

National Updates

**A SPOTLIGHT ON AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND | POLICY TO PRACTICE | WEBINAR 3 - RESPECT & SOCIAL INCLUSION**

On Tuesday we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> webinar. Our speakers were:

- **Minister Helen McEntee**, TD and Minister for Justice in the Department of Justice
- **Paula Hilman**, Assistant Commissioner with An Garda Síochána
- **Alana Officer**, Unit Head for Demographic Change and Health Ageing, World Health Organisation
- **Thomas Grey**, Research Fellow with TrinityHaus Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin
- **Anne Dempsey**, Communications Manager & Training Facilitator, Third Age
- **Ciarán McKinney**, Engage Programme Manager, Age and Opportunity



If you didn't get a chance to tune in on Tuesday, you can watch Webinar 3 of our International Webinar Series here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj1av4lllb4>



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## Government Cost of Living Help

Yesterday our Government agreed new measures worth €290 million to combat the rise in the cost of living. This is in addition to the €215 million energy rebate. Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath made the announcement at a press conference yesterday evening. The new package contains an increase in the energy rebate to €200 including VAT and this will be paid in April. Minister McGrath said any unused part of the energy credit will be carried forward. Every household is guaranteed €200. There were a number of measures that will be important for older people also and they include:

- A €200 energy rebate including VAT being applied to electricity accounts in April to every household in the country is the main plank of the Government's package.
- A 20% reduction in public transport fares until the end of the year.
- €125 payment to the recipients of the fuel allowance, will be paid in early March to 390,000 recipients and
- A reduction of the Drug Payment Scheme from €144 to €80

### See also a few useful sites.

- Home Energy Grant  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/home-energy-grants/>
- Household Package  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e87d27-household-benefits-package/>
- Disability Grants  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/6636c-housing-adaptation-grants-for-older-people-and-people-with-a-disability/>  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/df6811-disability-allowance/>
- Government free travel  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/9bba61-free-travel-scheme/>  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/9a2223-free-travel-pass-how-to-use-it/>
- Pension Information  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e21eee-state-pension-non-contributory/>

Our thanks to Cork County Council Age Friendly Technical Advisor who provided this information and who contributes considerably to our agefriendlyhomes.ie website.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## HSE Partner Pack

### Our highlight communications updates for you from this week are:

#### Treatment for people at the highest risk from COVID-19

A new medicine is available to treat people with COVID-19 (coronavirus) who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill. [Sotrovimab](#) is also known by the brand name Xevudy. It is the first type of COVID-19 medicine available in Ireland. You'll be told by your doctor or consultant if this medicine is for you. Other COVID-19 medicines are expected to become available soon.

You can find more information [here](#).

Most people will not need or benefit from these medicines. Most people can [treat the symptoms of COVID-19 at home](#).

The best way for most people to protect themselves from COVID-19 is to [get vaccinated and get a booster dose](#), when they can.

#### Vaccination clinics

We continue to operate clinics for dose 1 and dose 2 vaccinations (for people aged 12 years and over), and booster vaccine clinics for healthcare workers, pregnant women and for people over the age of 16. Find the full list of clinics by county [here](#). You can also check [@HSELive](#) on Twitter for daily updates.

All of our vaccination centres are offering online booking for booster appointments, which can be booked up to 5 days in advance. You can find more information [here](#).

#### COVID-19 Testing

Full details of [how to get tested are available here](#).

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

You can find the latest information on vaccines administered [here](#).

#### Vaccines are making a difference

Every COVID-19 vaccine makes a difference, if you haven't registered yet, or someone in your network has yet to do so, they can:

- Check [hse.ie](#) for answers they can trust about the COVID-19 vaccines
- Talk to a pharmacist or GP – many are giving mRNA vaccines
- Call HSELive on 1800 700 700
- [Register online to get a COVID-19 vaccine](#).

If you cannot register online, you can [call the COVID-19 helpline](#) at Freephone: 1800 700 700 to register by phone.

[You can read the full weekly update by clicking here](#).

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### Applications are now being invited by the HSE for National Lottery Funding Grants.

This funding is distributed by the HSE each year to community-based groups and voluntary organisations under the Respite Care Grant Scheme and the National Lottery Grant Scheme.



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach  
County and City Management Association

Groups and organisations involved in the provision of Health and Personal Social Services can apply for once-off funding of between €500 and €10,000 for suitable projects.

[Click here for more information including the application form](#)

Closing Date for Applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd March 2022. Applicants will be advised as to the outcome of their application by 8th July 2022.



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



### **Creative Ireland Programme to be extended until 2027**

On Tuesday, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD announced the Government's decision in principle to extend the Creative Ireland Programme until 2027.

In 2017, Creative Ireland was launched as an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme committed to the vision that every person should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. Established as a legacy initiative of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, it is the only programme of its kind in the world.

