



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

News

Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme Seminar

On February 7th the National Family Support Network and the National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau held a seminar for all the nominated inspectors of the Drug Related Intimidation Programme, also in attendance were a significant number of an Garda Siochana representatives on taskforces all over the country. The seminar was a chance to provide refresher training on the programme to the nominated inspectors and to hear what was happening on the ground regarding drug related intimidation and families. The session was helpful in getting feedback and insights which will be used in the upcoming evaluation of the programme currently being tendered out by NFSN and supported by the Drugs Policy Unit. A list of all the nominated inspectors for the programme can be found on our website fsn.ie, or get in touch with a member of staff today for more information.

Upcoming Training/Events

Facilitators' Network Meeting

NFSN is hosting the next meeting of our Facilitators' Network on **Monday the 5th of March, from 10.30 a.m. to 1.45 p.m.**, and will take place in the **NFSN Offices, 5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1**. Our intention is to spend 2 hours on peer group supervision. The remaining hour we would like to spend on the following topics:

- planning some joint activities between groups (e.g. visits, joint information/discussion sessions);
- developing facilitation training;
- planning future Facilitators' Network meetings.

If you have any items to add, please let us know as soon as possible.

5-Step Method Training

Our next session of training for the 5-Step method will take place on **Tuesday and Wednesday, the 29th & 30th of April 2018 in the NFSN Offices, 5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1, from 9.30am to 5pm**. This is a great opportunity to receive training in the 5-Step Method, which research has shown to be a very effective intervention for family members faced with the stress of familial addiction. The training session costs **€395**, and this includes two full days of training, lunch on both days, and accreditation costs. For more information on the training or to book a place, please call **01-898-0148** or email **training@fsn.ie**. More information on the method is available on our website: **www.fsn.ie/resources/5-Step-Method**

Crinan Youth Project Family Support Programme

The Crinan Youth Project would like to invite you to the launch of their new 8-week Family Support Programme. The programme is aimed at supporting those affected by a young person's (14 - 21) drug use. The launch will take place on **Thursday the 1st of March in Crinan Youth Service at 72, Lower Sean McDermott Street, Dublin 1**, and will go from **10:30am to 11.30**.

Glendalough Peer Supervision Weekend

This year's annual peer supervision respite weekend for facilitators will take place in Glendalough on the **25th and 26th of May**. We will have sessions on Friday evening and all-day Saturday, and will stay overnight on Friday and Saturday in the Crosscare houses. We really hope that you will join us as it always proves to be a very fruitful and enjoyable weekend for all involved.

Network Highlights

Building Family Support in Donegal

This month our C.E.O. Sadie Grace and our development worker Conor Byrne both travelled up to Letterkenny, Co. Donegal to meet with Family Support Services in the area, as well as to personally meet with family members personally affected by substance misuse. These meetings proved to be highly informative and helpful for all involved and could lay the groundwork for the further development of family support in a county that, like many others, is in dire need of more supports for family members. We look forward to working with both family members and family support services in Donegal and the North-West region in future.

Seminar on 'Case Management & Inter-agency Collaboration' in Cork & Kerry

On the 22nd of February, our Membership Officer Ger Doherty gave a presentation on the NFSN to a seminar attended by about 140 service providers, service users and family members in Cork City. The seminar was organised by the HSE and the local and regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces. It was about a system of co-operation between addiction, homelessness and prison services in Counties Cork and Kerry, which seems to be good for service users. We took the opportunity to explain what member groups do, to look for more support for family support groups in Cork and Kerry and to make links with interested individuals.

If you have any events or information that you would like to be shared in future newsletters please contact us directly before the **26th of March**. You can email us at **development@fsn.ie** or call **01-898-0148**.

Best,

The NFSN team