



Organisational Bio-pics

Wednesday 25th June – 2pm to 5pm

Interactive Roundtable Discussion

Age and Opportunity – taken from www.ageandopportunity.ie

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that inspires everyone to reach their full potential as they age.

Our goal is to turn the period from age 50 onwards into one of the most satisfying times in people's lives, by facilitating:

- opportunities to engage in arts and cultural activities
- opportunities for sport and physical activity
- opportunities to learn and be involved as active citizens

We work with public and private partners to deliver established innovative programmes like the Bealtaine arts festival, and Go for Life - the national sports programme for older people. We are also developing a series of exciting positive ageing programmes.

Our major partners include the HSE, the Irish Sports Council and the Arts Council.

People are now living for longer. Age & Opportunity works to provide opportunities to encourage people to live their longer lives to the full. We are continually finding new ways to engage, to motivate and to support people in this adventure. Join in.

Age & Opportunity. Life is for living.

Ageing with Confidence Course – aims to increase participants' self-confidence by: facilitating people to explore their own ageing; challenging the myths and stereotyping that lead to ageism; and providing information on physical, psychological and social aspects of growing older. The Group Programme consists of 8 weekly two and a half hour sessions. Each session is delivered by two facilitators trained by Age & Opportunity.

AgeWise – aims to raise awareness of attitudes to ageing and older people among organisations whose work affects the lives of older people. From there, it encourages action on how ageism may be countered within organisations and workplaces.



An Garda Síochána – taken from <http://www.garda.ie/>

An Garda Síochána is the national police service of Ireland. The Mission of An Garda Síochána is **Working with Communities to Protect and Serve**.

Following the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, the Dublin Metropolitan Police merged with the recently established An Garda Síochána in 1925.

Today, An Garda Síochána is a community based organisation with over 14,500 Garda and Civilian employees, who serve all sections of the community.

Headquartered in Dublin's Phoenix Park, we are represented in every county in Ireland, listening to, acting and working with the community. The current Interim Garda Commissioner is Nóirín O'Sullivan.

Some of An Garda Síochána's core functions include:

- the detection and prevention of crime;
- ensuring our nation's security;
- reducing the incidence of fatal and serious injuries on our roads and improving road safety;
- working with communities to prevent anti-social behaviour;
- promoting an inter-agency approach to problem solving and improving the overall quality of life.

An Garda Síochána has a long established tradition of working closely with communities all across Ireland. By fostering and maintaining effective community partnerships, and ensuring a more visible Garda presence, we work to achieve a reduction in crime and the fear of crime in our communities.



National Centre for the Protection of Older People – taken from www.ncpop.ie

The National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP) was set up in October 2008 and was officially launched just over one year later by the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD in November 2009. The Centre, which is funded by the Health Service Executive, is focusing on a programme of research examining elder abuse in Ireland which will result in original research outputs and contribute to the development of policy and practice in relation to elder abuse.

In arriving at directions for best practice the Centre is drawing on international research and developments in the field of elder abuse and is developing international collaborations with leading researchers in the field. The Centre is a primary resource for those working with, or having contact with, older people in areas of health and social care, law services and financial services.

The Centre consists of a collaborative research team from the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, the UCD School of Applied Social Science, the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science and the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science.



Thursday 26th June – 9.30am to 12.30pm

Health Service Executive – taken from www.hse.ie

The HSE is a large organisation of over 100,000 people, whose job is to run all of the public health services in Ireland. The HSE manages services through a structure designed to put patients and clients at the centre of the organisation. The HSE provides a wide range of services for people growing older in Ireland. The HSE has a dedicated Elder Abuse Service, with Senior Case Workers now working in most Local Health Office Areas.

The Elder Abuse Service Structure includes¹:

- **National Elder Abuse Service Structure** – ‘a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary membership to enable it to address specific, emerging or complex elder abuse issues sometimes outside the scope of the HSE’.
- **Area Elder Abuse Steering Groups** – ‘ensure local implementation of nationally agreed approaches to elder abuse and resolve any significant issues arising in their own areas or bring these to the attention of the appropriate forum. They act as a conduit for communication between local agencies, advocacy groups and the National Committee’.
- **Dedicated Officers for the Protection of Older People** – ‘largely responsible for policy and protocol development, training, advice and consistency in application of elder abuse policies, procedures and guidelines’.
- **Senior Case Workers for Protection of Older People** – ‘assess all referrals of alleged elder abuse reported to them and work in a sensitive and respectful manner in trying to resolve elder abuse issues. This may involve complex interactions with family, neighbours, friends, other healthcare, staff, businesses and the legal profession’.

¹ Taken from HSE (2013) *Elder Abuse Services 2012* – available at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Publications/olderpeople/elderabusertp2012.pdf>



Thursday 26th June – 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Site visits

Gaiety School of Acting – taken from www.gaietyschool.com

The Gaiety School of Acting – The National Theatre School of Ireland was founded in 1986 by the internationally renowned theatre director Joe Dowling, in response to the lack of full time actor training programmes in Ireland at that time. The school is now widely regarded as the country's premier training facility for actors.

