



New Directions, September 2024 Newsletter



My World/The Hub Day Service in Leixlip have been busy creating beautiful pieces to add to the Castletown Milestone feature in the gorgeous parklands at Celbridge. Read on to find out more about this ongoing feature!



Someone in Evergreen Day Service recently celebrated a big birthday. Please turn the page to find out more...



The Men and Women in Ash Tree Day Service travelled to Sports Campus Ireland in Blanchardstown



Competition between Service Users and staff was mighty at a recent Sports Day held by Griffin Rath in Maynooth!

This month the theme of the newsletter focuses on **'Support for Accessing Vocational Training and Work Opportunities'** in line with New Directions.



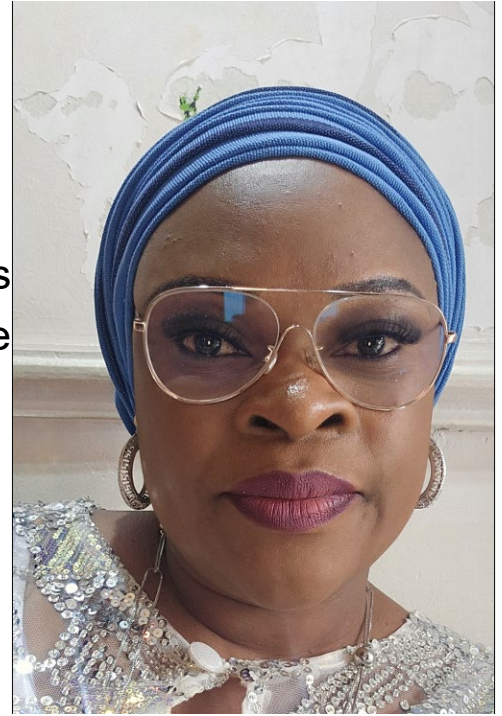
Guidance around accessing vocational training can come from anyone in your Circle of Support. Vocational training refers to instructional programmes or courses that focus on the skills required for a particular job function or trade. In vocational training, education prepares students for specific careers, disregarding traditional, unrelated academic subjects.



The EmployAbility Service is an employment and recruitment service that helps people who have a disability, an injury or an illness to get and to keep a job. It gives a number of supports, such as a job coach who works with both jobseekers and employers. The EmployAbility Service works through sponsor organisations in local communities on behalf of the Department of Social Protection (DSP). To use the EmployAbility Service, you must be between 18 and 65 and need support in finding and getting a job. You must also be *job ready*. Job ready is having the necessary training, education, motivation and ability to work.

Introducing Priscilla

Priscilla Bress is originally from Nigeria. A mother of three young adults she holds an Honours degree in Social, Community and Youth Development from the Technological University of Dublin. I officially joined St John of God Liffey Service in December 2023 but have worked as agency staff for more than five years in various St John of God services. Before joining the service of St John of God. I have worked with other organisations as a social care worker for nearly 15 years.



Recently, she organized a Nigerian cultural day with the support of staff and service users at Greengables Training Centre, where she is based. Over one hundred people attended.

She is very active in her local community of Blanchardstown, Dublin. She is involved in many engaging community activities, such as women's and youth empowerment and counselling, a drug awareness campaign, and local and national election canvassing. She was a member of the board of management of an Educate Together National School that she was involved in starting from the scratch between 2006 and 2010.

She was the foundation President of Ekitiparapo Ireland in 2012, a sociocultural group of Ekiti people in Ireland. This nongovernmental Organisation focuses on the repatriation of women who were trafficked to Libya, Oman, Mali, etc., back to Nigeria. I advocate for women's empowerment, especially young, vulnerable women.

In my leisure time, I love to travel. I also have a passion for organizing and entertaining people at events, a skill that has taken me around the World. I am popularly known as Mc Lovely.

Evergreen Day Service

Richard Fitzgerald who attends Evergreen Day Service, celebrated his 60th Birthday with a huge party at the end of August. He is a big fan of Liverpool Football Club and had the cake to prove it! Richard enjoyed the night with family and friends and was in flying form throughout the evening, enjoying the craic!



A huge Happy Birthday from us all Richard!

