

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



**New  
Directions  
Newsletter  
June  
2023**



Sharing Liffey Services  
Good News!

This month's newsletter explores the topic 'Support for Personal and Social Development' and I will be sharing some excellent stories from our Day Centres across the Liffey Services Region.



An example of how we can support an individual to explore personal and social development;

- Education around relationships and sexuality.
- Sharing information about self advocacy or accessing support in advocacy.
- Striving to look our best and being supported with our image.
- Ensure active involvement in decision-making and active engagement in community.
- Encouragement in using one's local businesses; hairdressers, nail salon, beauticians and so on.





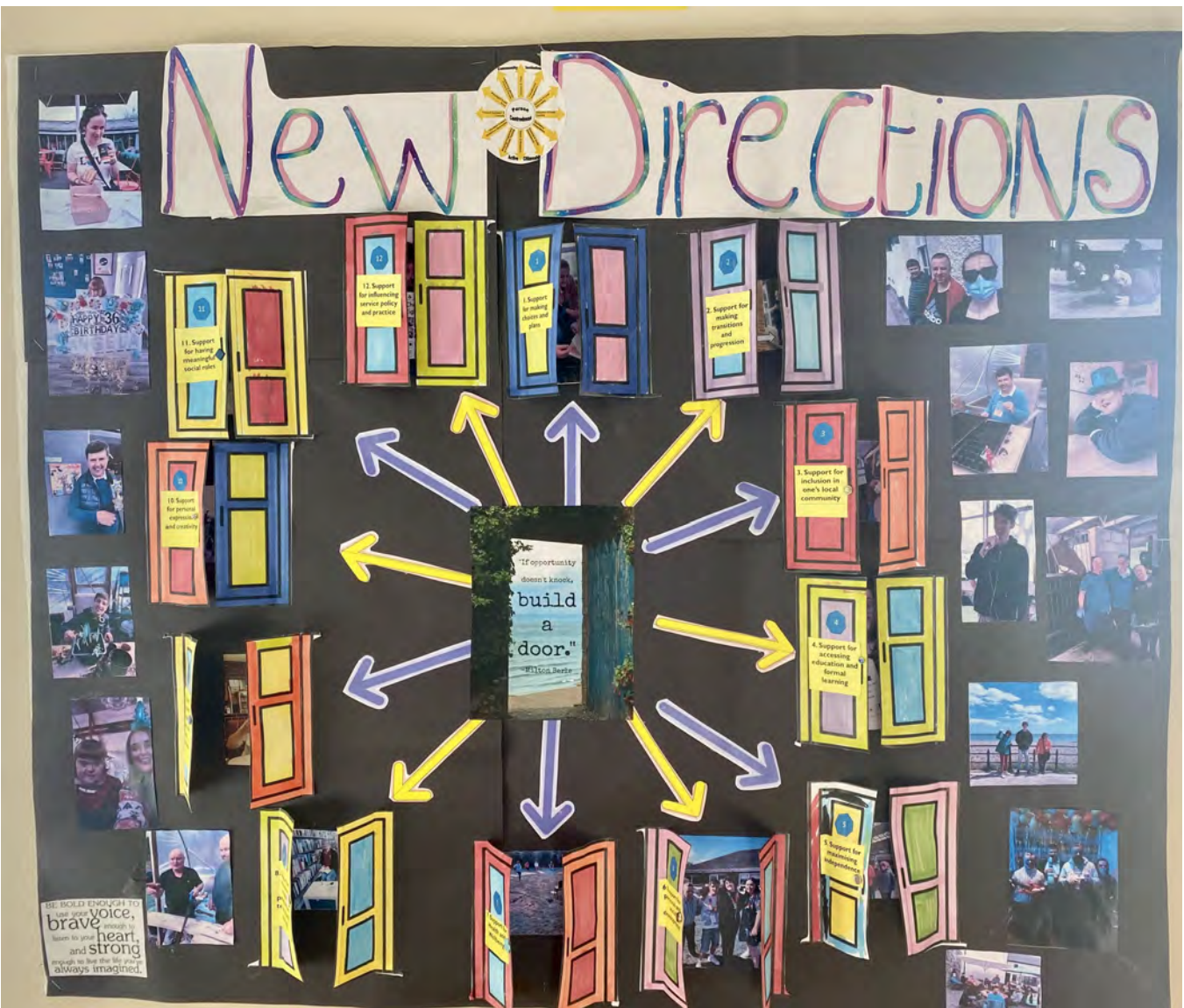
# New Directions Wall Display



Staff member Una Kumar sent in the above New Directions Poster from Pathways in Maynooth. The Service Users and staff decided to use each standard as a doorway and illustrate how each of our men and women have entered each doorway. They also created a poster on the themes of New Directions. Well done to all!