The founding vision of the programme is that creativity must be at the heart of public policy and that participation in cultural and creative activity promotes the wellbeing of the individual, the community and the nation at large. Creative Ireland collaborates across government and with arts, community and voluntary organisations to deploy creativity as a strategy for wellbeing, social cohesion and economic success.

Alongside its very successful *Creative Youth* initiative, the programme's *Creative Communities* partnership with the 31 local authorities, and their delivery of over 5,700 creative projects to date, has been key to enabling community-led nationwide engagement.

#### **Minister Martin said:**

*"I warmly welcome the Government's decision to implement the all-of-government Creative Ireland Programme for another five years, and to work with me in the coming months to develop its framework. This programme has been innovative and effective in delivering the opportunity for people to explore their creative potential. Key initiatives such as Cruinniú na nÓg and Creative Schools have become embedded in the country's cultural infrastructure. New projects that respond to contemporary social issues such*

*as climate action and loneliness have emerged. With the support of my Cabinet colleagues, I look forward to developing a Creative Ireland Programme that will continue to enhance people’s lives in the coming years.”*

The Government’s decision in principle will be for the Creative Ireland Programme to continue for a further five years, encompassing the period 2023-2027, and to focus on the following areas:

- I. Creative Youth;
- II. Creative Communities;
- III. Creative Industries;
- IV. Creative Health and Wellbeing; and
- V. Creative Climate Action and Sustainability.
- VI.

It is anticipated that a final framework of Clár Éire Ildánach/Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027 will be brought to Government for its final agreement in Autumn 2022 prior to its publication, launch and implementation on an all-of-government basis.



### Ageism in artificial intelligence (AI) for health: new policy brief now available

The UN Global report on ageism has a simple but powerful message: ageism is everywhere and harmful, but can be combatted.

**8 WAYS TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF AI FOR OLDER PEOPLE:**

- Enable older people to **participate** in the design of AI
- Employ **age-diverse** data science teams
- Ensure **age-inclusive** data collection
- Invest in older people’s **digital access and literacy**
- Support strong **governance and regulations** (e.g. audits)
- Uphold older people’s right to **consent and contest**
- Conduct **more research** on new uses of AI and how to avoid bias
- Use **robust ethics processes** in the development and application of AI

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT AGEISM #AWorld4AllAges

A new policy brief published by the World Health Organization (WHO) now highlights how the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in public health and medicine can benefit older people, but only by avoiding ageism in their design, implementation, and use

In the brief, policy makers as well as all stakeholders who work with AI including care professionals can learn more about the risks of ageism in AI and how they can be addressed to maximise benefits for older people

[Download the new policy brief](#)



### ValueCare are Hiring

ValueCare are hiring a Research Assistant to join their [@ValueCare\\_eu](https://twitter.com/ValueCare_eu) team in Cork/Kerry!

If you're interested in digital health and health ageing, it's a unique role to explore how older citizens can be supported at home. See job spec and video here: <https://bit.ly/3sA0alc>



**Are you a researcher working in the field of health and care?**

UCD are currently seeking a PT researcher in Cork/Kerry for EU project ValueCare.

**ValueCare seeks to pilot a co-designed digital health solution amongst older citizens to promote healthy ageing. To find out more about this exciting opportunity visit:**

<https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/jobs/>





## FREE ONLINE COURSE: Together Old and Young: An Intergenerational Approach

Are you interested in **bringing older adults and young children together** to share knowledge, skills, values and have fun?

Would you like to participate in a **learning programme** to develop your skills in intergenerational learning?

The online course **“Together Old and Young: An Intergenerational Approach”** is unique in its focus on young children and older adults and aims to promote awareness and expertise to support you in developing good quality, sustainable intergenerational practice. Through this course you will learn about intergenerational practice and discover practical ways to create opportunities for Intergenerational Learning in your own area.



A not to be missed opportunity to learn **how young children and older adults are learning together** also in (post) COVID times.



Learn about intergenerational practice and create opportunities for intergenerational learning in your own area.

Presentations, videos, readings, discussion boards and quizzes.

**JOIN OUR FREE 5-WEEK ONLINE COURSE  
STARTING ON 28 FEBRUARY 2022**

### FREE

- Access to this course for 5 weeks
- Includes all videos, articles, self-assessment activities, discussion forums, quizzes and games

### UPGRADE

- Unlimited access after course ends
- Includes all course materials
- Certificate of Achievement (provided you have 80% success rate on the quizzes)

**50 euro**

**For more information and to register, visit the [TOY website](http://www.toyproject.net)**

For further information visit <http://www.toyproject.net/project/toy-online-course/>



**Join us live on Facebook**

**Monday 14th  
Wednesday 16th  
Friday 18th**

**at 11am for**

**Age & Opportunity  
Movement Minutes**



**#AgeandOpportunity**

The classes are available on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) and the timetable shows where each class is available.

## YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19



Are you 70 years of age or older?

