



CountyLongford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter September 2018

National events

Sustainable Energy Communities

National Event 2018

When: Saturday 8th September, 10:30am - 4:30pm

Where: Business Building, Athlone Institute of Technology

Don't forget to register today for the SEC National Event!

Places are filling up quickly for the 3rd SEC National Event on this Saturday 8th September in Athlone Institute of Technology.

Admission is free however, registration is essential and will only take a few moments, please

visit <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/seai-sustainable-energy-communities-national-event-2018-tickets-48557037406>.

Please share this invite with anyone who may be interested in finding out more about the programme, inside or outside of your SEC.

What to expect?

In addition to receiving the latest information on community energy grants for 2019 and other presentations from the SEC team, this year's event has a dedicated Networking and Discussion room where you can meet the experts on Solar PV, Energy Master Plan, Electric Cars and more.

By attending the event you will also be able to:

- collect your SEC goody bag including a Home Energy Pack, information leaflets and a special KeepCup for you to take home
- Test drive* an electric car from one of the following top manufacturers: BMW, Hyundai, Jaguar, Kia, Nissan, Renault, Tesla, Toyota and Volvo.

** make sure to bring your full driving licence*

Please go to the event flyer for further information and timings, and see what's new to this year's event HERE.

[News from Creative Ireland Longford](#)

We are writing to tell you about a wonderful evening that is happening in St. Mel's Cathedral on September 16th next at 8pm.

Lassus, Dublin Choral Foundation's new and exciting professional choir, celebrates the beautiful restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford, by presenting a unique concert of music, poetry and readings on Sunday, September 16th next at 8pm.

The musical programme has been devised, in collaboration with County Longford poet, Noel Monahan, who will read some of his own evocative texts to celebrate the significant historic events in Longford, from the monastic sites of the 6th Century, to the recent restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral.

The concert will bring you, the audience, on a moving and enthralling journey through the ages. Tickets are priced between €5 and €15 and further information about securing your ticket and other details, can be found at the link below:

<https://www.dublinchoralfoundation.ie/concert/a-time-for-everything-lassus-in-longford-cathedral/>

This event is organised by Dublin Choral Foundation, Longford County Arts Office, and St. Mel's Cathedral.

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund](#)



The last round of the Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund is fast approaching... will you be applying?

If you are part of a Republic of Ireland based not-for-profit organisation with a financial capability or enterprise-focused community project in the pipeline, then you could be in with a strong chance of securing funding of up to €35k, when our final round of Skills & Opportunities funding opens for applications on Monday 3 September. (See the Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund website<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=4ov-2_iChwqrJ5ojh0HPZYxxalD7PCT0M4aVGkjByw&s=378&u=https%3a%2f%2fulsterbankirelandli.mitedroi-skillsops%2ecmail20%2ecom%2ft%2fy-l-kijkukl-tlsllkthj-j%2f> for full eligibility criteria, details of how to apply and case studies of previous winners.)

Given the high numbers of inspiring charities, community groups, social enterprises and state-funded schools and colleges we know are working hard to build stronger communities across the country, we want to make sure that our funding reaches the places where it can make the most difference.

A brief investment of time to apply for R2 2018 online could secure a significant financial investment for your community project. To help make the application process as straightforward as possible, we've pulled together some guidance for you:

1. Start early and save regularly

Complete the eligibility check as soon as you can, so that your intent to apply is logged by the system. We also recommend accessing the application form as soon as possible to upload your governing document, accounts, company logo and team photo. This is the most technical part of the process and you may find it helpful to upload one document at a time, saving the form before attempting the next upload. Take care to upload all requested documentation, as we can't accept applications that don't include this. You can dip in and out of the application, saving your progress as you go. When you are ready to submit your application however, make sure to hit 'submit' rather than 'save'. Most importantly, leave yourself plenty of time; late submissions can't be accepted, as the system closes automatically as soon as the submission deadline passes.

