

E - Bulletin Newsletter 18/04/2025

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!

Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.

Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has over 600 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!

I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week!

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following link.

Check Out or Website Link

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook - Cork County PPN

Instagram – @corkcountyppn

Happy Friday,

Morrin & Noelle



Come along!

Cork County PPN Spring Plenary



Cork County PPN Spring Plenary!

All our Community & Voluntary, Environment & Social Inclusion Groups are invited to attend our upcoming Plenary, where you will hear updates on activities from PPN Staff, and have the opportunity to have your say, sign off on your Representatives, hear from Stakeholders and much more!

Where: "Vertigo" Floor 17 - County Hall When: 1 May 2025, 7PM



We hope to see you on the evening Make sure to remind your Group
Members & Reps to come along too!

The Public Service Provider Ombudsman will give a presentation on their role on the evening, AND we will have a short Social Media Hints & Tips training!

Set to be a great evening!



Further information:

All our Community & Voluntary, Environment & Social Inclusion Groups are invited to attend our upcoming Spring Plenary. The Plenary is the ultimate decision-making body of the PPN. We hold two meetings per year, usually in May and November. The Plenary facilitates an update on PPN activity, dialogue on PPN strategy and the highlighting of local issues and success stories.

Where: "Vertigo" Floor 17 - County Hall

When: 1 May 2025, 7.00 PM (Refreshments from 6.00 PM)

This event is open to the public, Only PPN members may vote on the evening.

Prior registration is mandatory.

Register here: https://form.jotform.com/250904368225356

All member groups of the PPN are welcome to attend the Plenary, with each member organisation having one vote. Cork County PPN invites your group's primary contact to send two representatives to the event – NOTE: If there are more than two groups members wishing to attend - contact us directly and we will create a cancellation list.

We need your help!

Do you have a success story about your group that you would like to share at the Plenary?

Have you completed a development project? Did you win a Mayor's Community Award? Have you received a grant or funding? Are you just really proud of the efforts by your Tidy Towns group?

Please email <u>ppn@corkcoco.ie</u> if you want to share your story on the night. We're asking for just 5 – 10 minutes of your time!



While you're thinking of getting involved - Vacancies GALORE!!

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road!

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Commitment Involved:

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.



Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website <u>Cork County PPN</u>

Nominations - Cork County PPN

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



Further Vacancies:





StreamScapes is Hiring!

We're excited to announce **two new opportunities** to join the StreamScapes team, working to connect communities with nature and water stewardship.

Communications Officer

Funded by The Heritage Council, this position will play a key role in shaping and delivering StreamScapes' communications strategy—developing digital content, managing social media, and engaging with stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and community outreach.

Blue Dot Outreach Coordinator

Supported by LAWPRO, this grant-funded position will lead community engagement around Ireland's Blue Dot water bodies—organising outreach activities, educational events, and citizen science initiatives to promote conservation and foster local stewardship.

For more information and to apply, visit <u>streamscapes.ie</u> or contact Maggie McColgan at <u>info@streamscapes.ie</u>

(Maggie is one of our FABULOUS SPC Reps, we couldn't recommend working alongside her enough!)



Volunteer Expo 2025



Cork Volunteer Centre, in partnership with Cork City Council, is delighted to host **Volunteer Expo 2025**.

With over 50 organisations from across the city and county taking part, it's a fantastic opportunity to discover how you can get involved and make a difference in your community.

Join us on 28th May at Millennium Hall, Cork City.

Register here: https://forms.gle/srt4co4KmjQgN1z76



#fundingfriday



What is the Empower Tech Futures Fund?

Fund Overview

Rethink Ireland with the support of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Department of Rural and Community Development and BNY has created a **three-year Empower Tech Futures Fund** to support up to 5 projects or organisations over 3 years that are supporting vulnerable young adults aged 18-30 into employment, with a special focus on digital and technology skills and the Dublin and/or Cork regions.

