

dis ABILITY Louth Steering Group
Meeting held on 12th Sept 2017 in the Pastoral Centre Dundalk
10am – 12 noon

In Attendance: Claire Byrne, Damien Mackin, David Larkin, Eimear Marron, Joseph Reilly, Laura McShane, Marie Flynn, Mary Reilly, Olivia Shiel, Patricia Wright, Stephen Caraher/

Apologies: Brendan Moore, Mairead Mathews, Maureen Gaughran, Naoishe Duffy.

Agenda	Discussion	Decision/Action/ Follow up
Welcome	Chairperson welcomed all those in attendance	
Minutes of Previous meeting	Minutes of the last committee meeting July 11 th 2017, were reviewed.	Proposed by David Larkin and seconded by Eimear Marron
Matters Arising	None	Noted
Correspondence	<p>Bridge St and Clanbrassil St Planned refurbishment David reported that he had written to Frank Pentony in connection to the re vamp of Bridge Street and Clanbrassil Street. It was reported that €4 million was allocated for the work. Frank had confirmed that the design team had been accepted but not appointed yet. David questioned if the committee should get involved and if so how? Discussion followed on the various options on the design and lack of thought and planning of the Square.</p> <p>The Disability Implementation Plan 2008 to 2015 No update had been received from Kieran Lawless Louth County Council Access Office. It was suggested that contact be made with Emer O’Gorman Director of Corporate Services, HR, and Environment & European Relations for Louth County Council. to confirm what achievements had been reached from the objectives outlined in the plan.</p> <p>Disability Federation of Ireland John Dolan CEO (and Doreen his assistant) has offered any advice to the group that they may need.</p>	<p>email to be issued to all members requesting views and input. David agreed to draft email and forward to the Community Office for distribution.</p> <p>Emer O’Gorman to be contacted.</p> <p>Suggestions to be sought from Group</p>
Website / Social Media	<p>Website The group were updated on the website and advised of the meetings held with four web designers. A web company from Carrick had been chosen and funding was also available. . Trinity College website disability services was an excellent example of a well designed site and suggested that they should be contacted if any technical advice was required. It was felt that membership could also be increased through adequate design and delivery of the website. It was hoped that the website would be ready for launching at the next full meeting of dis ABILITY Louth.</p>	<p>Decision to be made on the date of full members meeting in late November where Website will be launched.</p>

<p>Update on Objectives</p>	<p>The objectives of dis ABILITY Louth were discussed.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Invited Guests</p>	<p>Mary Cappelis Louth County Council. PPN The Chair introduced and thanked Mary Cappelis for agreeing to attend the meeting to give a small presentation of the work of the Public Participation Network PPN. Mary outlined how the PPN structure had been designed in 2014 and how it had developed. She advised that there was currently one resource worker allocated to each county wide PPN. She explained the three Municipal Districts of Drogheda, Dundalk and Ardee and that each district has one representative on the Secretariat. She explained the three pillars of Environmental, Social Inclusion and Community. Each of these pillars has five representatives put forward from the various groups. These 15 people also sit on the Secretariat making a total of 18 members. She mentioned that currently there are five vacancies for representatives. Mary spoke of the advantages of being a member of the PPN and the linkage between the various committees.</p> <p>Mary informed the group of training that was taking place, for PPN members, on How to complete on line applications for grants. This was planned for Tuesday 12th Sept in the Creative Sparks building and Tuesday 19th September in Ardee. The Annual Awards Night was also discussed at which 49 groups had been nominated from which 16 had been shortlisted. Mary thanked the committee members for the invitation to attend the meeting and asked for any questions. In answer to the question who would be a link to Louth County Council? Mary confirmed that she is a link for dis ABILITY Louth to the County Council. In answer to the question around housing issues, It was noted that there are 400 persons with disability on the waiting list in County Louth and there was a problem with communication links. Mary advised that the contact person for housing was Joe McGuinness and the adaptation officer was Mary Gormley.</p> <p>John Walsh: NAS National Advocacy Service. The Chair introduced and thanked John Walsh for attending the meeting to give a small presentation of the work of the NAS (National Advocacy Service) John advised that this service had been set up eight years ago and was funded by Citizens Information. He has been in this role for four months and confirmed that his main role was to stand alongside to help individuals to get to where they wanted to be. It was not</p>	<p>Following group discussion, It was agreed that dis ABILITY Louth apply for membership of the PPN</p> <p>It was agreed to highlight this service wherever possible.</p>

	<p>to impose on them but to assist them. He felt there was a huge gap in what was written down as being accessible and available and to what actually was available when sought. Confidentiality was of the utmost importance in his role and the ability to listen. He was currently based in Dundalk but would shortly be moving to Co. Meath. There was a team of eight of which John was the one individual assigned to County Louth. He felt that more could be done to promote his work and advised that most of his clients had become aware of the service through word of mouth. Claire Byrne from Malta Services in Drogheda thanked John for the excellent work he had achieved to date.</p> <p>Future Guests: The following have been invited to speak about access to education for persons with disability. They will be speaking at the next planned meeting in October. Ciara O'Shea, DKIT. Joe McEneaney, O'Fiach College Margaret Donohue, DIFE Drogheda, Sadie Ward McDermott or Ann Fallon L METB Traci Marshall National Learning Network.</p> <p>Presidents of Dundalk and Drogheda Chamber of Commerce to be invited to Nov meeting around employability / disability awareness in the business and retail sector's.</p>	<p>Joe to issue reminders and details to invited speakers</p> <p>Eimear and Olivia to make contact with Presidents of Dundalk and Drogheda</p>
A.O.B	<p>Mary, on behalf of Marian, updated the group on the meetings Marian had held with Community Development workers from Monaghan, Meath and Cavan.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

The meeting concluded, the next meeting will take place on 10th October 2017 in the Pastoral Centre, Dundalk.

Chairperson _____ Date: _____