



VOLUNTARY MATTERS

LIMERICK COUNTY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY FORUM

FÓRAM PHOBAIL CHONTAE LUIMNÍ

SEPTEMBER 2008

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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"Representing the views of the Community and Voluntary Sector by influencing policy and decision making for the benefit of the people of County Limerick through effective communication and consultation both locally and nationally."

Dear Community & Voluntary Sector Members,

Well we're back from the Summer recess, did we leave, in July of each year we look forward to reducing our work load or catching up with the filing, or have time to plan for the future. I feel over the past few years this does not happen, applications for funding have to be prepared and sent, and activities /training seem to go on even at this time. A close eye has to be kept on what's happening as opportunities can be missed.

The good news is that the Programme of Training Grants for Community & Voluntary Organisations and the Programme of Grants for Locally-Based Community & Voluntary Organisations have been announced, see page 2 for further information.

Don't forget you can add to this Newsletter and to our web site www.lccvf.ie, just contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Miriam Cregan
Development Worker

061 372459 9am to 1pm
infolccvf@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 2008
LIMERICK COUNTY
COMMUNITY & VOLUNATARY FORUM

Grateful thanks to all the organisations and individuals who provide the information for this newsletter.

Next issue December 2008 - deadline date 15th November 2008.

BE AWARE... BE VERY AWARE... CHARITIES BILL

Charity law and regulations are to be changed shortly which some say "reflect the increasing demand from funding agencies, the state and the public for an effective, accountable and transparent community and voluntary sector" (www.wheel.ie 28/8/08). Along with Ann Costello of the Community Workers Co-Operative (www.cwc.ie) I attended the Seminar New Futures – The Road Ahead on 1st May which included an overview and likely challenges of the Charities Bill given by Ivan Cooper, Director of Advocacy, the Wheel. If you haven't heard of the changes you can check out any number of sites e.g., www.pobal.ie, www.wheel.ie etc. For your information I have published a synopsis of Ann Costello's article in the Community Work News June-July 2008, which expresses some concerns for the Community & Voluntary sector.

"While there was broad agreement that the effective regulation of the charities sector will benefit both charitable organisations and the public, there are concerns about the implications of some aspects of the Bill.

The main concerns relate to the following:

The definition of Charitable Purposes

The Charities Bill 2007 does not include the advancement of human rights and social justice or the promotion of equality and diversity under the definition of Charitable purposes.

Although they were included in the General Scheme for Charities Regulation Bill in 2006 which was produced following a consultation process, they were subsequently removed when the Bill was published in 2007.

CWC would recommend that as the advancement of human rights, social justice, equality and diversity are central to the aims of many charitable organisations they should therefore be named as express provisions under the category of "charitable purposes".

Advocacy

Advocacy, campaigning or lobbying are not included in the proposed definition of "charitable purposes".

However, the Bill states that 'an organisation whose principal objects came within the proposed definition of "charitable purposes" would, however, be able to engage in advocacy, campaigning or lobbying as ancillary activities i.e., activities undertaken solely in furtherance of the charitable purposes of the organisation concerned – without impacting on its status as a charity'. *Contd./ Page 2*

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For any further information on the above or more contact the various departments or contact www.lcc.ie

Forum Office Bearers:

Cathaoirleach: Patrick Cummins, **Leas Cathaoirleach:** Seamus Lordan, **Runaí:** Seamus Ryan, **Cisteoirí:** Patrick Dempsey, **Leas Cisteoirí:** Denis McAuliffe, **PRO:** Michael Buckley.

Charities Bill cont'd

Again as advocacy activities are central to the work of the modern charitable sector CWC would support the view that the Bill should acknowledge the role of advocacy in a positive fashion either by including reference to advocacy in the definition of 'advancement' or by re-defining the concept of public benefit so as to clearly permit such activity.

A failure to expressly enshrine in the legislation the right of charities to engage in advocacy could either deny charities this right altogether or could make it difficult to decipher how much advocacy was permissible by a registered charity, without endangering its charitable status.

...there are a lot of unanswered questions in relation to how the implementation of the legislation will be resources, managed, monitored etc.

Organisations will have to up skill in relation to the new requirements such as the production of financial plans, risk assessments and responsibilities of trustees etc.

Who will provide the advice, training to organisations?

Will the Government provide a transitional fund (as was the case in Scotland) to assist organisations adhere to the new Guidelines?

Organisations will incur additional costs as a consequence of the additional requirements such as financial plans, risk assessments etc. Will organisations be compensated for the costs associated with the additional requirements?

