

**NATIONAL WOMEN’S COUNCIL OF IRELAND E-NEWSLETTER**

**Comhairle Naisiunta na mBan in Eirinn Nuachtlitir Leichtreonach**

**JANUARY 2007**

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## 1. NWCi POLICY NEWS

### Joint NWCi NDA Launch February 20<sup>th</sup> 2007

#### **In celebration of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All**

The National Disability Authority and the National Women's Council of Ireland jointly invite you to the launch of

**Exploring the research and policy gaps – A review of literature on women and disability by the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERRC)**

which is to be held at:

The Berkley Court Hotel on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

Registration will be from 10.00 – 10.30 am

The launch will be followed by a discussion seminar and lunch.

For booking and further information, RSVP by Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007

to Anne-Marie Campbell on (01) 608 0400 or amcampbell@nda.ie with any accessibility or dietary

requirements to accommodate your attendance and participation.

Please indicate if you need us to reserve accessible parking for you on the day.

## 2. NWCi NEWS

### NWCi Members Meeting February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 "Pensions for Women"

#### "Pensions for Women"

**National Women's Council of Ireland  
Members Meeting**

**Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 (10.00am – 3pm)  
Ripley Court Hotel, Talbot Street, Dublin 1.**

**Come to this members meeting to;**

- **Discuss current national policy in relation to pensions for women.**

- **Input into the NWCI policy on pensions towards the publication of the Government's Green Paper on Pensions to be published in March 2007.**
- **Listen to perspectives on pensions from NWCI friends and affiliates.**

Draft Agenda

<b>10.00 – 10.30</b>	<b>Registration Tea and Coffee</b>
<b>10.30 – 10.45 (NWCI Chair)</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions – Therese Murphy</b>
<b>11.15 – 11.30</b>	<b>Presentation on current national policy on pensions (speaker TBC)</b>
<b>11.30 – 11.45</b>	<b>Presentation on NWCI's work towards developing a pensions policy (Orla O'Connor, Head of Policy, NWCI).</b>
<b>11.45 – 12.15</b>	<b>Women's perspectives</b>
<b>12.15 – 12.30</b>	<b>Questions and Comments</b>
<b>12.00 – 1.15</b>	<b>Workshops (to discuss and feed into the NWCI Pensions Policy)</b>
<b>1.15pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>2.15 – 2.30</b>	<b>Feedback from Workshops and discussion</b>
<b>2.30 – 2.45</b>	<b>NWCI information sharing</b>
<b>2,45</b>	<b>Close</b>

**NWCI Outreach Programme Focuses on Women in Decision Making in Rural Areas**

During 2007, the National Women's Council of Ireland will undertake an outreach project entitled 'Road Map for Change - women mobilising in rural areas'. The purpose of the project is to strengthen and enhance the capacity of women in rural areas to engage in

decision making fora at local level and to influence the decisions taken in a range of policy arenas, as they affect women.

The project is being funded under the CLÁR strand of the Equality for Women Measure and administered by Pobal (formerly known as ADM) and will focus on 3 counties (Clare, Mayo and Leitrim). It will involve working with one focus group of 20 women in each county. Our aim is that membership of each focus group will span a diverse range of women e.g. Traveller women, women with a disability, older women, lone parent women, minority ethnic women and so on.

The project will involve working with each of the 3 groups to;

- a) Identify one priority policy goal, which if implemented, could make a collective difference to the communities of women involved.
- b) Identify the relevant local governance structure(s) with the power to influence the policy area.
- c) Increase the participation of women in these structures and/or in related structures.
- d) Develop and implement a strategy throughout 2007 to achieve this policy goal.
- e) Collect and disseminate the learning nationally.

For further information please contact Rachel Doyle ([racheld@nwci.ie](mailto:racheld@nwci.ie) or 087 - 2998619).

### **International Women's Day 2007**

To mark International Women's Day 2007 the NWCI will launch our Woman's Manifesto for Election 2007 "What Women Want from the next Irish Government." The event will take place on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 in the National Library Kildare Street Dublin 2 from 11.30 am-1pm. All the female election candidates will be invited to attend. All NWCI members are invited to attend. For further information please e-mail [info@nwci.ie](mailto:info@nwci.ie)

### **3. European Year of Equal Opportunities: A focus on Ireland**

#### **The European Year in Ireland**

2007 has been designated as “European Year of Equal Opportunities for All” by decision of the EU Council and the European Parliament. The Equality Authority is the National Implementation Body for the European Year in Ireland.

