

**Saint John of God Community Services**  
**Liffey Services**  
Hospitality - Compassion - Respect



# **New Directions Newsletter May 2023**



**Lets Share some  
good news!**

This month's newsletter focuses on 'Support for Maximising Independence' and I am delighted to share so many wonderful stories from across the Liffey Services Region.

**Here are some examples of how we can maximise an individual's independence;**

- Promote positive relationships.
- Create a sense of belonging.
- Strive for individual autonomy.
- Ensure active involvement in decision-making and active engagement in community.
- Encouragement in using one's unique strengths in ways that provide a challenge.

**Please read on to discover how those who use our Day Services are being supported to live independent lives.**



# Rowendale Day Service

The month of May is Hand Hygiene month! Supervisor Annie Hanley, the gentlemen from Rowendale and Laura Hickey from Crossroads delivered an Online Engage session. Annie, with the help from the ladies and gentlemen held two sessions on the Importance of Hand Hygiene and showed the group a video on how to wash our hands and when to wash our hands. Laura and Annie then demonstrated the Glow Box. Laura went and washed her hands and placed her hands in the Glow Box which will show anywhere Laura may have missed when washing her hands. There was a great response from the ladies and gentlemen who joined the session. Supporting the men and women to deliver information online is an amazing example of maximising independence.





# Choices Day Service



Joe Gannon from Choices Day Service in Celbridge sent in some beautiful photos and told me;

‘I am celebrating 13 years in my job at Airlie stud. I love my job and really feel part of the team, we are like a family. I do lots of different tasks at the stud from mucking out, feeding, and loading the horses & my favourite time of year is foaling season in the Springtime’

It was so wonderful to hear from Joe and learn about the amazing work he is doing on the stud, a lovely example of Joe being supported to maximise his independence. Well done!





# Ash Tree Day Service

We have two good news stories from Ash Tree Day Service, a big thank you to staff member Maureen Sheedy for keeping me in the loop. First up, here is Aoife Geoghegan graduating from her Latch On course in the local ETB. Such an achievement, well done!



Then we have Frank Irwin who completed 6 weeks of work experience with Circle K petrol station. I have been informed that Frank's goal is to gain paid employment and he is definitely on the right track after his recent work experience. Such an inspiring young man and a great example of maximising independence.





# Las Grenadas Day Service

I recently spoke with a staff member from Las Grenadas who mentioned that one of the individual's who attend the Day Service runs his own business. I knew I had to know more and I am delighted to share a story from Thomas about how he got his sock business off the ground;

'I have always loved socks and played with them regularly and I have always dreamed of having a job. My family have always supported me to achieve anything I want, but my health caused some issues with choosing a job to interest me. After many years of chatting with my Dad about different options, we decided to combine my dream of a job and my love of socks and create our own company Thomp2 socks. This name is modeled on my signature and was the beginning of our family run business. We have a great team and it makes me very happy to be working alongside my Dad who is my greatest supporter and friend. Our company has helped me to fulfil my dream, to have fun, to support charities and share love through socks'.



You can catch Thomas and his dad selling socks from their store at Tallaght Shopping Centre. Thank you so much for sharing your story and picture, you are a true star Thomas and a real advocate for achieving our goals in order to live our best life.



# Wardsview Day Service



There were two BIG birthdays celebrated in Wardsview recently, Mikey and Eamonn are all partied out! Mikey Tynan celebrated his 60th birthday on 29th March with a party surrounded by friends and staff. Eamonn Holland celebrated his 50th birthday on the 13th of April with family, friends and staff. Thank you for sharing and for the fantastic photos, I hope you both enjoyed the celebrations.





# New Directions Wall Display



A big shout out to the staff, Gentlemen and one lady at Re Nua in Celbridge for their wonderful Wall Display. This was the only entry I received for the month of May and I am super impressed. All those who attend the Day Service have their own image featured on their display and the supports outlined by New Directions are printed on a front door to advocate what the guidelines are all about. GREAT JOB EVERYONE...





# Day Services Sharing Ideas

Staff Member Vivian in Uaisle Day Service recently had a brilliant idea about sharing resources amongst Day Services around affordable and accessible places for outings. I started with the Menni side and reached out to random members of staff and have put together a list of local cafes/restaurants that provide reasonably priced lunches for those we support (around 10 euros for a meal and drink) and all are also fully wheelchair accessible.

- The Farmhouse Cafe, Longmile Road
- Delilicious, Crumlin Village
- Reas Bistro, Supervalu Shopping Centre, Sundrive Road
- All Maldron Hotels provide a scone/pastry and hot drink deal for 5.95 euros
- Frank and Honest Café, Sundrive, Kimmage
- The Morgue Pub, Templeogue

I would like to do something similar for the Kildare region and would appreciate if staff could continue to email me with affordable and accessible venues to share in my next newsletter.



Please continue to share your suggestions so we can add to the list above...