2. Pay attention to the detail

Read the instructions carefully and include as much relevant detail as possible; assume that we have no prior knowledge of your activities or organisation, as you will only be scored on what you include in the application. The more detailed your answers, the higher your overall score will be. The assessment criteria lean heavily towards outputs, and assessors check to see that these are realistic and can be justified through demonstration of need. Be aware that these three factors are inter-linked. This means that if outputs aren't clear and receive a low score, it will in turn be difficult to demonstrate that they are realistic and can be justified, making it likely that these elements will also be marked down.

3. If in doubt, ask for help

If while completing your application, you are unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to contact the PNE Skills & Opportunities team, who administer the grant on our behalf. Once you have submitted your application it will either be marked as 'eligible' or 'ineligible' and that decision is final. We cannot go back and correct anything on your behalf, so it's well worth requesting further guidance if unsure. To contact PNE with any questions, email: sofapply@pne.org<<mailto:sofapply@pne.org>> or call the team on: 0191 691 4901.

Thank you for your support for the Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund; we've achieved so much together in our local communities – with over 7,500 people in the Republic of Ireland benefitting from Skills & Opportunities funded projects in the past four years. Please help us to spread the word that applications open for the final time on Monday 3 September, and the best of luck if you decide to apply.

Social Change Grants Scheme

In this year's Social Change Grants Scheme, grants of up to €7,500 are available to organisations working to address Mental Health issues, in particular for Travellers, victims of Domestic Violence and Refugees. Please see below for details of the type of projects we are seeking for each of these three funding strands:

1. Travellers: Projects aimed at suicide prevention, in particular via the reduction of stigma around accessing mental health services
2. Victims of Domestic Violence: Projects that offer a space and network for peer support and recovery from mental health distress and trauma
3. Refugees: Projects that support the recovery of people suffering from mental health distress and promote their integration into the local community OR Projects that run targeted and culturally appropriate mental health promotion campaigns.

The aim of the grants scheme is to address mental health issues through innovative, community-based approaches that strive to bring about social, behavioral, attitudinal and cultural change and ultimately improve the mental health of beneficiaries in the target groups.

Criteria: Grants will support new or pilot projects that address the mental health needs of the target groups of either Travellers, victims of Domestic Violence or Refugees. Applicants must show that service users/beneficiaries are involved or have been consulted in project planning where appropriate. Project activity should ideally be evidence-based. Preference will be given to organisations that consult and collaborate with other organisations working in the mental health field and/ or with the beneficiary group.

The Fund Will Not Cover: Core or ongoing costs (such as rent, salaries), Equipment costs, Promotion of religious causes, Work that has already taken place, Non-charitable activities, General political donations, Sponsorship or fundraising events, Work taking place outside the Republic of Ireland, Projects focusing on the provision of counseling hours.

Applicant Requirements:

- You may only apply once per Funding Strand
- Applications must be from community and voluntary groups that possess charitable aims and are not for profit
- Applicant organisations should have an annual income of not more than €2,000,000
- You must submit either your organisation's Annual Accounts or most recent set of Audited Accounts
- Applicant organisations must have an organisational bank account
- A copy of a recent bank statement must be submitted with your application. This is for

account verification only and all financial transactions may be redacted before submission

- Proposals must include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales
- Applicants must be prepared to evaluate and learn from their work as well as to share project learning and outcomes through the participation in two Learning Networks Events
- We encourage applicant organisations to consider adopting The Governance Code for charities – see www.governancecode.ie
- A commitment to equal opportunities must be demonstrated
- Organisations working with cohorts under the age of 18 will be required to produce a copy of their Child Protection Policy.

Reporting Requirements:

Successful applicants will be expected to

- Please acknowledge the support of The Community Foundation for Ireland on any materials associated with the grant
- Submit an Interim Monitoring Report six months after the grant is made and a Final Outcome Report one year after the grant is made
- Social Change Grants are partly to create a learning network and to help share the outcomes of your work. The person leading the project will be required to participate in two Network and Learning Events, the first on 17th January 2019.

