

Informational Bulletin

Weekly update for CIL network

CIL News

Dear all members of Independent Living Network,

As you were informed the Center for Independent Living Carmichael House launched its Strategic Plan along with the DVD of the last Strasbourg Freedom Drive on Saturday 31st January 2009. The launch was attended by great crowd of Leaders from Dublin, Sligo, Mayo, Clare and Kilkenny and we managed to attract two MEPs as well – Proinsias De Rossa and Mary Lou McDonald – they both spoke about the importance and effectiveness of the Strasbourg Freedom Drive Campaign, so do not let this year be an exception and start getting ready – we should be informing you on the dates and details of this years campaign very soon. Press release reflecting the speech of the both MEPs available online at <http://www.dublincil.org/Documents/Strasbourg%20DVD%20launch%20follow%20up%20-%20press%20release.pdf>

The Minister of Equality, Disability and Mental Health John Moloney TD launched the Strategic Plan and promised that the service users won't be affected by the cutbacks. He also committed himself to quarterly meetings with the Centers for Independent Living, where issues such as Direct Payments, Personal Assistance Policy and services transferability can be discussed. Press release available online at:

<http://www.dublincil.org/Documents/SP%20launch%20follow%20up%20-%20press%20release.pdf>

Our new Development Officer Naoise Cunningham began working on her work plan for 2009. Naoise will be supporting Education & Training Committee (former Study Board) and another two committees that will be developed under the Board of CIL Carmichael House. You can contact Naoise at 01-8730455 / naoiscunningham@dublincil.org

If you should require some more information on any of the articles / events / trainings, please do contact me at 01-8730455 / barborakorandova@dublincil.org

I hope you all had a lovely weekend – the snow in Ireland is just amazing!

Best Regards,

Barbora Korandova
Finance & Communications Officer
CIL Carmichael House

National Affairs

National Disability Authority (NDA) Strategic Plan (2010 - 2012)

The National Disability Authority (NDA) will shortly be preparing its third strategic plan, which must be submitted, to the Minister by June 2009. The submissions can be made before 2nd March 2009 by post or email to NDA directly.

The template is available at the following website:

[http://www.nda.ie/website/nda/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/6CD5330EEDE7399C802570C1003CDE15/\\$File/StratPlan_Invite_2010.doc](http://www.nda.ie/website/nda/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/6CD5330EEDE7399C802570C1003CDE15/$File/StratPlan_Invite_2010.doc)

The current Strategic Plan:

[http://www.nda.ie/website/nda/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/78534052ED902FC0802572330062C954/\\$File/NDASP0709.pdf](http://www.nda.ie/website/nda/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/78534052ED902FC0802572330062C954/$File/NDASP0709.pdf)

Short guide to NDA:

[http://www.nda.ie/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/48FDED0611E748D8802570BC0054FEFD/\\$File/index.html](http://www.nda.ie/cntmgmtnew.nsf/0/48FDED0611E748D8802570BC0054FEFD/$File/index.html)

Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI)

The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) reacted to the Taoiseach's announcement (3rd February 2009) that the Government will provide the necessary hope and directions by noting that this provides no reassurance to people with disabilities around the country. DFI has argued very strongly in its recent engagement with the Government through the social partners that the supports and services to disabled people and their families must be protected and enhanced during the recession. There is now great fear and anxiety, across the disability community and people in general, that there will be an ongoing erosion of vital services, says John Dolan (CEO, DFI). A clear statement by the Government is needed that they are going to continue prioritise the interests of people with disabilities.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area

The last Guidelines were adopted in 2004 and are required to be reviewed and updated by 2010. Dublin Regional Authority is looking for submissions on what key issues should be addressed. Closing date is Monday 30th March 2009.

Regional Planning Guidelines is a policy document that gives directions to the County and City Development Plans of each of the local councils on issues such as an investment in water services, new roads and public transport, health investment and new schools. The review would like to look into areas such as public transport, location and amount of new housing needed, the role of planning in tackling social exclusion and many more.

Full Consultation leaflet available here:

<http://www.rpg.ie/documents/RPGFlyer-FinalWebEnglish.pdf>

For more information please contact Deirdre Scully at 01-8074482 or email submission@rpg.ie

Equality & Rights Alliance (ERA)

The first planning day of the alliance was held on Monday 19th January 2009. The aim of the planning day was to create an opportunity for the members of the alliance to strategize and agree on the best way of organizing the campaign in 2009. The ERA meeting will take place on Monday 9th February 2009 and the members will aim to agree on the proposed action plan for 2009, media and communication actions, discuss a legal status of the alliance and participation of the Labour Party Conference on Saturday 29th March 2009.