The overarching goal of the Empower Tech Futures Fund is to tackle disparities in opportunity and access to employment for young adults at a disadvantage. It will do so by supporting organisations working with young people to access employment to scale their reach and impact.

The fund will focus on projects/organisations tailored towards the multiple challenges and barriers facing young adults, which include:

- Limited awareness of career options and jobs
- Lack of general or technical skills or qualifications desired by employers including digital and technology skills
- Insufficient support/social networks to access and thrive in employment



By providing a range of support initiatives for young people, from guidance and coaching to skills development to work placements, the fund aims to reduce barriers to employment and facilitate their smooth transition into the workforce.

Target Groups:

This fund will work with organisations/projects that directly support beneficiaries who are young people aged 18-30 from disadvantaged areas towards and into employment, with a special focus on digital and technology skills and the Dublin and/or Cork regions.

The fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial supports to the value of almost €240,000 per project for up to 5 projects, to help them expand and increase their social impact.

- This includes:
 - Up to 5 cash grants of up to €240,000
 - The non-financial supports will include:
 - a place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
 - bespoke business and capacity building supports designed in consultation with the successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, maximising your impact, communications, storytelling and fundraising.
 - access to Rethink Ireland's networks.

Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The final amount of the award will depend on how many organisations are selected.

You can apply to Empower Tech Futures Fund via this <u>online form</u>. Please join us for our application clinics on <u>17th April 2025</u> to find out more and answer any questions that you have.

For any queries, please contact us at: empowertech@rethinkireland.ie



RETHINK IRELAND

Hi Digital Fund

Fund Overview

The Hi Digital Fund is aimed at addressing the digital skills gap among Ireland's ageing population.

The Hi Digital Fund is aimed at addressing the digital skills gap among Ireland's ageing population.

We invite applications from projects and organisations that innovatively work to empower Ireland's older adults to enhance their digital literacy, as well as improve social inclusion and quality of life through the use of technology, to ensure that no one is left behind as we transition to a more digital society.

This €540,000 two-year fund is created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Vodafone Foundation, SmartSimple, private donors and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial supports for up to five projects to help them expand and increase their social impact.

This includes:

- Up to five awards of up to €70,000
- The non-financial supports include:
- A place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
- Business and capacity-building supports designed in consultation with successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, impact management, communications, and fundraising.
- Access to Rethink Ireland's networks.

The Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The final award amount will depend on how many organisations are selected.



You can apply to the Hi Digital Fund via this online application from Monday, 14th April 2025 to Friday, 23rd May 2025 at 1 pm.

Want more information?

Join one of our application clinics on **Wednesday 30th April** and **Tuesday 13th May.** These one-hour webinars will provide information on fund eligibility and the application process and offer an opportunity to answer any questions you have. Register for an application clinic here:

- Wednesday 30th April at 10am Register here
- Tuesday 13th May at 3pm Register here

For any questions you may have, please contact hidigital@rethinkireland.ie.

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) Scheme

The CLÁR Scheme 2025 has been launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This scheme makes provision for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. It promotes sustainable development, and it aims to attract people to live and work in the areas it covers. The closing date for receipt of completed project application forms is **Friday 09th May 2025**.

For further information: https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/municipal-districts/clar-ceantair-laga-ard-riachtanais-scheme



Grant Scheme for Irish Language Events and Initiatives launched by Mayor of County Cork



Cork County Council has launched its Irish Language Events and Initiatives Grant Scheme for 2025. This is the third year of the programme, launched in 2023 to provide funding for Irish language events, projects, and initiatives within the County of Cork.

It supports projects that utilise and promote the Irish language, including festivals, concerts, family friendly community days, conferences, films, plays, or any art form that celebrates and encourages the use of Irish in a way that benefits and includes the community.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Joe O'Carroll welcomed the return of the scheme,

"I am encouraging organisations throughout the county, who may be in the process of organising events through Irish, to apply for this grant. Whether your organisation is based within the Gaeltacht, or whether it is in another area of the county, or in a school or sports club, or anywhere that Irish is being spoken and used as an integral part of your event, it would certainly be worthwhile considering this grant."

Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Moira Murrell added,

"Cork County Council is proud to support Irish language events. Grant schemes help groups to organise events and initiatives which celebrate the Irish language. The increase in



applicants and grant recipients last year is very encouraging, in total, 16 events and initiatives were supported in 2024, up from 11 in 2023."

The successful projects in 2024, included local conversational groups and activities in Beara, Ballinhassig and Kilmurry; two film festivals in Youghal and Schull; a conference; an Irish language play in Castletownbere; arts projects, festivals, and exhibitions on Cléire, Bere Island and in Cobh; as well as musical events at Fota House and in the Múscraí Gaeltacht.

The maximum amount granted for any event is €1,500 under this scheme. Organisations may apply for more than one event within the application period, and these will be considered subject to availability of funding and the initiative meeting the grant criteria.

This scheme is open to applications until close of business on Friday May 9th, 2025. Further information and details on how to apply please click the link –

grant-scheme-for-irish-language-events-and-initiatives-2025.docx



The Wheel: Getting started with EU Partnerships Training

Building a strong EU network is essential for unlocking funding opportunities, sharing expertise, and creating meaningful partnerships.

Whether you're new to EU partnerships or have some experience, this session will equip you with the tools to find the right partners, build trust, and strengthen long-term cooperation.

What to expect:

- Understand the essentials of EU-funded projects, partnership principles, and how to map your organisation's strengths and needs
- Learn five key steps to identify and connect with EU partners using essential tools and resources
- Gain real-world insights from Perrine Cesbron, Programme Officer at The Wheel, who will share experiences from the baSE Erasmus+ project
- Get your questions answered in a Q&A session.

Don't miss this chance to expand your EU network and take your organisation to the next level!

This event is brought to you by <u>Access Europe</u>, The Wheel's EU funding support service funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

How to register

- You can book places for yourself and/or colleagues by clicking the button below.
- This event will take place on Zoom.
- Closed captions can be enabled by participants.
- Please email <u>matthew@wheel.ie</u> if you have any special requirements.

Venue: Zoom

Event Date: 20 May 2025 – 10:00am to 11:30am

Register: https://www.wheel.ie/training/2025/05/getting-started-eu-

partnerships







INTRODUCTION TO FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

SUITABLE FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH OR SUSPECTED TO BE LIVING WITH FASD.

TUESDAY 25

APRIL



<u> Upcoming Workshops - Introduction to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder</u> (FASD)

Tuesday April 29, 10am (Online via Zoom)

In this workshop, we will cover:

- An overview of FASD
- Details of symptoms of prenatal alcohol exposure
- The impact of FASD on children, young people and their families
- Share strategies of how to support people living with FASD
- What it is like to live with FASD
- Alternative approaches and ideas to parenting/caring
- Navigating education
- Challenges with the Justice System
- Where to go for additional help
- Ouestion and Answer Session

Introduction to FASD is particularly useful if you would like to gain an understanding of what it is like to live with FASD, or to parent or care for someone who lives with FASD. We discuss symptoms and strategies, as well as alternative therapies that may help whilst waiting for a clinical referral.

Introduction to FASD is a great starting point for professionals who work with people living with FASD. Here is some feedback from a Social Worker that attended this workshop:



"This workshop was inspiring and the knowledge provided thought provoking.... The likes of this program is required to promote education and insight to support and respond to existing people living with FASD and try to reduce future numbers."

Whilst we recognise that 2 ½ hours is a lengthy workshop, we have included a 10 minute break at the midway point, and time for questions and answers at the end. The workshop is not recorded and a copy of the slides will be provided by email after the workshop concludes. We ask that all attendees respect confidentiality when attending the workshop and especially if people choose to share personal experiences.

