



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

News

New Management Committee Members

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome 3 new members to our management committee. They are:

David Bradshaw - family member and member of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Family Support Group

Marian Davitt – family member and member of Circle of Friends Family Support Group, Bray and NFSN Bereavement Support Group

Dave Raftis - Community Public Participation Network representative to the Midlands Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

We very much look forward to working with them going forward and seeing their contribution to the organization. They all have a strong background of supporting families, so their presence will aid NFSN greatly.

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 will send you on the survey questions. 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 accomodation included!**

Upcoming Training/Events

Young Persons' Support Programme Information Seminar

We are delighted to announce our speakers for the Young Persons Support Programme Information Seminar, and they will include renowned sportsman Philly McMahon as well as representatives of NFSN, Foroige and CYPSC, The seminar will take place on the **25th of July**, in the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Buildings, Green Street, Dublin 7 from 10:30am to 12:30pm**. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided. This seminar will be an opportunity to learn more about the programme, hear from a variety of speakers, and join a group discussion. To book a place please contact **Conor** at **development@fnsn.ie** or call **01-898-0148**. Full details including agenda available on our website.

World Hepatitis Day

This **Friday, the 27th of June**, SAOL Project is hosting an event to mark World Hepatitis Day in **St. Agatha's Hall, Dunne Street, Dublin 1, from 10:30 to 12pm**. This promises to be a brilliant event ran by a great service, including speakers, personal stories, holistic treatments and a free Fibroscan. It will also feature the

awarding of IC2 HEP C Peer Training Certificate awards, music, and a light lunch. The event is open for anyone who needs to know more about Hepatitis C.

International Overdose Awareness Day

International Overdose Awareness Day occurs annually on August 31st and is a date to commemorate those who have died from drug overdose and a day to advocate for the needs of people who are at risk of overdose and their families. The planning stages for this year's International Overdose Awareness Day have already started, we are working with our networks in UISCE, Merchant's Quay, the Simon Community and the HSE to ensure that on the **31st of August** this year the event is as impactful, accessible and informative as possible, we will update you as to the national plans for the day closer to the time.

"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**.

Launch of Bereavement Report and new Bereavement Support Service

This month we sent out a 'Save the Date!' for our bereavement report and new bereavement support service launch which is happening 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. If you want to come to the launch, please RSVP to aoife@fsn.ie or call the office on **01-8980148**.

Network Highlights

Ballyfermot Star Annual Service of Commemoration and Hope

Ballyfermot Star hosted their Annual Service of Commemoration and Hope on Thursday, the 28th of June, and it was a great success, as always. Despite it falling on one of the hottest days of the year the turn-out was great and included our own Development Officer Conor. We thank Ballyfermot Star for the invitation to the event, and we look forward to next year's service.

If you have any events or information that you would like to be shared in future newsletters, please contact us directly before the 28th of August. You can email us at development@fsn.ie or call 01-898-0148.

Best,

The NFSN team