## **1) The challenges**

The challenges for the European Year in Ireland is to secure a legacy

- that will further enhance strategic action for equality.
- that ensures that inequalities are addressed and eliminated.
- where an ambition for equality is widely shared and pursued.

## **2) The Objectives**

The EU Council and the European Parliament have established four objectives for the European Year.

### **1. Rights**

To further raise awareness of the right to equality and non-discrimination and of the problem of multiple discrimination.

### **2. Representation**

To stimulate debate on ways to increase the participation in society of groups that are victims of discrimination and to ensure balanced participation among men and women.

### **3. Recognition**

To facilitate and celebrate diversity and equality, emphasising the positive contribution that people, irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, can make to society as a whole, in particular by accentuating the benefits of diversity.

### **4. Respect**

To promote a more cohesive society.

## **3) The Priorities and Related Actions**

The Irish national strategy sets out six priority areas of activity through which to contribute to achieving these objectives.

**Priority 1. Information and advocacy**

Initiatives to enhance the provision of information on rights to groups experiencing inequality.

**Priority 2: Equality mainstreaming**

Activities to emphasise the need to build an institutional infrastructure to ensure equality is a consideration in planning and policy making.

**Priority 3: Equality competence**

Activities to emphasise the need for institutional change to ensure organisations are effective in combating discrimination, making adjustments for diversity and promoting full equality in practice.

**Priority 4: Equality debate**

Activities to engage key stakeholders in a national debate on issues of equality, diversity and discrimination.

**Priority 5: Burning issues**

Activities to emphasise the need to make progress in addressing key issues of inequality.

**6: Multiple discrimination**

Activities to emphasise the need to focus on the identity, experience and situation of those groups at the intersections of the grounds covered by equality legislation.

**For further information:** Visit [www.equality.ie](http://www.equality.ie)

or

Equality Authority      Locall 1890 245 545  
2 Clonmel St.,  
Dublin 2.

**4. NEWS FROM MEMBERS**

## **New enterprise support available for Irish women**

For the last four years, local women have been able to avail of pre-enterprise and business-development training, a 'Women In Business' network, and one-to-one mentoring through the Longford EQUAL Partnership project, an EU-funded initiative that has supported women in setting up and sustaining businesses. During 2007 a new element will be added to the Longford Partnership's energetic support package, that of e-support through the internet.

'We know that women have to spend time on caring responsibilities as well as looking after their businesses, so providing a support that women can use from home, and when they want, has been important for the EQUAL Partnership', says Tess Murphy, EQUAL project manager and Manager of Longford Women's Link, the well-known support organisation for women.

'ELFE' (E-Learning for Female Entrepreneurs') is a blended-learning online course that has been developed through EU funding. It has now especially adapted to the specifics of the Irish context, and combines the skills and methods in entrepreneurial knowledge of all the five partner-countries involved. 'This unique on-line resource allows you to access relevant information when you need it, or, if you choose, to study at your own pace from your own home. E-mail support is also provided, as is the opportunity to come together with other women in business to discuss common issues', adds Tess.

Key learning and business resource modules include:

- Growth and Sustainability
- Marketing
- Law
- Accounting
- Taxation
- Human Resource Management
- Innovation and Knowledge Management
- Internationalisation of Business

The piloting of this course in Ireland will take place in Co Longford over three workshops at Longford Women's Link: on Tuesday February

13, 09:30–12:30; on Wednesday, March 14, 09:30–12:30; and on Tuesday, March 20, 09:30–12:30. The course is free, and open to any woman in Ireland. CDs of the course are provided to those who do not have internet access. View the site at [www.elfe-entrepreneurs.org](http://www.elfe-entrepreneurs.org), and if you would like to be part of this exciting new learning opportunity, contact Pauline at [info@longfordwomenslink.org](mailto:info@longfordwomenslink.org)

### **Ballymote Women's Group**

Ballymote Women's Group meet on a regular basis in the Ballymote Family Resource Centre. Any women in the Ballymote and surrounding areas who would like to join the group please ring the centre on 071-9189876 for further information. We are hoping to organise an event for International Women's Day and if there are any grants available to carry out an event please let us know. Or if any other women's groups in the North West are organising an event for this date please let us know and maybe we can work together. For further details please contact Martina Conlon Ballymote Women's Group.

