

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference ACE Training

Name of Conference Tourism and Technology and Competitive strategies for 2015

Location of Conference Quality Hotel, Clonakilty, Cork

Date of Conference 9th-11th of January 2015

Summary of Conference Content

Overall, the conference looked at the changes in tourist behaviour and how we are or are not moving with it focussing technology. We looked how these may initially seem like challenges but then looked how we can make them tools.

The conference looked at how we can use technology as a viable tool to support tourism. In particular we looked at how tourist use technology to improve their experience. The main focus was mobile technology such as smartphones with majority of people doing local searches on their phones. In order to harness this positively a key learning was how we develop a mobile optimised experience.

The idea of providing free wi-fi is growing in terms of research with the benefits indicating it encourages users to post comments and share photos essentially creating free promotion. Outdoor wifi should be targeted at rest points. Also, the development of a free app locally for users to plug into providing multi-language services is growing.

Signed: D. Butler

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Organiser of Conference ACE MANAGEMENT & TRAINING

Name of Conference MEETING & MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES & BEST PRACTICE

Location of Conference CLONAKILTY CO. CORK

Date of Conference 21st & 22nd NOVEMBER 2014

Summary of Conference Content

As a member of a local Council a large part
of our time will be taken up at meetings. The results of these
will determine you are at local level so it is vital they
be organised to maximise impact. Pre planning is all important.
The subjects to be discussed must be clearly stated and
fully analysed, and precise conclusions must be arrived at,
or deferred if more information is required. The
importance of the chair in keeping the meeting to
the particular subject cannot be over stated.
Communication is a two way street and you have
to develop skills to pass information on to others
in a manner they can understand.

Signed: John Gallagher

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18 FEB 2015
REC 1

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Organiser of Conference ACE TRAINING

Name of Conference FINANCE ACT 2014

Location of Conference Co. Louth

Date of Conference 23-25 JANUARY 2015

Summary of Conference Content

The training provided a complete overview of the 2014 Finance Act. Areas covered included INCOME TAX, THE VARIOUS NEW TAX CREDITS ALONG WITH DETAILS ON VARIOUS NEW TAX RELIEFS AVAILABLE FOR NEW BUSINESS START UPS SUCH AS THE "SEED CAPITAL scheme".

A presentation was also given on the Home Renovation scheme and changes made to the USC AND DIST TAX RATE LEVELS. FINALLY A REVIEW OF EXISTING VAT RATES AND THE C. G. TAX EXEMPTIONS WAS PROVIDED.

Signed: [Signature]

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Organiser of Conference ESPERANZA ENTERPRISES

Name of Conference PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

Location of Conference COWNACHT HOTEL GALWAY CITY

Date of Conference 12th AND 13th DECEMBER 2014

Summary of Conference Content

I attended the above conference to familiarise myself with the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. The Act was brought into law in July 2014. The Act protects a worker who makes a disclosure in the public interest without fear of suffering reprecussion from such a disclosure in essence the whistleblower is protected by this Act. The conference went through issues such as who's protected, what is a protected disclosure, to whom does one make the disclosure can it be internal or external, what protection is in place for the whistleblower and can anonymity be safeguarded all these issues were discussed and contribution made from fellow attendees.

Signed: John Sheahan M.C.

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Organiser of Conference ESPERENZA ENTERPRISES

Name of Conference Alignment of Local Government

Location of Conference Galway

Date of Conference 5th & 6th December 2014

Summary of Conference Content MAIN TOPICS

- 1) Local Government as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level.
 - 2) Social inclusion + community activation programme (SICAP).
 - 3) LEADER Programme 2014-2020.
 - 4) Future of Local Action Groups or Local Development Groups.
- Social Inclusion + County Programme - Main objectives, Community Dev approaches + principles, the promotion of Equality + prioritisation of disadvantaged communities.
- List of Goals of the SICAP Programme + Outcomes followed by an open discussion.
- LCDP: - History, Funding, Objectives.
- LEADER: History + Objectives.
- CLLD: (Community Led Local Development Objectives + History Discussion on ERDF/ESF + EAFRD)
- IMPLICATIONS OF COMMON METHODOLOGY:
- Information on LCDC: Prepare, Implement + Monitor Community Plans.
- History of County + City Development Boards.
- General Discussion on Alignment of Local Government.