My World/The Hub Day Service, Leixlip

Castletown is set amongst beautiful eighteenth-century parklands on the banks of the Liffey in Celbridge, County Kildare. They currently have a beautiful 'milestones' feature whereby local centres and schools can paint beautiful designs on stones and lay them all in a line dotted along the beautiful parklands path. The men and women who attend Leixlip Day Service were busy created and placing their additions to the milestone. Well done to everyone involved.



Maple Walk Day Service

The Men and Women from Maple Walk in Walkinstown recently visited the lovely Malahide Castle. The group learned about the history of the castle and who has lived there, they also learned about the famous concerts that have taken there to date. The group finished off their outing by going to Boyne Valley Park which had a great selection of cannons (not the printers) which the Service Users thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Eoin Reardon for the write-up and photos!



Griffin Rath Day Service



Aine from Griffin Rath Day Service was out and about doing some shopping and was delighted to use the centre's card unsupported. Aine will now ask staff if any milk or other items are needed and likes to go to the local store with staff to purchase the items, she then uses the soldo card on behalf of the Day Service. The encouragement and support from the team in Griffin Rath is always so focused on being person centred and empowering the individual to carry out everyday tasks. Bravo!

Griffin Rath also held a Sports Day recently, the competition was fierce between Service Users and staff. Thank you for the photos!



Elvira Day Service



This is very much in line with the theme of September's newsletter so many thanks for Elvira Day Service in Bluebell for sending on the pictures. This is the men and women out and about accessing education opportunities in their local community. The group attended an opening day at Crumlin College recently, picking up leaflets and chatting to staff about what courses are on offer. Great job everyone!