How to Apply:

Download the full criteria document [here](#)

Once you have ensured that you meet all of the grant criteria above, you can then make an online application by clicking on the links below. You may apply once per funding strand.

Travellers: <https://communityfoundationireland.secure.force.com/forms/SocialChange2018MentalHealthTravellers>

Refugees: <https://communityfoundationireland.secure.force.com/forms/SocialChange2018MentalHealthRefugees>

Domestic

Violence: <https://communityfoundationireland.secure.force.com/forms/SocialChange2018MentalHealthVictimsofDomesticViolence>

Closing Date: 4.00pm on 28th September 2018

NOTE: Your application will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgment e-mail, please contact us at info@foundation.ie or on 01 874 7354.

Social Innovation Fund - OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

We are delighted to announce that we have three new issue-based funds open for applications until the 18th January 2019:

- The Arts to Impact Fund.
- The Early Childhood Fund.
- The Sports to Impact Fund.

Please visit our website, www.socialinnovation.ie for more information on the above funds and you can check this page regularly to see which new funds we have open for applications, or sign up to our newsletter to be the first to know.

You can take a look back through our previous funds to get a flavour for what we've been looking for during past open calls. Please note that while each fund has a different goal and different advantageous criteria, our core criteria always apply:

- The project must address a critical social issue
- The project proposed must be innovative in an Irish context
- The project must have potential and a desire to scale or replicate in Ireland (it may also have potential internationally, but this is not a requirement)
- The project must provide evidence that it is up and running, or has been tested at least in a minimal way
- The project must be based on the island of Ireland and make its main impact in the Republic of Ireland
- Applicants must come from an entity that has a not-for-profit legal form e.g. charity, company limited by guarantee, trust etc

Training Opportunities

You are invited to join us on Friday October 12th at LWL for the following seminar:

Voices & Views from the Campaign Trail

Reflections and lessons from political campaigns

Friday 12th October 2018, 10am – 3pm

Longford Women's Link

Details are below and attached – registration is essential for this seminar as it includes a training workshop delivered by Women For Election. Please email tarafarrell@lwl.ie to secure your place. Places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Longford Sports Partnership is running a Safeguarding 1 Course on the 12th September from 6.30pm to 9.30pm, booking via Eventbrite Link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/safeguarding-1-code-of-ethics-course-tickets-47952776044?aff=ehomecard>

**SAFEGUARDING 1
CODE OF ETHICS
GOOD PRACTICE FOR CHILDREN'S SPORT**

Wednesday the 12th September 2018
6.30-9.30pm
Location: Longford County Council

Registration fee of €15
Register online at www.eventbrite.ie

Developing Sport Together
Longford Sports Partnership
SPORT IRELAND

Suicide Prevention Training

The HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention offers a range of programmes such as safeTALK, Understanding Self-Harm and A.S.I.S.T. (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). These will be delivered from September to the end of November, subject to numbers, as follows:

SafeTALK is a 3½ hr 'suicide alertness' programme that prepares participants to identify and engage with persons who may be having thoughts of suicide by using the steps of TALK (Tell, Ask, Listen and Keepsafe) Information on supports and resources available locally, regionally and nationally are also provided. The programme will be delivered on the following dates in various locations from 10.00am – 1.30pm.

September 25th (Mullingar); October 23rd (Longford); November 6th (Mullingar); November 29th (Athlone).

Please note that safeTALK can also be offered to groups of between 12-25 persons on a date and time that is suitable to both the group and the trainer.

Understanding Self-Harm is a 1 day awareness training programme which covers issues relating to self-harm including definitions, prevalence rates, myths, causes, why people self-harm and helpful responses. The programme will be delivered on November 20th from 10.00am -4.30pm in Athlone.

A.S.I.S.T. (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) is a 2-day skills based, intensive, interactive and practice-dominated Workshop designed to help Caregivers recognise the immediate risk of suicide and learn how to respond and be in a position to provide immediate safety, help and information to individuals whose lives may be at risk. The programme will be delivered on the following dates in various locations from 09.00 – 17.00 on each day.

