



**Intellectual
Disability Services**

Liffey New Directions Newsletter December 2023



**Sharing Liffey
Services Good News!**

Welcome to the December edition of the New Directions newsletter and this is my final newsletter of 2023.



The twelfth (and last) support in the New Directions standards focuses on 'Support for Influencing Service Policy and Practice'. It is so important for all those whom we support to have a say in our organisational policies.

The key to influencing policy and practice is through; good communication, an understanding of policy processes and finally, ensuring accessibility for those who attend our services.

Islandbridge Day Service



Gordan and Aishling have been attending a salt therapy clinic in Kildare every week and are really enjoying it. The health benefits include clearing your lungs, improving your skin with a more glowing complexion as well as the therapy room being very relaxing.



Research Study Day



The St John of God Research Study Day 2023 took place on Tuesday, November 12, at the Talbot Hotel in Stillorgan. The Digital Accessible Technology team (DAT) from Liffey Services were delighted to deliver two presentations and three research posters. Dr Emma Murphy Tudublin and Lisa Mc Evoy co-designer from Liffey presented on the experience of Co-Design. Patrick and Sarah presented on the role of the co-researcher and inclusive research and they later joined a panel discussion led by Lesley O'Hara, who heads the Research Foundation.

Tony Davis, Doris Delaney co-designers from Liffey along with Fatima Badmos and Klara Gyarmathy presented three posters on Accessible Co-Design, Right to Connect and Co-Designed Competency framework for inclusive co-design. A special guest was Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf from AIAS in Italy, who works with us on the Right To Connect Project and has helped with digital inclusion worldwide for over 20 years. The day was full of learning, and we're excited for next year's event, hoping to see more research that includes everyone from our organization.



Brian McHugh, Pathways

I have been spending some time working on the floor in Pathways Day Service, Maynooth and was blown away by the artistic talents of one of the Gentlemen who attends there, Brian McHugh.



Brian has been spending the weeks, in the run up to Christmas, creating beautiful gifts by hand for his loved ones. Brian makes personalised picture frames and Candle arrangements.



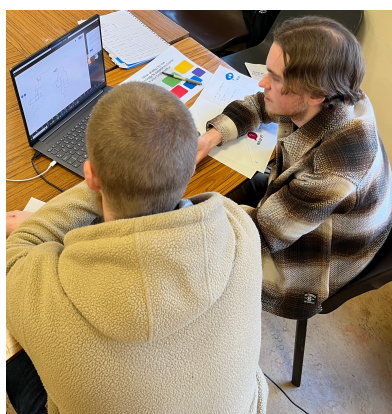
If you have a loved one who is due to celebrate a special occasion soon then you can put your order in with Brian and he would be happy to create a masterpiece for you.



Brian is happy for you to contact him through his Keyworker Mary via email on mary.glynn@sjog.ie. You will not be disappointed.

Co-Designing Access Mounts with TUDublin Engineers

In November a team of co-designers from Liffey Services have teamed up with twenty Mechanical Engineer students from TUDublin Bolton street to co-design four mounting solutions for people supported by Liffey Services. We are delighted to start this journey and would like to acknowledge the work of the co-designers, support staff and MDT and DAT members in Liffey who are supporting the project. This is a new community partnership and we thank the University for reaching out and supporting designing with people and not for people.



Blind Date, Liffey Services



Some of the Men and Women and staff from Liffey Services had a great time at the Blind Date event in the Arena Suite of the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on Friday 1st December.

There were 5 blind date events on the night and fingers crossed that love or friendship will blossom during the planned lunch dates over the coming weeks. Entertainment was provided on the night by the Menni DJs with support from Eoin Reardon.

Thank you to all who helped out on the night and a special shout out to Doris Delaney for gathering so many amazing spot prizes from The Square shopping centre.





Realising potential and possibility with Student Power!

At St. John of God Community Services, we believe in the power of education and collaboration to drive positive change. Our recent experience with dedicated students has reaffirmed this belief. Tisya, Shannon, and Zach, through their work experience, have made a positive impact on our mission to realise potential and possibility by co-designing accessible digital courses with the adults with intellectual disabilities who we support.

Their dedication, creativity, and problem-solving skills have enriched our programs and services. They identified gaps, co-designed courses, and even delved into gaming accessibility and social skills development. The result? An even more inclusive and empowering learning environment for our participants.

These students have left a lasting imprint on our Digital Accessibility projects reminding us that with passion and commitment, we can continue to break barriers and make a real difference in the lives of those we support. We look forward to future collaborations that bring forth more positive change.



Horizons Trishaw Training



Dayo and Hans from Horizons Day Service received Trishaw training from Gerry Dornan of Maynooth Cycling Campaign on 28th November. He explained all there is to know about the safe operation of a trishaw. One of the gentlemen who attends Horizons, Con Fox, also took part in the training and agreed to be the passenger for the first public outing.



Feedback from those who took part is that the trishaw is not only an amazing vehicle to feel the wind in your hair, but also creates opportunities to connect with the public.

Hazelwood Day Service



Ronan Cahill from Hazelwood Day Services recently received a Long Service award from his employer's at The Clayton Hotel. Ronan has worked there for 18 years and was gifted with a certificate, a plaque and a free weekend hotel stay for him and the whole family. A huge congrats on this milestone Ronan.



This is Niamh Fortune from Hazelwood Day Service who accepted an award recently for Most Improved Basketball Player. Niamh you looked absolutely beautiful on the night, a huge congrats to you.



St Agnes Drama Society, Crumlin



Doris Delaney
who attends Ash
Tree Day Service,
recently starred
in a sold out
panto called
Cinderella with
his drama group
in Crumlin.



Cairde Day Service



Thomas who attends Cairde Day Service in Celbridge, along with support from Ciara and Emma had a lovely Christmas Day out at the Square in Tallaght. Thank you for the beautiful photos.





I wanted to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for supporting the New Directions newsletter and keeping in touch with all your stories, without your contribution there would be no content.

I am truly grateful and excited for 2024.

