

Special Convention Edition

Older People's Conference, Co.Kerry

Last week Age Friendly Kerry and Kerry County Council had the pleasure of hosting the National Older People's Council Convention 2023.

The Convention took place over 2 days in the beautiful Rose Hotel in Tralee, Co.Kerry. Siobhán Griffin, Kerry Age Friendly Programme Manager and her team organised the wonderful 2 day event, full of fabulous speakers, workshops and a beautiful Gala dinner with fantastic entertainment.

Day 1

Master of Ceremonies Deirdre Walsh from Radio Kerry got the conference under way and there was an array of speakers who addressed the audience in the morning. Cllr Norma Moriarty Kerry County Council, Moira Murrell Chief Executive Kerry Co Council, Maura Fitzgerald Chair of Kerry Older People's Council and Jake Ryan Principal Officer Department of Rural and Community Development, started off the morning.



The attendees were invited to visit posters done up by all programmes showcasing their favourite initiatives, along with information stands from Healthy Age Friendly Homes, An Garda Síochána, Local Link and Kerry Libraries.



Next up was Paula Hillman, Assistant Commissioner Roads Policing & Community Engagement who talked about the new launch of An Garda Síochána Older Peoples' Engagement Plan, followed by Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer, Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service who gave a Shared Service Update. Then to close off the morning session, Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive, Meath County Council and host to Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service gave a closing speech.

After lunch the workshops got under way with a choice of attending any of the following:

- Reconnecting through Arts



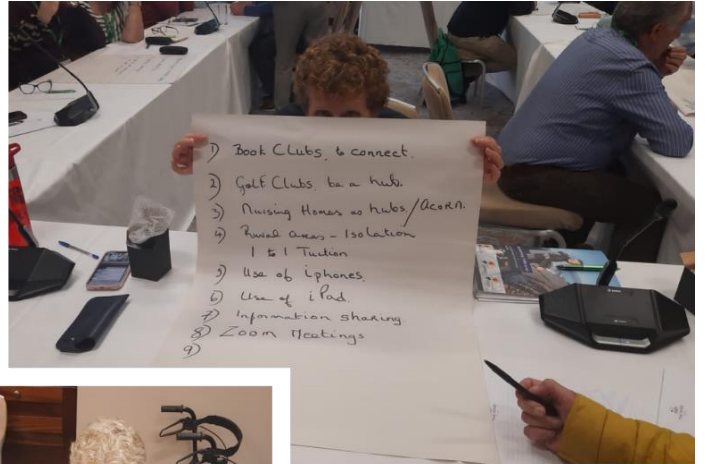
- Reconnecting through Sports



- Reconnecting through Nature



• Reconnecting through Technology



• Reconnecting through accessible Communities and Housing



- Maintaining connections (Dementia and Age Friendly Tralee)



Each workshop was assisted by one of the Age Friendly Ireland Regional Programme Managers, and all participants thoroughly enjoyed these workshops, they were a huge success.



That evening Age Friendly Kerry hosted a beautiful Gala dinner in which some wonderful local entertainment performed, followed by a motivational speech from guest speaker Pat Falvey. The night then ended with a lot of jiving and many more dance moves, thanks to the fantastic band Heart and Soul.



Day 2

Master of Ceremonies Catherine McGuigan introduced a panel of speakers made up of Philip King, Musician, Film maker, and Broadcaster, Donnchadh Walsh, Chartered Physiotherapist, Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee, Dr. Stephanie O’Keeffe, National Director, Operations Planning and Francis Brennan, Age Friendly Kerry Ambassador. This was an open discussion followed by questions and answers from the audience.



After a short break, the final speeches of the convention were made by Mary Butler TD, Minister of State in Department of Health (Mental Health and Older People), Kitty Hughes, Chair of the National Network of Older People’s Councils and Moira Murrell, Chief Executive Kerry County Council.



The convention was then closed by the handing over of the Gavel to the next County to host next years Older People’s Council Convention.

Overall it was a busy and informative few days in Kerry, very productive but a lot of fun too. Old acquaintances were reunited and new friendships were made.

Thank you to all our Programme Managers and all our wonderful Older People Council members who attended and thank you to Age Friendly Kerry and Kerry County Council for a brilliant convention.