



Annual General Meeting of Cork PwDI

The Cork Network of People with Disabilities in Ireland (PwDI) is holding its AGM on **Monday 24th May 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Ambassador Hotel, Military Hill, Cork.** All members of PwDI are encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity to get a full update on the restructuring process that has been happening within the organisation over the

past year. It will also be a good opportunity for Cork members to meet Mr Morgan McKnight the new Chief Executive of PwDI who is coming to the meeting specifically to address the Cork members. Morgan is a former private secretary to the Minister at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. He brings a wealth of experience to PwDI and it will be interesting to hear his responses to questions from PwDI members present on the evening. This year Kathy Sinnott has also been invited to attend and she will also bring her own personal perspective in terms of the needs of the disability sector in a changing Ireland. The speakers will undoubtedly generate some thought provoking questions for those in attendance. Put the date in your diary.

This year the proceedings will “kick off” with a short piano recital by renowned pianist Orla O’Sullivan. Orla is a Deaf – Blind pianist who uses music as a way of overcoming her profound deafness and visually impairment. She has an Associate Diploma in Performance for Piano (A.T.C.L) and has also studied organ in St Finbarr’s Cathedral. She has performed in Cork City Hall and performed in the Triskel Arts Centre & Cork Opera House. She also accompanied the Deaf International Dance Festival in Cyprus, Santander, Vienna and Dublin. Orla has performed piano solos of classical music on R.T.E on two occasions. She is currently organising her new CD which will be launched in the Clarion Hotel in the near future. Her new CD is called “Sound Senses” and contains solo piano pieces with extracts from Bach, Schubert, Chopin, Phil Coulter and many more. “Sound Senses” will also be available for sale on her website at

www.orlaosullivan.ie and will also be available in the Ambassador Hotel on the night. PwDI is extremely proud of Orla’s association with PwDI.

*“come on down” to the Ambassador Hotel on
Monday 24th May 2010 at 7.30 p.m.*

Accessible Boat trips in Fermoy

In our last newsletter we gave details of a fabulous wheelchair accessible boat that operates out of Fermoy on the river Blackwater. Some people had difficulty navigating to the link provided as they did not have Real Player downloaded. You can actually see this beauty in action online as its gliding past the CastleHyde home of Michael Flatley. Anyone interested should contact Chris O'Donovan the boat man in Fermoy. His mobile phone number is 089-4135120.

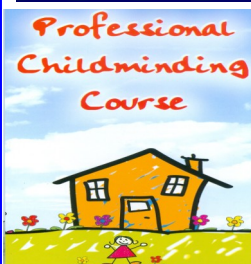




Power Soccer Comes to Cork



Cork Sports Partnership in association with FAI, and IWA Sport are holding a Power Soccer event on May 22nd in the Little Island Sports Centre in Cork. They are hoping to set up a Cork Power Soccer Team to compete in the National League that begins in September 2010. Anyone interested in getting involved is more than welcome to attend. They are looking for players, coaches and volunteers to get the team started and get Cork into the National Power Soccer League. The first session will take place on: Saturday 22nd May at Little Island Sports Centre. It will be held between 12pm and 3pm and it is totally free of Charge. Transport is available if necessary. Pictured above left are some participants “on the ball”. Pictured above right is an Irish rugby International player who just happened to drop in on a recent training session. If you are interested for information please contact: Nick Harrison FAI – Sports for All Tel: 086 0472051. You never know when Brian O’Driscoll might drop down again to check on the training.



Professional Childminding Course



If you would like to run a successful family day-care business in your own home then this Professional Childminding Course offers you an opportunity to become a successful, self-employed childminder.

The Childminding Course offers a quality training opportunity for those interested in becoming a childminder in their own home. All the key pieces of essential training are combined in one course. This includes: Quality Awareness Programme, Paediatric First Aid Child Protection, Fire and Food Safety. The cost of the Course is €150. The cost includes all course materials and resources. The full course cost is €300 but it is now being subsidised as part of the Childminding Initiative. To discuss any aspect of the course contact: The Childminding Co-Ordinator, Cork City Childcare 29 Penrose Wharf Cork Telephone 021.4507942 or email ruth@corkcitychildcare.



