

NATIONAL PPN CONFERENCE 2023

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER – THE ARKLOW BAY HOTEL

WORKSHOP: HOW WE NETWORK

PARTICIPANTS: 26

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Kildare PPN made a presentation and discussed examples of networking events which they have held.

Example 1: Working together for public participation – The Representatives Breakfast (Objective networking with key stakeholders including: The County Council, Chairs of SPCs, Administrators, Councilors, Representatives and Secretariat members).

Example 2: Social Inclusion Week (Objective networking with Service Users, Member Organisation's and Support Services).

Following the presentation each table was asked to elect a facilitator and look at the following questions.

EXERCISE

Q1. What networking events are currently happening around the country that could be adapted in other counties?

Q2. Is there an opportunity for collaborated networking events?

If so...please give an example

Q3. Why is networking successful?

What does success look like?

Q4. What barriers do we have for good networking?

Q5. What are the key benefits of successful networking and what outcomes would we like to see?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Q1. What networking events are currently happening around the country that could be adapted in other counties?

RESPONCES

- Midlands Regional PPN – Staff & Secretariat
- North West Reginal PPN – Staff Only
- South East Region – Staff Only
- Positive Aging Week – Carlow PPN

- Social Inclusion Week – Kildare PPN
- The Representatives Breakfast – Kildare PPN
- Culture night
- Casual coffee chats (IEN) - Carlow PPN
- Online network event for representatives – National (IEN)
- Representative Network – Kildare PPN
- Talks from elected members on JPC
- Vision for Wellbeing

Q2. Is there an opportunity for collaborated networking events?

If so...please give an example

RESPONCES

- Laois and Carlow linking (JSP)
- Peace funding
- Yes, networking on themes to further establish networking opportunities
- Yes, common interests and common goals
- Elected members association & LDC
- SIW – Climate action weekends – world mental health day
- Invite members to host events such as above

Q3. Why is networking successful?

What does success look like?

- An opportunity to share knowledge and ideas
- Good collaboration with projects and events
- Opportunity to set what you want informally
- Building relationships
- Common interests and goals
- Opportunity to bring in diverse ideas and opinions
- Knowing you audience and who is in the room
- A programme to involve young people/pillar – Transition year students

Q4. What barriers do we have for good networking?

- Not knowing who is who – solution: colour coded badges according to role/position etc.
- Time of the day – lack of notice
- People are still reluctant to meet in person after covid – Zoom fatigue
- Networking and consultation fatigue
- Distance & location
- Finance
- Personalities – Personal agendas – PPN Language etc.: Plenary -Gender balance

Q5. What are the key benefits of successful networking and what outcomes would we like to see?

- Better functioning PPNs
- Collective voice
- Transfer of information
- Cross collaboration
- Opportunity to address common issues and concerns
- Get stuff done
- Proud of what you have achieved