



Saint John of God Community Services

Liffey Services

Hospitality - Compassion - Respect



**New Directions
Newsletter
August 2023**

Sharing Liffey Services
Good News!

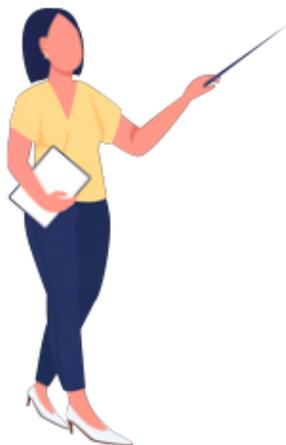
Welcome one and all to the August New Directions newsletter which explores the topic 'Support for Accessing Bridging Programmes to Vocational Training'. We will focus on how people who use SJOG Day Service's are actively involved in opportunities to have a meaningful day. How we all choose to spend our day will differ from one person to the next based on the individual's likes, age, location etc.

Vocational Training and Education are also known as Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. They offer a mixture of practical work, academic work and work experience to school leavers and adult participants.

It is the responsibility of frontline staff to support the Men and Women who attend our Day Services to access or at least be informed about what training and education is available to them.

Check out the following link to learn more about training centres in your local community and what courses they offer

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/vocational-education-and-training/training-courses/>



Cairde Day Service



Cairde pulled out all the stops to show their support for the Girls in Green during last month's Football World Cup tournament.



The Men and Women from Cairde were also busy recently with supporting the exhibition for Crossroads Day Service.



Thank you for sending in the fabulous photos.



Laura's Legacy Fundraiser!

Paul Ferris who attends Leap Day Service lost his sister Laura earlier this year aged just 37 years young. She was a keen advocate for protecting young girls in Kenya and was actively raising funds to encourage education in the Nairobi slums when she passed.



Paul and those who attend Leap Day Service decided to arrange a fundraiser to help Laura's Legacy fund, which has been set up by her family and friends to continue to support those causes in Africa which were very close to her heart. An evening of entertainment with music and dancing in Maynooth GAA club was arranged in July.



An whopping €700 was raised and handed over to Laura's legacy team. Paul has done a fantastic job, a massive well done to all involved. You can donate here too:

<https://www.idonate.ie/crowdfunder/LauraFerris>



Tessa House Garden Project

The Men and Women from Ash Tree and Mountain View Day Service were involved in the Garden Project at Tessa House and have the place looking absolutely beautiful. Amazing work one and all!



Griffin Rath Day Service



On May 4th 2023, the Men and Women in Griffin Rath Day Service hosted a Tea Day in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

The Alzheimer Society is the only service in the Country who provide Dementia specific care. All treats were home made in Griffin Rath and over €300 was raised on the day.

In July, two Coordinators from the Society came to Griffin Rath to receive the donation and they were welcomed with freshly baked scones to keep on trend with their successful Tea Day. Congrats to all involved.



Crossroads

Staff and the men and women from Crossroads Day Service in Celbridge began a new recycling project on May 31st of this year.



The group started out with just recycling plastic bottles but they soon moved onto other recyclable items and arranged the disposal of the items in a local recycling centre.

After 3 weeks of collecting recyclable items, the group have proudly decided to make this a permanent exercise. Well done to all involved!

Ash Tree Day Service

Aoife, Morgan and Eric from Ash Tree Day Service were hanging out with Simon Harris, our Minister for Further and Higher Education. This story most certainly links in with the New Directions support for this month around accessing bridging programmes to vocational training.

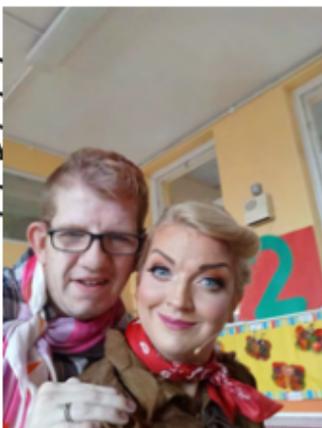


Simon was attending ETB in Finglas to launch new funding for educational programmes. All three of our wonderful Service Users graduated in May from the Latch On programme so were on RTE News answering questions about the benefits of such funding. Local celebrities are among us and I'm not talking about Simon!