### **International Women's Day Event at WITS**

WITS are planning an International Women's day event for March 8<sup>th</sup> which will draw on speakers from Science Engineering and Technology and will focus on the theme of Women and Global Environmental Management – Carbon footprint and sustainable energy management. Updates will be posted on our website [www.witsireland.ie](http://www.witsireland.ie) Email [info@witsireland.ie](mailto:info@witsireland.ie) if you are interested in joining WITS or would like to be informed of our events.

### **An introduction to the work of Lifestart**

Organisation:	Lifestart
Contact:	Orla Tuohy
Phone:	071 9151114

Email: [lifestartcb@eircom.net](mailto:lifestartcb@eircom.net)

Website: [www.lifestart.ie](http://www.lifestart.ie)

Address: Lifestart National Office,  
Church Street,  
Sligo.

Areas of Interest: **Family Support, Early Childhood Care and Education, Parenting, Community Development, Childcare,**

### **Lifestart – Educating Parents, Developing Children**

**“The best way to approach child development is to say ‘what is the child capable of now’. If it’s too challenging, the child will switch off, if is too simple they won’t be stimulated enough. You want enough that you can say ‘you’re great’ and they can feel good about themselves and can build on that”.**

**Kathleen Cummins, Family Visitor, Lifestart**

### **Ballymun**

#### **What are we?**

Lifestart is an **educational and development programme** for parents of children aged from birth to five years. The programme is home-based and is delivered on a monthly basis by trained Family Visitors, using age appropriate issues of the Growing Child and relevant resources which include objects for manipulation, books and toys. Lifestart also facilitates group activities for parents including modules on creative and practical parenting and personal development, as well as providing networking opportunities for those who parent.

Lifestart is a free programme and is available to all who parent regardless of socio economic factors (subject to availability within the specific locality). The programme is built around a community development framework with appropriate local and **cultural adaptation** of the Lifestart programme. Family Visitors are generally recruited from the area the programme is being delivered in and are trained by Lifestart.

#### **What Drives us**

We in Lifestart believe that **all children are born with potential** and that it is within our families and communities that the opportunities exist to

develop and nurture this potential to its fullest extent. We believe that knowledge of the **critical developmental opportunities** that exist from birth should be made available to parents and that parents should be supported in the complex task that is parenting. The Lifestart programme is open to all those involved in rearing children whether it be a mother or father, grandparent or other principle caregiver.

The material used during the monthly family visits is taken from the Growing Child, which covers physical, intellectual, emotional and social dimensions of the first five years – all in all, nearly 400 topics are available. Some of the main areas of interest that are discussed include the following:

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Feeding &amp; Bonding with your Baby</li><li>● Baby's Early Speech and Language</li><li>● Safety in the Home</li><li>● Intellectual Development</li><li>● Challenging Behaviour</li><li>● The Sounds of Music</li><li>● Developing Concentration</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Brain Development</li><li>● Self Concept</li><li>● Getting ready to Read</li><li>● Social Skills</li><li>● Effective Behaviour Management</li><li>● Helping a Child deal with Stress</li><li>● Parenting Styles</li></ul> |
|--|---|

### Where are we?

There are seventeen projects in Ireland – eleven in the Republic and six in Northern Ireland with international projects in Macedonia and Zambia. Within the Republic we have projects in Counties Carlow, Donegal, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Louth, Offaly and Sligo.

Feedback from evaluations of the programme highlight the benefits of early support for children and parents.

“I just like to know that I am doing things right and the literature assures me that I am”.

“It has been a good experience. I get practical advice and someone to talk to about what I do. My partner and I use the information we are given to help in the training, development and progress of our child.”

“Children can reach their full potential if families had the tools to help them. Lifestart is the tool for the 0–5’s”.

For further information contact :

Lifestart National Office  
Phone: 071 9151114  
Email: [lifestartno@eircom.net](mailto:lifestartno@eircom.net)  
[www.lifestart.ie](http://www.lifestart.ie)

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