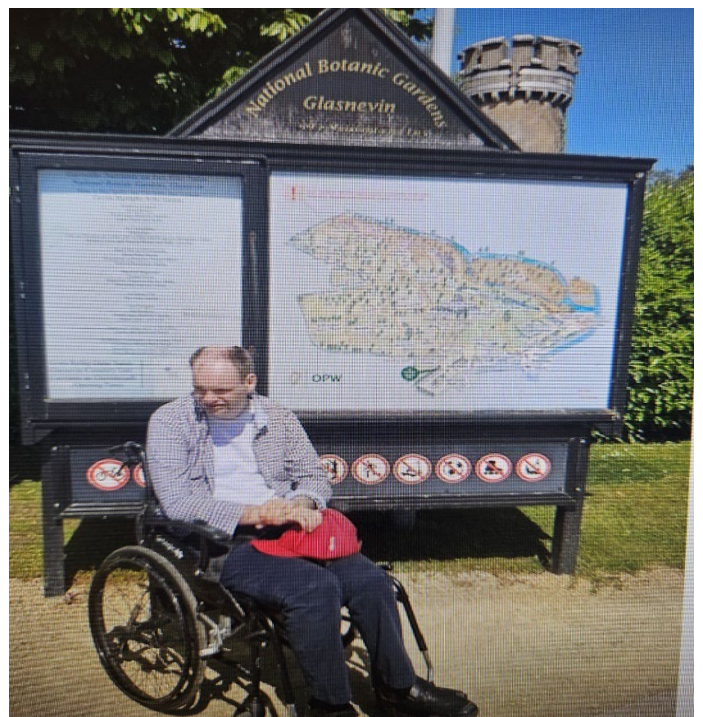


Rowendale Day Service

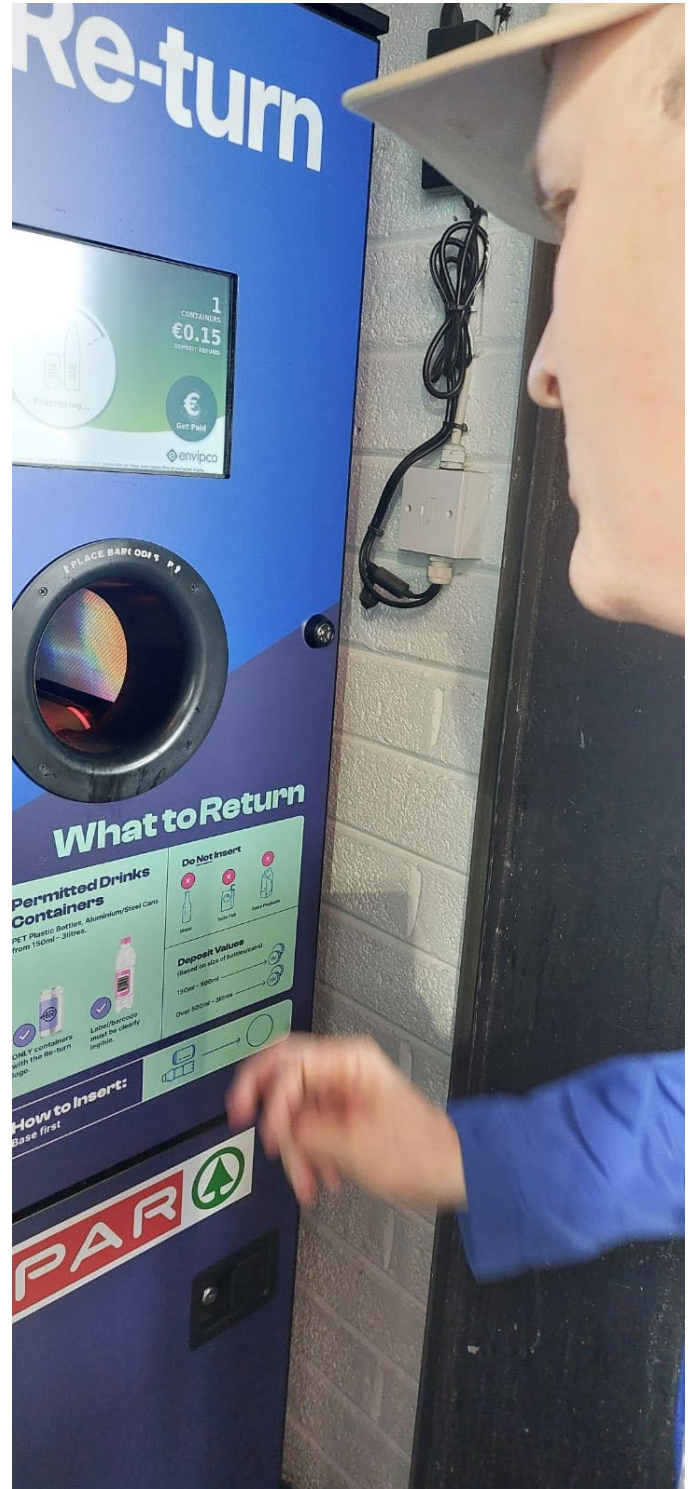
The Service Users who attend Rowendale in Celbridge have been out and about accessing the community recently. There was a daytrip to County Wexford to visit the lively Summer hotspot Courtown, the day was enjoyed by Micheal Lynch, Jaymie Green and Anthony Holland.



Niall Mullan and John Pender visited the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin's Glasnevin.



Niall Mullan has also been getting involved with the new can and bottle recycling scheme at his local drop-off centre. Niall is delighted with the incentive of a ticket/voucher with money to spend in the local supermarket where you deposit the cans.



Avila Daytrip to Galway

Staff and Service Users from Avila met at Heuston station at 8:30am on Monday 9th September 2024. The group arrived in Galway before noon and made the short walk along Eyre Square to Lally's Opentop Bus. The group got onto the bus and took the 25min trip to Salthill. They visited the local Aquarium which the group commented was 'fantastic and uplifting'. There were so many varieties of fish and sea creatures in an immersive display.

Afterwards, the group walked to O'Reilly's restaurant and enjoyed a lovely dinner. Organised as always, they had got the menu beforehand and rang in their order so the food was ready when they arrived. The group continued their Opentop bus tour and eventually arrived back at Eyre Square and headed for the train. The train journey back was great fun with Phil chatting to an ex-army soldier and all the Service Users having a laugh and joke with him. They arrived back in Dublin at 8:20pm, tired and happy, to waiting friends and family! Looking forward to my invite to the next outing 😊



Mulberry Day Service



With the month of September being the ideal time to harvest potatoes, the Men and Women from Mulberry Day Service in Clondalkin, dug up the potato tubers with their garden forks. Martina, Kevin C, Claire, Jenny, Jason and Kevin McC were centrally involved in sourcing the seeds, cultivating the tomatoes, courgettes and potatoes and looking after the centre's small garden. Next, they will prepare for their Winter vegetables. I look forward to hearing what you make with your produce. Well done!



