

Kilkenny City Community Groups for Social Justice



Mags Leahy Chairperson of the Social Justice Forum

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Kilkenny City Community Groups for Social Justice Newsletter. This first issue will introduce you to some of the diverse groups involved with the forum. We aim to use further issues of this newsletter to inform our communities of the work that we are doing and respond to issues of social injustice. We have a dynamic committee who are dedicated to equality for all and sit on various boards and committees such as the Joint Policing committee and the Education Sub Group. We feel that in order to make real change we need to work together and in the current climate this sort of approach is much needed. Remember that this group is to give a voice to the people so get in touch.

Mags

Fr McGrath Centre

Fr. McGrath Centre to Prioritise Other RAPID Communities in City West

The Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre on St. Joseph's Rd has agreed to prioritise and support the two other RAPID communities in the west of the City – McAuley Avenue on the Old Callan Rd and St. Catherine's Halting Site in Wetlands.

This means that families, children and senior citizens in these areas will now join families in the Butts as priority target groups for all their family resource centre services. No services at the centre will be offered to anyone else until the local needs of families in these communities are met.

Places will be reserved in their childcare centre, homework, after school and youth clubs and their computer training services and these families will also be able to

take advantage of other free or discounted services offered through the year to local families and children.

Now these local families can avail of the heavily subsidised or free sessional morning and afternoon childcare places in *The Learning Tree Crèche* and they will also be prioritised for the many youth, sport or other after school care or youth services running from the centre each afternoon or evening. Children and young people from these areas will also be offered an opportunity to join their very active summer activity programme running from June to the end of August.

Kilkenny Multimedia Centre will also offer these communities priority places in any of their IT or computer training courses at discounted prices or free access to their computer and training serv-



ices between the hours of 12.00-1.00pm each day.

Pat Brennan, Chairperson of the Fr. McGrath Centre Board said they welcomed the opportunity to build links between their sister communities in the Western Environs of the City and that effort would be made by the community team to invite their families to visit the centre and inform themselves of the priority services that will now be available to them.

Senior citizens, lone parents and long term unemployed people or elderly or vulnerable men living alone will also be targeted for support as part of this new agreement to support our sister RAPID communities.



Happe House

Happe House is based in Hebron Park and is run entirely by volunteers. The Centre was extended in May of 2009 and now runs courses from Drug Awareness to Road Safety and model car building. There is also a Pennybank and a playschool. VEC

tutor Ronnie Balfe commented that "there is something special about the centre". This is something that he has not encountered before. He further commented that "the quality of Community Development they do there is excellent.



LEADER

Kilkenny Women's Community Education Project

Kilkenny Women's Community Education Project is a community based education and training programme based in the RAPID areas of Kilkenny City. The project is delivered in two strands.

Strand 1: Two -Year community based programme aimed at engaging women who are furthest removed from education and training opportunities. In year 1 participants design their own pre-development training programme and this is facilitated through provision of tutors and training allowances. In year 2 participants are expected to move on to accredited training in their own community. The next step training takes the form of a FETAC Level 3 core module.

Strand 2: This is a FAS, KLP and VEC supported training initiative based in Millennium Court. This two year programme offers full awards at FETAC Levels 3 & 4. There are 22 training places and the programme runs over 40 weeks. This training programme fills a gap in the educational needs of those early school leavers who can then move on to further mainstream training in the city.

RAPID

The Kilkenny City RAPID plan 2008 – 2013 is completely guided by the local **RAPID** communities in the city, RAPID is focused on seven strategic themes that are ;

Community Safety, Family Supports, Health, Youth Support, Physical Environment, Education, Employment and Training. Locally our sub-groups have been formed and members of

each group are working on actions under each theme.

These strategic aims and objectives will form our work plan for the coming The priority for the RAPID Programme Nationally is to ensure that RAPID designated areas have first call on State interventions and that such interventions are tailored in a manner to ensure the root causes of disadvantage and social exclusion are tackled



years combining new investment projects closely with objectives working towards better service integration and improved customer services for communities of the RAPID Areas.

