



This is the thirteenth monthly newsletter of the National Family Support Network, a way for us to promote events and spread news throughout the network.

News

Launch of Bereavement Report and new Bereavement Support Service

We'd like to invite you all to the launch of our Bereavement Report and new Bereavement Support Service on **September 11th** in the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Little Green Street, Dublin 7 at 10.30am**. The event will see the launch of the report we completed in partnership with Dr. Sharon Lambert (UCC) on the impact of bereavement through substance misuse on families. This report makes a number of recommendations for more specialised services for families who have experience a drug or alcohol related death. We will also be launching our new Bereavement Support Service in the North Inner City, this service will support families affected by substance misuse through therapeutic support, information and advocacy and we are so excited to be launching this much needed service. Alongside our amazing line up of speakers we also will be showing the first preview of a short film Theatre Club developed with support from NFSN/families affected by substance misuse. If you want to come to the launch please RSVP to aoife@fsn.ie or call the office on **01-8980148**. The full agenda is as follows:

10:30am - Tea/Coffee/Registration

11am - Sadie Grace (CEO NFSN)

11:30 - Dr. Sharon Lambert

11:50 - Aileen Malone (Family Member)

12:05 - Grace Dyas (Theatre Club) 'Aftermath'

Lunch

Demographic survey

We are currently working on improving our information on the demographic make-up of our groups, and as part of that we are asking all of our facilitators to complete a quick online survey asking a few simple questions about their groups. This information is essential for us as it helps us better focus our limited resources and ensure we better represent our affiliated members. If you are a facilitator of a family support group affiliated to NFSN, we ask you to please get in touch and we'll provide the survey. It should only take two minutes to complete and would be greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to any of you who have already completed it.

As an added incentive to complete it, we're entering all of the groups who respond into a draw to win **2 free tickets to our Annual Work Conference on 20th October, with accommodation included!**

Upcoming Training/Events

International Overdose Awareness Day

International Annual Overdose Awareness Day is coming up again this **Friday on August 31st**. The focus of this year is to raise awareness about the availability of Naloxone, Naloxone is a product which can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. This year is particularly exciting because Naloxone has just become available in **nasal spray form** before this it was only available as an injection. A prescription for Naloxone is available from your GP, the product itself can then be accessed at your local pharmacy. The prescription for Naloxone can **only be given to the person who is using drugs** however they can bring a family member with them and get two Naloxone products, meaning their family member/loved one has to Naloxone too. If your loved one ever has a problem getting access to Naloxone please let NFSN know or our partners in UISCE ((01) 8733799)

As part of International Overdose Awareness Day this year there will be **three regional training events in Dublin, Cork and Limerick**. These events are for people who are **actively using drugs**, they can come along on the day and get trained in how to use Naloxone and a prescription for the product on-site.

Dublin; Merchant's Quay Ireland; Riverbank Building, 13 Merchant's Quay Dublin 8;
9.30am-5pm (just drop in, training takes about 15 minutes)

Cork; Cork Simon Day Centre, 9 Anderson Quay, 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

Limerick; Novas Initiative, McGarry House, 7 Alphonsus St, Limerick, 10am-4.30pm(just drop in, training takes about 15 minutes)

It is really important to note that this training is **not for family members**, however NFSN are hoping to provide training to family members in the coming months and we will give you the full details when they are arranged.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give Aoife a call on 01-898-0148 or email aoife@fsn.ie.

"Drugs, Crime, and Social Exclusion" conference in Wexford Town

County Wexford Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force are hosting a conference on the theme of 'Drugs, Crime and Social Exclusion'. This event, sponsored by Wexford Local Development, will feature a panel of speakers including Fr. Peter McVerry, followed by thematic workshops and a closing plenary. It will also feature information stalls from each member of the task force. The conference will take place from **9:30am to 1pm on 1st September, in Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford**. Please contact **Paul Delaney** on pdelaney3@gmail.com or call **053-915-5800**.

South East Regional Family Support Network Annual Conference

The South East Regional Family Support Network have announced the dates for this year's Annual Conference. The event will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, 16th**

and 17th of November in The Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

This is always an excellent event and we very much look forward to it. For more information, please contact the network directly on **051-312010** or email info@serfsn.org.

Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre - Autumn Programme

Walkinstown Greenhills Resource Centre have released their autumn programme which outlines a number of interesting and useful events over the next 4 months. Highlights include an on-going Family Support Group that meets every Wednesday, continuous Personal Development Group, and a Mindfulness course. For full details please contact reception@wgrc.ie or call **01-419-8630**.

Network Highlights

New Family Support Group for Carers in Tallaght

TDATF have set up a new family support group specifically for any family member that is caring for children as a result of substance misuse or related matters: so this can be a father, mother, sister, brother, grandparent etc. This is a great opportunity for carers who live in this area to gain much needed support and to meet with others in a similar situation. The group will meet in the South Dublin County Partnership. To enquire about the group, please contact **Grace Hill** on **01-464-9303** or email grace.hill@sdcpartnership.ie.

Young Persons' Support Programme Information Seminar

We'd like to thank everyone who attended our Young Persons' Support Programme Information Seminar on the 25th of July, it was a great success and we hope all who attended gained a good insight into the programme. We'd also like to thank our brilliant speakers, who included Philly McMahon, Clodhna Mahony from North Dublin CYPSC, and Darren Shanahan from Foróige.

To learn more about the programme please contact **Conor** at development@fnsn.ie or call **01-898-0148**. Full details including a sample chapter of the manual are available on our website.

Meeting of Family Representatives on Task Forces

On the 31st of July, the NFSN hosted a second meeting of family representatives on the Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. At the meeting, participants drew up criteria and terms of reference for individuals representing families on the Task Forces. They also agreed that the representatives of families should be defined as being among the 'community representatives' on Task Forces, and that they should have access to at least the same supports as other community representatives. Those present requested that the NFSN submit all of these points to the sub-group which has been set up by the Department of Health to update the handbook for Task Forces.

If you have any events or information that you would like to be shared in future newsletters, please contact us directly before the 24th of September. You can email us at development@fsn.ie or call 01-898-0148.

Best,

The NFSN team