Our policy is to train actors for theatre, film and television. The school offers a two-year intensive acting programme and an extensive selection of part-time and tailored courses for adults, teenagers, children and overseas students. The school has been providing professional actor training for almost 30 years and include Colin Farrell, Olivia Wilde, Colin O'Donoghue, Aidan Turner (Best Male Newcomer, Jameson Empire Awards 2014), Eva Birthistle (Best Actress Lead Television Award, IFTA 2014) Charlie Murphy (Best Actress, The Irish Times Awards 2013) and Sarah Greene (Tony Award Nominee 2014) as alumni of distinction.

Through a committed and dedicated staff, the school has developed and expanded to its current position where over 2000 students are involved in a wide range of courses from our intensive two year full time actor training programme to a range of courses available to students from overseas. These include The Original Theatre Project, our one-month Irish Theatre Summer School and our three-week January or May Irish Theatre programmes.

Writers the school is proud to have commissioned include Marina Carr, Gavin Kostick, Alex Johnston, Ken Bourke, Sean McLaughlin, Mary Elizabeth Burke Kennedy, Lisa Harding, Roger Gregg, Michele Reid, Lally Katz, Lisa Tierney Keogh, Lally Katz, Michelle Read and Gary Duggan. The full time actor-training programme boasts unprecedented graduate success with our actors appearing in all of Ireland's theatres, in film and television nationally and internationally and in theatres across England including The Royal Shakespeare Company and The National Theatre in London.

The school is based in the centre of Dublin city's cultural quarter, Temple Bar. Our range of part time courses take place at other centres around the country.

Nationally and Internationally The Gaiety School of Acting is proud to be The National Theatre School of Ireland.

The Gaiety School of Acting works with various organisations including Education and Training Boards in developing programmes to promote personal development and positive mental health, particularly amongst younger people. The aim of programmes, such as Breathe, is create a stronger awareness of the issues confronting youth in our communities.

The focus is on increasing self-awareness so that they can assess their strengths and weaknesses and call attention to norms for acceptable behaviour in our society and help them see themselves as contributing members. Older people face similar challenges so this visit will facilitate an exploration of this model in the context of building resilience in the prevention of elder abuse.



Third Age Senior Helpline – taken from <http://www.thirdageireland.ie/>

Third Age is a national voluntary organisation celebrating the third age in life when people may no longer be in paid employment, but can remain healthy, fulfilled and continue to contribute to society. The longer that people are encouraged to remain in this life stage, the better for older people themselves, their families, communities and society as a whole.

Third Age, through a variety of local and national programmes, demonstrates the value of older people remaining engaged and contributing in their own community for as long as possible.

Third Age recognises and celebrates the fact that older people are a diverse group with different needs, abilities, backgrounds and experiences. Third Age responds dynamically continually developing new responses as new needs emerge.

Programmes and services are designed so that members have a real say in their development, thus instilling a sense of ownership, responsibility and mutual support.

Given that older people are often marginalised, a policy and philosophy of social inclusion underpins all programmes. This extends to older people living in long-stay residential care, Travellers, non-Irish nationals and through the generations.

Third Age plays a role in the championing of older people locally, nationally and internationally in an interconnecting range of initiatives, including the challenge of negative perceptions and the representation of older people at policy-making fora.

Senior Help Line - is a confidential listening service for older people by trained older volunteers for the price of a local call anywhere in Ireland, LoCall 1850 440 444.

Senior Help Line's vision and mission is that every older person in Ireland would know the LoCall number, call if they need us and receive an empathic response.

The lines are open every day from 10am to 10pm.

Senior Help Line is supported by the Health Service Executive and The Atlantic Philanthropies.



Age Action – taken from www.ageaction.ie

Age Action is a charity which promotes positive ageing and better policies and services for older people. Working with, and on behalf of, older people we aim to make Ireland the best place in the world in which to grow older.

Our vision is that Ireland is the first country to apply fully the United Nations Principles for Older Persons into our national way of life in order to improve the quality of life of all older people and to transform all our attitudes towards ageing and older people. The UN principles are summarised below.

Independence

Older persons should have access to the full range of services for their basic needs, to work as long as they wish with access to educational and training programmes, to live in safe and adaptable environments so that they can live at home for as long as they wish.

Participation

Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the development of policies and services provided for them and act as volunteers in their communities with younger generations.

Care

Older persons should have access to the full range of care and support services that fully respect their beliefs, needs and privacy and their right to make decisions about their care and the quality of their lives.

Self-fulfilment

Older persons should be enabled to achieve their full potential by access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources.

Dignity

Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

Central to our vision is the vital role that older people should take in driving forward these changes for themselves and succeeding generations. Older people must reject the stereotypes of dependency, passivity and inevitable decline fostered by widespread ageism and by their own actions replace them by positive images based on self-confidence, active engagement in personal development, community service and a proper understanding of the ageing process.

Criteria of Success in Achieving Our Vision

- No older person lives in consistent poverty
- No older person should be required to leave their own home because of the lack of community services
- No older person should be excluded from community participation because of the lack of public/private transport
- No older person lives in inadequate housing without basic amenities
- No older person should live alone without social or personal support