



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter November 2023 (Part 3)

LOCAL NEWS

Adult Safeguarding Day

Adult Safeguarding Day is an annual initiative of Safeguarding Ireland, supported by the HSE, and now in its third year. It is also being coordinated in partnership with organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors. The aim is to raise a greater understanding of adult abuse and safeguarding and the emphasis this year is on ‘go to’ actions all adults can take to Plan Ahead and reduce their risk of adult abuse.

The 2023 Message is that planning ahead reduces the risk of adult abuse, and that ‘go to’ actions that all adults can take are to:

- Make an Enduring Power of Attorney
- Nominate a Health Representative
- Choose who can Assist with Decisions

Events

Decision Support Service

Save the Date: Advance Planning with the Decision Support Service - Why you need to and how to get started

When: Thursday, 30 November 2023

Where: Hodson Bay Hotel Roscommon Road,

Time: 10am-1pm

HIQA

The [resources on The Fundamentals of Advocacy in health and social care](#) have been shortlisted for a European Social Services Award. The European Social Services Award recognises innovations that impact social care workforces in a positive manner and the theme of the event is “Promoting Person-centred Care”. The European Social Network (ESN) is a network with over 125 member organisations in 33 European countries and supports the sharing of knowledge, practice and policies between social services across Europe.

The voting is now open to the public by visiting the [ESN Website](#). The project is listed under the category “Workforce Support”.

HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy

The Health Service Executive and researchers from the University of Limerick are currently undertaking on Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) practice and policy.

To inform future policy development, the researchers are interested in capturing the experiences and opinions of healthcare workers and service providers through a questionnaire. (Further details are available in the attached update). The questionnaire will remain open for responses until close of business on Friday 10th November.

World Suicide Bereavement Remembrance Event



HSE Schedule of upcoming suicide prevention, self-harm, and bereavement support training programmes.

Please see below an outline of scheduled training programmes for the next 6 months.

Requests can also be taken for settings-based delivery of the safeTALK and Introduction to Self-Harm programme if such is desired.

Registration to attend any of the workshops is via the booking website:

<https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmidlands>

Introduction to Self-harm (2 hour online facilitated programme): 13th November: 5- 7pm
5th February: 5-7pm

Understanding Self Harm (1 day prog). 7th December – Athlone
22nd February - Tullamore

safeTALK (suicide alertness programme) 6th December: 6-9pm – Laois Education Centre
12th December: 9.30am – 1pm – Tullamore

ASIST workshops

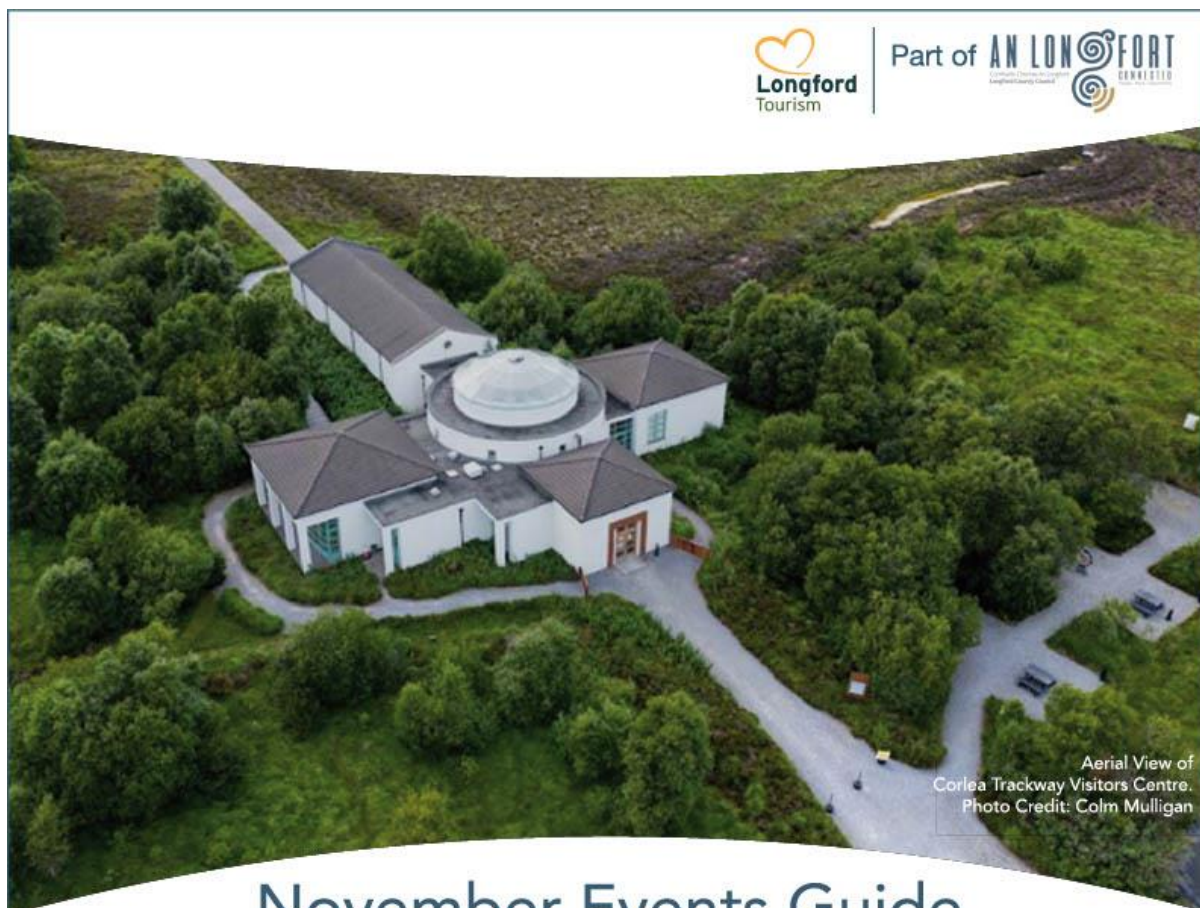
22nd and 23rd January – Tullamore (9-5pm)

