



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 07/08/2026

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 **almost** 800 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 our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Anthony & Noelle xx



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News & Events:

West Cork Housing Body included in EU Good Practice Brochure

West Cork community organisation, and PPN registered group, **Carbery Housing Association (CHA)**, has received significant European recognition after being featured in the **Rural Pact Good Practice Brochure on Rural Housing**, published by the European Union's Rural Pact Support Office in June 2026. The brochure showcases just six outstanding initiatives from across Europe that are addressing rural housing challenges through innovative, community-led solutions.



Full good practice description

-  Carbery Housing Association CLG
-  05/2013-ongoing
-  For the financial year ending 30 September 2024, the association had an income of EUR 326 010
-  Funding sources:
 - Periodic payment and availability fees from local authorities (for every family housed)
 - Rent from tenants
 - Membership fees and donations
 - Insurance claims
 - European funding under Interreg North-West Europe programme (2014-2020) – RED WoLF project
-  www.carberyhousing.eu
-  Jose Ospina, jose@carberyhousing.eu

Carbery Housing's inclusion highlights the impact of its pioneering **Mortgage Rescue Programme**, which was developed to prevent homelessness in rural West Cork. Since 2013, the organisation has worked to purchase homes at risk of repossession, allowing families to remain in their communities as tenants under affordable rental agreements. The initiative combines housing security with energy-efficiency upgrades, helping to reduce both housing instability and energy poverty.

The European publication notes that the programme provides a practical and replicable model for tackling rural housing challenges. Through strong partnerships with local authorities, community-led governance, and innovative retrofitting projects, Carbery Housing has secured accommodation for around 70 residents while strengthening community resilience across the region.

Jose Ospina, PPN Representative on Cork County Council's Housing Strategic Policy Committee and a key figure within Carbery Housing Association and on our Secretariat, expressed his pride at seeing the organisation's work recognised at European level.



It is particularly significant because it places West Cork's experience alongside successful housing initiatives from Austria, Spain, Denmark, Slovenia, and Germany, highlighting the value of local innovation in shaping wider European conversations on housing policy.

The recognition is also a positive reflection of the important work being carried out by community organisations across West Cork. As housing continues to be one of the most pressing issues affecting rural communities, Carbery Housing's success demonstrates how locally driven initiatives can deliver meaningful and lasting change.

The PPN congratulates Carbery Housing Association on this well-deserved recognition and looks forward to seeing its work continue to influence rural housing policy and practice both nationally and across Europe.

[Good Practice Brochure 'Rural housing' | Rural Pact Community Platform](#)

We are always excited to see local community action recognised beyond our own county, and this is a wonderful example of how grassroots solutions can influence policy and practice across Europe!



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**Nature
Network
Ireland**

Nature Network Ireland events happening this August

A guided walk along the scenic Knockdov Loop in Ballinaboola, Garrane, Ballyhea, Cork
Sat 15th August

2:30 - 4:30pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2272877>

A guided walk along Attychraan Loop Walk in the Galtee Mountains

Sunday 16th August

2:30 - 4:30pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2273401>

Irish Birds at Risk - online event

An engaging and informative talk as we discuss the incredible Irish bird life that has seen a decline in recent years

Thursday 20th August:

7 - 8pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2300931>

Flowers at Beaumont Quarry

Thursday 20th August,

7 -8pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2338477>

Otters of the Blackwater

Thursday 20th August,

7 -8pm

Community centre, Fermoy

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2302612>



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Bug Hunt at Beaumont Quarry

Saturday 22nd August

1pm - 4pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2338394>

Tralee Bay, protecting species, from river to sea

Sunday 23rd August

1 -4pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2316113>

Beaumont Quarry clean-up

Wednesday 26th August

10am - 1pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2261608>



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Oral History Network Ireland's National Heritage Week event - 18.08.26



‘Electrifying Oral History & Heritage with a ‘Bring and Tell’.

FREE National Heritage Week 2026 Event

Tuesday 18th August 2026, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Cork City Library, 57-61 Grand Parade, Cork.

Under this year’s [National Heritage Week](#) banner of ‘Heritage at Risk’ (running from 15th–23rd August 2026), the [Oral History Network of Ireland \(OHNI\)](#) presents our 2026 National Heritage Week event, [‘Electrifying Oral History & Heritage with a ‘Bring and Tell’](#).

This FREE event with our guest speaker, Dr Sorcha O’Brien, presenting her Electric Irish Homes Project, features oral histories and cultural heritage pertaining to how Irish homes and housework were changed by rural electrification in the 1950s and 1960s.