# RightToConnect

Digital inclusion for persons  
with intellectual disabilities

Liffey Services works with our partners in europe on the Right to Connect Project (RTC).

The aim of the project is to make the digital world more accessible for EVERYONE. This means making sure people understand how to access and use websites on the internet, and apps like YouTube, Google Maps and Spotify.

It also aims to help people understand how to use social media apps like Instagram and Facebook SAFELY.

On the following pages you will see a questionnaire that helps to teach people about accessing the digital world, and about digital safety.

It is a great example of the work being done in Liffey Services to make the digital world more inclusive for everyone.





# Digital Inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities

What we need? How to support digital Inclusion ?  
**Needs analysis recommendations Checklist**



## Internet Connection

Do you have internet connection at home, work, day service while travelling or in the community?

☐

Yes

☐

No



## Training

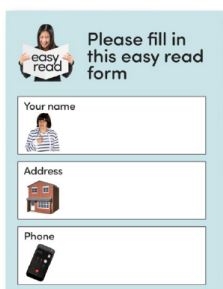
Do you have regular training opportunities teaching digital tools that people want to use every day?

☐

Yes

☐

No



## Accessible Content

Are you given accessible content so that everyone can understand the information?

☐

Yes

☐

No

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#RightToConnectNow



Are you supported the use of many **different digital devices and apps**?

☐

Yes

☐

No



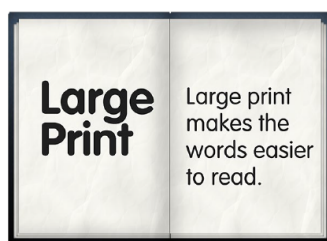
Are you encouraged in the use of **Accessibility tools**, plugins and apps like spell checkers, text to speech and speech to text.

☐

Yes

☐

No



**Personalize the experience.**

Are you able to change the colours, font sizes, and layout, as well as access content that interests you based on past activities?

☐

Yes

☐

No



**Offer opportunities for independence;** Can you change the view of the platform? Can you access assistive technology and accessibility guidelines? Do people with disabilities get the opportunity to be co-designers?

☐

Yes

☐

No

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[www.RightToConnect.entelis.net](http://www.RightToConnect.entelis.net)

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# Digital Inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities

What to remember? How to support digital safety?  
**Needs analysis recommendations Fact Sheet**



## Know the Risks

Does everyone understand the risks and dangers of using the Internet and continue to learn of new risks as new technology is released?

☐

Yes

☐

No



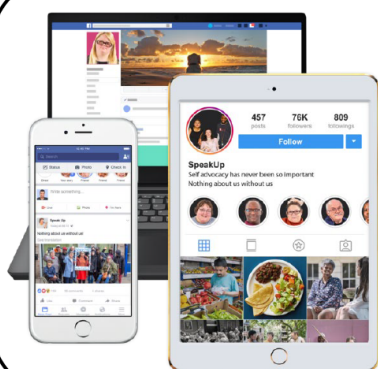
**Training** Is training available to families and circle of support members on Internet Safety to support more independence?

☐

Yes

☐

No



## Increase Confidence

Do you feel confident using social media? People with disabilities say they feel very vulnerable or unsure how to use social media.

☐

Yes

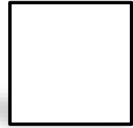
☐

No

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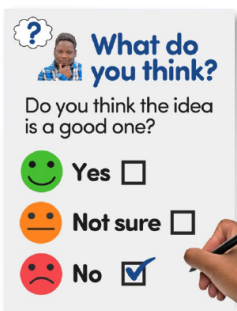
**Share any concerns.** Do you share any concerns with a trusted person or a staff member?



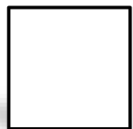
Yes



No



Everyone must understand and be **honest about the risks** involved. Do you understand the risks?



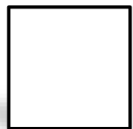
Yes



No



**Did you know that anyone can be an offender** on the internet and can cause hurt to others, this includes people with disabilities?



Yes



No



Do you **protect your mental health and well-being** when using the internet?



Yes



No

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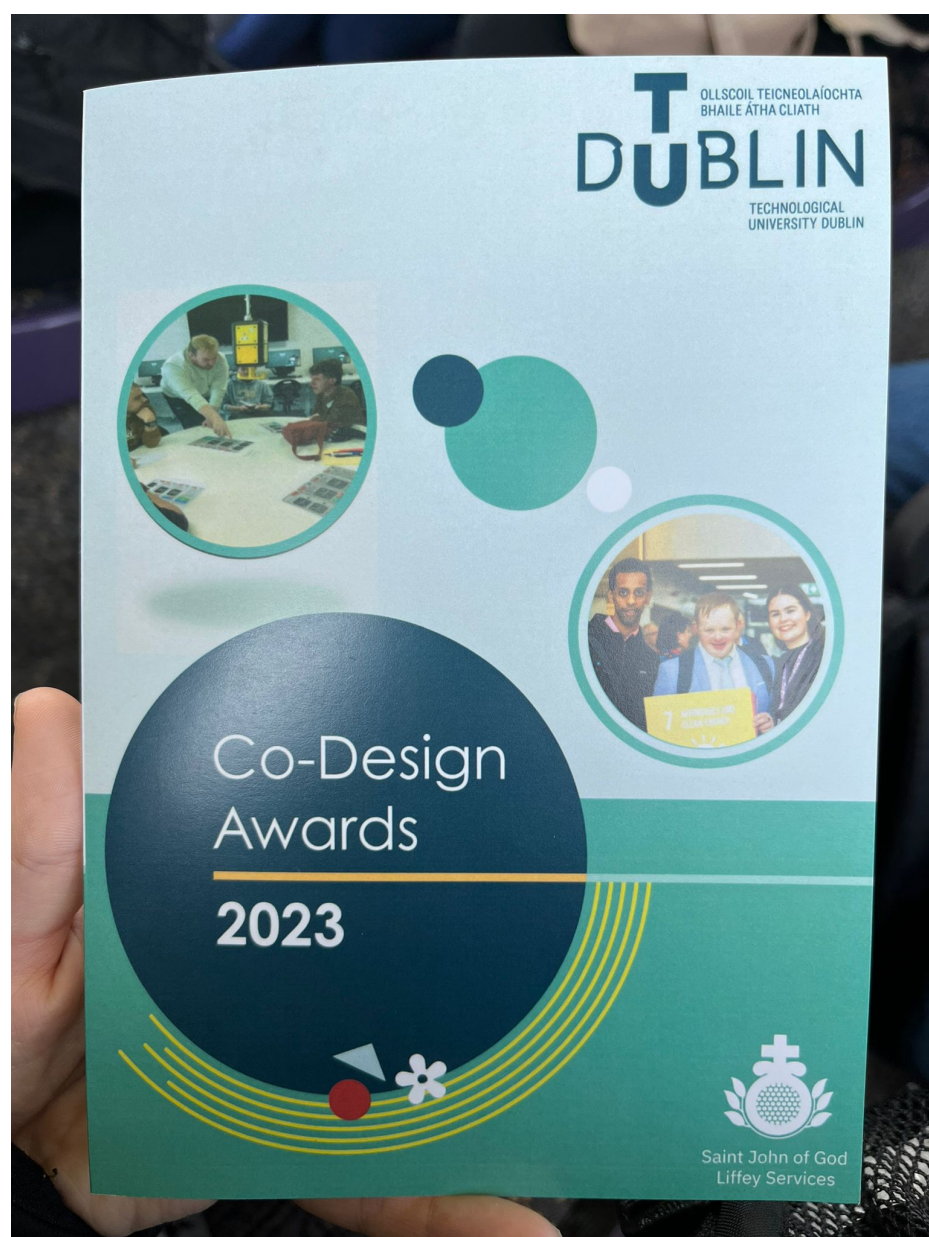


# Co-Design Awards at TU Dublin

This month the amazing Co-Design team and support staff received certificates from TU Dublin for their hard work with the computer science students.

They helped the students to create some amazing projects that will help to improve iplanit in the future for all it's users.

**Congratulations to everyone on the team for their hard work teaching the students how to make more accessible designs that work for everyone!**







The Co-Design team included: Philip Hayes, Brian Burnett, Laura Barry, Desmond Mooney, Joe Nicolle, Kevin Wynn, Fiona Toolen, Lisa Mc Evoy, David Carter, Gerald Gibney, Alex Kennedy, Claire Devlin, Anne Parkes, Christopher Byrne, Carmel Lynch, David Dean, Teresa Kavanagh, Finhas Takas, Gemma Reynolds, Frank Irwin, Stepinon Farelly

Staff included: Sarah Boland, Eoin Reardon, Colin O'Brien, Marianne Hoffmann, Fatima Badmos, Claire O Flaherty, Adeyinka Sofola, Claire Breslin, Ibironke Amusan, Cara Fitzsimons





**Last but not least...  
Sarah asked that I share some  
exciting news with you all.**

Sarah is currently working with the dlr Arts Office at Lexicon and they are starting a series of art workshops! They are hoping to be able to include this as a regular part of the engagement programming. There are only a few spots left for this first one and this is the signup for the workshop:

**Go to Eventbrite website and search  
for event; Paper Marbling Art for  
Neurodivergent Adults: dlr Lexicon  
Gallery**



**Thank you all for reading, I hope to catch some  
of you at my online engage sessions this Thursday,  
June 1st at 10am and again at 1.30pm. Please  
continue to send in your good news stories to  
Donna.hughes@sjog.ie**

**I will feature as many of you as I can in my June  
newsletter which will cover the topic 'support  
for Personal and Social Development'.**

**Donna Hughes, New Directions  
Guidance and Training Officer.**