7th and 8th February – Athlone (9-5pm)

Workshop for those supporting people bereaved through suicide:

30th November – Longford (9am – 4.30pm)

14th March – Tullamore (9am – 4.30pm).



November Events Guide

- **Arts & Crafts for children 6-10 years in Granard Library**
on Wednesday 1st Nov at 12pm
- **Poetry Reading with Margaret Nohilly at Ballymahon Library**
Saturday 4th Nov – 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
- **Share your ideas to inform the new Longford Town Centre First Plan.**
Visit www.longfordcoco.ie to have your say.
Platform closes Monday 6th November.
- **Paediatric First Aid, suitable for all including parents, grandparents, and Childminders.**
Certificate on completion. Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Ballymahon Tuesday 7th November 7.30 – 9.30 p.m.
- **Oliver Cromwell is really very Sorry**
Saturday 11th November at 8pm at the Backstage Theatre.
- **Mostrim Players present a one act comedy "A Wolf by the Ears".**
Written by Mattie Lennon, directed by Eileen Spillane. Bog Lane Theatre, Ballymahon Saturday 11th November at 8pm.
- **The Lost and the Local: Wildlife Past and Present.**
The National Museum of Ireland visit Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Ballymahon with special guest Owen Murphy, Warden from the National Parks and Wildlife Services – Friday 17th November 3-5pm.
- **Night Fever – Longford Variety Group.**
All proceeds going to Longford Hospice Homecare and other local charities.
Backstage Theatre, Longford
Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th November
- **Longford Parkrun –**
every Saturday 9.30 am in the Albert Reynolds Peace Park
- **Longford Farmers Market –**
every Friday morning on the Market Square Longford

Find more events on Longford.ie / Advertise your event with us by emailing tourism@longfordcoco.ie



Longford

LOCAL COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Annual Public Meeting and Crime Prevention Expo



TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023



Longford Arms Hotel



6pm to 8pm



LOCK UP
AND
LIGHT UP



Includes:

Crime Prevention Masterclass with Longford Gardaí

- ✓ Meet the Community Safety Team and Partnership members
- ✓ Community Safety Information Stands with our LCSP Partners
- ✓ Submit your questions on Community Safety in advance



Refreshments

email

communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie

All Welcome



Please contact for entering a stall:



GAELS UNITED FC
PRESENTS
DRUMLISH STREET
CHRISTMAS
MARKET

DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH
2PM TO 6PM

PLEASE CONTACT 0851249528 BY
TEXT IF YOU WISH TO ENTER A
STALL



**GAELS UNITED FC
PRESENTS**

**DRUMLISH STREET
CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

&

SANTA GROTTO

9th & 10th Dec 2023

2Pm-6pm

**A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE FOR
ALL THE FAMILY**

**Check us out on
facebook @Santa
Visiting Drumlish**



Invitation to Longford Green Energy and Organic Farming Information Event

GREEN ENERGY, ORGANIC FARMING



- Learn about Solar Panels and available grants.
- Listen to experts on reducing energy costs.
- Discover how to generate, share, and donate electricity.
- Explore the world of organic farming, along with available grants.
- Young people aged 17 and above, come and learn how to become active climate heroes.