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Elizabeth Kiely, Co-Chair of OHNI said, “While our heritage includes what is natural and what is built, it also includes our memories, stories and experiences and when we share our stories about the things we have from the past, we also keep our heritage alive.”

INTERACTIVE

Attendees to this FREE event are warmly invited to bring along a kitchen tool, implement, appliance, product, or treasured toy (or a photograph of such) that helps tell the stories of our home lives, home-based work, and activities from the past. Members of the OHNI team will discuss the items with attendees and record a short audio account of their memories (with their permission). We will also have a photographer on hand to photograph items. What is shared is a vital part of our cultural heritage that is at risk, but together we can preserve it with care and attention.

Dr Sorcha O’Brien will deliver her talk, followed by a Q&A session, and the interactive element of the program will conclude the event.

OUR VENUE

This FREE event will be held in the Thomas Davis Room, Cork City Library, 57-61 Grand Parade, Cork City, Eircode T12 NT99 on Tuesday 18th August, from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. [MAP](#)

This event is free of charge to anybody across the wider community who would like to attend, although registration is required via this Ticket Tailor link, due to limited spaces. Tea, coffee, and a light lunch will be provided.

For general information about the Oral History Network of Ireland visit www.oralhistorynetworkireland.ie and more on Heritage Week, visit www.heritageweek.ie

Media enquiries to: info@oralhistorynetworkireland.ie

FACEBOOK: @ORALHISTORYNETWORKOFIRELAND / X: @OralHist_ie / BLUESKY: @oralhistoryie INSTAGRAM: @oralhist_ie / LINKEDIN: @Oral History Network Of Ireland



**Public Participation
Network** Cork County

Family Carers Ireland: Insights into Dementia

INSIGHTS INTO DEMENTIA

Informing and Empowering Family Carers

Positive and Practical Training
for carers of family members with dementia

Topics covered:

- Dementia and Looking After Yourself
- Changing Relationships and Accessing Information
- Communication and Staying Active
- Responsive Behaviours and Safety at Home
- Personal Care and Nutrition and Eating



Scan here to apply

Talbot Hotel Midleton
Old Cork Road, Midleton Co.
Cork, Ireland | P25 AX67
Dates: Tuesdays 8th
September- 20th October 2026
Time: 7pm-9.30pm

For further details
& bookings contact:

Tel: 1800 341 341

Email:
familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie

www.alzheimer.ie



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

We're delighted to share details of **two** upcoming courses, ***"Insights into Dementia – Informing and Empowering Family Carers"*** happening in Cork, designed specifically for family carers and supporters.



This **7-week face-to-face course** offers valuable information, practical guidance, and emotional support for those caring for a family member or friend living with dementia.

Course Details for Cork Midelton:

Venue: Talbot Hotel Midelton, Old Cork Road, Midleton, P25AX67, Co. Cork

Dates: Tuesdays, 8th of September-10th of October (for duration of 7 weeks)

Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Tutor: Audrey Sands

Course Details for Cork City:

Venue: Clayton Hotel Silver Springs Tivoli Road, Co. Cork

Dates: Thursdays, 10th of September- 22nd of October (for duration of 7 weeks)

Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Tutor: Audrey Sands

Registration process:

1. Complete an Application Form

Applicants can complete [Complete the Online Application Form](#), or [download the form here](#), The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, External Learning and Development Department, Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 N8YO.

Applications will be acknowledged once received. Applicants will then be added to our waiting list and contacted as soon as a place becomes available.

2. Await an Invitation

Family Carers Ireland will contact applicants by email or phone. If no contact details are provided, we will issue invitations by post.

3. Accept the Invitation and Attend Invitations are for one person only.

If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie.

Please note this course is not suitable for social care workers or home care assistants.



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Reflective Practice for Practitioners course SHEP Autumn 2026

Reflective Practice for Practitioners In-person and Online Courses Autumn 2026 to Spring 2027

Open to all Practitioners- Two In-Person Courses are in Cork City and one in Waterford and Two Online Courses

*There is no course fee for the Waterford Course through support from HI Waterford
The course fees for participants for the other three courses are highly subsidised (Subject to funding)*

Are you working or volunteering in a community oriented and/or service-oriented role? Are you interested in supporting yourself and others in challenging work environments so as to avoid burnout. Are you interested in being better able to bring about positive change through your role? Are you interested in reflecting with others, and learning about the under-lying assumptions, motivations, feelings and beliefs that shape your practice, whether paid or voluntary? Are you interested in being better able to bring about positive change in the organisation or systems you are involved with, or in your community? These SHEP courses starting in Sept/Oct 2026 may be of interest.

