

# The Right To Hope & Dream 2012

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

## Workshop & Discussion Feedback

**Morning Roundtable Discussion Feedback:** Prompted by articles regarding older people's issues presented and composed by Transition Year Students. The focus of the discussion was to look at how our viewpoints have changed over the years and as we grow older and how we can encourage understanding between different generations

The facilitator at each table was asked to ensure that **two key points** were feedback to the larger group

### Table One: Philip O'Reilly from Respond

- We discussed the need for a National Positive Ageing Policy and long term planning for the needs of older people
- Most organisations are focussing on Intergenerational programmes and the link with Transition Year students needs to be mainstreamed and put firmly on the TY agenda under Community Development

### Table Two: Anne O'Connor, Enniscorthy Womens' Group

- Relationships between older and younger people needs to be a two-way street, older people need to be brave enough to greet and sometimes this can open up further communication
- We need to help the older person to speak out, older people need a voice
- Government ministers need to practice what they preach when it comes to prioritising funding and services for older people

### **Table Three: Tony Roche, Mens' Day Care Club, Castlebridge**

- We were very gratified that young people took the time out to research and write an article like that about older people
- Old fashioned respect is not always there between younger and older people, it needs to work two ways and older people would benefit from listening to younger people

### **Table Four: Liz Brennan, Gorey Active Retirement Centre**

- Provide supports so that older people can live on in their own homes
- Modernise some of the run-down care homes which would be better for clients and staff and create more intimate care homes with smaller numbers
- We need a more positive approach to life transition stages

### **Table Five: Linda Ryan, St. Louis Day Care Centre, Ramsgrange**

- Getting access to services is quite daunting for older people – make it easier
- There is a fear that if you don't hold on to a service that you have, even if you don't need it presently, you will lose it
- Fifty per cent of our group had positive experiences of accessing services
- We need more targeting so that those who need the services most gain access to them

### **Table Six: Breda Doran, Enniscorthy Retirement Association**

- We were very gratified to hear the article, Eva was so caring in her attitude
- Garda Clearance – so many people have to wait so long to get clearance, it needs to be speeded up
- Those who give up work to look after older parents are penalised re payments etc. this seems very unfair

### **Table Seven: Marion Mahon, Carers Association, Wexford**

- The article was very well written, content excellent
- We hope we are not educating our present students for emigration
- Can we ensure that Minister Kathleen Lynch gets a copy of the article

### **Table Eight: Laura Myles, Traveller Worker, WLD**

- We discussed the importance of older people being involved in communities and feeling that they belong
- Younger people in Traveller families are very respectful of older family members

### **Table Nine: Sheila Gallagher, Alzheimers Society**

- We feel that young people have improved in their knowledge of and attitude towards older people
- We need more leadership from the Government re services for older people, they are showing bad example by focussing on self serving decisions instead of looking at the present and future needs of our older population
- Young and old can work together very well e.g. knitting groups within schools, jewellery projects etc.

### **Table Ten: Seamus O'Keefe, Kilmore Scope**

- There is a divide between older and younger people in our society, we need to approach young people, ask them to come and air their views and share opinions with them
- We compliment Eva on her article and if we could get articles such as this circulated more and to publications for young people, it would help to highlight these issues

### **Table Eleven: Cassie O'Leary, Coláiste Bride, Enniscorthy**

- We need more home helps and more carers to be funded
- The intergenerational groups that are springing up are very important
- 'Don't put people into boxes'

# Afternoon Active Citizenship As We Age

## Workshops: Feedback

### Workshop 1 – Men Don't Talk Face To Face, They Talk Shoulder to Shoulder

*Facilitated by Conor Dervan, Irish Men's Shed's Association and Maria Nolan, GAA Social Initiative*