FRIDAY

24TH OF
NOVEMBER 

12PM-4PM

 Temperance
Hall Longford

You are invited to the Longford Green Initiatives Information and Awareness event!



Minister Pippa Hackett:
Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



Catherine Joseph:
Green Party Rep. And Local Election Candidate for Longford



Aaron McKittrick:
Green Energy Partners Ireland Energy



Leslie O'Hora:
New Horizons, My project Charity Leitrim.



Benny McDonagh:
Senior project Assistant-Sustainable energy development Limerick IT.

COURSES

FREE 2-DAYS TV, STUDIO, VIDEO TRAINING COURSE (18-19 NOVEMBER)

We are organizing FREE 2-day TV, studio, video training course for all video enthusiasts - beginners and more advanced.

FREE 2-days TV, studio & video training course in English for all video-enthusiasts. Practise on Blackmagic Design studio equipment and cameras and learn to use Da Vinci Resolve software for post-production. Very limited spaces - register only if you intend to attend the training to give all interested the opportunity. To get more information and register - use the link below. Registration is on first come - first serve basis

<https://forms.gle/ruVyeMoADLK4xcRy8>

Slavek Kazek (he / his), Chairman Midlands Polish Community CLG

www.polishcommunity.ie ph. 0851463545

Video training for beginners and more advanced

TV, STUDIO & VIDEO PRODUCTION

2-DAYS TRAINING COURSE FOR COMMUNITY TV ENTHUSIASTS

- How to create community TV productions and livestream using **BLACKMAGIC DESIGN** equipment
- How to use **DA VINCI RESOLVE** for post production

FREE 2-days training
Very limited spaces

To register - fill out the form in the link **BELOW** ▾

18-19 November
from 10am
Colaiste Chiarain School
Athlone

*** Participants have to bring their own laptop with FREE Da Vinci Resolve installed ***



FREE DIGITAL LITERACY COURSES

My name is Dereck Carolan, and I am a technology Trainer for NCBI. I am reaching out to discuss how I can help and support your communities, specifically people with low sight or no sight and their families.

Here is a link to our website - <https://www.ncbi.ie/supporting-you/technology/ncbi-labs/>

Services Offered

As part of my role, I can provide the following services:

- Group training courses, projects, and talks that will enable the low-vision and no-vision community to access their local area.
- Technology assessments and demonstrations.
- Technology clubs and webinars.

We are promoting the following course

Are you ready to embark on a journey towards digital empowerment? NCBI Labs is thrilled to announce our FREE Digital Literacy Courses, designed to equip people with essential digital skills! Course topics include computers and the internet, using a smartphone, connecting with others, entertainment and shopping, hobbies and travel, and online banking.

Next Steps

I would love the opportunity to discuss further how we can work together moving forward. Please feel free to contact me at dereck.carolan@ncbi.ie or 0866086771.



Dereck Carolan
Technology Trainer

NCBI Labs: 1800 911 110

Email: Dereck.Carolan@ncbi.ie |
www.ncbi.ie



Literacy Friendly Workshops

Learn how to become more literacy friendly in your work. **(10am – 12.30pm)**

Join us at one of our in-person workshops to get top tips, share experiences and learn from examples of good literacy friendly practice.

Reserve your place today for one of these free in-person workshops (by clicking on any button below):

DUBLIN - 21 NOV

CORK - 22 NOV

ATHLONE - 28 NOV

ALONE DIGITAL CHAMPIONS TRAINING THIS NOVEMBER

ALONE is a national organisation that supports older persons to age well in their homes and communities.

ALONE Community Impact Network is offering FREE digital champion training to organisations staff and volunteers so they can support older persons to use their phone/device and get online.

A Digital Champion gives an older person the confidence, basic digital skills, and knowledge to use their device and make the most of being online.

- This training is offered to external groups, services/organisations so they can support older individuals with basic digital skills to use their phone/device and get online. The format is a 1-hour self-directed eLearning and a 2.5-hour workshop (online or in person depending on numbers).
- For volunteers of external groups, services/organisations we offer the free 1-hour e-learning resource.
- Ongoing support & check-ins are provided to ensure you are confident in your Digital Champion role supporting the individuals with digital skills. To learn more about how ALONE can support your organisation in upskilling older persons, please contact digitalskills@alone.ie

Our online training dates available for November are:

- November Thursday 23 11am – 1pm
- November Thursday 30: 11am – 1pm

You can [Register Here](#) for the November dates. You can also avail of information on further training dates and in-person training dates by registering or emailing us at: digitalskills@alone.ie

ALONE's Schools/Youth Digital Champion Programme

We are offering Digital Champion training to students and youths nationwide so they can support older persons use their phone or device and be comfortable online. This a great opportunity for both young and old to learn new skills and transfer knowledge to help bridge the digital skills gap amongst older persons and foster a greater understanding between the two generations.

