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**17th January 2025**

## National Updates



### **Farewell Mark!!!**

This week we bid farewell to our friend and colleague Mark Harrington, Healthy Age Friendly Homes National Programme Manager. Mark's dedication and hard work have been instrumental in launching and further developing the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme. His contributions have made a lasting impact, and Mark has been an invaluable asset to the Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to Mark as he embarks on this exciting new chapter in his career.

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## **A Positive Programme for Government 2025**

We are delighted to see the publication of the draft Programme for Government this week, outlining the vision of our incoming Government. It is encouraging to see a strong focus on key pledges addressing the needs of our growing older population. We especially welcome reports of a dedicated Minister of State for Older People – this is a significant and positive step forward. We will update more when the Programme for Government is formally published.



## **Ministers O'Brien and Dillon announce commencement of revised Housing Adaptation Grants of up to €40,000**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, and Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Alan Dillon TD jointly announced increased funding in housing grants for older people and those with a disability.

[Find out more >](#)



### **New report highlights positive trends in health and wellbeing of older people in Ireland**

Older adults in Ireland are continuing to experience positive levels of health and wellbeing, according to the latest "Health at a Glance: Europe 2024" report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[Find out more >](#)

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Join the  
**JAMUARY**  
Challenge | 2025

[Get involved today](#)

**Make 2025 the year of inclusion and sign-up for the online inclusion training and become a JAM Card Friendly Business**

72,000 people have already completed the JAM Card Friendly online training, making their workplace more inclusive for all. Join the movement!

[Find out more >](#)


## Dementia: Understand Together Upcoming Events

- “Let’s Talk Dementia” Webinar taking place on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 (11.00am – 12.15pm).
- Azure: Dementia Inclusive Gallery Tour – Navan, running from Saturday 18th January - Saturday 15th March.

Click below for more information

[Find out more >](#)


## Siel Bleu Ireland Recruitment

Siel Bleu Ireland are looking to hire a trainer in the South Co.Dublin area on a full time basis.

Applications can be submitted directly through [www.indeed.ie](http://www.indeed.ie) or by sending a CV and cover letter to [info@sielbleu.ie](mailto:info@sielbleu.ie)

[Find out more >](#)

## 'You, Me and HIV,'

This week 'You, Me and HIV,' was



launched, a nationwide campaign, by the HSE in partnership with people living with HIV. This new nationwide campaign addresses misconceptions around HIV and help reduce the stigma experienced by people living with HIV in Ireland.



**An Roinn Airgeadais**  
Department of Finance



The **ALL** Collaboration and Innovation Fund **is open**

Apply by **Thursday, April 4th 2024**



### Adult Literacy for Life Strategy Collaboration and Innovation Fund

A key component to the success of the National Financial Literacy Strategy is the availability of resources to drive collaboration and initiatives. We are delighted to announce that as part of the Adult Literacy for Life National Framework Strategy, applications for the [2025 Collaboration and Innovation Fund](#) are now open. This Fund serves as a chance for projects that aim to assist adults with unmet literacy, numeracy, digital and financial needs to be awarded monetary support.

The Consumer and Competition Protection Commission (CCPC) has provided €250,000 to the Fund to help support projects on financial literacy. This funding is available for local and national projects that support innovative and collaborative ways to: improve financial literacy skills for adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and create a more literacy friendly approach to accessing financial services.

Created for organisations that work in the not-for-profit, public, voluntary and community sector, there needs to be a minimum of two organisations working in partnership to apply for the Fund. Collaboration between organisations was highlighted as a point of importance to the success of the Strategy at the most recent stakeholder event in Cork in July of this year. Please see our [“What We Heard”](#) document for more detail.

Guidelines for the Fund can be found [here](#) and the **closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 7th February 2025.**

## Local Updates

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### **Age Friendly Events and Services in Bunclody Library**

#### **Energy Advice Clinic with South East Energy – Tue 28th Jan, 11.00am to 1.00pm**

Join us for a one-on-one chat with an energy expert at our Energy Advice Clinic! Whether you're curious about insulation, heating systems, or reducing your energy bills, we're here to help. Please bring along a recent energy bill, photos of your home (windows, roof, heating system, etc.) and property details (year built, roof orientation, heating system). Don't miss out on this great opportunity to make your home more energy efficient! Booking required, places limited. Telephone the library at **053 9375466** to book your 15 min slot!

#### **Home Energy Saving Kits**

Home Energy Saving Kits are now available to borrow from Bunclody Library. The kits contains a range of tools/exercises to help householders make sense of the energy they consume on a daily basis and to identify possible problem areas. Please contact the library at 053 9375466 or email [bunclodylib@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:bunclodylib@wexfordcoco.ie) for further details.

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**Roscommon Age Friendly Ambassador Paddy Joe Burke pictured at the Cloonbonniffe, Senior Citizens Party in Roscommon with Tommy Joe Flanagan and Sean Vaughan**



**Climate Action Workshop in Co. Waterford**

This week in Co. Waterford, a Climate Action Workshop took place, attended by members of Waterford Older People's Council and Age Friendly Programme Manager Grace Power.

**Age Friendly Hospital**

This week at Monaghan Hospital, staff received Age Friendly Communication training as part of the



ongoing work to make Monaghan Hospital age friendly.

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**National Network of Older People's Council Transport Working Group**



Today the National Network of Older People's Council Transport Working Group met to discuss updates from the shared service, Age Friendly National Technical Manager, the RSA and the NTA. These updates were provided to the group which was chaired by Cavan Older People's Council member Bob Gilbert.





Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council



**LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS  
PROVIDED**

**AGE FRIENDLY LOUTH  
INVITES YOU TO  
AI FOR BEGINNERS  
IN DROGHEDA CIVIC  
OFFICES**

Age Friendly Louth are inviting older people to come along to Drogheda Civic Offices, Fair St , Drogheda on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 from 11.00am -1.00pm

for an AI Information Session.

The session will cover : What is AI ?

How can AI benefit older people ?

Examples of how older people are already using AI .

What's next for AI and older people ?

Meet researchers undertaking AI Projects for older people, Demo of AI projects

**DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT AI ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE ?**

**EVENT IS FREE BUT YOU CAN  
REGISTER YOUR PLACE**

**042 9324389**

**OR EMAIL**

**AGEFRIENDLY@LOUTHCOCO.IE**

## International Updates



### IFA Global Café | In Conversation with Ms. Sonia Hsiung

IFA Global Café | In Conversation with Ms. Sonia Hsiung on “Supporting Healthy Ageing Through Social Prescribing.”

24 January 2024, 07:00 A.M. EST (US and Canada)

[Find out more >](#)

If you would like a PDF version of the newsletter, please click [HERE](#)

- This Newsletter is prepared and circulated by Age Friendly Ireland
- The Newsletter is published weekly, every Friday
- If you wish to provide information that may be included in the Newsletter please email it to: [agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie) no later than midday on the Thursday. Age Friendly Ireland retains full editorial responsibility for content of the Newsletter.

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service, Meath County Council



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service Office  
 Telephone: 046 9032170  
 Email: [agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie)

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Referrals)

Telephone: 046 9248899

Email: [healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie](mailto:healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie)

HSE Advice Line: Call save 1850 24 1850

Call from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm

Saturday and Sunday



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