Gay Kilkenny



Gay Kilkenny is the social and support group for the LGBT community in Kilkenny. We provide

regular opportunities to socialise including sporting activities, cinema nights, come dine with us nights and games nights. We also provide one to one listening ear support for people with gender or identity issues and for those who do not feel safe enough to come out. We have recently received funding which will make a great difference to the

services that we offer and hope to have our drop in centre open in the near future.

We also provide LGBT awareness training to community groups and any organisation who wish to become more gay friendly. We are currently working with a national youth organisation to form a dedicated LGBT youth group.



New Park Close

New Park Close Family Resource Centre provide the following resources for the Community

Opportunities to access quality Childcare, as a key tool in family support and community Development

Community Development and Community opportunities

Community leadership and Advocacy

Groups

Women's Groups

Men's Groups

Youth Groups

Parent & Toddler Cross Community Groups

Parenting Programmes

Women's Back to Education Courses

Nifty Fifty Women's Group

Family Learning Programme

Dance & Grow Classes

L.T.I Gardening Programme

Family Support

Public Health Nurse

C.I.C = Citizens Information

K.C.C = Kilkenny County Council

Counseling Service

Drugs Outreach Worker

(Carlow / Kilkenny)

Education & Training Coordinator

Community Savings Bank

One to one Support for

Residents

Support to Community

Committee

C.V. Support

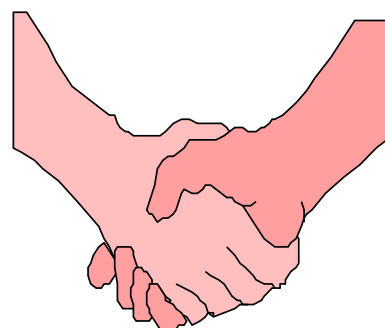
Student placements

Childcare Programmes

Childcare: Crèche 18mts-5yrs

After school Programme 4yrs-14yrs

Study Groups 1st year—Leaving Cert



Summer Programmes (July)

Christmas Event

(December)

Multimedia accredited E.C.D.L

Test Centre

Beginners Computers

I.T Training / E.C.D.L Testing Centre



LOUGHBOY AREA RESOURCE CENTRE (LARC CDP) is a Community Development Project with Charity Status which was established in 1992 in response to the emerging needs of the local Community Area of Loughboy.....
Essential Childcare and Family Support Services provided are Community Pre-School inclusive of Children

with Special Needs and promotes the High Scope Curriculum Educational and Creative Afterschool Services
Summer, Easter, Halloween Out of School Activities
Chillax Youth Group,
Free Counselling Service
Parent/Toddler Group
Family/Individual Support
Educational, Creative & Cultural Programme of Activities For Adults
Computer Skills

Loughboy Weavers Group
Sewing & Alterations Group
Home Crafts
Art for Fun (inc adults with additional needs)
Yoga, Health & Well-being for Older Citizens
Monday Book Club
Creative Dance Group,
Multi-Cultural Adults Discussion Group,
Peace & Non-Violence Workshops.



Millennium Court

The Kilkenny Leadership Partnership are running a FETAC course for women 5 mornings a week from computers to arts and crafts etc.
Our Afterschool runs 5 days a week for the young people of the estate and surrounding estates, where they do their homework and creative

activities etc.

We have two different Dance classes running two nights a week
Friday's we hold our youth club for the youth in the area and surrounding areas. We hold the Junior one week then the Senior the next and so on. The Junior is for youth from 8 yrs to 11 yrs and the Senior is from 12 yrs to 18 yrs mixed boys and girls.
The rooms in the building are

available to rent for big or small groups etc.

The fence around the community centre is just about completed so we will be embarking on planning our community garden in the very near future. We hope to get the Afterschools and Youth clubs involved in this and any other people from the community that wish to participate.

Contact Us

Father McGrath FRC 056 7751988 (Catherine, Karin Wendy or Liz)
Happe House 056 7331004 (Gladys)
LEADER 056 7752811 (Julie, Mary Helen, or Clare)
RAPID 056 7794926 (Martina)
Gay Kilkenny 0857851369 (Enya)
Newpark Close FRC 0567723309 (Sheila, Ber or Louise)
Loughboy Area Resource Centre CDP 0567764700 (Sheila or Connie)