An Innovative & Practical Course

These courses will be of interest to a wide range of practitioners, paid or voluntary, involved in various roles in Community and Voluntary groups, social service agencies, public or local authority (e.g. education, youth and community work, social work, childcare, healthcare, housing, inter-agency work etc.).

the course aims to:

- Provide for 12 participants a space to reflect together on their prior and current practice experiences.
- Explore the assumptions, values, beliefs and feelings that underpin participants' ways of being active in their settings.
- Strengthen practitioner capacities (insight, resilience, self-compassion) to support organisations and systems evolve and align values.
- Enhance capacity to co-create space for personal and group learning from practice reflection.

Certification

A SHEP certificate in Reflective Practice for Practitioners will be awarded where an 80% attendance record is achieved.

Highly Subsidised

There is a small €45 fee from participants to cover course book/materials for three courses. There is no fee for the Waterford course through support from HI Waterford.

Practitioners

Open to paid/voluntary practitioners (over 18) who:

- Have a strong commitment to promoting social change, inclusion, equality and justice and are active in their community or organisation in a paid or voluntary capacity.
- Are working or volunteering in a Community or Voluntary sector organisation, social service agencies, public or local authority (e.g. education, youth and community work, social work, childcare, health care, housing community representative, inter-agency roles etc.)
- Have a willingness to be open in a group setting, sufficient for a process of reflection on the assumptions, values and feelings underpinning their volunteering or work.

Schedule - Available Options

- Option 1 In-person - Wednesday evenings 7.15pm-9.45pm, SHEP Centre, Cork (T12 XD2) Facilitators: Margaret Fenton & Liam Mc Carthy
- Option 2 Online - Thursday evenings 7pm-10pm Facilitators: Frances Day and Deirdre O'Sullivan.
- Option 3 Online - Tuesday evenings 7pm-9.30pm Facilitators: Mai Kerins & Joan Frawley.
- Option 4 In-Person -Wednesdays 10.30am-4.30pm, Dunhill Multi Education Centre, Waterford. (X91 FV9) Facilitators: Mai Kerins & Joan Frawley
Each course involves 30 hours from Sept '26 to April 2027 meeting approx. fortnightly.
Individual 15min 1:1 individual intake meetings will be scheduled.

Application closing date – Fri 28th Aug '26



For Further Information:

Call Jess Bowen (089 6100906) or Liam McCarthy at SHEP (021) 4666 180 or email:
jess.bowen@socialandhealth.com or
Liam.McCarthy@socialandhealth.com
SHEP website:
<https://www.socialandhealth.com/training/reflective-practice/>
Email application to: info@socialandhealth.com

SHEP is organising four Reflective Practice for Practitioner courses this Autumn 2026. One is in-person in Cork City, one in-person in Waterford and two are online (serving all locations).



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The courses are highly subsidised. The application closing date is Friday 28th August 2026.

Information is available on the website
at <https://www.socialandhealth.com/training/reflective-practice/>.

You can contact the course co-ordinators –

Jess Bowen at jess.bowen@socialandhealth.com or

Liam McCarthy at liam.mccarthy@socialandhealth.com or by phone to SHEP (021) 4666180/Jess (089 6100906).

Carmichael.

Autumn/Winter 2026 Training Programme

Courses on Carmichael's [Autumn/Winter 2026 Scheduled Training Programme](#) are now available to book [here](#). They have a range of new and returning courses on offer for you and your non-profit organisation. Click on the desired card below to learn more and to book your Scheduled Training course:



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Carmichael.

Microsoft Excel Introduction to Spreadsheets

4 Sessions Online
Starting 2nd Sept 2026
3:15pm to 4:45pm

Carmichael.

Practical GDPR: Implementing Required Policies and Procedures

Online
1st October 2026
10am to 12pm

Carmichael.

Team Building

In-Person
8th October 2026
10am to 4pm

Carmichael.

Introduction to Book-Keeping for Charities and other Not-for-Profits

In-person
15th October 2026
10am to 1pm



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Customised Training for your Organisation

Carmichael provide tailored training to meet the specific needs of non-profit organisations across Ireland, delivered online or in person.

Whether you're looking to strengthen governance, improve financial oversight, or build digital skills, their expert trainers can design training sessions just for your non-profit's team.