European Affairs

The Royal Bank of Scotland (UK)

David Allen is a regular 17-year old customer of Royal Bank of Scotland. His local branch is not wheelchair accessible contrary to the signage outside the branch and information posted on its website. Mr. Allen could not gain access to his bank and had to discuss his account details in the street, breaching his right to confidentiality and causing him significant embarrassment. The banks suggested that he should use the nearest accessible branch (10 mile journey, 2.5 hour round trip on the bus).

Mr. Allen case was taken with the support of the Equality & Human Rights Commission and he was represented by the Sheffield Law Centre. The judge has ordered the Royal Bank of Scotland to install a lift so a wheelchair user can have the same access as any other customer. It also recognized the embarrassing treatment the young man experienced and Mr. Allen was awarded £6,500 as a compensation.

As per the Disability Discrimination Act – it is unlawful for business and public bodies to treat disabled people less favourably. This case is the very first time a judge ordered an injunction to force an organization to make physical changes to its property so that disabled people can gain access since the Act came into force (1995).

A video (BBC) can be accessed here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7834641.stm>

The Academic Network of Disability Experts

The Network was established by the European Commission in 2008 and is to be supporting the Commission's evidence based policy development by building on the expertise of existing research centres and networks, supported by organizational partners (national experts in 29 countries). As a part of the work programme for 2009 the network is recruiting an expert rapporteur to assist the network with a preparation of a thematic report on Support for Independent Living for Disabled People. The report is to focus on policies, which are in place to support independent living for people with disabilities living within EU & EFTA. For an informal discussion regarding this post or for a full job description please contact Mark Priestley at m.a.priestly@leeds.ac.uk.

Residential Care (UK)

Leonard Cheshire Disability is one of the biggest and best known organizations providing support services to people with disabilities, residential care in particular.

One of the residential care service users in the UK requested an access to the information on what has been sent over to the data controller (who can change his care and accommodation services when inaccurate information provided).

The senior managers of the Leonard Cheshire Disability made several very inappropriate comments on the clients' behalf. The Information Commissioner's Office (UK) has found Leonard Cheshire Disability in breach of the Data Protection Act.

You can read the full article, comments and contribute to the discussion at the following website:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/jan/19/residential-care-user>

Funding Available

Ray Murphy Fund

The Ray Murphy Fund makes grants to build leadership within the community sector (2008-2017). The grants are for a maximum of €4,000 each and five grants are awarded per year. The funding is to assist people managing organizations within the community and voluntary sector with an access to education or training on leadership. The closing dates of 2009 are 27th February 2009, 31st July 2009 and 30th October 2009.

An application for this funding is not freely available and therefore if you would be interested in applying for this funding – contact Grants Officer of the Community Foundation at info@foundation.ie / 01-8747354 to discuss a suitability of a proposed project.

Resources:

Disability & Online Dating

Special Singles Online is a website for people with disabilities. You can register or visit as a guest and search for other single disabled people around the world. The website was created by Tracy Saks (USA). For more details please visit:

<http://www.specialsinglesonline.com/index.php?page=index>

Assistive Technology

Microsoft Corporation has a very up-to-date website including types of Assistive technology products with an access to the full catalogue of Assistive technology products. For more information please visit the following website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/at/types.aspx>

Upcoming Events

National

Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living

“Reducing Social Isolation for People with a Disability in the Local Community” is a name of the seminar, which will take place at Cross Care in Blanchardstown Village on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 (7pm – 9pm). It is a great opportunity for people with disabilities living in the area to explore accessibility in their community and to get actively involved in the community. To attend or to organize a transport please contact Micheline Clancy (Blanchardstown CIL) at 01-8270609 / bcil@dublincil.org

Champions of Equality Lecture – UCD

The annual lecture will take place in UCD on Thursday 12th February 2009 (7.30pm). The address will be by Mr. Niall Crowley, former CEO of the Equality Authority on the topic of “Equality: The Search for Solutions in a time of crisis”. The address will be followed by questions and answers session followed by wine and cheese reception. For more details on this event please contact John Hickey (Press & Communications Officer) at 087-9706112 / ucdequalitysociety@gmail.com

The Wheel – Annual Conference

“New Realities – New Opportunities” is a title of this year’s annual conference organized by The Wheel. The date and venue has been set already – Tuesday 19th May 2009 in Croke Park Conference Centre.

The conference will focus on the challenges Irish charities have to face, particularly in relation to the current economic climate. The conference will be followed by a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the organization.

Amnesty International Ireland – Networking Forum

“Challenging the Rollback on Human Rights” – that’s the name of a networking forum organized by Amnesty International Ireland on Wednesday 11th March 2009 in Radisson SAS Hotel (Dublin 2).

