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National Updates



Better Public Services Awards

We are delighted to have received the **Driving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** award at the Better Public Services Awards last night.

It was a fantastic evening at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, celebrating the outstanding work taking place across the public sector. We are incredibly proud to be recognised for our commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable workplace and to driving meaningful change.

A huge thank you to everyone whose dedication, passion and collaboration made this achievement possible.

Congratulations to all of the winners and finalists—it was an honour to celebrate alongside so many inspiring organisations and individuals.



Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*



Creative Health and Wellbeing

Building on the success of the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme (2024–2025), a new phase of the scheme launched for 2026–2028.

Creative Ireland are delighted to announce €2.1 million in funding over the next three years, which will support 15 projects including three Shared Island projects, involving 19 local authorities. These initiatives aim to improve health and wellbeing outcomes across a range of areas including health promotion, positive mental health, positive ageing, disability inclusion, chronic disease management, and bereavement support.

We would like to particularly Weaving Worlds: Creative Fashion Upcycling Across Borders and Ages, led by Fingal County Council, an intergenerational Shared Island initiative connecting Fingal's Older People's Council, youth groups and partner organisations in Northern Ireland through creative fashion upcycling.

Through creative and community-based approaches, the initiatives will address key determinants of health and support people to live healthier, more connected lives.

Read More



Conversations about dying, death and bereavement affect all of us — our families, communities and healthcare services. As Ireland continues to change, these conversations are becoming more important than ever.

Registration is now open for Irish Hospice Foundation's Forum on End of Life 2026, the flagship event in our 40th anniversary year.

This year's theme, Every Death Matters: Dying, Death and Bereavement in a Changing Ireland – Emerging Narratives, will bring together healthcare professionals, researchers, community organisations and members of the public to explore how we think and talk about end of life in Ireland today.

The Forum will feature:

- New research on public attitudes to dying, death and bereavement
- Keynote speakers exploring what we value at end of life
- Discussions on grief, diversity and multicultural experiences in modern Ireland
- Parallel sessions designed to challenge perspectives and encourage meaningful conversation

Event Details

Date: Thursday, 24 September 2026

Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin (Access via St Joseph's Ave, Drumcondra, Dublin D03 P6K7)

Time: Doors 9:00 am

Register Here



HIQA launch a six-week public consultation

On 04 June 2026, HIQA launched a six-week public consultation to give people an opportunity to provide their feedback on the updated National Standards for Residential Services for Disabled People.

The National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities were first published in 2013, following approval by the Minister. The aim of the updated standards is to reflect changes in policy and to drive further improvements in the provision of residential services for disabled people, so that people living in or using residential services have the best outcomes possible.

HIQA conducted an evidence review in 2025 which found significant developments across the sector in recent years, with an increased focus on a human-rights based approach to care and support in legislation, including the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in 2018 and the commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

These national standards are underpinned by four principles: a human rights-based approach, safety and wellbeing, responsiveness, and accountability.

Key updates to these national standards include:

- a stronger focus on human rights-based and person-centred decision-making
- ensuring communication is tailored to each person's individual needs
- improved support during transitions within and between services
- clearer accountability and governance arrangements
- the use of appropriate technologies, including assistive technologies, communication technology and AI tools
- a focus on outcomes for the person using the service.

These changes aim to ensure that people living in or using residential services receive coordinated, consistent and high-quality care focused on achieving positive outcomes.

As a key stakeholder, HIQA would like to invite you and your organisation to contribute to this public consultation. We are also requesting that you raise awareness of this consultation among your colleagues, and those with experience of residential services for disabled people and encourage them to participate.

To support engagement, HIQA has developed a range of accessible consultation materials, including a Lámh-interpreted video and an Irish Sign Language-interpreted video. The

updated national standards, evidence review, accessible videos and further information, including how to submit a response are available on the HIQA website, [here](#).

HIQA will carefully assess all information received and use it, along with other evidence, to update the standards. The closing date for the public consultation is 5pm on Friday 17 July 2026.

If you have any questions on this, please contact standards@hiqa.ie.

Learn More

Local Updates





DUBLIN NORTHWEST PARTNERSHIP

Empowering | Collaborative | Accountable | Purposeful | Courageous

Mabs Budgeting & Utilities Information Session

Wednesday 1st July
Time: 2:30pm - 3:30pm
AXIS Centre, Main Street, Ballymun Dublin 9




Contact: pauline.hazel@dublinnorthwest.ie
Tel: 086 041 6155



"The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaelocht, and the European Union"



Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Older Adults

An "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Older Adults" course ran over 18th, 24th and 25th June 2026 at the Listowel Family Resource Centre. The course was delivered by the Academy for Good at Maynooth University in partnership with Kerry PPN and Kerry Age Friendly. Older people from across the county attended along with members of the Kerry Older People's Council (OPC) Executive. Over three mornings, the course explored what AI is, how it is already affecting everyday life and how to use technology in a more informed way. Thanks to all that attended, for their active participation and engagement during the course.