Find out more via the links below:

- [Digital Champion Leaflet](#)
- [Schools Digital Champion Leaflet](#)

You can register your interest here: [Schools/Youth Digital Champion Registration](#) . Once this registration form is received, we will be in contact with you to chat through more details and to arrange scheduling.

Digital skills and connection to family and friends is a huge issue faced by many older persons, so we really appreciate your interest and participation in this initiative.

For any questions or queries on this programme, please do not hesitate to contact us at: digitalskills@alone.ie and a member of our team will be in contact with you.

ACHIEVING & MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION & GDPR (ONLINE WORKSHOP) 7TH DECEMBER

While this workshop is intended as an introduction for people who are engaging with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the first time, it will also be a useful refresher for people who have some knowledge and experience of the subject.

The workshop will take you through the fundamental principles, definitions and actions required by the GDPR, there will also be a valuable opportunity to ask questions.

In particular, this workshop will provide attendees with:

- An overview of GDPR
- An understanding of the principles, terms and the key roles such as Data Controller, Data Processor and Data Protection Officer and their obligations under the Regulation
- A walk-through of the Seven Data Management Principles
- An outline the rights of data subjects - i.e., the people whose data we hold
- The key steps that organisations need to take to become GDPR compliant.

How to register

This event will be held on **Zoom**. Please check [HERE](#) for further information and registration.

National News

Poverty Focus 2023

In Poverty Focus we examine the nature and experiences of poverty in Ireland. Drawing on the available statistical evidence, we outline how poverty is measured, the value of the poverty line and consider many of the groups in our society who are most exposed to living life below the poverty line. This year we pay particular attention to children in poverty. [Read More.](#)

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Minister of State for Community Development, Integration and Charities, Joe O'Brien, has launched a public consultation to inform the development of a national strategy for migrant

integration. You can submit your views through an online survey up until Thursday, 30 November 2023.

Please complete the survey which can be accessed [here](#) . **You can submit your views through the online survey up until Thursday, 30 November 2023.** The survey is available in ten languages (English, Irish, Arabic, French, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Ukrainian)

For organisations wishing to make a more detailed submission, these should be emailed to IE-PA-migrantintegrationstrategy2023@ipsos-online.com **The closing date for submissions is Thursday, 30 November, 2023.**

The Lifeblood of Fairer Communities - The Wheel Welcomes Launch of Charities Regulator Report on Small Charities

Almost half of all charitable organisations (excluding schools and the HSE) are small charities, engaged in local, community-based projects, according to a report published this week by the Charities Regulator.

“Small charities are the lifeblood of fairer communities,” says Ivan Cooper, CEO of The Wheel. “This latest report shows not only the breadth of the work being done across the country by local organisations, but the high level of trust the public has in them. This is a real validation of the work of the many staff and volunteers who keep these organisations running, often in very challenging circumstances.”

Almost half of the people surveyed (49%) said that they trusted small charities as they are “confident that the money reaches the intended beneficiaries,” according to the report.

[Find out more](#)

Minister Donnelly announces more than 1,000 Consultants have signed the new Public-Only Sláintecare Contract

The Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD has announced that more than 1,000 consultants have signed the new contract since it was launched last March.

This means that more than one in every four consultants working across our health service are now on the new contract. Hundreds more applicants are also being processed by the Health Service Executive (HSE).

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly TD said:

“I am delighted to see the positive response to the Public-Only Sláintecare Consultant Contract. The introduction of this contract represents a landmark in delivering Universal Healthcare. It is a progressive contract that puts the interests of patients to the fore. This new contract is facilitating a transition away from the provision of private care in public hospitals and ensuring that state resources are provided in accordance

with patient need rather than a patient's ability to pay. The contract compares very favourably with other health services around the world, and it is clearly proving attractive to potential candidates."

The 1,056 Public-Only Sláintecare Contracts include 241 new entrant consultants who have joined our health service and 815 consultants who have switched from their previous contracts.

Minister Donnelly said:

"There has been a significant increase in the number of consultants who are employed across our health service, with a large increase occurring during the last four years. There are 3,928 consultants working across our public health service, with 3,487 of these in permanent posts. In 2019, there were 2,592 permanently filled posts. This means there has been a 34% increase in the number of permanently employed consultants working across our public health service, which is very positive."