The Government proposes to establish a Charities Regulatory Authority to support and monitor the legislation. Will this authority have a policing or a supportive role? Will it be independent?

The Government proposes to establish a Charities Appeal Tribunal. What will be the make up of this Body?

It would appear that decisions have not yet been made in relation to the issues listed under this heading; there may therefore be opportunities for the C&V sector to seek to influence how they are designed and rolled out.

CWC would hope that community organisations can see the importance of lobbying T.D.s in relation to the concerns raised.

By **Ann Costello**, *Community Workers Co-Operative*

PROGRAMME OF GRANTS FOR LOCALLY BASED COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Programme consists of two schemes 1. Refurbishment Grants and 2. Equipment Grants. These are once off grants to local community and voluntary organisations with an income under €100,000 annually.

PROGRAMME FOR TRAINING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The objective of this scheme is to enhance the capacity and activities of people and organisations working in the Community & Voluntary sector to provide better quality services to the people they support.

The above schemes are operated by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.

Applications will be accepted on the official forms only, which can be downloaded from www.pobal.ie. Hardcopies of application forms are currently available from: **Pobal, Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2, 01 4484888**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS PREPARE FOR NEW FUNDING PROGRAMMES

In July, Limerick's Local Development Companies Ballyhoura Development and West Limerick Resources submitted plans to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for the delivery of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. This programme, which is funded through the EU and the Irish Government, aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of the rural economy. This will be achieved by:

Increasing economic activity in the rural economy

Supporting the creation and development of micro-enterprises in the rural economy

Encouraging rural tourism based on the sustainable development of natural resources and the cultural & natural heritage

Improving access to basic services for rural dwellers

Regenerating rural villages by improving economic prospects, community relations and quality of life

Maintaining, restoring and upgrading the natural and built heritage.

It is anticipated that the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs will announce the commencement date of the Rural Development Programme in Autumn 2008. However both companies are currently accepting Expression of Interest Forms and are encouraging individual entrepreneurs and businesses as well as community groups to contact their local development company to discuss ideas with a staff member and avail of advice on how best to develop their proposal.

For further information or to request an Expression of Interest Form please contact:

Ballyhoura Development Limited

Contact Maura Flynn at 063 91749

or e-mail: m.flynn@ballyhoura.org.

Expression of Interest forms are available from Credit Unions, Post Offices or Libraries in the Ballyhoura Development area and in each of the offices of Ballyhoura Development Limited as follows: Kilfinane, The Community Centre Charleville, Baldwin Street, Mitchelstown, The Millennium Centre, Caherconlish and Croom or downloaded at www.ballyhouradevelopment.com. Closing date for receipt of completed expressions of interest is **Tuesday 30th September 2008**.



West Limerick Resources

The offices of West Limerick Resources are located on St Mary's Rd, Newcastle West.

Please contact Joan Casey, RDP Coordinator on 069 66294 or email jcasey@wlr.ie. Until programme application forms are made available, West Limerick Resources will continue to accept Expressions of Interest.



Limerick Sports Partnership Update

The Active Leadership Award has been developed by the Irish Sports Council and Sports Council for Northern Ireland to provide a panel of trained, knowledgeable and enthusiastic community based leaders, whose aim is to encourage people to become and remain involved in sport and physical activity.

The course is designed to ensure that leaders will have the necessary competencies to plan and lead safe, enjoyable sport and physical activity sessions.

Who Should Attend This Course?

Adult leaders who work or wish to work in a wide range of locations including local clubs, community groups, workplaces, community centres & sports' clubs.

Certificate

A 'Certificate of Competence' will be awarded on completion of a satisfactory course assessment. Participants are assessed throughout the course on attendance, application, leading a warm up session, planning ability and leadership skills.

Information about the Course

The training involves both practical and theoretical sessions, and takes approximately 10 hours to complete.

Those wishing to train, as a leader must be: over 18 years at the start of the training course and should already have a link with a group. Specific sporting skills are not required. Interest, enthusiasm, communication skills and the intention to use the Award are more important. The training will be a practical and enjoyable experience. At the end of the course, the successful leader should be able to plan and lead safe and enjoyable activity sessions. Details of up and coming courses can be found on the calendar of events. **Please contact LSP office @ infosports@limerickcoco.ie or phone 061 496428 for bookings.**