Signed: X

Mire Jones

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05 FEB 2015

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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Organiser of Conference Oldtice Conferences

Name of Conference Finance Oct 2014

Location of Conference Ceilingford Co. Louth

Date of Conference 23rd to 25th 2015 Jan (Full to Sun)

Part 1

Summary of Conference Content all the Falkbury Conferences of the Finance Oct. were discussed + debated -

1. Income Tax - Tax Credits/Relief for Water Charges/ Standard Rate Tax bands increase/ Personal Circumstances/ Rent a room scheme/ Home renovations/ Green line/ Artists exemption/ Seed Capital Scheme.
2. Universal Social Charge + income bands
3. Vat - deposit Income Reliefs (tax free) reduced duty alcohol products Tax/ Me-to-brewed beers
4. Agric. tax Review - Farming measures/ Green Tax
5. Old Rates/ Capital Gains Tax - Property Purchase incentive relief/ Windfall Tax Provisions.
6. Excise Duties - Cigarettes/ re-locating tobacco/ Betting duty/ Unemp. payees VAT flat rate/ ~~chano~~

Signed: Michael Sheehy

See attached Part 2

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If further information on any of the listed items 1-15 is required feel free to contact me.

Michael

7. Farm restructuring CBT Relief / CBT Retirement relief / CAT agricultural relief / Stamp duty
8. Social Welfare spend 2015 - (£.415m. —
Back to work Family Services / Jobs Plus / Job Path / Payments to families & children / Child Benefit / Older people + people with disabilities / Free Travel scheme / Pensions / Home Care Allowance / Adult Supports / Fuel Allowance Recipients / Christmas Bonus.
9. Housing - £803m allocated for housing programmes -
Social Housing / People with disabilities leaving institutional care / People with specific needs
10. Health - Free GP Care / Prescription drugs / Breastcheck / delayed discharge emitting / Mental Health Services / Disability Services for children and young people.
11. Public Service Recruitment
12. Arts + Heritage
13. Horse + Greyhound Racing
14. Structural Funds
15. International Aid



Official Visit to London by Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

Councillor Kevin Sheahan

4th to 8th December, 2014

Accompanied by: Mr David Meade, Resettlement Officer, Limerick City and County Council.

Visit Itinerary:

- Friday, 5th December, 2014: Briefing by The Joint Homelessness Team.
On-Site Visitation, Passage Day Centre – Victoria.
- Saturday, 6th December, 2014: Meeting and Tour of the London Irish Centre – Camden Square.

Basis of Visit:

The Mayor undertook the London Visit to meet with emigrants and Associations that provide services of support for the Irish Community in the Greater London Area. Two specific projects were identified: (i) the Passage Day Centre / Joint Homelessness Team and its work with homelessness and (ii) the London Irish Centre for its continued work around welfare services and its promotion of Irish Arts, Cultural and Community Events.

- ❖ ***The Passage Day Centre*** is a Vincentian Organisation. It works across all aspects of society, seeking to influence and be an advocate for all homeless people. It is located in Victoria beside Victoria Train Station and is part of the Westminster City Council administrative area.
- ❖ ***The Joint Homelessness Team Centre*** is a multi-disciplinary community mental health service that works with people who sleep rough in Westminster and who have a mental illness. Service users referred to the Team will usually have had a history of admissions to hospital, possibly detained under the Mental Health Act and may have arrived from other countries or elsewhere in the UK. Service users have often encountered problems with medication treatments.
- ❖ ***London Irish Centre*** provides a welfare and advice service to the Irish community in London. Outside of Ireland, it provides the largest such advice to the Irish Community. It also provides cultural and community events. The Centre is located in Camden Square but satellite offices are located in West Kensington and Kilburn. Outreach services are also provided to a number of other London Boroughs.

Passage Day Centre/ Joint Homelessness Team:

In Attendance: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kevin Sheahan; David Meade, Resettlement Officer, Limerick City and County Council; Andy Knight, Senior Social Worker (JHT); Dr. Frances Klemperer, Consultant Psychiatrist (JHT); Peter Kavanagh, Peer Support Worker (JHT); and Bill Keeshan, Mental Health Worker and Team Leader (PDC).