**Such a creative piece of work and I love that the images of all individuals whom attend Pathways was used together with the supports that underpin New Directions.**

Whilst mentioning Pathways Day Service, I also wish to highlight how well their new online engage sessions are going, it is called Getting to Know You and is happening at 10am on Tuesdays for 30 minutes. Pathways feature different topics from their vlogs on different activities such as travel, group tours, in-house activities and much more. It also features an interactive information sharing session, and everyone is welcome to join and participate!



# Maple Walk Day Service

Jacinta Leigh from Maple Walk rang a local day centre for the elderly to see if they would like a donation of old jigsaws. Jacinta and a new member of staff Joe Roche supported a group of people to go and visit the day centre. The men and women had a lovely morning sharing stories with the elderly in the day centre. They were delighted with the donation.



Inclusion in local community  
Human Rights Group visiting a  
local day centre for the elderly  
and donating jigsaws





# Social Farming Ireland



**Social Farming Ireland held an Open day for Saint John of God Service Users and Staff on May 13th in Ciaran Duggan's farm in Carbury. Attendance was fantastic with people from Day Services and Residential in Kildare and Dublin coming along to meet the farmer (and his dogs Ted and Charlie) and tour the farm. Everyone really enjoyed it and there is a lot of interest in the project which staff are hoping to secure funding for by this Summer.**

**Social farming is an initiative ran by Leitrim Development Company and gives people from minority groups in Society an opportunity to work on a farm with support from ordinary farmers who they train. A huge thank you to Claire Boland for the story and pictures. This is a fantastic example of people being supported with social and personal development. Great job!**







# Mountain View Day Service



The gang in Mountain View Day Service in Tallaght recently installed a new sensory room and tell me they really love it so far! Have a look at the amazing before and after pictures. They will also be able to share the new space with their friends in Ash Tree which is another Day Service on site. Fantastic new addition guys, enjoy!





# Ash Tree Day Service

Another fantastic example of supporting an individual with personal and social development is Marc from Ash Tree.

Marc enjoys getting to know other people and ensuring his local community always looks good. Here he is with a team member from his tidy towns group.

Amazing story Marc and a gorgeous photo, keep up the fantastic work! Marc painted all the new planters around Tallaght village so keep an eye out for them if you're passing.







# RightToConnect

Digital inclusion for persons  
with intellectual disabilities

The Right to Connect project partners from Ireland, Spain, Greece, Italy and Austria were delighted to meet in Madrid for two days of Co-Design Workshops to share their Digital Skills courses and work with Developers Hermes to build an accessible e-learning platform. Tony, Shane, Stephanie and Sarah from Saint John of God Liffey Services travelled to Madrid to work with the other partners. They have made a short video about their experience and the work they did.



<https://vimeo.com/840888331?>



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# Our Place



**Exhibition**

**Monday – Sat**

Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge



'Our Place' shares stories of feeling happy, knowing you have rights, and feeling like you belong. Everyone can enjoy the sounds, stories, touchable lights, sculptures, and cosy seating. There will be 12 audio speakers that you can control the volume.



**'Our Place' continues until 28<sup>th</sup> July**

**When:** Monday to Friday

**Time:** 9:30 -5pm

**Where:** Riverbank Arts Centre Newbridge

**Use the QR code to book your Ticket '**

<https://riverbank.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873637338>



9.30 am

5.00 pm

**Group Bookings** outside of the launch event phone **045448327** or [boxoffice@riverbank.ie](mailto:boxoffice@riverbank.ie)





Last but not least...

Thank you to all of you for continuing to get in touch with your wonderful news stories and pictures. Without you getting in touch, the newsletter would not exist!



I hope to catch some of you at my online engage session next Thursday, July 6th at 10am and again at 1.30pm.

Please continue to send stories for the newsletter to [Donna.hughes@sjog.ie](mailto:Donna.hughes@sjog.ie)

There will be no Online Engage sessions in August due to Summer closures.



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