Have you lived in Ireland since the pandemic began?

Volunteers are needed for a study exploring the experiences of older adults in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic

If you're interested in partaking in our study, contact Simon at:

**s.farrell19@nuigalway.ie**  
or **083 0769135**



**OÉ Gaillimh  
NUI Galway**



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meath county council



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach  
County and City Management Association

## Local Updates

### Screening of the Dublin Song

A Creative Ireland South Dublin event that will be taking place next Tuesday evening - 15 February at 6:30pm in Rua Red, Tallaght. The Dublin Song was funded through 2021 Creativity in Older Age funding. Following the launch, the films will be available online.



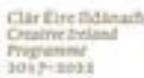
You are invited to the Premiere Screening of

# The Dublin Song

on Tuesday 15th February  
in Rua Red, South Dublin Arts Centre, Tallaght at 6.30pm  
(Drinks reception starts at 6.00pm)  
and the launch of  
**The Revival of Live : South Dublin County Performers Network**  
RSVP by email to [caroline@artscope.ie](mailto:caroline@artscope.ie)

In April '21 Artscope was awarded funding under the Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme to produce **The Dublin Song**. This project conducted research with over 100 individuals around what was their "Dublin Song", their memories of people and places through song and the importance of song in their own lives. From the list of song titles collected a number of songs emerged as **The Dublin Song!**

The four films follow the songs of Dublin, Places, People and Remembrance, with performances by professional singers, a series of short interviews and soundbites from a variety of individuals and groups - all with one thing in common - their place in **The Dublin Song**.



Visit us at: [www.artscope.ie/through-the-lens/#TheDublinSong](http://www.artscope.ie/through-the-lens/#TheDublinSong)  
The Dublin Song is supported by the Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme through Creativity in Older Age



### Magic Table 360 at Louth Library Service

Louth Library Service are delighted to launch the Magic Table 360 (Tovertafel) expanding our Sensory Spaces for All.

Whether it's sensory stimulation, relaxation or reminiscence, the Magic Table is the perfect solution that makes your library a fun accessible space for all.

Family/Group bookings can be made by emailing

[libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie](mailto:libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie)

A demonstration video can be watched on our Louth Libraries Facebook page via this link. [https://fb.watch/a\\_aKEMe0Y/](https://fb.watch/a_aKEMe0Y/)

**Welcome to Louth Library Services**

**Magic table 360**  
Our new sensory interactive lights activity

**This Tovertafel table has interactive light games that are projected on to a table and infrared sensors respond to the hand and arm movement of the players.**





**This table is specifically designed for people with care needs and works to stimulate movement, create a shared experience and enhance emotional well-being. The games capture people's attention and draw them into what's happening in front of them, creating the magic!**

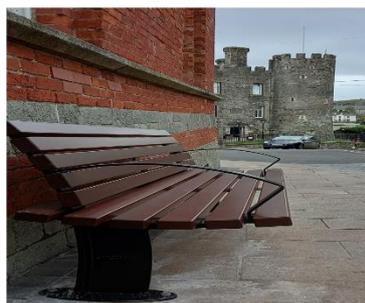
**For bookings or enquiries please contact**  
Dundalk library 042 9353190  
Drogheda library 041 9876162  
Ardee 041 6859023  
or email [libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie](mailto:libraryhelpdesk@louthcoco.ie)



### Age Friendly Enniscorthy Seating



More seating at key resting points was one of the findings of a recent walkability audit in Enniscorthy lead by Wexford County Council's Age Friendly team & Wexford Older Peoples Council. As a result, two new benches were recently installed, with support from the Healthy Ireland fund.



## Your Voice



We've heard about so much good work going on all around the country, please let us know what's happening in your area so we can share those innovative ideas with everyone. Please email us your news to Rachel at [rleavy@meathcoco.ie](mailto:rleavy@meathcoco.ie) Information is one thing we can share right now!

## International Updates



### IFA Global Cafe | In Conversation with Ms Mary Fridley on "Reimagining Dementia: A Creative Coalition for Justice"

The International Federation on Ageing held a Global Cafe event this morning called - In Conversation with Ms Mary Fridley, Co-creator and Leader of The Joy of Dementia and Coordinator of Reimagining Dementia on the topic "Reimagining Dementia: A Creative Coalition of Justice"



A recording of this event will be available on the Federation's website <https://ifa.ngo/ifa-global-cafe/> and <https://drbarometer.com/community/resource-library>

## Useful Contacts and Info

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service Office Telephone: **046 9097413**

Or Email: [agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie](mailto:agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie)

Twitter: [@agefriendlyirl](https://twitter.com/agefriendlyirl)

Facebook: [Age Friendly Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyIreland)

Website: [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie) / [www.agefriendlyhomes.ie](http://www.agefriendlyhomes.ie)

**HSE Advice Line:** Callsave 1850 24 1850

Call from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday