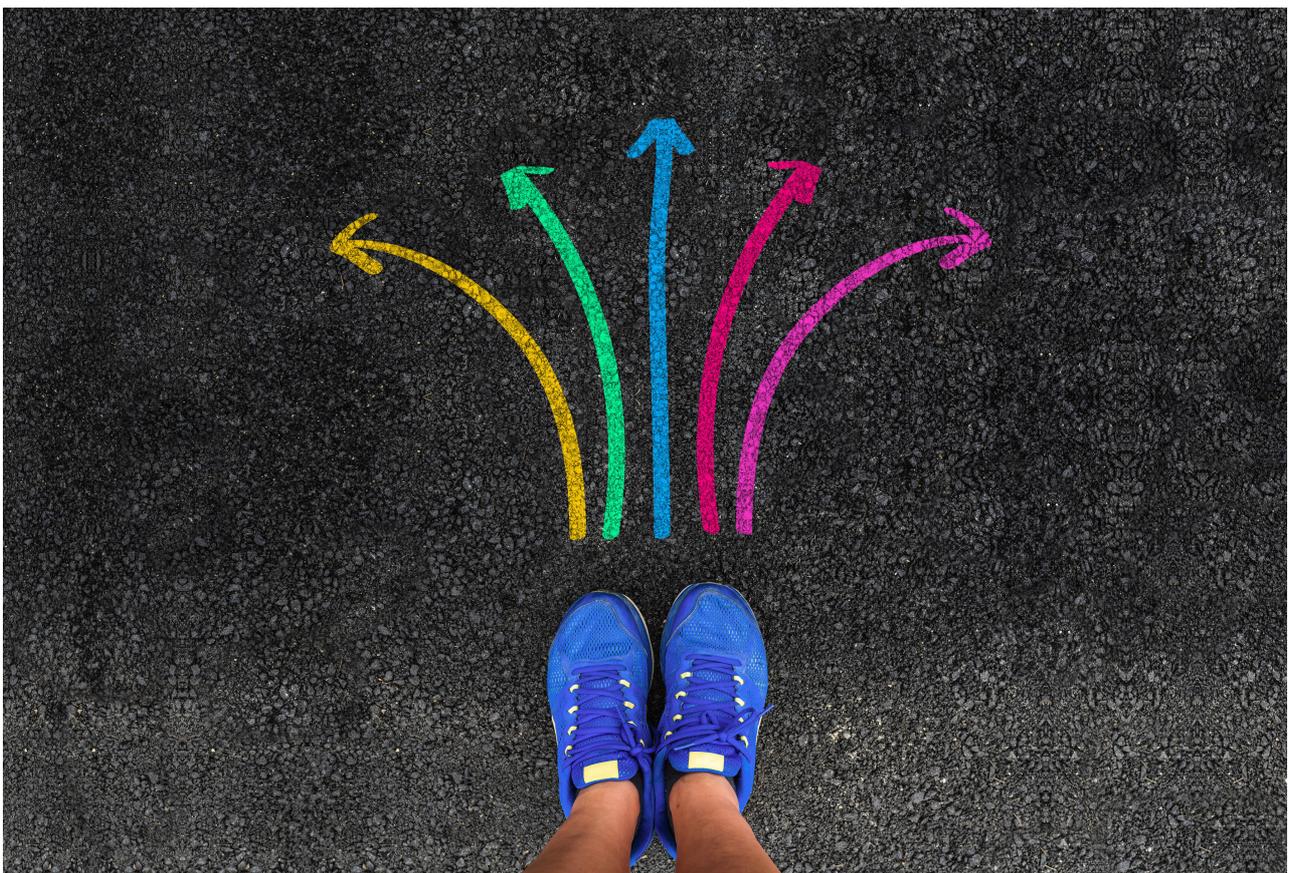


Liffey New Directions Newsletter January 2024



**SHARING LIFFEY
SERVICES GOOD NEWS!**

Welcome to the January 2024 New Directions Newsletter and the very first newsletter of this year. We go back to the very first support which underpins New Directions and that is '**Support for Making Choices and Plans**'. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and are looking ahead to the new year with some big plans to enhance your life. My own New Year's Resolution is to try and be more sustainable and limit the amount of non-compostable items I purchase in order to do my part for protecting the planet. What are some of your resolutions? You all have a choice to make a plan for 2024 and I would love to hear them.



Green Gables Day Service



The staff and Men and Women in Green Gables had a very busy start to the New Year. They have been out and about in the community and participating in Rock Climbing and a girls trip to the local Nail Salon to name but a few of their outings.





Thank you to everyone who joined the January Liffey Voices Meeting in Tessa house.

To find out what was discussed check out their video <https://vimeo.com/sjogliffeyservices/liffeyvoicejan24>



Key Issues:

1. Social Groups for men and women in the service
2. Greenpaper on Disability Allowance
3. Danger at Traffic Lights in Kylemore.
4. Lack of Education Opportunities and choice
5. Communication Support

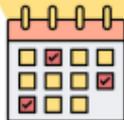
Keep up to date with the news and updates on our website.

<https://express.adobe.com/page/1GZh3bQ3BJD9v>



Liffey Voices Meeting

Thursday 29th February 2024
11am – 12:00pm



GreenRoom, St Raphaels, Celbridge

Please email: liffeyvoices@sjog.ie if you can come

We will also be hosting this meeting on zoom if you can't make it to Celbridge .



Meeting ID 474389762
Password 054429



Scan Here to join Zoom

Christmas Song in Lamh

The Green Gables gang also sent me a beautiful video of their performance of Let it Snow in Lamh, to view the video please click the following link;
<https://vimeo.com/905542885?>



The group also visited the beautiful Dublin Castle Christmas Market back in December. Thank you for all the wonderful photos!



Uaisle at Funderland



Staff member Orla O Connor from Uaisle Day Service in Ballyfermot shared some great photos from a day out at Funderland.

The individuals who attend Uaisle were able to ride the dodgems, waltzers, rollercoasters, the carousel and any other thrill-seeking rides at Funderland in Dublin 4.



Re Nua Day Service



The Staff and those who attend Re Nua Day Service would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and are looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings.

In December Re Nua had their Christmas Party in McMahons in Celbridge, it was a great occasion, the food, atmosphere and decorations were exceptional and everyone had a fantastic day.



Re Nua's venture into producing jam continues and the group recently created a beautiful apple and plum flavour.



RightToConnect

Digital inclusion for persons
with intellectual disabilities

**st John
of God** 

The Right To Connect Team would like to invite everyone to join their Webinar to share the eLearning courses they have built to support others to;



- 1. Use social media apps**
- 2. Use different devices**
- 3. how to stay safe online.**

Wednesday 7th February
@ 11am - 12 md
on Zoom

Register for your ticket today and you will get an exclusive login to join the courses.



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-to-connect-accessible-digital-courses-for-all-tickets-803153603047>



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



A New Set of Wheels for LEAP



You know that term 'The Right Place at the Right Time', well this sprang to mind when I received this amazing story.

Teresa Flood, who attends one of our Day Services in Maynooth, is currently working for Carne Group in Dublin. They kindly raised funds in order for LEAP to get their own set of wheels and what a beautiful vehicle it is. Thank you Carne Group!



Christmas Party at the Springfield Hotel, Leixlip



The Men and Women, Staff and Supervisors from Rise, Pathways, LEAP and Reach Day Services all came together in December to celebrate the festive season in style.





There was dancing, singing, gift exchanges, fantastic food, pints galore and more dancing in the gorgeous Springfield Hotel in Leixlip. I saw some very tired heads coming into all the Day Services in Maynooth the following morning. A sign of a good night!