A key objective of the Public-Only Sláintecare Consultant Contract is to extend the hours that consultants, who are senior clinical decision-makers, are on duty across the health services.

Under this contract, consultants can be asked to work 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm Saturday as part of their core 37-hour week.

Having an extended consultant presence on duty results in reduced emergency admissions, more rapid and appropriate decision-making, shorter lengths of stay, better patient flow and improved outcomes for patients.

HSE Chief Executive Bernard Gloster said:

"It is a very significant development to have over a quarter of all consultants in the HSE now on the new contract, and this has happened over a short period of time. It is an important step towards enabling us to introduce reforms to our health system which will allow for enhanced care and greater out-of-hours and weekend presence of consultants in our hospitals, thus enhancing patient flow. This contract is helping us to operate in a highly competitive international employment market, enticing new entrants into the HSE."

The new Sláintecare contract includes:

- Basic pay of €217,325 - €261,051 on a six-point scale.
- A 37-hour week from 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm Saturday.
- Additional remuneration for on-call duties and overtime as applicable.
- Supports for medical education training and research.
- More flexibility for consultants who want to work share, do less than whole-time, work compressed hours or opt for different work patterns.

ENDS

Minister for Health encourages people to apply for GP Visit Cards as additional 215,000 people become eligible

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD has today announced that an additional 215,000 people are now eligible for free GP Visit Cards.

This is the third expansion of the scheme this year which has made free GP care available to an estimated additional 500,000 people in Ireland.

It follows the roll-out of free GP Visit Cards to 78,000 children aged 6 and 7 in August, and changes to the income threshold which made an additional 215,000 people eligible in September.

Minister Donnelly said:

“I am delighted that the three expansions of the GP Visit Card scheme are now complete and that the income threshold for cards has increased by over one third. This expansion is a significant step towards removing cost as barrier to healthcare and is particularly significant in the current cost of living crisis.

“You may think you do not qualify but the application process factors in household expenses such as mortgage or rent and childcare, along with income. With the increases in income threshold, now close to half of households in Ireland could be eligible for free GP care.

“The HSE have put in place a simplified online application process which is easier and faster to complete. I encourage everyone to go online, find out more and apply at www.hse.ie/GPVisitCards.”

The expansion of the scheme has been facilitated by an agreement between the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, and the Irish Medical Organisation which put in place a series of financial supports for GPs.

Minister Donnelly said:

“As we implement the final phase of this expansion, I’m proud to say that close to 850,000 individuals are now eligible for free GP care, including all children up to their 8th birthday and all those over 70. This is in addition to Medical Card holders who also have access to free GP care.

“We’re moving closer to universal healthcare, and this progress is underpinned by constructive collaboration with stakeholders in order that services can meet demand.”

GP visit cards for people aged between 8 and 69 are means-tested. The expansion of the scheme has increased the qualifying financial threshold for the following groups:

- The weekly income threshold for a **single person living alone** increased from €304 to €418.
- The weekly income threshold for a **single person living with family** increased from €271 to €373.
- The weekly income threshold for a **couple without dependents** increased from €441 to €607.
- The weekly income threshold for a **couple with dependent(s)** also increased from €441 to €607, plus an allowance for dependents.
- The weekly income threshold for a **one parent family**, increased from €441 to €607, plus an allowance for dependents.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

Free GP visit cards were extended to children aged 6 and 7 in August. For more information see [here](#).

An additional 215,000 people became eligible for free GP visit cards when the income threshold was expanded in September. For more information see

The means test considers personal and living circumstances, income, and expenses. During the application total income is assessed such as wages, pension, social welfare payments, property (excluding the family home), investments, savings, etc. Personal situation is considered, who you are living with, if you have a partner and if you have dependents including children. Certain costs are factored in including outgoings such as rent or mortgage, childcare, travel to work costs, mortgage protection and house insurance, etc. A financial threshold, including allowances for dependants if they apply, is compared to your income after costs. If your income, after costs are deducted, is lower than the threshold you or your family would be eligible for a GP visit card.