Topics include:

- GDPR Policy Review
- The Charities Governance Code
- The Charities Act 2009 & Companies Act 2024
- Board Roles & Responsibilities & Board Induction
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Oversight for Non-Financial Manager
- GDPR & Cyber Security
- The Role of the Treasurer, Chairperson, CEO & Company Secretary
- Safeguarding
- SORP & Book-keeping
- Social Media & Digital Communications
- Grant Writing

If you have a requirement for your own organisation or would like more information contact: andrew@carmichaelireland.ie, training@carmichaelireland.ie or trainingofficer@carmichaelireland.ie.



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**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Rural and Community
Development and the Gaeltacht

PPN Stakeholder Training

We would like to remind you that the online only self-paced videos programme for PPN stakeholders has been developed with SJI. Registrations for the online only training is now open. Social Justice Ireland is providing this training on behalf of the Department.

The online only training covers the following:

- An Introduction to the PPNs (2 Modules)
- Local Government Budgets
- PPNs and Local Government
- Effective Participation in Consultations
- Effective Facilitation
- Strategic Planning
- Measuring Outcomes and Impacts

This is online only training and is intended for self-directed learning at the learner's own pace. Social Justice Ireland will provide some support via the webform on each Module page. There are no scheduled classes as part of this training.

This training is available to the following PPN Stakeholders:

- PPN Workers
- PPN Secretariat Members
- PPN Representatives
- PPN Member Groups
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Councillors

To register, please complete the Registration Form at the following link : [Register for Training | Social Justice Ireland](#)



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Get involved!

Secretariat Vacancies:

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 [Cork County PPN 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.



Current Vacancies:

2 x Vacant seats – Carrigaline Municipal District

Vacant seat – East Cork Municipal District

Vacant seat – Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

Vacant seat – Macroom Munciple District

2 x Vacant seats – Environmental Electoral College

[Cork-County-Secretariat-Nomination-form](#)

Further vacancies:

SPC Vacancies:

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC: 1 seat vacant

Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC: 2 seats vacant

Arts, Culture & Language SPC: 1 seat vacant

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-SPC-Nomination form final](#)

LCDC Vacancies:

- **North Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form](#)



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Join Our 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.

After our recent Plenary meeting, we are proposing four Linkage Groups:

1. Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Tourism
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise & Recreation

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.



#fundingfriday

Energy for Generations Fund to Open Soon

The Energy for Generations Fund has announced the opening date for its second funding round of 2026, with applications set to open on Monday 10 August and close at 5pm on Monday 24 August.

The fund distributes **€1 million annually** through two funding rounds, supporting charities across Ireland that are working to tackle social exclusion. Funding is focused on initiatives that improve access to education, increase employment opportunities, and address homelessness.

The programme supports projects that align with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, with a particular focus on **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.

The Energy for Generations Fund forms part of the organisation's wider Sustainable Leadership Plan, which aims to deliver positive social and environmental impact across Ireland. Alongside financial support, the fund seeks to maximise the impact of investment in disadvantaged communities by encouraging long-term, sustainable change and drawing on the organisation's expertise and skills to help funded projects achieve lasting outcomes.

Charities interested in applying for the second 2026 funding round are encouraged to submit their applications before the deadline of **17:00 on Monday 24 August**.

[Energy for Generations Fund to Open Soon | The Wheel](#)



€4.5million Integration Fund for 2026 launched

The fund, which brings together the full suite of exchequer funded Integration themed funding calls will enable communities across Ireland to play a greater role in promoting the integration of migrants.

Funding is made available to organisations to carry out integration projects at a national, regional or local level. Organisations eligible to apply include local community groups, charities, faith-based groups, formal and informal schools and cultural organisations.

Applicant organisations must operate on a not-for-profit basis.

There are three streams of funding available for applicants;

- Scheme 1 will provide grants of between €100,000 and €300,000 for large scale integration projects run over a period of up to three years.
- Scheme 2 will provide grants of between €15,000 and €100,000 for large scale integration projects run over a period of up to one year.
- Scheme 3 will provide grants of between €1,000 and €10,000 for local community integration projects.

All applications must be submitted electronically.

Applications for funding will remain open until noon on Wednesday 2 September 2026. Groups can access a detailed guidance document and complete an online application form at the following link: [Integration Fund](#)

Under the 2025 Integration Fund, 117 projects nationwide were awarded a total of €3.6m in funding.

More information: [€4.5million Integration Fund for 2026 launched](#)



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Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2027



NBHS

An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta
Tógtha Náisiúnta
National Built
Heritage Service

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2027 (BHIS) is for the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts.

