

Clare PPN Newsletter April 2020

Dear members,

Welcome to our April 2020 newsletter.

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well in these difficult times.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created enormous challenges, for our member groups and especially for isolated and vulnerable members of our communities. But the crisis has also brought us together and has displayed the great strength in community. In particular community and voluntary groups around Clare have really come into their own, finding innovative new ways to help vulnerable and isolated people.

In early March we closed our premises and began working remotely. Our energies have been devoted to setting up and co-ordinating a community and voluntary response in Co Clare to the Covid-19 outbreak. In this we have been working with Clare County Council, the Clare Volunteer Centre, the CLDC, other agencies and many community and voluntary groups. While a lot of our work so far has related to insurance, Garda Vetting and other such details we know the bedrock of the response in Clare is coming from the people on the ground making sure no person is left behind.

In this newsletter we bring you some news of the community and voluntary response to the coronavirus outbreak, which many of you have been involved in. We also have news of several funding opportunities.

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

Clare PPN
Clonroad Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare
V95 N62T
Mobile: 087 1617375



Clare Covid-19 Community Response

Clare PPN is part of the Clare Community Response Group, set up to coordinate the community and voluntary response in Co Clare to the Covid-19 outbreak. Working with Clare Volunteer Centre, CLDC, Clare County Council and other agencies and organisations, the group identified both existing services and new groups available to assist elderly, vulnerable and ill or self-isolating people in the community.

Covid-19 helpline: Freephone 1800 203 600



A dedicated community support helpline - Freephone 1800 203 600 - operated by Clare County Council staff, has been set up to help at-risk members of the public to access non-emergency and non-medical supports. The helpline will link with organisations to provide crucial services such as collection and delivery of groceries, 'meals on wheels', household items, fuel or medicine. Organisations will also provide support for people experiencing social isolation or cocooning. You can also email: covidsupport@clarecoco.ie

Map and directory of volunteer groups

You can find volunteer groups near you in the Covid-19 Community Response, using the interactive map at this link:

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=1dcd94f7837d4b3bb509bb3148f7a5e2>

You can also search this directory of volunteer groups, which includes options to filter by name, area and type:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/covid19help/ccrteamlist/>

HSE posters and social media resources



Some very useful resources for Covid-19 communication can be downloaded from the HSE website. A Digital Partner Pack contains up-to-date videos and audio files, posters, leaflets and other material to help raise awareness about preventing the spread of coronavirus. You can also find Covid-19 information translated into various languages.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>



ALONE's Covid-19 helpline for older people: 0818 222 024

ALONE, the organisation that supports older people, is running a national helpline and additional supports for older people facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of Covid-19. Professional staff will be available to answer queries and to give advice and reassurance. The support line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. ALONE is operating this service in collaboration with the Department of Health and HSE.

Shine's confidential support for mental health



In response to COVID-19, Shine is providing vital support for people experiencing mental health difficulties and their families. Shine's services include mental health, recovery planning, individual, family support. They discuss your needs and concerns with you and provide options such as information, phone counselling and education. Confidential email counselling is available from Monday to Friday by emailing phil@shine.ie. For more information, call Ann Marie Flanagan on 087-7878222 or email midwest@shine.ie www.shine.ie

Crisis Cover - recruiting paid workers for homeless services

The Quality Matters charity is asking for help publicising Crisis Cover, a cross-border initiative seeking to ensure vital services for homeless people with disabilities and others in residential and care settings stay open during the Covid-19 crisis. By putting yourself forward for paid emergency relief roles you can play a role in keeping these services open. Crisis Cover is working with homeless



services to recruit paid staff members as relief workers. The roles include project worker, support workers, cooks and cleaners. You can apply at: www.crisiscover.ie

The Irish Red Cross and Age Action - COVID-19 Hardship fund

The Irish Red Cross and Age Action have launched a COVID-19 Hardship fund to respond to the immediate needs of older people in vulnerable situations experiencing additional hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Older people, or those assisting them, can request an application form by emailing hardship2020@redcross.ie or calling the Irish Red Cross on 01-6424600 or Age Action on 01-4756989. The closing date for applications is 31st August. <https://www.redcross.ie/hardshipfund/>