September 26th/27th (Mullingar); October 17th/18th (Longford); October 31st/November 1st (Athlone)

An online system for registering to participate in these programmes has now been developed and set up. Simply click on the following link or paste it into your web browser: <https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmidlands><<https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=tOuP2zcuqUp4vlQp7e80baKZWH7N06mN6lUo0wWA2w&s=346&u=https%3a%2f%2fbookwhen%2ecom%2fsuicidepreventiontrainingmidlands>>

This contains information regarding the contents of the programmes and details in relation to dates, times, locations and the registration process. For those who prefer not to book online or would like further information, please contact Eddie Ward, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention (Longford/Westmeath by email: eddie.ward@hse.ie<<mailto:eddie.ward@hse.ie>> or by phone: (086) 380 1152.

Upcoming Event

World Suicide Prevention Day 2018

The theme of the 2018 World Suicide Prevention Day taking place on 10th September is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide' which seeks to encourage all of us to engage with each other and to join together to spread awareness of suicide prevention as part of a local and a global community. This year, to mark and commemorate World Suicide Prevention Day, Midlands Living Links Suicide Bereavement Support Service, in partnership with the HSE Resource Service for Suicide Prevention, are planting a 'Tree of Hope' at four locations across the Midlands in the week commencing Sunday 9th September. The 'Tree of Hope' is a symbol to those who have lost a loved one to suicide and to people living with mental health problems that there is understanding and support available for all. The hope of Midlands Living Links and all other organisations offering support, is that people who may be finding life difficult will reach out and ask for help in the knowledge that it will be willingly given. If you would like to show your individual support for suicide prevention, you are invited to attend the planting of a 'Tree of Hope' in your local community.

The various tree planting events will take place as follows:

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| Co. Offaly; | Lloyds Park, Tullamore - Sunday 9th September, at 1pm. |
| Co. Laois: | Memorial Garden, Portlaoise - Monday 10th September, at 1pm. |
| Co. Longford: | Remembrance Garden, Great Water Street, Longford - Wednesday 12th September at 2.30pm |
| Co. Westmeath: | Athlone I.T. (private event for college students). |

NOTE:

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support, the following services are available:

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|-------------------------------|---|
| The Samaritans: | 116 123 |
| Your GP or MiDOC: | 1850 302702 |
| 24/7 Suicide Helpline: | 1800 247 247 / Text 'HELP' to 51444 (Pieta House) |

Emergency Services: 999 / 112 or the Emergency Department in your local Hospital.

Midlands Living Links: 086 1600 641 (for bereavement support and a listening ear)

Bereavement Liaison Officer (Pieta House): 086 418 0088.

For further information on any of the services offered by the Resource Office for Suicide Prevention please contact:

Eddie Ward, Resource Office Suicide Prevention, Midlands Louth Meath, CHO Health Service Executive, Health Centre, Dublin Road, Longford. Tel: (086) 380-1152

Email: eddie.ward@hse.ie<mailto:imelda.fox@hse.ie>

Awards

CHARITY IMPACT AWARDS 2018 OPENS NEXT WEEK

We are delighted to announce that the second annual Charity Impact Awards will open for entries on 11 September 2018!

The Charity Impact Awards celebrate the positive impact charities, community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises are making in people's lives across the length and breadth of Ireland.

New in 2018...

Impact Videos

This year, you are challenged to submit a short video (no longer than two minutes) along with your impact story. The video will be judged as part of your overall impact story. The video can be a short interview with a member of staff or volunteer, a snapshot of your work and impact, a case study or anything else that compliments your impact story.

Social Enterprise of the Year Award

We are also introducing a brand new category: the Social Enterprise of the Year Award. This award will celebrate the work of social enterprises that engage in trading activity to achieve their social mission.

Applications open 11th September

Applications for the Charity Impact Awards will open between **11 September until the 23 October**.

The winners will be announced at **The Charity Impact Awards** on the **11 December** in the Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to tell your story. Show the impact your organisation makes in your community or in the lives of those you work with.

Visit www.charityimpactawards.ie for more.