Agenda:

A briefing was given by all in attendance with regard to their respective organisations (see above). The Passage Day Centre's primary focus with clients presenting is to assess, provide subsistence and shelter, and establish individual support plans. The Joint Homelessness Team's primary focus is specifically Mental Illness. Both have a remit of targeting rough

sleepers. Both organisations stated that homelessness is increasing and demands on services are extremely high.

Issues:

Migrants/ Local Connection:

As stated, there is an increasing demand on the services and high numbers of migrants presenting as homeless (as per the situation in Ireland). Migrants from former East European countries, mainland Europe, as well as Ireland, are the typical breakdown but Romanian and Bulgarian tend to present in higher numbers.

The situation becomes more complex with what is called the “local connection” criteria. This ensures that people only with legitimate ties can be supported within the emergency accommodations (not night shelters) and claim for social protection payments. As a result of this rule, there is an ever-increasing ‘rough sleeping’ number and this, as such, breeds ever increasing mental health (if not already) problematic clients.

Mental Health:

In the case of this specific group, there is a twofold response; the first is the 14-day rule. Each client receives a tailored plan to help them achieve employment and accommodation support within that timeframe; all aspects are addressed such as emotional, social and primary needs, as well as health. However, after the 14-day rule, if the situation remains unchanged, then the client has an option of referral to be repatriated back to their home country. Assistance in such cases is provided for.

In the case of clients presenting with mental health illness, an automatic referral is placed with the Joint Homelessness Team. In such cases, the outreach team (10 staff) will initiate contact normally either early morning or late at night. Assessment and interaction is the first phase. Risk is the second phase and this is to determine if client is no risk but in need of appropriate health needs such as medication or, if a risk to self or others, then Mental Health Act is applied (involuntary admission). The third phase is during client’s stay in psychiatric hospital - here the focus is about stabilisation, disclosure, mapping, planning for discharge and again potential repatriation.

During the discussion, it was stated that a specific worker is employed for Irish clients. This post in the Passage Day Centre currently is unfilled; it is funded by the Irish Government through the Irish Embassy.

Examples were given of the issues for Irish presenting; local connection plays a factor specifically in relation to accessing emergency accommodation, mental health and running away (safety).

A general overview was also spoken about with regard to “general homelessness.” The service operates a rapid response team that ensures no person has a second night out sleeping rough. However, to be verified, that person has to be bedded down on the street to qualify - sleeping in cafes, bus stations, or riding the all night bus disqualifies you. Access to health is open to all with a dedicated health team. Rough sleeps have access to GP and prescribed methadone programme.

Another issue highlighted is employing former clients to support in delivery of a more effective service. This scheme, Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI), specially targets clients in psychiatric hospitals. It is very much a buddy scheme that assists the health workers in clients reconnecting. The former clients help to break down barriers by effectively “telling their own stories” to ensure trust instead of mistrust.

During the visit, the Mayor was given the opportunity to attend a Christmas Party and speak further to staff and volunteers involved in day centre. The Mayor was informed of centre numbers - 300 per day - and provisions for clients. The centre operates under the same rules such as local connection and persons who do not qualify have limited access; there is also a database on clients that ensures no reciprocation or over-use of other services. Chaplin Padraig Regan spoke about issues such as difficulties of accessing private rented sector, high costs of rents, and the housing benefit grant scheme and how it can exclude clients from accessing employment opportunities as, in most cases, clients would not be able to afford their continued accommodation once taken off the benefit grant.

London Irish Centre:

In attendance: Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, Councillor Kevin Sheahan; Ms. Aoife Walsh, Director of Welfare (LIC); and Local Community Representatives.

This event was very much a courtesy call and an informal tour of the Centre and information gathering on the services provided to the Irish Community. The history of the Centre’s inception, general agreement to establish such a Centre to its actual opening in 1955 was highlighted; also the basis for the location and its proximity to Euston Station where the emigrating Irish were disembarking their trains from the Holyhead ferry port.

The Centre provides the cultural identity and support as well as the continued ties for the Irish community abroad and receives numerous visitations each year from Irish Government Ministers and Deputations of Local Government Officials and Councillors.



David Meade,
Resettlement Officer.



Mayor Kevin Sheahan.