*Note Taker: John Dempsey, Enniscorthy Retirement Association*

- Conor Dervan of the Irish Men's Shed's Association told the group of how the shed idea started in Australia and how it is now successful in Ireland
- The group discussed the difficulty in getting men involved
- It is important to enquire from the men themselves as to what it is they actually want
- Many times the social contact alone is what is worthwhile for the group
- Resources are needed to equip the shed (workshop/room/etc)
- GAA Social Initiative has a men's group in Enniscorthy and the club assists by arranging trips, meetings, etc

### Workshop 2 - 'What kind of old do you want to be?'

*Facilitated by Ciarán McKinney, Age & Opportunity and Orlaith Rowe, WLD*

- Older and younger people can get involved in variety shows / tops of the town, plays, stage acting.
- A lot of groups already do this kind of activity - look at teaching knitting to younger children. There are art classes for youth and adults in Kilmore.
- Look at the area of intergenerational story-telling, learning about mobile phones. Creative writing classes for older and younger people would help with literacy issues.
- Intergenerational sports and walking activities
- Reading scheme with children – older retired people working with children
- Intergenerational workshops
- Knitting and crochet
- Variety and drama , making videos and DVDs.
- Dancing through the ages and fashion through the ages

## Ideas and suggestions for future creative projects:

- Dancing through the ages and fashion through the ages.
- An intergenerational project looking at fashion and dance through the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s etc. . . .can use sewing machines to alter/make costumes
- Creative writing – adults and youth write pieces/ plays for each other to perform. This will help with reading and writing skills.
- A lot of intergenerational projects already happen in local communities. Story telling, drama, variety, theatre, knitting, sewing happening in some areas
- The group expressed some concerns around the area of Garda Clearance and insurance. It take a long time to get Garda clearance and its necessary to have it to work with children.

## Workshop 3 – Caring In Our Communities

*Facilitated by Linda Ryan, St. Louis Day Care Centre, Ramsgrange and Carsten Kohl, Senior Case Worker, Protection Service for Older People, HSE Wexford*

- Participants, mostly Active Retirement Groups, day centres and day care centres
- Generally there is more respect for older people
- Existing experiences of the workshop participants: support groups, listening services, neighbour hood watch
- Garda vetting and delay in gaining same is a considerable problem as it prevents projects being able to visit older people who live alone.
- Day centres caring for people with less independence and people with certain conditions but are suffering from cutbacks, with daily charges having to increase
- If networking between the day centres was encouraged they could share information, ideas, developments, etc
- Another participant suggested the use of a community employment scheme to develop a visiting service

## The ideas for action that arose were as follows:

- Possibility of having a specific Network of day services, day care centre providers (possibly a sub group of Co Wexford Age Equality Network )
- Outreach, visiting services, committees
- Promotion of intergenerational work

## Workshop 4 – Getting Vocal

*Facilitated by Ann Dunne, Ageing With Confidence/On TRACk Facilitator and Seán Dillon, Older & Bolder*

The group decided to discuss the topic of how to get older people involved in the community.

- The ideas that arose were as follows:-
- Social Evening once a month initially
- Invite people to share their talents
- [Tea dances don't work for men as 90% of the attendees are female – This doesn't appeal to the men folk – so it's proving not to be all inclusive]
  
- Media – use the media for local [as in County] and parish events
- The Church is not adequate for networking purposes anymore
- A good PR person is vital in order to report to local radio and local papers
  
- Personal Contact with people not already involved – asking people face to face
- People generally do not like to walk into a room full of “strangers”
- However, if anyone happens to speak up – the next thing is they are on the executive committee and this doesn't always suit or what the person wants.
  
- Get people to put their ideas in “Ideas Box” which would be left in the same place the whole time and write their ideas for change and leave them in the box. The ideas are then discussed and people are not up for ridicule for their idea [also people will not know whose idea it was in the first place – as they remain anonymous]
- Text people to let them know what's on – numbers can be got at other events and web-texting is great for getting word out.
  
- If people weren't joiners in their youth, 20's , 30's etc – most likely not to be in their later years.