OPEN DAY

at

Enniscorthy Community Allotments

..... ♥
Sunday 28th June, 11am to 1pm

WHAT'S ON:



Guided plot tours
and meet the growers



Artwork on canvas
with Dean O'Connor



Plant clinic with Geoff Stebbings,
bring your garden questions



Music and poetry
with Elizabeth Drwal



Tutor stands: food preservation,
nature therapy, therapeutic horticulture

..... ♥
All welcome. Come along and grow with us.

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Cooley Farming Community Club

The Cooley Farming Community Club held their last meeting before taking a break for the Summer. They invited the wonderful author, journalist farmer and mental health advocate John Connell from Co Longford. John gave a very impactful and genuine insight on his own personal mental health journey and how farming and the farming community helped and supported him in his mental health struggles. The Cooley Farming Community Club was initially a pilot scheme for 10 weeks led by the HSE and supported by Age Friendly Louth, the Club will take a break over the Summer and will meet again in the Autumn. Over the 10 weeks they have had guest speakers on lots of topics around men's health, farming and community supports and services in Co Louth. They also took part in a number of farm walks in the beautiful Cooley Peninsula. The aim of the project is to support farmers over 55 years with maintaining their health and wellbeing as they get older and continue to farm.



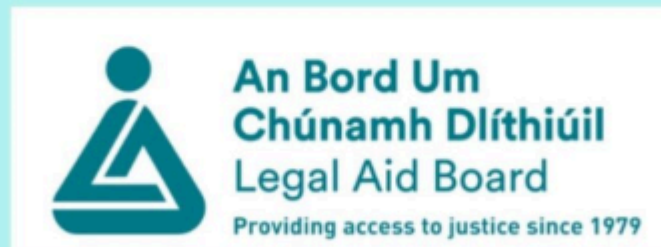
Assisted Decision Making (Capacity)

Tuesday 30th June

Axis Centre, Main Street, Ballymun , Dublin 9

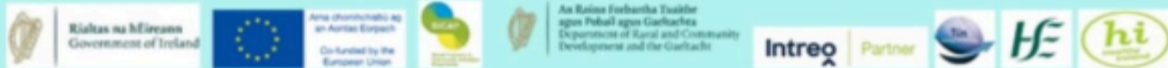
Time: 2:30pm - 3:30pm

The Assisted Decision-Making Act came into effect in April 2023. It is there to deal with situations where a person may have difficulties with making certain types of decision and to provide for ways to plan ahead for a time when that might happen in the future



Contact: pauline.hazel@dublinnorthwest.ie

Tel: 086 041 6155



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Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme proud to attend Pride Event

Regional Programme Managers from the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, Eimear Mc Cormack and Marie Nolan, attended an information evening on Caring for Older LGBTQIA+ People in the Community. The event was held in Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre in Dublin. It provided an overview of the LGBT Champions Programme and featured a panel discussion on supporting visibility and dignity in service provision, and on how to improve inclusion and wellbeing for older members of the LGBTQIA+ community

Library News



Millstreet Library

Millstreet Library has become a welcoming hub of connection and conversation through its monthly Age Friendly get-togethers, held the last Friday of each month at 11am. These informal gatherings offer more than just tea and coffee, they provide a warm, inclusive space where people can meet, chat, and enjoy each other's company.

Each meeting brings something different, as conversations flow naturally and often take unexpected and engaging turns. The relaxed atmosphere means that no two meetings are ever the same, with laughter, storytelling, and companionship at the heart of each gathering. Millstreet Library is particularly fortunate to share its building with the Millstreet Museum, and this unique connection adds an extra layer of interest to the weekly meetups. The museum's curator, Sean Radley, has become a valued contributor to the group, occasionally bringing along fascinating artifacts and the stories behind them.

One such occasion took place in April, when Sean Radley introduced the group to a remarkable piece of Irish history, Eamon De Valera's belt, worn during the events of 1916. Participants had the rare opportunity not only to see this historic item up close but also to hold it in their hands.

For many, the experience sparked personal memories, with stories passed down from parents and grandparents bringing the past vividly to life. It was a powerful moment of connection, linking local people, shared history, and lived experiences in a truly meaningful way.

Starting Friday 26th June, at 11.45am in Millstreet Library, John Ryan from the Adult Literacy North Cork will give a talk on security and staying safe while using your phone.

Over the following three weeks, the 10th, 17th and 24th July, at the earlier time of 11am, John will cover topics such as WhatsApp, sharing photos and videos, as well as using your phone to take pictures and videos. He will also speak about buying and selling online, AI, form filling, emailing.



Bantry Age Friendly Town – Party on the Square

Bantry Age Friendly Town Committee continues to play a vital role in ensuring that Bantry remains a great place in which to grow older. The committee is incredibly active, working year round to create opportunities for older residents to stay socially connected, engaged, and part of community life.

One of the standout events in their calendar is the much anticipated “Party on the Square.” Following the success of last year’s gathering, a second Party on the Square was held on Tuesday, May 26th, once again bringing people together for a vibrant and enjoyable morning in the heart of Bantry.