Examples:

- Clare is a nurse earning €32k per year and Dave her partner is earning €30k per year in his job at a supermarket. They bought a house in Galway a few years ago and their mortgage is now €2,100 per month. They have 2 kids, Aoife who is 9 years old and in school and Tom who is 3 years old and goes to crèche. They would be eligible for a family GP visit card.
- Amy is a single mum living in Cork who works full-time at a restaurant earning €40k per year. She has one child, Noah, who is 2 years old and attends crèche at a cost of €736 per month. They would be eligible for a family GP visit card.
- Sean is a construction foreman making €59k per year and Niamh his wife is a teacher earning €45k per year. They are renting in west Dublin paying €2,750 per month. They have twins Cian and Luke aged 2, who go to crèche at a cost of €700 per week. They would be eligible for a family GP visit card.
- Cian is a delivery driver working in Dublin earning €36k per year. He is currently renting, sharing with a friend, his portion of the rent is €1,250 per month. Cian would be eligible for a GP visit card.
- Michael is an accountant earning €85k per year, Sarah his wife is a stay-at-home parent looking after their 3 kids. The eldest Tom is in college and still living at home, Jack the middle child is 17 and in secondary school and Sophia the youngest aged 10 is in school. Their mortgage on the family home in Meath is €3,500 per month. They would be eligible for a family GP visit card.

How can someone apply for a means tested GP visit card?

A dedicated online application process for means tested GP visit cards is available at hse.ie/GPVisitCards. Applications will be assessed and processed by the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

During a means test assessment an allowance is added for dependents:

- €57.00 for first and second child aged under 16

- €61.50 for third and more children aged under 16
- €58.50 for first and second child aged 16 or over who are financially dependent
- €64.00 for third and more children aged 16 or over who are financially dependent
- €117.00 for all children aged 16 or over who are financially dependent, in third level education and not grant aided

The allowable expenses considered for the person (and their partner and / or family, if relevant), includes:

- Rent or Mortgage
- Mortgage protection costs
- House insurance costs
- Childcare costs
- Travel to work costs
- Maintenance costs
- Nursing home costs

As part of the application for a means tested GP visit card, a person will need to provide:

- Personal details
- Relationship status
- Partner details
- Children or dependents' information
- Residency in Ireland information
- GP details
- Declaration
- Consent

New Podcast with Mental Health Ireland CEO, Stress Control Online & Upcoming Webinars

HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing Podcast, Episode 31 – Mental Health Ireland

In this episode of the HSE Talking Health and Wellbeing podcast, host Fergal Fox talks to Martin Rogan, the CEO of Mental Health Ireland. They discuss the organisation's work in promoting mental health and wellbeing, the importance of collaboration and understanding in mental health promotion, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. Martin emphasises the need for a holistic approach to mental health and highlights the fundamental role of parenting. He tells us about the coproduction model utilised by Mental Health Ireland and the priority of engaging with people with lived experience of mental health, to inform all their developments.

He also shares his insights into successful mental health promotion research and models implemented in other countries. Martin is also working with the Department of Health on their Mental Health Promotion Plan and shares his insights into that work. It all makes for an uplifting and engaging conversation about mental wellbeing. For information on Mental Health Ireland go to their website: www.mentalhealthireland.ie and for a full range of information and advice about your mental health and wellbeing, including mental health issues, coping with difficult situations and helping someone else go to www.yourmentalhealth.ie on the HSE website.

Listen and follow wherever you get your [Podcasts](#) or on the [HSE Health and Wellbeing YouTube channel](#).



Rights of Nature in Westmeath and Galway Public Participation Network

Rights of Nature is a way of re-thinking our relationship with nature – from one of dominance to one of sharing, caring, respect and interdependency.

In 2021 Donegal became the first Local Authority in the Republic of Ireland to adopt a motion embracing an all-island environmental doctrine known as Rights of Nature. This year, environmental representatives in Public Participation Networks (PPNs) are working to get similar motions through their County Councils. You can [read the final motion here](#).

If you're involved in your PPN, Reps from Galway PPN have put together a Guidance Document for your own Rights of Nature Campaign [which you can view here](#). Westmeath PPN Reps have put together a proposal for their Plenary meeting asking that the PPN write a letter to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action supporting the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity and calling for the Committee to recommend their adoption in full, which includes Rights of Nature. [You can view this proposal here](#).

Not involved in your PPN?

You can help support the Citizens Call for Rights of Nature by [adding your organisation](#) to the list of supporters here.

You can also [learn more about Rights of Nature here](#). If you'd like to be involved in the conversation you can join the Whatsapp group by emailing [<lynda@ejni.net>](mailto:lynda@ejni.net).

There is lots of positive action from within PPNs by their member groups. PPN Representatives are elected directly from local community groups and provide a voice for the community on council committees. [Click here to find your PPN and join today](#). It's free to do so, and also provides you with information on activities within the county, information on funding, and the opportunity to meet other groups in your county.

The Global Plastic Laws Database is now live!

