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National Updates 



Minister for Health opens dementia-friendly ward in Monaghan Hospital

Monaghan Hospital is one of only two to have earned Age Friendly status nationwide and yesterday, Minister for Health, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, was in town to open the Willowbridge dementia-friendly ward.

Our Chief Officer, Catherine McGuigan was delighted to attend the event alongside our Age Friendly Ambassador for Monaghan, Seamus McDermott.

Speaking to the Celt, the Minister commended the hospital on achieving the accolade: "They're doing it for themselves, working with Age Friendly Ireland and different action groups."

Observing that this country has one of the highest life expectancies in Europe, the Minister added: "We've just opened the beautiful Willowbridge dementia-friendly ward. We have a growing population in Ireland and one that's ageing well. That's a really positive thing for any State. It also means that we have to plan how we're going to care for people with extra kindness, recognising there'll be many more of us that age and age well, but with complications."

The Minister for Health commended the hospital on the ground-breaking initiative: "It's wonderful to see Monaghan leading in this age-friendly way. Now every ward that gets redeveloped from here on in is going to be done in that way."



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Government approves the development of a new Vehicle Adaptation Scheme

Government have approved proposals to progress the development of a new Vehicle Adaptation Scheme (VAS). The Scheme will support people with mobility needs to access adapted vehicles and maintain independent mobility.

The Scheme will be developed as part of the Government's commitment to improving transport accessibility and ensuring that all those who need support can participate fully in society, employment, education and community life.

The VAS is designed to support those needing more minor adaptations to their vehicles. It is not a support towards the capital cost of purchasing a vehicle.

Welcoming the Government decision, Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien said:

"I am delighted that the Government has approved plans to advance the development of the

Vehicle Adaptation Scheme. Access to personal transport can be transformative for people with additional mobility needs, enabling greater independence, social inclusion and participation in everyday life.

“Today's decision marks an important step towards establishing a modern, fair and sustainable scheme that will support those who require vehicle adaptations to help meet their mobility needs.”

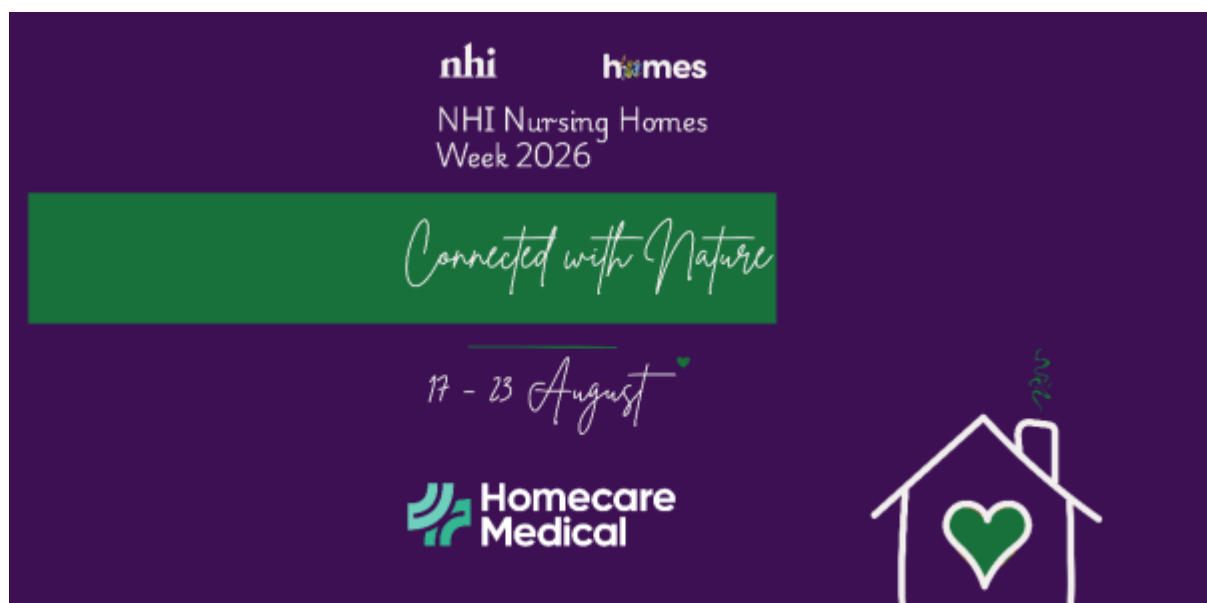
Minister of State for International & Road Transport, Logistics, Rail & Ports Seán Canney said:

“Since details of the Vehicle Adaptation Scheme were first announced, the proposal has been broadly welcomed by stakeholders and representative groups. There is clear recognition of the positive impact that targeted support for vehicle adaptations can have for people.

“Approval of these proposals today represents a significant milestone in the development of the Scheme and will enable the Department of Transport to progress the detailed implementation work required for its delivery.”

Minister of State with responsibility for Rural Transport Jerry Buttimer said:

“While significant progress continues to be made in expanding and improving rural public transport services, we recognise that personal transport remains indispensable for many people. The Vehicle Adaptation Scheme has the potential to remove barriers to mobility and improve quality of life for individuals and families across the country.”



**Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) Nursing
Homes Week**

The Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) Nursing Homes Week 2026 is taking place from Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd of August and will be guided by the theme; **Connected with Nature**.

This weeklong event is **open to all Nursing Homes in Ireland** and is an opportunity to celebrate the people who live and work in nursing homes, and the rich lives and communities they continue to shape every day. Through the Connected with Nature theme, nursing homes will celebrate the beauty, connectivity, and therapeutic essence of nature and gardening, as well as the unique and idyllic natural surroundings of Ireland's towns/villages.

To help support Nursing Homes to plan for, and take part in, the NHI Nursing Homes Week 2026, they have developed a helpful **Connected with Nature Brochure**, which is Full of Creative Ideas for NHI Nursing Homes Week 2026, and Further Details about How to Get Involved in this Year's Celebrations.

To download this **Brochure** please click [HERE](#).

You can also visit the dedicated, **NHI Nursing Homes Week 2026 Webpage** for more details, and access to downloadable Connected with Nature Posters to help promote this weeklong celebration at: nhi.ie/events/nursing-homes-week.



[Register Here](#)



WHO Global Network
for Age-friendly Cities
and Communities





Join us for the 3rd session of the *Age-friendly Conversation Online Series*, bringing together the GNAFCC community, international experts and partners to spark dialogue around the theme:

Sustainability in Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: Enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability

Date: 28 July 2026
Time: 08:00-09:30 EDT | 14:00-15:30 CEST | 21:00-22:30 JST
Lead organiser: Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Multilingual access: Live English session with AI-assisted interpretation in 9 languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish).



David McKinney
Older People's
Commissioner for
Wales



Eban L. Geal
Older People for Isle of
Anglesey County
Council



Holly Dabelko-
Schoeny
The Ohio State
University



Mellany Murgor
WHO Youth Council



Sion Jones
HelpAge
International

Register Here

Local Updates





Comhpháirtíocht Sábháilteachta Pobail Áitiúil Chiarraí

Kerry Local Community Safety Partnership

Have your say on community safety in County Kerry

Community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their own communities.

Public Consultation

The Kerry Local Community Safety Partnership is inviting members of the public to take part in the following community consultation sessions to help shape the first Kerry Local Community Safety Plan

Date	Venue	Time
July 23 - Thursday	Kenmare Library	11 to 1
August 4 - Tuesday	Killorglin Library	11 to 1
August 6 - Thursday	Listowel Library	4 to 6
August 11 - Tuesday	Dingle Library	11 to 1
August 13 - Thursday	Tralee Library	4 to 6
August 20 - Thursday	Caherciveen Library	11 to 1
August 27 - Thursday	Killamey Library	4 to 6
September 1 - Tuesday	Ballybunion Library	11 to 1
September 3 - Thursday	Castleisland Library	11 to 1

**YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS**

Public Survey

The information gathered by this survey will play a key role in shaping the Kerry Local Community Safety Plan

To take the survey, simply scan the QR code or visit:
<https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en/content/kerry-local-community-safety-plan-public-consultation-survey>



Further Information at:

-  communitysafety@kerrycoco.ie
-  www.kerrycoco.ie/local-community-safety-partnership/
-  www.gov.ie/communitysafety

**Working
together for
safer communities**



Participants Sought for
CREATIVE
HOME-BASED
ARTS SESSIONS

-  One-to-one creative sessions in the comfort of your own home
-  Connection, conversation, creativity and wellbeing
-  No experience or talent needed – just your interests and stories
-  **For adults in the Roscommon Town area**
Ideally suited to older adults, those experiencing social isolation, or living with long-term health conditions.

ROS COMMON Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin Roscommon County Council

“Creativity is simply the starting point. The real aim is to foster connection, reduce loneliness and provide meaningful engagement through shared creative experiences.”

Roscommon Participants Sought for Creative Home-Based Art Sessions

Roscommon County Council Arts Office is seeking participants to take part in a small number of remaining one-to-one creative sessions. An experienced artist, based close to Roscommon Town, is available to visit participants in their homes and explore their interests through relaxed and enjoyable creative engagement.

The opportunity may be particularly suitable for older adults, people experiencing social isolation, or those living with long-term health conditions that limit their access to social or creative activities. Sessions are tailored to the individual and centred around their own interests and experiences.

If you know a parent, family member, neighbour or friend who might enjoy participating, we would love to hear from you. Participants should ideally be based within reasonable travelling distance of Roscommon Town.

For further information or to register interest, please contact abutler@roscommoncoco.ie

Creativity is simply the starting point. The real aim is to foster connection, reduce loneliness and provide meaningful engagement through shared creative experiences.



Kerry Local Community Safety Partnership

Age Friendly Kerry hosted an information stand at the Kerry Local Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Day held in Kielduff Community Centre on 21st July 2026. We were delighted to have Catherine Lenihan, Chair of Kerry Older People's Council and the National Network of OPCs, join us at the event. The Kerry Local Community Safety Partnership is now commencing the development of the first Community Safety Plan for Kerry. Further details on upcoming community consultation sessions are available on the attached flyer.

Library News



Loughboy Library Weekly Online Clinic

Tuesday 28th July 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 29th 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!

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.

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.

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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