This scheme aims to support:

- a significant number of projects across the country
- the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment

Grants of between €2,500 and €50,000 are available.

The scheme also incorporates streams for vernacular buildings and historic shopfronts, which were previously part of the Historic Structures Fund, as well as a 'micro' grant stream for works of routine maintenance and minor repairs.

The fund is administered through Local Authorities.

How to apply

You can apply through your [local authority](#).

More info: [Built Heritage Investment Scheme \(BHIS\)](#)



Consultations:

Help Shape the Future of the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector Across the Island of Ireland

Nominations are now open for organisations to become founding members of the All-Island Alliance.

The Wheel is inviting organisations from across Ireland to apply to become founding members of the All-Island Alliance.

Established through the InsightLink project, the All-Island Alliance will bring together organisations from Ireland and Northern Ireland to strengthen collaboration, share knowledge and experience, and contribute to strategic discussions on the opportunities and challenges facing the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Supported through PEACEPLUS, the Alliance will provide a new mechanism for collaboration, strategic engagement and shared learning across the VCSE sector. It will enable organisations to identify common priorities, share evidence and contribute to discussions that support future policy development across the island of Ireland.

Why has the All-Island Alliance been established?

Organisations across the VCSE sector are responding to many of the same opportunities and challenges. However, opportunities to collaborate, share evidence and engage collectively across the island of Ireland have often been limited.

The All-Island Alliance has been established to address this by creating a structured forum for collaboration, shared learning and strategic engagement. It will strengthen connections across the sector, support evidence-informed policy discussions and create new opportunities for organisations to work together on issues of shared importance.

By bringing organisations together, the Alliance will help build a stronger, more connected and more influential VCSE sector.



Why should your organisation become a founding member?

As a founding member, your organisation will have the opportunity to:

- **Help shape the future of the sector** by contributing to strategic discussions that ensure the experiences of organisations and communities inform future policy and decision-making.
- **Build stronger cross-border relationships** by developing new partnerships, sharing learning and strengthening collaboration with organisations across Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- **Help remove barriers to collaboration** by identifying the legal, administrative and practical challenges to cross-border working and contributing to solutions that support stronger collaboration.
- **Strengthen the evidence base** by helping identify emerging issues and priorities that will inform InsightLink's research, data development and future strategic planning.

What does membership involve?

Founding member organisations will play an active role in shaping the work of the All-Island Alliance through the participation of their nominated representative.

Representatives will:

- Attend quarterly Alliance meetings, including the inaugural residential on **29–30 September 2026**.
- Contribute to strategic discussions on issues affecting the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.
- Share knowledge, experience and examples of effective practice with Alliance members and their wider networks.
- Identify emerging challenges, priorities and opportunities for future collaboration and research.
- Help shape the ongoing development of the All-Island Alliance throughout the lifetime of the InsightLink project.

Who should apply?

We welcome nominations from organisations of all sizes and from across the breadth of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, including organisations operating locally, regionally, nationally and across the island of Ireland.

Whether your organisation has extensive experience of cross-border collaboration or is taking its first steps, we encourage you to apply. The Alliance will bring together



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organisations with a wide range of experiences, perspectives and networks, creating new opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.

The Selection Panel will seek to ensure the Alliance reflects the diversity of the sector, including different subsectors, organisational sizes, geographical areas and communities across the island of Ireland.

Key dates

- **Applications close:** 12 noon, Monday 17 August 2026.
- **Inaugural All-Island Alliance Residential:** 29–30 September 2026.

Successful applicants should ensure their nominated representative is available to attend the inaugural residential.

More info: [Help Shape the Future of the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector Across the Island of Ireland | The Wheel](#)



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Determine Demand for Affordable Housing in Cork County

Cork County Council is asking participants to provide details such as income levels, family size, disability status and other relevant information. The data gathered will be used to build a clearer picture of affordable housing need and to support informed decision-making on the scale, design and location of future developments.

For more information, go to: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/news/cork-county-council-launches-survey-to-determine-demand-for-affordable-housing-0>



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Consultation on draft National Standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Minister Butler encourages parents, young people and mental health professionals to participate in consultation on draft National Standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler TD, is encouraging the public to participate in the public consultation on the draft National Standards for CAMHS, asking children and



young people, parents, carers, mental health professionals and service providers to share their views.

Minister Butler legislated for the regulation of CAMHS for the first time in the recently passed Mental Health Act 2026 and requested the Mental Health Commission prioritise the development of the necessary standards for CAMHS as part of the implementation of the new Act.

