applicants experience
3. 2014 grantees experience.

Click here to take the survey now.
Please complete the survey before 5pm on December 5 2014.

Source: www. wheel.ie

Disclaimer

This ebulletin provides information to the Community sector on events, grants, policies, services, schemes job opportunities and other news. The Sligo Public Participation Network and Sligo County Council is not responsible for these events, grants, policies, services, schemes and job opportunities nor for the way in which such events, grants, policies, services, schemes and job opportunities may be operated and administered in practice.