Baton Twirling World Championship	University of Limerick	5th to 10th August	Daily	Michelle Banks 098-0541448	€25
FAI Kick Start 1	Askeaton	12th & 13th Sept	7 – 10pm (Fri) 9 – 5pm (Sat)	FAI	€45
FAI Intercultural Open Day	Newcastle West	13th September	10 – 4pm	Conor Nestor	
Coaching Forum	Dublin City University	13th & 14th September		Coaching Ireland	Further Info www.nctc.ul.ie
The Female Player / Athlete	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare	17th September	7:30pm to 9:30pm	NCTC	15th Sept
Active Leadership Training	TBC	September	9:00am to 7:00pm	Trevor Lovell Orla Power	€30
Child Protection in Sport Awareness Training	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare	September	7:00pm to 9:00pm	TBC	€10 / person
County Limerick LSP Strategy Launch	TBC	September		LSP	
Volunteer Education Seminar	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare	2nd October	7:00pm to 10:00pm	Liam McGroarty	FOC 30th Sept
Nutrition Workshop	TBC	Sept/Oct	7:00pm to 10:00pm	County & City LSP's	TBC
Child Protection in Sport Awareness Training	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare	13th & 14th October	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Grace McNamara	€10 / person
Speed Agility and Quickness (S.A.Q.)	TBC	17th October	4:30pm to 10:00pm	Damien Young	€40 / person
FAI Kick Start 2	Ballingarry	14th, 15th & 16th November	All Day	FAI Conor Nestor 086-0479542	€75
Buntus	Deliver programme to 20 schools per term – 3 terms per year		4 hour	LSP Tutors	FOC
Buntus Start	Deliver programme to childcare service providers in County Limerick		4 hour training 2 hour follow up	LSP Tutors	€75 per service provider

Please contact LSP office @ infosports@limerickcoco.ie or phone 061 496428 for bookings

County Childcare Update



Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) 2008-2010: A Guide for the Community Childcare Sector

The Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) has produced an information pamphlet on the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCSS) 2008-2010. The pamphlet provides an overview of the CCSS, including 'who can apply?', 'what information is required from services and from parents?' and an outline of the different subvention 'bands'.

In brief the CCSS is available to Community Childcare services, who meet the eligibility criteria as set by the OMCYA. A service that successfully accesses CCSS is then able to offer a reduced fee to parents, depending on the 'band' they fall into. The OMCYA uses the parent's PPS number to determine this 'band'. There are four bands in total, as outlined below.

The CCSS is currently been introduced by a number of Community Childcare Services in County Limerick and should be fully operational by January 2009. The remainder are in the process of applying for eligibility.

To obtain a copy of the leaflet please contact
**County Limerick Childcare Committee on
061 600918 or at clcc@eircom.net**

	Full-Day Childcare 5+hrs per day	Part-Time Childcare 3hrs 30 to 5hrs per day	Sessional Childcare Care Up to 3hrs 30 per day
Band A	Receive a €100 reduction in fee	Receive a €50 reduction in fee	Receive a €33.30 reduction in fee
Band B	Receive a €70 reduction in fee	Receive a €35 reduction in fee	Receive a €23.30 reduction in fee
Band C	Receive a €45 reduction in fee	Receive a €22.50 reduction in fee	Receive a €15 reduction in fee
Band D	Usual Fee	Usual Fee	Usual Fee

County Limerick Childcare Committee Moves Office

In September 2008 County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) will relocate to Croom Mills. For the past five and a half years CLCC have operated from 32 Main Street, Croom and have now out grown the premises.

The new office will be located on the lower ground floor of Croom Mills and will comprise a large open plan office area, a Childcare Resource Library and in the coming months a Toy Lending Library, as well as a meeting/training room.

Much of September will be taken up with the move itself, but it is envisaged that an open day will be held later in the year to showcase the new facilities.

DON'T FORGET . . .

regular updates on Voluntary Matters can be checked out on our web site www.lccvf.ie

You can add to this site too by contacting the office.

The Irish Fundraising Handbook

6th Edition is now available!

ISBN 978-1-869895-07-5

Published by Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts, in association with Clann Credo (Social Investment Fund), The Wheel, and with financial support from the Citizens Information Board.

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An order form can be downloaded from the website www.create-ireland.ie



Ireland needs to get serious about tackling poverty

Statistics released May 2008 by the Central Statistics Office show that despite Ireland having the second highest levels of GDP in the EU, at 45.4% above the EU average, its poverty rate is still above the EU average.

The statistics are contained in the CSO's annual 'Measuring Poverty in Ireland' report which also shows that Ireland has become considerably more expensive and that price levels are almost 25% above the EU average, second only to Denmark.

Paul Ginnell the Policy Worker with the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland said that 'despite the wealth that has been generated and still exists in Ireland it is a sad reflection on our country that we are not making any real impact on the levels of the population who are at risk of poverty'. He added that 'the increase in prices on basic goods and services are having a direct impact on the lives of people and those living in poverty who are now struggling to make ends meet'.