This year’s event featured Cork County Age Friendly Ambassador Charlie Mc Allister as guest of honour. Charlie truly wowed the crowd with his wonderful singing voice and wide repertoire of songs, creating an uplifting atmosphere. His performance encouraged smiles, sing alongs, and a real sense of togetherness among all those in attendance.

The sunny weather added to the occasion, and the Party on the Square was a fantastic success and a strong reflection of the dedication and community spirit of the Bantry Age Friendly Town Committee.

Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic

Tuesday 30th June from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Would you like to learn more about the wealth of online resources available from Kilkenny Libraries?

Pop in to see us at our weekly online clinic and we can demonstrate to you how to use such fabulous online resources as Borrowbox, Universal Class and more!

No booking required. Just drop in!

Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group in Loughboy Library

Wednesday 1st July from 11.00 – 11.30am

This is an enthusiastic gathering, seeking to use their cúpla focail. It is open to all levels of fluency, beginners, improvers and advanced.

Just come along any Wednesday agus beidh fáilte romhat!

Word Games in Ferrybank Library

Every Friday from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Are you a fan of wordle, crosswords and scrabble? Indulge your passion by dropping in to our Friday afternoon word game group.

A good exercise for the brain cells but lots of laughter guaranteed.

Knitting and Crafting Group in Ferrybank Library

Every Tuesday from 10.00 am – 12.30pm

Do you enjoy getting creative with crafts Meet fellow craft lovers at our weekly get together, where you can share tips, swap inspiration, and work on your own projects in great company.

All are welcome - no booking required.

Nattering Knitters in Castlecomer Library

Every Thursday from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Join this talented bunch of knitters for a knit and a cuppa every Thursday morning 10am to 12pm. No need to book, everyone welcome.

Evening Book Club in Castlecomer Library

Tuesday 30th of June from 6.30 – 7.30pm

Why not join our Evening Book Club. Meet fellow readers, enjoy new book recommendations and explore new authors. This month we are reading "break-down" by Cathy Sweeney (Copies available at the desk)

Everyone Welcome!

No Booking required!

New Poetry Group in Castlecomer Library

Thursday 2nd of July from 2.00 – 3.00pm

Join Lori for a brand-new monthly Poetry Group, where we'll read, write, chat and enjoy

poetry together in a relaxed, friendly space. All levels are welcome - whether you're a complete beginner, a curious dabbler, or someone who already loves putting words on a page.

Each session will include gentle writing prompts, shared reading, and time to explore your own voice. Bring a notebook, bring a friend, or just bring yourself.

Tea and coffee provided.

Everyone is welcome - no booking required

Changing Gears Course in Mayfair Library

Starting Thursday 16th July, 11.00am – 1.30pm

This is a 5 week course and participants are asked only to book a place if they can commit to all sessions.

Changing Gears is a course provided by Age & Opportunity which is designed to boost wellbeing and resilience for those aged 50+ years. It supports people to manage transitions/change in mid to later life.

The change may be to do with: retirement, having more free time, bereavement, job-loss, ill health, becoming a carer or relationship breakdown.

Changing Gears runs over 5 weeks with weekly sessions of 2 ½ hours.

To book your place please contact Fiona on

engage@ageandopportunity.ie or call on 01 9133922. You can also book with the Mayfair Library by phoning 056 7794174 or emailing mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

Adult Book Club in Graiguenamanagh Library

meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00 pm. New members are always welcome.

Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Conversation Group in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Wednesday, 11.00am – 12.00pm If you're looking to use your cúpla focal, this is a great group to meet up with. It's open to all levels of fluency — beginners, improvers, and advanced speakers are all welcome. Just drop in any Wednesday agus beidh fáilte romhat!

Crafty Crew in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Wednesday from 10.00am – 12.00pm Enjoy meeting up with like minded crafters?

Drop into the library any Wednesday morning to share tips, have a chat, and enjoy a cuppa while you work on your projects. All are welcome — no booking required.

Word Searches & Sudoku in Graiguenamanagh Library

Every Friday from 11.30am–12.30pm Drop into the library for an hour of quiet time and enjoy our weekly word searches and sudoku. A lovely way to unwind at the end of the week.

Film & Book Club in Graiguenamanagh Library

meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6.00 pm.

Age Friendly resources available at Graiguenamanagh Library

include hearing loops, magnifiers, C Pens, and a book trolley for use within the library. Reading glasses If you forget your glasses, fear not — we have a selection of reading glasses available to use in the library.

Bunclody Library Adult Book Club – Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm

Our adult book club meets on the first Thursday of every month. Cormac McCarthy's 'Blood Meridian' will be discussed at this month's meeting. New members are always welcome.

Home Energy Saving Kits

Home Energy Saving Kits are now available to borrow from Bunclody Library. The kits contain 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 for further details.

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 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

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Referrals)

Telephone: 046 9248899

Email: 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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