The new standards represent an important step in strengthening quality, consistency and accountability across Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and form a key part of the new regulatory framework established under the Mental Health Act 2026. The draft standards place a strong emphasis on children's rights, safety and wellbeing, responsiveness of services, and accountability.

The public consultation is seeking feedback from children and young people with experience of CAMHS, parents and carers, mental health professionals, advocates, peer supporters, service providers and the wider public. Feedback will help inform the final version of the standards before they are introduced.

Encouraging participation in the consultation, Minister Butler said:

"I recently passed the Mental Health Act 2026 through the Oireachtas which legislates for the regulation of CAMHS for the first time, fulfilling a major commitment in the Programme for Government.

"I requested the Mental Health Commission prioritise the development of these new standards for CAMHS which are an important step towards improving mental health services for children and young people. I encourage everyone with an interest in children's mental health to take part and help shape the future of CAMHS."

The draft standards have been informed by expert advice, evidence, policy developments and engagement with stakeholders including people with lived experience. They are designed to support safe, person-centred and rights-based mental health services for children and young people.

The Minister is particularly interested in views on whether the standards cover the key aspects of care, use clear and accessible language, and can be delivered effectively in practice.

Minister Butler added:



Public Participation Network Cork County

“Children and young people must be at the centre of these standards. Their experiences, along with the views of families, carers and frontline staff, are vital in making sure CAMHS services meet the needs of the children and families who use them.”

“I want to thank everyone who has helped develop these draft standards so far. The feedback received through this consultation will help strengthen the final standards and support better mental health services for children and young people across Ireland.”

The consultation will remain open for public submissions for the next six weeks. Feedback received will be used to refine the standards before they are finalised and implemented.

[New draft standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services \(CAMHS\) Public Consultation | Mental Health Commission](#)

Public consultation on mandatory folic acid fortification of flour

Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD has launched an online public consultation seeking the views and opinions of the public and of industry on the mandatory fortification of non wholemeal flour with folic acid, to help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland. Neural tube defects include conditions such as spina bifida, anencephaly, encephalocele and iniencephaly.

Neural tube defects can occur when the spinal cord does not develop properly during early pregnancy. Ireland has a higher-than-average rate of occurrence of neural tube defects compared with the rest of Europe. Research has shown that sufficient folic acid intake may help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects.

This public consultation provides an important opportunity for members of the public, to provide their views on the proposed fortification of non wholemeal flour with folic acid to help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland. We are also interested in the views of ‘food industry’ and related business operators to know how flour fortification with folic acid may affect their activities, along with input on any measures that could help businesses adapt to the new fortification requirements.



Submissions received through this process will be considered and may be used to inform future policy and legislation regarding mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.

Minister Murnane O'Connor said:

“Neural tube defects can have a profound impact on patients, their families and the health service. People living with neural tube defects often face significant challenges in terms of impacts on health and disability, social inclusion and quality of life.

“Research has shown that up to two thirds of neural tube defects can be prevented by consuming folic acid before and during the early stages of pregnancy. Women typically cannot get enough folic acid through diet alone, so fortified foods and folic acid supplements are needed to help reach the required levels.

“We hope to reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland in the future by increasing dietary intake of foods which have been fortified with folic acid, and by encouraging folic acid supplementation.

“I would like to encourage individuals and businesses to contribute their insights by making a submission on the Public Consultation: Mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.”

This call for submissions will remain open for 12 weeks, closing at 17:00 on 05 October 2026. Further information on the submission process is available [here](#).



Social Justice Ireland Wellbeing Survey

Social Justice Ireland is inviting individuals and organisations to participate in its latest **Wellbeing Survey**, aimed at improving understanding of quality of life and wellbeing across Ireland. Building on research undertaken in 2022, the survey seeks to explore how people's priorities and perspectives on wellbeing may have evolved over time

The survey also invites respondents to share their views on potential environmental, social, and economic sustainability indicators within key wellbeing dimensions, recognising their importance in supporting long-term wellbeing.

Participation is open to all interested individuals. The survey takes approximately 20–30 minutes to complete, although many participants may finish it more quickly. Only a small number of questions are mandatory, and respondents are welcome to answer only those questions on topics they feel familiar with or wish to comment on.

The insights gathered will contribute to Social Justice Ireland's ongoing work in developing an alternative wellbeing framework and informing discussions on the factors that matter most to people living in Ireland.

To take part in the survey, visit: [Wellbeing: Measuring What Matters Survey](#)