

**dis ABILITY Louth Steering Group**  
**Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in the Pastoral Centre**

**In Attendance:** Catherine Kieran, Damien Mackin, David Larkin, Joseph Reilly, Mary Reilly, Maureen gaughran, Naoishe Duffy, Olivia Shiel, Pat Tumelty, Patricia Wright, Claire Byrne.

**Invited Guests:** Ann Fallon Laegis - LMETB, Ciara O'Shea - D.k.I.T, Susan O'Connor – O'Fiaich College, Traci Marshall-Dowling – National Learning Network. David McDonnell-DIFE

**Apologies:** .Brendan Moore, Corinne Kilkenny, Mairead Mathews, Marie Flynn.

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>DECISION / ACTION / FOLLOW UP</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	The Chairperson welcomed all those in attendance.	
<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 were reviewed.	Proposed by David Larkin and seconded by Pat Tumelty
<b>Matters Arising</b>	Public Participation Network application was discussed.. . <b>Dundalk and Drogheda Chamber of Commerce.</b> Olivia had spoken to Paddy Callan – President of Drogheda Chamber of Commerce. He was very interested and supportive and felt that insurance was the biggest block for employers. There was no update on Dundalk Chamber of Commerce..	Joe to submit PPN application form. Arlene to update Olivia.
<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>Disability Federation of Ireland</b> Rory McGee (Assistant John Dolan) Joan O'Donnell  <b>Upgrade of Clanbrassil / Bridge Street</b> Marian advised that Louth County Council had requested confirmation of the contact person for dis ABILITY Louth and that David Larkins name had been given.	Joe to email Rory McGee David to draft email for issue to all members requesting input
<b>Financial Report</b>	There was no Financial Report.	Noted
<b>Website / Social Media</b>	Discussion took place on the advantages of links on the website for persons with disabilities. David advised that a draft website would be available for comment shortly and that the website is being launched at the full members meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> November.	Agreed that a link to NAS be included on the website
<b>Update on Objectives</b>	Discussion on reviewing the objectives at every meeting took place.  Various methods of increasing membership were discussed	An Objective meeting to be held bi annually. Marion agreed to write to all members to assist with this.

	<p><b>Tutors</b> Marian confirmed that tutors for a Train the Trainer programme were being sought.</p>	
<p><b>Invited Guests</b></p>	<p><b>Ann Fallon Laegis – LMETB</b> Regional Skills Training Centre. Offers further educational programmes for individuals with different levels of education. Specific Adult Learning – Basic maths and English – free part time courses Return to Education – for students who have no problems with maths or english. . Full time Liberal Arts programmes - VTOS</p> <p><b>Ciara O’Shea - D.k.I.T,</b> Ciara is the disability officer for D.k.I.T. She advised there are currently 274 persons with disability registered of which ten have physical disabilities five are wheelchair users and two are visually impaired, three have hearing difficulties and 25 had asperges. The demographic age range is from leaving cert to mature student of which a higher percentage prefer part time programmes.</p> <p><b>Susan O’Connor – O’Fiaich College,</b> Susan’s role within Special Educational Needs covers a variety of programmes and a pastoral and holistic approach is used. She is involved in Teaching maths to children. Organising Special Needs and Personal Assistants. Friends for Live Programme in secondary schools. Skills based 10 week programme – Coping and Live Skills for age 12 - 16 A vast variety of needs existed on a day to day basis and “Wellbeing” is becoming a large area for consideration in secondary schools. Susan advised that the Minister for Education confirmed more funds was being made available for allocation.</p> <p><b>Traci Marshall-Dowling – National Learning Network.</b> Traci advised that individuals with support needs could avail of the programmes offered. As student progression is assessed this can lead to a stepping stone into other training bodies.</p> <p>Joe was thanked for all his input into inviting guests from the educational sector.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>A.O.B</b></p>	<p><b>Election of Officers</b> Vacancies existed for Assistant Chair and Assistant PRO. The Assistant Secretary position was filled by Mary Reilly</p>	<p>Proposed by Joseph Reilly Seconded by Olivia Sheil</p>

	<p><b>Submissions</b>  NCBI had made a submission on the minimum essential income for persons with disability. From there survey this amounted to €285.00 per week. Currently the weekly disability payment amounts to €193.00 per week.</p> <p>IWA produce a newsletter called "Spoke Out" and it was suggested that an article on dis ABILITY Louth be submitted for inclusion</p>	Noted
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<p>Scheduled for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the Community Office.  The next meeting for all members was confirmed as Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in the Crowne Plaza</p>	Noted

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Chairperson

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Date