Cairde Day Service

I try my best to keep up with the gang from Cairde in Celbridge, they are always on the go and coming up with new locations to visit. Below are some images from a number of daytrips which have been happening in recent weeks; A visit to Kildare Stud Farm, a bowling outing, supporting Kildare Farm Foods Sunflower Meadow and another picture to show the group working hard tending to Cairde's own Gardening Programme. The motivation and energy from this group is so inspiring, keep up the good work!



Ash Tree Day Service

The BeActive Campus Open Week is currently taking place from the 23rd to 30th September, as part of European Week of Sport. Sport Ireland Campus has invited everyone to join a diverse weeklong programme of FREE events designed to open the Campus to new visitors and to promote active and healthy living.

BeActive Campus Open Week features a series of free 'Come and Try' classes and events with something suitable for all ages and skill levels. The Men and Women from Ash Tree in Tallaght, went along to experience a golf workshop and judging by the pictures, a fabulous day was had by all.



SAID Project – DigiCoach



<https://saidproject.eu/>

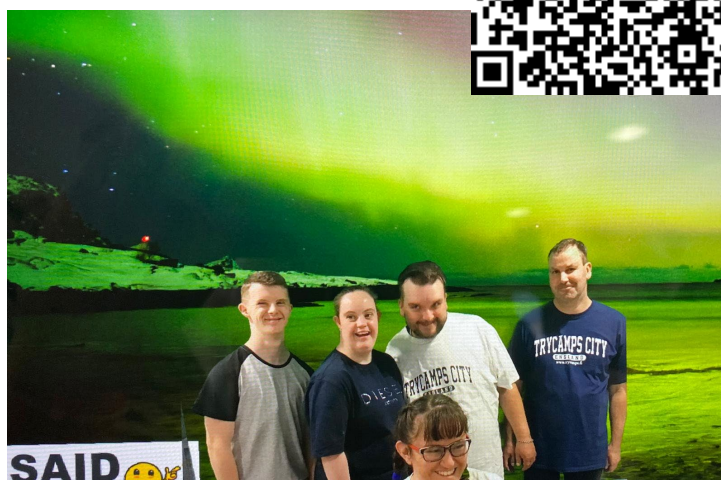


Niamh Fortune, a DigiCoach from Liffey Services, and Ian Coleman Horgan, a DigiCoach from Kerry Services, had a fantastic project trip to Helsinki at the end of August. They shared their experience of training to become a DigiCoach with support staff Klara and Sophie. They will collaborate with project partners from Graz, Austria, and Finland as part of the Erasmus+ funded SAID project.



The Irish team had a fantastic time getting to know the DigiCoaches from Austria and Finland and worked for two days on the SAID project sharing their experience and what they wish to change in the programme. In Austria DigiCoaches are paid roles in schools and Finland and Ireland would like this to be the same in their countries.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C_iNHXWNOII/





"Our Place is a really exciting project, it is an opportunity to express ourselves, connect with others, explore art ideas through sound, and to enjoy the freedom to create"
- Patrick Fitzgerald, 'Our Place' Artist

"Our Place" opened at the RHA Royal Hibernian Academy on Thursday, September 5th. A large team of 30 artists from Ashtree, Mountainview, Greengables, Hazlewood, Maplewalk, and Skills for Life Kerry came together for the Gallery's Opening night, which also included four other exhibitions. This was a unique, inclusive experience that showed great community engagement. This project created opportunities for all the artists to learn new skills, and all are paid for their work and efforts.



**RETHINK
IRELAND**

the arts council
 ealaíon
**funding
the arts**



create national development
 agency for collaborative arts

RHA
 ROYAL HIBERNIAN
 ACADEMY of ARTS

**st John
of God** 

**KERRY COUNTY
museum** 

**Skills
for Life**
 UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE



The team got together again at the Kerry County Museum on Culture Night to launch Our Place in Kerry and to premier the documentary that goes with the Sound Art piece.



