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What is ILMI's VOICE Project?

Welcome to the latest edition of the VOICE newsletter!

In this edition of the newsletter, you can read about the Disability Equality Training Workshop in Tipperary, the ongoing work of Cork DPO and Wexford DPO, the VOICE workshops and the upcoming Disability Equality Training Workshop for VOICE in Waterford via Zoom!

Nicola & Paula are continuing their outreach work in Tipperary, Cork, Wexford & Waterford to engage disabled people based in these counties in the VOICE project.

In order for disabled people to engage with ILMI and the VOICE project online, there are a few Lenovo tablets remaining.

VOICE establishes collective online spaces to bring disabled people together where they will avail of training, guest speakers and opportunities to connect with peers, as well as local services.

Become part of a Collective to bring about change for Disabled People locally. To find out more, the contact details for Nicola and Paula, the two Community Development Workers for the seven VOICE counties are at the end of this e-Bulletin.

Please feel free to share information about the VOICE project with any disabled people you know in Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford, Cork, Kerry & Tipperary.

Disability Equality Training Workshop!



Image above shows ILMI's DPO Development Officer, Peter Kearns, ILMI's VOICE Community Development Worker, Nicola Meacle, delivering a Disability Equality Training Workshop to disabled people based in Tipperary.

On the 8th July, Peter Kearns, renowned disabled Activist, Academic and ILMI DPO Development Worker delivered a Disability Equality Workshop to a group of disabled and non-disabled people in Nenagh Tipperary. It was a highly engaging interactive thought-provoking workshop that left everyone feeling energised and empowered with the knowledge that we as disabled people do not need to change, society does.

The group also learned the value of being part of a collective and how when disabled people work together, more can be achieved. We look forward to launching Tipperary DPO (Disabled Persons Organisation) in the near future and if any other disabled people in Tipperary County would like to get involved or would like more information, Nicola would like to thank Joanne Mulqueen, the SICAP worker with NTDC for her help with organising it.

To find out more and get involved with the VOICE Project in Tipperary, please contact Nicola Meacle, VOICE Community Development Worker on 0877189237 or email her on nicolameacle@ilmi.ie.

Wexford DPO promotion event!



row left to right: Lavinia Mac Neill, Paula Soraghan, Peter Kearns.

Image 2: Peter Kearns delivering a Disability Equality Training workshop to Wexford participants, non-disabled and disabled people.

On Wednesday, 25 June, Wexford DPO held an event in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.

The purpose of the event was to inform non-disabled and disabled people based in Wexford about ILMI & Wexford DPO.

ILMI's DPO Development Officer, Peter Kearns, started the event by delivering a Disability Equality Training Workshop and speaking about the role of DPOs and their importance at a local level to influence positive social change.

Then, VOICE Community Development Worker, Paula Soraghan, spoke about her role and the importance of the Community Development Programme funding to establish local DPOs in the southeast of the country.

Wexford DPO Chairperson, Ruth Fitzmaurice, spoke about her role and the work done so far by Wexford DPO. There was a call to action for people to support Wexford DPO and for disabled people to get involved as part of the collective.

Many thanks to the Riverside Park Hotel for their continued hospitality. It greatly appreciated!

Wexford DPO will be having a meeting via Zoom to discuss the issue of housing on 22 July from 2-3pm.

To get involved, please email wexforddpo@gmail.com or call Paula on 087 163 0433.

Membership is open to disabled people aged 18 and over who are based in Wexford.

Cork DPO!



Image above shows Cork DPO Committee members on Zoom

On 30 June, Cork DPO held their monthly committee meeting via Zoom.

They were pleased to welcome back one of their Treasurer, Bre O'Connell, who had been in Australia for 5 months.

The Committee reviewed the work of Cork DPO since the last meeting and agreed tasks to be carried out before the next meeting. They also brainstormed ideas on how to engage with current members and attract new members. They are excited to continue to raise the profile of Cork DPO.

To find out more about Cork DPO and get involved, please contact Nicola by calling or texting to 0877189237 or email her at nicolameacle@ilmi.ie

VOICE workshops!



Screenshot above shows ILMI's Nicola & Colm with participants in the third online session of the VOICE workshops

On Monday 7 July, the third session of the online VOICE workshops was held via Zoom. The first session took place on Monday, 23 June.

During this week's session, ILMI's VOICE Life Coach, Colm Whooley, gave the group tips on how to deal with nerves before speaking in public or in a group. Colm spoke about ways to work on your self-confidence as a disabled person. These practical tips were very useful to the group and the participants found them very helpful.

In the upcoming sessions, the group will be exploring the Social Model of Disability and the role of a local DPO.

The workshops will be delivered again to new participants via Zoom in Autumn. Details to be confirmed.

Upcoming VOICE Waterford Disability Equality Training Workshop!

**TRIED
SOMETHING
NEW TODAY**

**VOICE Project, Waterford
DISABILITY EQUALITY FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, 16 July 2-3pm

Via Zoom

**Email: Paula Soraghan
(VOICE Community Development Worker)**

paulasoraghan@ilmi.ie

To register FREE workshop



Image above is a poster on a grey background with yellow and white font. It has the below text with the ILMI, VOICE and Community Development Programme logos at the bottom of the poster

TRIED SOMETHING NEW TODAY

**VOICE Project, Waterford
DISABILITY EQUALITY FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP**



To register for this **FREE** workshop:

Email: Paula Soraghan

(*VOICE Community Development Worker*)

 paulasoraghan@ilmi.ie



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VOICE

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