The forum is open to organizations working in the community, voluntary & public sector to discuss the new and changing economic climate. Strategies of response to the rollback in human rights in the context of an economic downturn will be discussed as well.

Niall Crowley – former CEO of Equality Authority – will be attending this as a special guest speaker.

Human Rights Based Approach Toolkit will be launched at this occasion as well.

The event starts with registration at 9am and will finish with a light lunch at 1pm. It is a free event, however registration is required (registration form available below).

http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/upload/images/amnesty_ie/HRE/Forum%20Details%20&%20Registration%20Form%20no%20logo.doc

For more information please contact Amnesty International Ireland directly at 01-8638300 / hrba@amnesty.ie

Publications

Diversity World

Diversity World is a newsletter published by Disability Network (USA), issued monthly, addressing current issues regarding employment of people with disabilities in USA. The January 2009 issue is available online at the link below and includes an article “Most jobs in most US companies are beyond the capabilities of people with disabilities – and the world is flat”, results of a study on the workforce participation of people with disabilities carried out by the US Office of Disability Employment Policy and many more.

http://www.mailermailer.com/x?function=view&c=16380733y-9500ae7c*589976d-bc7391b2

International Best Practices in Universal design

This global review was carried out by Canadian Human Rights Commission in March 2006. The aim of the project was to compare accessibility codes and standards around the world and build them to a universal code which could be applied worldwide. To view the publication please follow the link below:

http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/pdf/bestpractices_en.pdf

Education & Training

Social Media for Charities

The Wheel will hold this workshop in The Carmelite Community Centre (Dublin) on 17th February 2009 (9.00am – 1.00pm). The training is delivered by On Road Media and will focus on how social media such as facebook, bebo and ammodo work, how can their usage benefit a non-for-profit organization (social networking, podcasting, blogging, audio slides and online video).

The fee is €45 for the members of the Wheel, €80 for non-members. For more information on this workshop please contact the Wheel directly at 01-4548727 / info@wheel.ie

Practical Skills for Trainers (FETAC Level 6)

The National Learning Network (CDP) is running this three-day training course (starts 4th March 2008 in Portlaoise). The participants will gain understanding on how people learn, strategies of motivation, communication skills for training delivery and facilitation, practical training methods and structures for effective training and facilitation.

The course will run in Killeshin Hotel on 4th, 5th and 26th March 2009.

To book a place please contact the National Learning Network CDP at 01-2000150 / cdp@nlh.ie

Culture

Mary Collins

Mary Collins is an Irish disabled artist who has been painting since 1990 and has had eleven exhibitions already. Her motto has always been: "Turn your disability into an ability). To celebrate St. Patrick's day she will be opening her own painting exhibition in Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco. The Princess Grace Irish Library was opened in 1984 as a tribute to Irish origins of Princess Grace. To view Mary's paintings online please visit the following website:

<http://www.bluewavearts.ie/index.html>

Ouch!

Ouch! is a website from the BBC that reflects the lives and experiences of disabled people. It has articles, blogs, a very busy message board and an award-winning downloadable radio show - The Ouch Podcast). It's aimed at those with a stakehold in disability: family, friends, professionals and, rather importantly, disabled people themselves - without whom all this would be a bit meaningless.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/>

The newest columns and articles include:

Forever Waiting by Liz Carr

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/opinion/forever_waiting.shtml

Disability Bitch Loves Snow

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/opinion/b1tch/db_loves_snow.shtml

Google in Disability Bullying Controversy

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/02/google_in_disability_bullying.html

Accessible Travel Information in UK

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/02/accessible_travel_information.html

Snow, snow, snow....

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ouch/2009/02/accessible_travel_information.html

And many more...

EyeLight Music

EyeLight Music is a music and dance performance using groundbreaking eye-gaze technology to show the possibilities for the movement vocabularies controlled by eyes. On Saturday 7th February 2007 the group performed in Paccar Theatre of the Science Gallery in Dublin. This performance was part of "Lightwave: Defy The Darkness", an event highlighting experimentation with illumination (23rd January 2009 – 20th February 2009).

Five world-renowned musicians performed live with James Brosnan and Katy Gilligan (two creative collaborators with severely limited physical movement due to cerebral palsy) who use their eyes to operate a musical system. The show included two original songs written with and for James and Katy. Both songs will feature on the forthcoming album of Kila.

For more information on this project please contact James Brosnan at jbrosnan27@hotmail.com

IF THERE IS ANYTHING RELEVANT YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE NETWORK, PLEASE EMAIL BARBORA AT barborakorandova@dublincil.org