The Global Plastic Laws Database is the most comprehensive tool to date to **research, track, and visualize plastic legislation that has been passed around the world**. The Database tracks legislation across the full life cycle of plastics and organizes these policies according to life cycle categories and key topics. Adopting policies to reduce plastic pollution on a global scale is widely recognized as a vital step to address this crisis and its associated detrimental impacts on our communities, health, and environment.

VOICE is the lead in inputting data for Ireland. VOICE's dataset currently focuses on policies aimed at reducing single-use packaging, nappies, disposable vapes, and menstrual products. The Global Plastic Laws Database is updated regularly, providing a way to monitor and identify emerging trends, solutions, and policy innovations at local, national, and international levels.

More information here: <https://www.voiceireland.org/news/the-global-plastic-laws-database-a-resource-to-track-policies-around-the-world>

GRANTS FOR A HOME ENERGY UPGRADE

The National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme provides grants to upgrade the energy efficiency of your property. When the work is completed, your property should have an energy efficiency rating of B2 or above. The scheme is available to homeowners, private landlords and [approved housing bodies](#).

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the grants, and a private company manages the work for you. These companies are called [One Stop Shops](#), and the scheme is also known as the [One Stop Shop Service](#).

The SEAI also provides [individual energy upgrade grants](#), if you only want to do certain home energy upgrades, and would prefer to manage the process yourself. There is also a [free home energy upgrade scheme](#) for people on low incomes.

For more information click [Here](#)

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ALLIANCE (PILA) NGO PITCH EVENT INVITING APPLICATIONS

As part of the Pro Bono Week Ireland 2023, Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA) will organise an NGO Pitch event, taking place online on **Tuesday 21 November** from **1pm - 2pm**.

The objective of the event is to connect [Pro Bono Pledge Ireland](#) Signatories that have committed to doing pro bono work with NGOs and civil society organisations that have projects in need of legal expertise.

Representatives from civil society organisations will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to Pledge Signatories, which include over 50 law firms across Ireland. During the 10-minute pitch, representatives of 4 selected NGOs, charities, social enterprises, or other civil society groups should provide an overview of their organisation and articulate their unmet legal needs. Following each pitch, Pledge Signatories will have the opportunity to ask any questions which will help them decide whether they can form a long-term relationship with the NGO and offer pro bono legal assistance. PILA will facilitate the introduction between the civil society representatives and the legal practitioners who wish to develop an ongoing relationship after the event.

Application Process

Please download [here a copy of the application form](#).

Applications must be made on the current NGO Pitch Event application form. The completed application form must be sent to PILA, **before 7 November 2023 at 5pm**. Please email all completed applications to pila@flac.ie with the subject line: NGO Pitch Event Application - November 2023.

Shortly after assessment, all applicants will be contacted and informed of the outcome.

Living Well – Your toolkit for better health

There are two Living Well programmes starting in October.

- Living Well Chronic pain self-management programme on Thursday 26th October from 10:30am-1pm for **7 weeks via Zoom**.
- Living Well Chronic disease self-management programme on Saturday 21st October from 10am-12:30pm for **7 weeks via Zoom**.

Living Well is free, evidence based, group, self-management programme for adults with long-term health conditions. Originally developed at the School of Medicine, Stanford University, USA, this Chronic Disease Self-Management Programme has been available in Ireland since 2005 under various names.

What does Living Well involve?

- It involves attending one workshop every week for seven weeks. Each workshop lasts 2.5 hours.
- It will be delivered online.
- Two trained facilitators run the workshops, one of which lives with a chronic pain condition.
- The workshops are delivered in a relaxed and friendly way.
- Each person who takes part gets a book about self-management.

Who is Living Well for?

Living Well is for adults 18 years and over who are

- living with one or more long term chronic pain conditions

The Living Well programme is not suitable for people with significant memory or learning difficulties but the carers of people with these conditions could benefit from it

For more information contact the Living Well Team Email: LivingWellDNCC@hse.ie

Amazon [HERE](#)

Hybrid Social Finance Loan 2023 – 2024 Opens for Applications

Rethink Ireland, in collaboration with Community Finance Ireland, and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund, have introduced the second open call for applications to their Hybrid Social Finance loan.

The scheme is aimed at supporting up to 20 social enterprises that are first-time borrowers. This fund will offer a mix of a loan that must be paid back, along with a non-repayable loan and business support.

The Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund has committed €890,000 for this scheme. In addition, Community Finance Ireland will provide approximately €500,000 in repayable loans.

A key requirement for applicants is that their social enterprise must not have borrowed money before.

