

SOCIAL INCLUSION WEEK IN CO WICKLOW



Including People with Disabilities

What is Social Inclusion?

Social Inclusion is making sure that everyone in society has an equal chance at a good quality of life. It's about: Treating people equally regardless of their background, Making sure people have equal access to goods and services, Removing barriers and helping those that may need it more, for example older persons, disabled persons, Travellers, the unemployed and so on, Targeting resources where they are most needed, Challenging discrimination, and Changing attitudes and ways of working.

What's Happening for Social Inclusion Week?

Arklow Africa Society is running a drawing and writing competition for all primary school children in the Arklow Area on the theme "What is your favourite culture in the world that is not your own?" Closing date for the competition is 20th October and €25 gift vouchers will be awarded to an overall winner for each class category. For more information Email: aiswgroup@gmail.com



Including Young People on International Women's Day

Bray Titans Swim Club hosts dedicated swimming squads for children with special needs and or physical disabilities with a dedicated Para Coach in Shoreline Leisure, Bray. For more information Email: info@titansswimclub.ie

Bray Men's & Women's Shed continues to hold socially distanced meetings on the Bray Seafront. They are in the process of making a memorial bench for Sunbeam House.

Bray Area Partnership will be holding online Fáilte Isteach conversational English classes for people from new communities, free workshops for people who are unemployed or otherwise distanced from employment, and for those who need to learn the technical skills for online learning so they are not excluded from this growing area. The Partnership's Disability

Network will be highlighting issues for people with disabilities in the Bray and North Wicklow areas over the week as well.

Cairdeas Clubhouse is running their Steps to Health Challenge, supporting their members physical and mental health. For more information Email: cairdeas@eve.ie

Wicklow County Council will hold the inaugural meeting of their new Disability Inclusion Steering Committee. The new committee will be responsible for ensuring disability issues are incorporated into the development of all the council's plans and policies. It will also ensure the implementation of existing relevant policies at local authority level, namely the: Disability Act 2005, National Disability Inclusion Strategy, NDIS, United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, UNCRPD, and Public Sector Duty.

Wicklow County Council, together with Co Wicklow PPN and the Local Community Development Committee will run an online consultation to support the development of a new Migrant Integration

Strategy for the county. Anyone with an interest in this should contact Hannah Grene by Emailing: hanna@barnecat.ie

Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership is running an Inclusive Mountain Bike for teenager's taster session on the 14th October as part of Fit For All Week. They are also running Buggyfit taster session for new or expectant mums on the 20th and 22nd October at HD Fitness in Blessington. All are welcome. For more information Email: wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow Travellers Group will be reaching out and connecting with all the Traveller families living in the Wicklow town and environs area by delivering "Bags of Hope" The bags will include poems and other items to lift people's spirits in these challenging times.

Social Inclusion Week in Co Wicklow will run from Saturday 17th October to Friday 23rd October.

While a significant number of events that were originally organised to mark the week have been cancelled due to public safety concerns, there is still a few events and activities taking place online that facilitates inclusion and values diversity in Co Wicklow communities. Information and updates for the week can be found on the Co Wicklow PPN Include Us In Facebook Page



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Launching Social Inclusion Week with Pride

It was hoped to launch Social Inclusion week in celebratory party style in conjunction with a Young People's Pride Project. The project led by LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning) young people, was to centre around a pride bus that would have travelled around the county, briefly stopping at the libraries in each of our Municipal Districts. Due to the public health crisis this has been postponed.

However, the pride theme will continue through the County Wicklow Partnership Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). SICAP provides developmental supports to Networks and Local Community Groups in the Municipal Areas of Baltinglass, Arklow and Wicklow. Allies of LGBTI' is one such community network.

The network is comprised of people and agencies who support LGBTI Young People, including: Wicklow Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC); County Wicklow Library Services; East Wicklow Youth Service; Comhairle Na Oig Wicklow; Wicklow County Childcare Committee; The Blessington Forum; Co Wicklow PPN, and The Women of Wicklow Social Inclusion Network with coordination provided by Mary Millett for the Co Wicklow Partnership.

As part of Social Inclusion Week, the LGBTI Allies Network Wicklow will deliver a visibility campaign across the county. This will include recordings featuring LGBTI people telling their stories, personal experiences of coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or gender non-binary will feature. Interviews will include parents of LGBTI Young Persons and LGBTI Adults talking about their experiences and journeys. These recordings will be shared as podcasts on various social media platforms. Links can be found through the Co Wicklow PPN Facebook page 'Include Us In' throughout social inclusion week. This will be run in conjunction with Wicklow County Council Library Service and is part of the launch of their LGBTI Letters Programme. If you wish to be 'Included In' for a podcast please contact Mary on -87-6440693 or mary_crn@wicklowpartnership.ie



Including New Communities on International Women's Day