Brainwave

The next information day for Brainwave the Irish Epilepsy Association will take place on Wednesday, 19th May 2010 at Cork University Hospital from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. On the same day the Parents Support Group will meet at 7.30 p.m. This event will take place at the Bishopstown GAA Club. For further information please contact Niamh Jones or Mary Lawlor on 021 – 4274774.



Seminar for class teachers and learning support teachers

The Special Education Support Service is providing this seminar on 'Language and Literacy Development in children with a hearing Loss'. The seminar is suitable for both primary and secondary teachers and is being presented by guest speaker Dr. Connie Mayer Associate Professor Ed. York University, Toronto, Canada. Participants will be introduced to a framework for understanding language and literacy and development in deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Pedagogical approaches and instructional strategies for teaching reading and writing will be demonstrated and practiced. **21st May 2010 Cork – Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Cork 9.15 a.m. – 3.30. p.m.** Applications are invited from schools that currently have pupils who are deaf / hard of hearing. One Learning Support/Resource Teacher and / or one Class Teacher per school are invited to apply for a place at the seminar. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. You can download and complete the application form from the website www.sess.ie

Influencing Decision-Making Course

Cork City Partnership is offering a FETAC accredited course to anyone who would like to learn more about local decision making structures and how to get more involved in influencing those structures. The course will be delivered on Wednesday evenings in the offices of Cork City Partnership from 7pm to 9.30pm. The course will begin in September 2010 and continue until November 2010. The course consists of three modules and these are delivered over ten sessions in total. (1) Understanding how political and policy decisions are made at European, National and Local level. (2) Building personal capacity to influence. (3) Building organisational unity and strength locally. There will be an information meeting concerning the course on Tuesday 22nd June at 6pm – 7pm and also on Tuesday 20th July at 6pm – 7pm in the offices of Cork City Partnership, Heron House, Blackpool, Cork. The course begins on the 15th September 2010. The course is provided free of charge to participants. For further information and full details of the course please contact Linda McKernan or Mary Sheehy, on 021 4302310 or email lmckernan@partnershipcork.ie or msheehy@partnershipcork.ie



Calling All Young People

Comhairle na nÓg are local youth councils which give young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. Delegates from Comhairle na nÓg are elected to represent their local area at the annual Dáil na nÓg held in March every year. The Office of the Minister for Children part-funds activities and this has allowed the Cork County Comhairle to be developed so that activities are carried out throughout the year in the form of meetings, presentations, discussions & activities. Meetings are usually held during school holidays. If you know of any young people who would like to get involved in Comhairle. Please contact Valerie Hayes @ 021-4285230 email Valerie.hayes@corkcoco.ie



Free Ice Cream Party



HB Ice Cream in association with Down Syndrome Ireland are offering free ice cream to anyone who will host an ice-cream party. The objective is to raise vital funds which will go towards the ongoing development of Down Syndrome Ireland's services. You can hold a party any day throughout May and June and you can co-ordinate your party with a theme or maybe have a Communion or Confirmation Day. You can either hold your party at home, at school, at work, in your canteen, crèche or in your local park or estate. You could even organise a party with your local sports team. How about a Teddy Bears Ice Cream party? the list is endless! This is a great cause. Call them at 1890.37.37.37 or you can register online. They will send you your party pack with posters, invitations, balloons. Host your free ice cream party and return all funds to Down Syndrome Ireland. Everyone that return their party proceeds before 16th July 2010 will be entered into the American Holidays draw and you could also win a €2,000 voucher.



Compile a slogan for a €5,000 Prize



There is a new competition starting to provide a slogan for the 'See Change' campaign. This is being organised to bring about changes in public attitudes in relation to Mental Health. The winning entry will receive €5,000. The aim of this new campaign is to reduce the stigma associated with mental health problems and also challenge discrimination. A network of national and local organisations will carry the anti-stigma message through local broadcasts, local print media and a range of other activities. For more information on the campaign and competition, click on <http://www.seechange.ie>

"Free Tickets" The Lifestyle Event for Older People returns to the City Hall Cork for the third consecutive year. Free Tickets for Cork Over 50's Show are now available for the 15th & 16th of May for this years Senior Times magazine Over 50's Show in the City Hall. For free tickets all you have to do is email info@slp.ie and they will post you tickets. This is a great event so get a move on !



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"Telling it like it is"