<https://vimeo.com/1012716447?>

If you visited the RHA or Kerry County Museum, we would love your feedback on Our Place
<https://www.rixeasysurvey.org/kiosk/am4Y>





LiffeyVoices.ie



Liffey Voices Meeting

Thursday 31st October 2024

11am – 12:00pm



GreenRoom, St Raphaels,
Celbridge or Balcony Room
Cookstown, Tallaght or on Zoom

Please register:

<https://forms.office.com/e/B8Va65u2X>



**Update from the last meeting can be
found on LiffeyVoices.ie**



Meeting ID 474389762
Password 054429



Scan Here to join Zoom



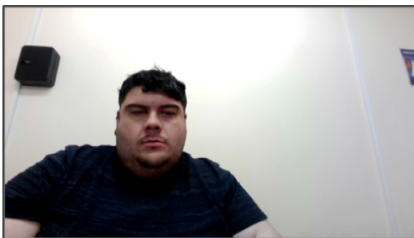
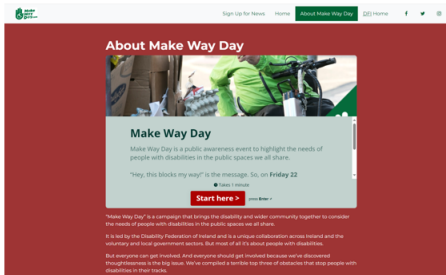
LiffeyVoices.ie



Liffey Voices Meeting

The Liffey Voices met on Thursday 26th of September and they talked about their rights and what rights are important to them. They also talked about Make Way Day on Friday 27th of September. They shared the documentary on Our Place and the new Home and Support Hub set up by the government.

Make Way Day – Friday 27th September

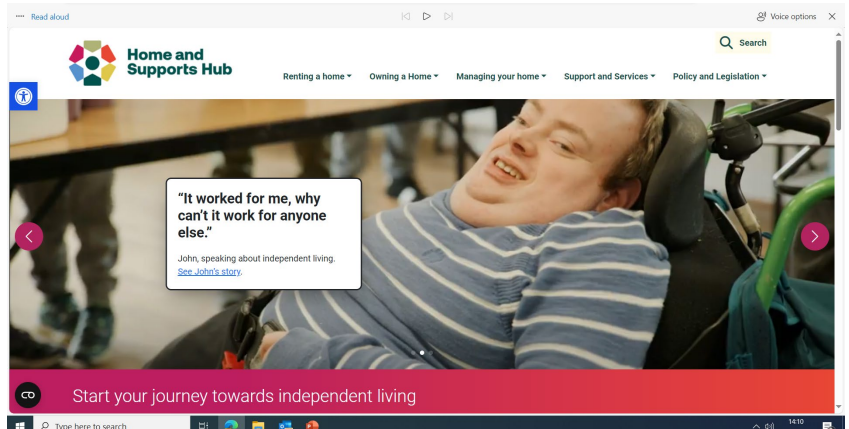


We want everyone to get behind Make Way Day 2024. It is on 27th [September](#) but you can use the posters or the website to report issues anytime.

We have a right to access our city and towns and everyone needs to help. Stop parking on the footpath or putting your bins on the path.

Use the website makewayday.com

HomeAndSupportshub.ie





The second Liffey Voice Men's group met on Wednesday, September 18th, and it was a great success, thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event.



The day kicked off with a football game, followed by a healthy lunch by On The Platter, and finished with a Men's Group guest speaker, Alan Kavanagh, a psychotherapist and Men's Health speaker.

We learned how to box breathe, got good mental health tips, and learned what it means to be a man.





Wednesday 23rd October 2024

11am – 14:30pm

Please register:

Men's Group Activities

Men's Group Registration 18th
September



11am - 12 -Sports -Meet at Tallaght Leisure Centre

12-1pm -Back to Tessa House for Lunch

1pm -2:30pm - Men's Talk

€10

**€10 pays for Sports Hall
and Healthy Lunch and
Guest Speaker**

Thank You for Reading...

One last note, I wanted to let you all know that my 'What is New Directions?' Online Engage sessions will be happening next Thursday, 3rd October at 10am and again at 1.30pm. We will be focusing on the New Directions standard 'Support for Personal Expression and Creativity'.



Please continue to send all your good news stories to me, no achievement is too small, we love to celebrate all the successes happening across Liffey Region's Day Services.

Get in touch

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**st John
of God** 
**Intellectual
Disability Services**

This easy read booklet about New Directions information was made by Donna Hughes.