Calamity Jane



Darragh Delaney who attends Ash Tree Day Service, is a member of the St Agnes Musical Society in Crumlin. The members are an amazing group of actors and actresses, they recently performed in the production Calamity Jane. Keep up your fantastic hobby Daragh and who knows, we could be seeing you on the big screen some time in the future!

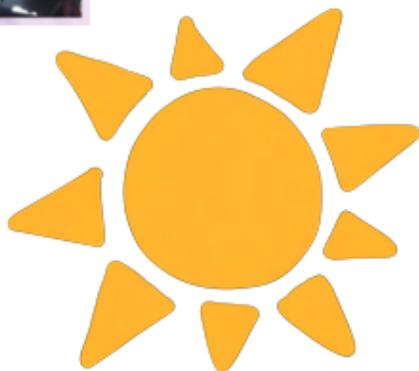


Maple Walk Day Service

July was a busy and fun month for the men and women who attend Maple Walk Day Service. The gang always take the month off from their usual timetable to try out new and exciting activities/outings. A brilliant idea in my opinion.



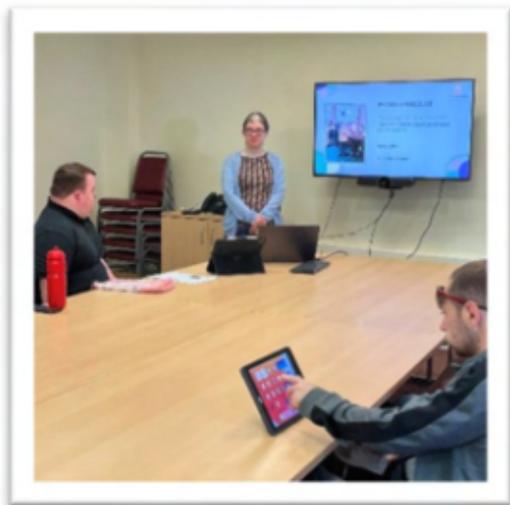
There was an extra emphasis on providing independent travel training throughout the month, a great effort was made by all those involved.



Inclusive Research



Saint John of God
Research Foundation
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Exciting times are ahead! This August, two co-design team members will showcase our digital inclusion projects at the AAATE conference in Paris.

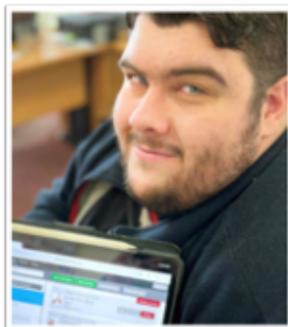
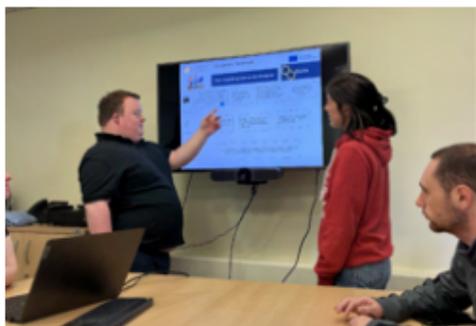
First up, we have Maria Slattery from Leap Day Service in Leixlip. She's been a lead co-designer behind the Engage PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) toolkit. Maria is all set to discuss why we must dive deeper into understanding inclusive research. She will share our collaboration with Dr. John Owuor in co-designing the toolkit. Plus, she'll give us a peek into the making of accessible resources that aim to support more people to participate in research. Curious about the toolkit? You can look at it by scanning the QR code below or using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/PPI-Toolkit>



RIGHT TO CONNECT PROJECT HEADING TO PARIS

Patrick Fitzgerald from Hazlewood will present his project on being a co-researcher at the AAATE conference in Paris. He is a co-researcher for the "Right To Connect" project, supported by Erasmus + funding and the Saint John of God Research Foundation. The core of this project? To support adults with intellectual disabilities to build digital skills.



How? By allowing them to play a pivotal role in designing eLearning courses for their peers. These courses focus on building digital skills, particularly in apps and accessibility features, as chosen by our co-design teams across five EU nations. Patrick will share his unique journey as a co-researcher, talking about the assistive technologies that aided him, the hurdles he faced, and how he tackled them. Additionally, he will share some exciting findings from his research and what it's like to design a competency framework. If you want to learn more about the RightToConnect Project, check it out here:

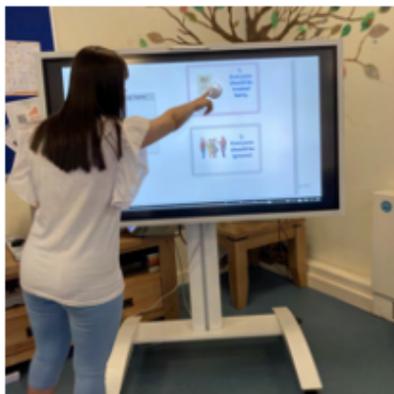
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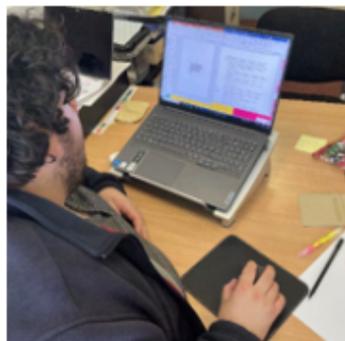


EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

A group from Liffey and Kerry Services took on the challenge last year to see how to make the Equality and Human Rights Policy more accessible and relevant for everyone in the service. The project, supported by Christina Doody, hired a Story coach, Ronnie, to upskill everyone in storytelling and Jackie, a drama coach, to help us stage the stories. The project is not finished yet, but we wanted to test out some of the accessible resources we made about Rights and the policy, so the team at Avila Day service gave their feedback on the interactive videos.

The group thought that the new interactive videos were good, but they had some great ideas, and Ian Byrne and some of the co-designers from across Liffey Services will work with the DA team on improving it. Here, we see Amy using the interactive learning videos on the Flip touchscreen.





Co-funded by
the European Union

SAID Project Co-Designing DigiCoach Courses

It has been very exciting to get the chance to join the SAID project, where we are co-designing courses to support people in Liffey Services to become Digi Coaches and work in schools to upskill children in digital skills. This is great because it supports peer learning. Everyone learns from each other, showing how different people can work well together. The Digi Coaches help learners in ways they understand best, making everyone feel important and supported.

Making these courses is a bit tricky. We need to make sure they are accessible to everyone. We got some ideas from our earlier work with SJOG and looked at some courses by NALA, An Cosan, and the BBC to get more ideas.

We look forward to the Austrian atempo and University of Graz and Finish team from TryCamp coming to Dublin in September to work together to build the training material we need to support the Digi Coaches. There might be challenges, but this project will suit the Digi Coaches and the children in the schools.

Visit the project website by scanning the QR code or using this link:

<https://saidproject.eu/>





Liffey Voices Next Self-Advocacy Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the first Liffey Voices Self Advocacy meeting and we are excited to announce the next meeting will take place on:

Thursday 14th September 11-1pm

Venue: Resource Centre in Celbridge

Contact: LiffeyVoices@sjog.ie



Last but not least;

A quick reminder for you all about my Online Engage session; "What is New Directions?"

Thursday,

September 7th

10am and again at 1.30pm.

We will be discussing Support for Accessing Bridging Programmes to Vocational Training.

I look forward to seeing some of you then...

THANK YOU!

Please continue to send all your good news stories for the newsletter to:

Donna.hughes@sjog.ie

Donna Hughes,
New Directions Guidance and Training Officer.

