



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

News

New Drug Related Intimidation Action Worker in North Inner-City Dublin - Tender extended

NFSN are delighted that our advocacy in North Inner-City Dublin has paid off and that the Project Implementation Board is now tendering for the position of Drug Related Intimidation Action Worker. We know that Drug Related Intimidation is a huge issue nationally and have been calling for a dedicated worker in the North Inner City since the Mulvey Report signalled an opportunity for new funding and structures in the area. We will be advocating that this model is replicated nationwide. This tender has now been extended to the **18th of April**.

Quality Standards Roadshow

NFSN are delighted to launch our roadshow promoting our new Quality Standards, the successor to our Good Practice Guidelines. These standards hope to ensure a high and consistent standard across family support in Ireland. The first stop on our Roadshow is next **Wednesday, the 3rd of May in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Building, 16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7**, and we invite facilitators and group members to attend and contribute to the group discussions and meet people

from other groups. We'll be continuing the roadshow across Ireland in the coming year, so keep an eye on our Facebook/Twitter, newsletter, and website for more details. To RSVP to the Dublin event, please contact Ger at membership@fnsn.ie or call us at **01-898-0148**.

Reminder - Are YOU going to vote in the Local Elections on Friday the 24th of May 2019?

Elections for City and County Councillors will be held on Friday the 24th of May 2019. The Councillors have some significant powers over local affairs, and it is important to make sure that as many Councillors as possible are supportive of families and individuals affected by substance misuse. The NFSN encourages everyone to try to identify the best candidates and to vote for them! To vote, you need to be on the 'Register of Electors'. You can check if you are on it by asking to see a copy of it in a post office, public library, Garda station, courthouse or County/City Council office, or by going online to www.checktheregister.ie. **IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE REGISTER, you need to fill in an 'RFA2' form. by the 2nd of May**: you can get the blank form at any of the places just listed, or at www.checktheregister.ie. Please ring Ger or Conor in the NFSN for more information.

Upcoming Training/Events

North Dublin Bereavement Support Providers Network

The North Dublin Bereavement Support Providers Network are hosting an event for bereavement specialists in St. Francis hospice on **April 6th**. This event will discuss issues relating to bereavement and loss and Brid Carroll from the Irish Hospice Foundation will be speaking at the event. There are 5 CPD points awarded to all participants who attend. For more information regarding the event please contact our Bereavement worker **Marie** on bereavement@fnsn.ie.

Naloxone Training

NFSN is delighted to announce that we can now provide training in both intramuscular and intranasal Naloxone (injection and nasal spray) to professionals working directly with clients in frontline addiction services. We hope to extend this training in future to include family members of someone in addiction, and we'll keep you posted regarding this. If your organization is interested in receiving this training, please get in touch with **Conor** at **development@fnsn.ie**.

5-Step Method Training

Due to high demand, we will be hosting another training for the 5-Step Method on **Wednesday the 12th and Thursday the 13th of June**, in the **NFSN Office, 5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1**. 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 info on the training or to book a place, please call Audrey on **01-898-0148** or **email training@fnsn.ie**. More information on the method is available on our website.

UNESCO International Conference

NFSN were delighted to be accepted to present a paper at UNESCO International Conference this June in Galway. Our Policy Officer Aoife will present a paper on the rights and needs of families within the National Drug Strategy.

Network Highlights

Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme - Train the Trainer

NFSN ran a very successful Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme "Train the trainer" event for workers across several local/regional taskforces and allied organisations as part of the evaluation of the programme completed last year. We were delighted to have representatives from the National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau to assist with this.

Launch of Letterkenny Community Action on Alcohol Plan

Our CEO Sadie was delighted to take part in the launch of the Letterkenny Community Action on Alcohol Plan & Donegal Addiction Family Support Group. Sadie spoke of the need for the newly established family supports in the region to be accessible to all families no matter where they live.

Kinship Care Ireland

Our Policy Officer Aoife continues to represent NFSN on the newly established 'Kinship Care Ireland', at a second joint agency meeting. This initiative has been established to respond to the needs and rights of kinship carers in Ireland. It's in the very early stages but we will keep you in the loop as it develops.

Family Needs Assessment Tool

We have finished piloting our Family Needs Assessment tool and are delighted now that this template will form part of the NDRIC 'Family Protocol' and will be used as a tool across services to support families.

National Drug Strategy - Decriminalisation of Drugs

NFSN continues to represent the voices of families at the National Drug Strategy and we are awaiting the working group's report on the decriminalisation of drugs for personal use. We hope that Ireland can take a health led approach to drug use and we were delighted to take part in a press conference organized by Citywide this week, with our friends in Ana Liffey and UISCE to push this message out as much as we can - #SaferFromHarm

Charities Governance Code

NFSN are committed to taking on the newly launched Charities Governance Code and have already begun our journey to full compliance.

FASN Research

Our CEO Sadie took part in research commissioned by the FASN, looking at the needs of families in the North East Region.

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

Best,

The NFSN team