To secure your place on either of these workshops please visit www.fasdireland.ie/workshops

Person living with FASD / Parent / Carer €25.00 plus VAT and Eventbrite fee Professional (Clinician/Social Worker/Therapist) €40.00 plus VAT and Eventbrite fee

This workshop is also available to be delivered in-person and at a location of your choice, to groups of up to 30 people. For more information and quote, please get in touch with us at office@fasdireland.ie



FASD in Ireland – National Conference, May 22 – Hotel

Woodstock, Ennis

A CPD Accredited Event



Our first ever FASD Conference in Ireland - "FASD in Ireland" will bring together parents, carers and professionals under one roof to hear from respected speakers who are working hard to develop services and supports for people who are living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Ireland.

The day will run from 9:45am until 4:30pm (registration opens at 09:00) with plenty of time for networking with likeminded delegates, you will also be able to talk with other agencies who will be present in our exhibitor space.

Our speakers are confirmed and include:

- **Dr Jolanta Burke**, Chartered Psychologist specialising in Positive Psychology and Health from Royal College for Surgeons Ireland.
- Professor Raja Mukherjee, Adult Learning Disability Consultant
 Psychiatrist for Surrey and Border's Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in
 the UK
- **Professor Farhana Sharif**, Consultant Paediatrician with a special interest in Developmental Paediatrics at Mullingar Regional Hospital, Ireland.
- **Doctor Aisling Sheehan**, Alcohol and Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, Health Service Executive (HSE)

Breakout Sessions throughout the day will look at topics and issues that will support Parents/Carers and Professionals:

- Peer Support for Parents/Carers of Children living with FASD
- The role of NEPS Psychologists supporting young people with FASD in School
- Supporting communication and emotional wellbeing in Children living with FASD
- Supporting Parents/Carers living with complex and challenging behaviours
- The new authority for Schools: An NVR informed approach

The day will also include opportunities to attend relevant breakout sessions, engage with panel discussions.

Highlights of our Panel Discussions include:

Research in Ireland - Panel discussion

We are delighted to be hosting a number of researchers from Universities and Institutions across Ireland who have been working on research into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. We will discuss some of the research that has been published, research currently in the works and of course research for the future. Ireland is one of the few countries in the western world with minimal research around FASD, so this is an opportunity to hear from an expert panel who have specific interest in research, FASD and neurodevelopmental disabilities.



Experts by Experience - Panel Discussion

We will be facilitating a conversation with People living with FASD and some carers/parents of people living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, to hear first-hand experiences of navigating the world today while living with FASD or caring for someone with FASD.

Who Should Attend?

People living with or suspected to be living with FASD are at the heart of this conference, and are very welcome to attend at no cost.

Parents and Carers (*Parents/Foster Carers/Kinship Carers*) of people living with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), seeking support, resources, and to share experiences.

Healthcare Professionals such as psychologists, paediatricians, psychotherapists, and mental health experts who work with people living with (or suspected of living with) FASD and are interested in expanding their knowledge and improving care practices.

Researchers and Academics in the fields of developmental disabilities, psychology, and paediatrics who are focused on FASD and related neurodevelopmental issues.

Social Workers and Support Services who are involved in providing services and interventions for people living with (or suspected of living with) FASD. Advocates and Policy Makers working to improve FASD awareness, research, and support systems in Ireland.

Why Should You Attend?

Understand the Impact of FASD: Participants will gain an understanding of the effects of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on individuals and families, as well as the unique challenges faced by those living with the condition and their caregivers.

Identify Key Research Developments: Attendees will learn about current research efforts and emerging findings related to FASD in Ireland, including ongoing studies and future directions in the field of neurodevelopmental disabilities. Explore Positive Psychology Approaches: Participants will learn about the role of positive psychology and health interventions in supporting individuals living with (or suspected of living with) FASD, as presented by experts.

Gain Insights from Real-Life Experiences: Through the "Experts by Experience" panel, attendees will hear first-hand accounts from individuals living with (or suspected of living with) FASD and their caregivers, enhancing their understanding of the practical realities of living with the disorder.

Network with FASD Professionals and Support Services: Attendees will have apportunities to connect with professionals researchers, and organisations.

opportunities to connect with professionals, researchers, and organisations working to develop services and supports for people living with (or suspected of living with) FASD in Ireland, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Refreshments, Lunch and complimentary parking are included.