Each Award will include:

1. A repayable loan between €10,000 and €50,000 provided by Community Finance Ireland (which can be financed over five years at a competitive rate)
2. A non-repayable loan for up to the same amount provided by Rethink Ireland (between €10,000 and €50,000)
3. A business supports package for the amount of €10,000 (which includes one to one consultancy supports and Accelerator workshops)

Upcoming Q&A sessions:

- Thursday 19 October at 12 pm: [register](#)
- Friday 10 November at 12 pm: [register](#)
- Thursday 23 November at 1 pm: [register](#)

The deadline for applications is 8 December 2023 at 1 pm via the [Rethink Ireland website](#).

Questions can be also directed to hybridsocialfinance@rethinkireland.ie.



Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance

Financing Community Ambition!

Calling all community groups, approved housing bodies, family resource centres, sports clubs, charities, and social enterprises - If you are planning a project or service that delivers a social benefit in your local community, Clann Credo may be able to help!

The social finance offered by Clann Credo is designed for community groups and comprises term loans and bridging loans. You may need a bridging loan to enable you to avail of grant aid offered by a public body and/or you may require a term loan to deliver your project or service where grant aid is not available or does not meet the full cost of the project.

Community groups up and down the country have secured social finance from Clann Credo. But Clann Credo is much more than a source of finance – they understand the stops and starts of managing community projects. It is their understanding of community development and volunteerism that positions them as a trusted community finance partner for over 600 community borrowers.

Clann Credo is a registered charity with a national remit. They have staff ready to assist your community group - it's never too early to talk to Clann Credo about your community's project!

For more information check out the Clann Credo website www.clanncredo.ie or contact them – info@clanncredo.ie / 01 400 2100.

Follow Clann Credo on Social Media – [X/Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

CURRENT GRANTS AVAILABLE: (PLEASE PRESS LINK FOR DETAILS)

[EIL Explore](#)

[The Arts Council - Festivals Investment Scheme](#)

[The Arts Council Co-funding Award 2024 for Creative Europe Cooperation Projects](#)

[2023 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Inviting Applications](#)

[EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme](#)

[European Youth Foundation Grants – International Activity Grant](#)

[Benefact Group – Movement for Good Awards](#)

EU News

New regulation on the protection of European craft and industrial products enters into force

The Craft and Industrial Geographical Indication (CIGI) Regulation entered into force today (Thursday). The Regulation will harmonise the protection of valuable European craft and industrial products such as Donegal tweed, Limoges porcelain or Madeira embroidery. Commissioner Thierry Breton said: "The many small and family-owned manufacturers of traditional craft products can now benefit from a new form of intellectual property protection, similar to what food and wine producers already have. This will increase trust and visibility for their products, contribute to maintaining skilled

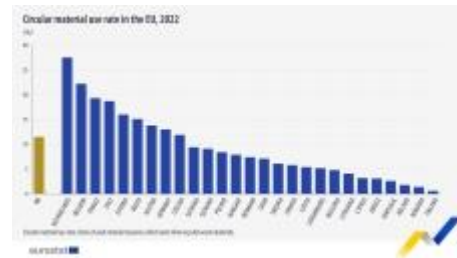


jobs and promote the development of tourism, including in rural areas".

More information [HERE](#)

Ireland's circularity rate third lowest in the EU in 2022

Ireland's circularity rate was the 3rd lowest in the EU in 2022 according to Eurostat. This means that only 1.8% of material resources used in Ireland in 2022 came from recycled waste materials, down very slightly from 1.9% in 2021. The EU average was 11.5%. The circularity rate was highest in the Netherlands (27.5%) in 2022, followed by Belgium (22.2%) and France (19.3%) and lowest in Finland (0.6%) and Romania (1.4%).



More information [HERE](#)

Wednesday 22 November: Skills for Jobs, Europe House, Dublin 2

Under the banner of the 2023 European Year of Skills, the European Commission Representation in Ireland and the EU agency Eurofound are joining forces to run a half-day event on skills. The event will be opened by Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland. Simon Harris T.D., Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science will deliver the opening address followed by remarks from Ivailo Kalfin, Eurofound Executive Director. Other speakers include Franz Eiffe, Research manager, Eurofound; Paul Healy, CEO, Skillnet Ireland; Emma Kinsella, Head of Skills Policy and Enterprise Engagement Unit, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; Meadhbh Costello, Policy Executive, IBEC; and, Tony Fitzpatrick, INMO. The event will be moderated by Mary McCaughey, Head of Information and Communication in Eurofound. A panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session with participants.



More information [HERE](#)