All Third Age programmes still operating

With the outbreak of Covid-19, Third Age has adapted its programmes to ensure continuity of services to those most at risk. Programmes include: Senior Line, Ireland's only dedicated peer-to-peer telephone services for older people, Freefone 1800 804591; AgeWell, a community support programme where trained companions visit vulnerable older people at home and Fáilte Isteach, free conversational classes in English to over 4,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (classes now online). www.thirdageireland.ie

Community Foundation for Ireland's Covid-19 Response Fund



The Community Foundation for Ireland has launched a Covid-19 Community Fund, aimed at the immediate needs of organisations impacted by the outbreak. The fund is focused on people over 60; those with respiratory illnesses or cancer; people

experiencing domestic abuse; isolated, vulnerable people and families, particularly in rural areas; mental health issues for those affected by Covid-19. Grants will be between €1,000 and €10,000. The fund opened on 7th April and will remain open on a rolling call basis. The Foundation may close applications if demand exceeds the €250,000 available in this round. However, it also anticipates future funding to support organisations affected by Covid-19.

<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/covid-19-response-fund>

Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme 2020



Grants of up to €20,000 are available for projects that empower people who face the greatest barriers to justice to claim their rights and hold the State to account. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission will award small grants of up to €6,000 and general grants of up to €20,000 to organisations working on human rights and equality. The deadline for applications for the Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme has been extended to 19th May. Full details of the grant scheme are on the Commission's website:

<https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/human-rights-and-equality-grants-scheme-2020/>

Deadline extensions for artists' bursaries

Clare County Council's Arts Office has announced a deadline extension, to May 1st, for two bursaries for Clare artists, in recognition of the difficulties currently facing artists. The first bursary will fund an artist to stay at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan. Clare's amateur drama tradition is also recognised with the awarding of a bursary to attend the Drama League of Ireland's Summer School at the University of Limerick. The deadline for artists wishing to join the Artist in Schools panel has also been extended to May 1st.

<http://www.clarecoco.ie/services/arts-recreation/arts-office/funding-and-opportunities/default.html>

New PPN reps on Clare County Council's Strategic Policy Committees

Hilary Tonge has been nominated to the Local Community Development Committee on behalf of the Community and Voluntary college. A former secretary and member of the Ennis Musical Society, Hilary now works at Shannon Airport. She is an experienced campaigner, most recently with the Reinstate ShannonDoc campaign and the Mid-West Hospital



campaign.
<http://clareppn.ie/project/hilary-tonge/>



Mary Leahy has been nominated to the Social Development SPC, on behalf of Respond Housing. Mary has been a community volunteer and activist for many years and is involved in efforts to develop policy for housing for the elderly as the current secretary of the Clare Older Persons Forum. She is a former chairperson of the Clare Community and Voluntary Forum.
<http://clareppn.ie/project/mary-leahy/>



Helen Liddy will take the social inclusion seat on the Clare Rural Development Forum. Helen has been involved in community for all her adult life. She is a former HSE employee and is active in local politics. She is involved in the Stroke Group in Clare and the Clare Leader Forum.
<http://clareppn.ie/project/helen-liddy/>

PPN elections – coming up soon

Clare PPN will shortly be calling for nominations for some vacant representative seats on Clare's Local Community Development Committee and on Clare County Council's Rural Development Forum.

We also have five seats on Clare PPN's Secretariat – the board which runs the PPN on behalf of its members in Clare. If any of our members would like to discuss any of these roles please get in touch with us at admin@clareppn.ie – we'd be happy to explain what's involved.

We will be in touch shortly to seek nominations for the above positions.

Clare PPN welcomes new staff member

Finally, we are delighted to welcome our newest staff member, William Hederman, who has joined the team as part-time Support Worker. William's background is in journalism and photography. In recent years he has done freelance work in the NGO sector, including investigative research, graphic design and media skills training. He is also a passionate environment and social justice campaigner.



<http://clareppn.ie>