The CSO report highlights how Ireland has progressed in a number of social and economic areas over the last number of years and compares Ireland to other EU countries, including in terms of investment in essential areas such as social protection, health and education.

Mr Ginnell also stated that 'it is essential that we make real progress in addressing the wealth inequalities in Ireland and at the same time invest in affordable and quality public services'. He concluded by saying that 'cutting back on the minimum commitments to improving public services outlined in the National Development Plan should not be an option in the current economic climate while other options such as addressing tax breaks for the wealthy have not been properly addressed'.

**Contact: Paul Ginnell EAPN Ireland,
5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1,
Tel: 087-6402200,
Email: paul@eapn.ie www.eapn.ie**

Activelink www.activelink.ie

The online network for Irish non profit organisations

Access information on **seminars, events** and general **news** relating to the Community and Voluntary sector in Ireland;

Find information on **Employment** and **Volunteering** opportunities in the non profit sector and various **Training Courses / Workshops**.

The website is updated daily and the latest information is **published and circulated once a week by email**.

You can subscribe to this free service by registering your email address in the **Activelink email lists registration page**.

If you have information you would like to share, vacancies and volunteering opportunities you'd like to publicise, check out **how to submit your text** for the website and email bulletins.

NDA Research Promotion Scheme 2009-2011 Call for Applications

The NDA's Research Promotion Scheme (RPS) is a funding mechanism that aims to promote quality and innovation in research. The RPS scheme welcomes proposals aligned to the NDA's strategic priorities from research institutions, service providers, organisations of persons with disabilities and disability advocacy groups. The focus of research topics for this year is:

"Promoting Independent and Community Living for People with Disabilities"

The NDA would like to receive proposals to undertake research under this theme, to be carried out and completed within a three year period. Funding up to a maximum of €75,000 is available per research proposal. Only projects of long-term value and national impact can be considered for an award of over €25,000.

In particular the NDA would welcome research proposals that involve:

- Monitoring and tracking success factors in transitions to independent living
- Research proposals evaluating the co-ordination of different services (e.g. health, transport, employment, housing, day services, care supports) for people with disabilities
- Evaluations of good practice models
- Research on independent living models for people with high support needs

Applicants for funding are required to use the standard RPS Application Form, which can be found below along with accompanying Guidelines. This information is also available by contacting: **Cliona Doherty, Research Department, National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Dublin 4. Tel. 01 - 608 0460. Email: cdoherty@nda.ie**

Completed applications should be returned to the same address by post only **no later than Friday, 3 October 2008 and marked "RPS"**.

You can also browse **IrishLinks** - an online directory of Irish charities, ngo's, community & voluntary groups and associations listed under **various categories** and submit your organisation if it is not listed.

Activelink works with non-profit organisations to develop online communications in the public interest, to promote action and participation and to foster the sharing of ideas, experience and information for a better world.

Activelink has worked for many years with non profit groups in Ireland providing a variety of **communications services**.

Our aim is to build on this relationship and to deliver a website that can:

- serve as a hub for community and voluntary organisations, charities and non governmental organisations (ngos) that want to find and exchange advice, information and expertise
- provide information, ideas and services for non profits to make more effective use of online technologies as part of their communications strategy.

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061 372459

E-mail:
infolccvf@gmail.com

Web: www.lccvf.ie

VOLUNTARY LINKS

- The online network for Irish non-profit organisations
www.activelink.ie
- Limerick County Council
www.lcc.ie
- Limerick County Development Board
www.limerickcdb.ie
- Community Workers Co-Operative
www.cwc.ie
- Combat Poverty Agency
www.cpa.ie
- Information on volunteering for Limerick
www.volunteerlimerick.com
- Useful information for voluntary organisations, volunteers, etc.
www.Volunteeringireland.com
- Irish rural Lingk, great for funding and policy development and finding out what's happening.
www.irishrural.ie
- Pobal - administrative body for funding from department of Community, Rural and Gaeltach Affairs
www.pobal.ie
- Create - Irish Fundraising Handbook
www.create-ireland.ie

If you want your link here just let us know at

infolccvf@gmail.com

LIMERICK COUNTY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY FORUM

FÓRAM PHOBAIL CHONTAE LUIMNÍ

Free Life and Pensions Audit Facility for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Groups

BHP Insurances Ltd., nominated Insurance Brokers for the Irish National Community & Voluntary Forum have recently extended our service package to you to include a **FREE Life & Pensions Audit**.

As part of this audit, our Financial Adviser will meet with you and compile a comprehensive report on:

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