Standard Admission, €40
Standard Admission with CPD Accreditation, €50
People living with FASD, FREE
Reduced rates for Parents/Carers of people living with FASD, Students are Special Needs Assistants, €25
CPD Accreditation add on is €10 for anyone availing of reduced rates or free places

There is also a reduced rate of €119 B&B, at the conference hotel for anyone who requires accommodation. To avail of this reduced rate please contact Hotel Woodstock directly - +353 (0)65 689 9800 or reservations@hotelwoodstock.ie

To book your place please visit our website - www.fasdireland.ie/conference
Agencies who would prefer to purchase a number of places and pay via invoice, please contact us directly either by phone or email: 065 670 3096

/ cillian@fasdireland.ie





RAINBOW ROADSHOW

WE'RE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH OUR STAFF IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO LGBTI+ GROUPS, EVENTS AND SERVICES IN CORK COUNTY.

ARE YOU IN NORTH, EAST OR WEST CORK AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US?

CONTACT KILLIAN AT KILLIAN@GAYPROJECT.IE OR 085-7851926



021 4300 430 / info@gayproject.ie / www.gayproject.ie Sawmill Street, Ballintemple, Cork. RCN: 20078652 CRO:256161





Cork Gay Project are expanding their services across Cork County with a Rainbow Roadshow. They would really appreciate help in spreading the word – to your networks via email, on social media and on physical noticeboards.

In the first instance, they are looking for help in recruiting volunteers. This is with a view to beginning LGBTI+ groups in the summer. They are hoping to engage volunteers who might be able to help them with facilitating the groups; setting up the space, welcoming people, running the group, maybe a bit of advertising. They will be arranging a volunteer training day in the summer for everyone who signs up. And



when they get groups set up the Gay Project will be co-facilitating with the volunteers during the group sessions, at least in the beginning.

Facebook Link:

https://www.facebook.com/GayProjectIRL/posts/pfbid0AccBJ2RCmzWqVB6h7Ug1YqhofCpUDhojn7bQLdSK7jxSebTrQCVaN2AVfP87V62Ml

Instagram Link:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DHEexa8tteb/?igsh=bWV0OWgxdnN0ajlr&img_index=1

If you have any questions, please contact Killian Atkinson - killian@gayproject.ie .



Have your say!



Survey: Air Quality & Mental Health - Your Voice Matters!

Researchers at TU Dublin are seeking participants for a study on mental health and air quality in Ireland. This research examines how stress, anxiety, and depression affect individuals living in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick and explores whether external factors, such as urban environments and air quality perceptions, play a role in mental well-being.

The survey takes 10-15 minutes and is open to adults aged 18 and over. As a thank you, participants can enter a draw to win a €100 One4All gift card or a €50 Amazon gift card.

Closing Date: 30 April

To contribute to this research, go to: https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/remarcsurvey



Linkage Groups

Linkage Groups bring together stakeholder organisations and groups who are members of the PPN with a common interest to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific policy area.

This is a pathway for such organisations and groups to have a real input into policy in their respective area of operation.

Linkage Groups are an essential component of the work of the PPN.

They are independent networks of community groups who are interested in a common theme such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Social Inclusion, Transport or Tourism (and more).

Linkage Groups work to influence change. They do this through advocating for policy changes on behalf of the community through PPN Reps engaging with Cork County Council and other bodies appropriate to the issue or subject matter of advocacy.

There are five (5) principal Linkage Groups operating at a Cork County Council area level:

- 1. Housing, Planning and Transport.
- 2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports.
- 3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
- 4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise (including Economic Development and Tourism).
- 5. Community Safety

Please let us know if your group would like to join to any of these Linkage Groups, by emailing ppn@corkcoco.ie.

By making submissions to a Linkage Group, you can support our SPC and LCDC Reps and give them a mandate to bring to the Council.

Public Participation Network Cork County