Connections Family Christmas Party



Before the Christmas closure, Connections Day Service in Maynooth organised a party for the individuals who attend the centre and their families. Connections is a Day Service for people with ASD and most who attend are non-verbal, so it can be difficult for them to attend parties with so much noise, lights, activity happening. The staff tailored and hosted party that would suit their needs.

One service user invited both his parents and his grandad along. It was an occasion for his family to see how the individual is in a social setting. Another service user brought all his brothers and his mom. It was lovely for staff to meet everybody, gifts were exchanged and lots of positive feedback was given. All at Connections are now ready to start 2024 and embracing more positive outcomes. Thank you to Charlotte Bourgeois for the story and pictures.



A Big Thank You from Avoca



The Staff and Men and Women who attend Avoca Day Service just wanted to say a big Thank You to all who donated to their Lucan Homelessness Appeal. You can see from the pictures how much food and sanitary products were handed over to the charity the week before Christmas. A massive well done to all involved and thank you to those of you who donated!



Hazelwood Entrepreneurs

Terry, Eileen, Kiera and Brendan who attend Hazelwood Day Service worked hard at the end of 2023, creating beautiful Christmas decorations for the have third year running. In December, they ran successful stalls in Rua Red and Walkinstown Indoor Market. They had a great time meeting customers and showcasing all their hard work, as well as making as profit! Well done to all.



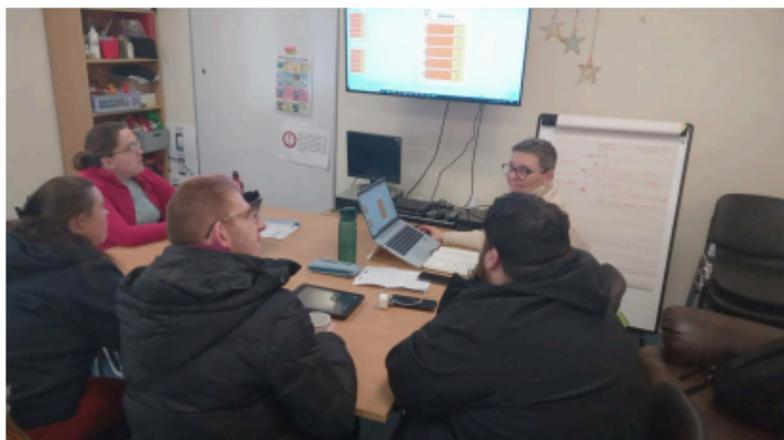
Evergreen Day Service



The Staff and Men and Women who recently moved from Bluebell Day Service into their brand new location (and newly named) Evergreen Day Service in Tallaght have wasted no time in getting to know the area. I have been sent some wonderful photos of people out and about accessing the local amenities and settling into their new premises. I will be back for a visit very soon!



The SAID project team are busy upskilling the new Digi Coaches for their new role working with young people and introducing them to accessible digital learning apps and tools.



SAID: School Assistance - Inclusive & Digital

May 2022 – June 2024

12 participants Trained to be School Digital Coaches

This project aims to build on a pilot programme running at ATEMPO in Graz for several years. ATEMPO, they have been training young learners with disabilities to become School Assistants for digital education and supporting them to work in elementary schools across Graz. This is a very innovative idea which will be replicated in the SAID project.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Fast Friends Valentine's Event



SMH Fast Friends Initiative was developed in 2018 to create more opportunities for adults with disabilities to socialise and meet new people in a structured but fun way. As the initiative grew more popular and a number of meaningful friendships were formed, the Fast Friends Committee opened their events out to include other disability services. Today, Fast Friends has developed into a hugely successful platform facilitating opportunities for individuals to socialise with their peers and create new relationships. There will be a Valentines event happening on Fri 9th February and you can contact me for tickets and more info.



I hope to catch some of you at my next Online Engage session at 10am and again at 1.30pm on Thursday 1st February. Please continue to send in your good news stories and photographs to;
Donna.hughes@sjog.ie

