



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

News

Evaluation of the National Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme

NFSN have hired an independent researcher to evaluate a number of family support worker's experience of using the reporting programme all around the country. This evaluation, which was actioned in the National Drugs Strategy, will help us determine if we need to make improvements or changes to the programme in order to make it work better for families. The finished report is due to be completed by August 2018 and we will keep you updated on what happens next.

Please note that the latest, most up to date list of nominated inspectors dealing with Drug Related Intimidation in each area of Ireland is available on our website at the following link: [Nominated Inspectors List](#). Please note that this is the latest, most up to date list. If you would like more information give us a call in the office at **01-898-0148**.

Supervised Injecting Centres

You may have heard a lot being talked about Supervised Injecting Centres in the news and on social media recently. A Supervised Injecting Facility (SIF) is a clean, safe, healthcare environment where people can inject drugs, obtained elsewhere, under the supervision of trained health professionals. They offer a compassionate, person-centred service which reduces the harms associated with injecting drug use and can help people access appropriate services. A SIF can help health service staff to reach and support vulnerable and marginalised people who often do not, cannot or no longer engage with existing health services. We know that many families want their children to be safe and engaging in services which may promote their recovery if they are using drugs and that they welcome the opening of these units. Merchants Quay have won the tender to open the first SIF which should be opened in Dublin by the end of 2018. The HSE have created a helpful 'FAQ' page on their site about SIF's if you want to check it out

(<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/homelessness-and-addiction/medically-supervised-injecting-centre/faq.html>) or you can phone the office and speak with Aoife if you have questions.

Upcoming Training/Events

Glendalough Peer Supervision Weekend

As many of you are aware, each year we host a weekend for our facilitators in Glendalough, in which they receive supervision, support and guidance from each other. This provides an opportunity for reflection on facilitation practice, and mutual support in their continuous development. This year is no different and will take place in the Crosscare houses in Glendalough on the 25th and 26th of May.

As usual, it's made up of two days, with working sessions discussing different aspects of facilitation of Friday evening and all day Saturday, with overnight stays on Friday and Saturday. Meals will be provided on the Friday evening, and everyone usually chips in for a takeaway or cooked meal on the Saturday. It is optional to stay

on the Saturday evening and into Sunday morning, in which respite activities will take place. The event is free of charge, and transport from Dublin City Centre will be provided if needed. If you are a group facilitator, we really hope that you will join us as it always proves to be a very fruitful and enjoyable weekend for all involved. To book your place, please contact Ger at membership@fnsn.ie or call **01-898-0148**. Please note that places are limited.

5-Step Method Training

Our next two sessions of training for the 5-Step method will take place on **Thursday, the 30th & 31st of May**, and **6th & 7th of June 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 **Christy** on **01-898-0148** or email training@fnsn.ie. More information on the method is available on our website: www.fnsn.ie/resources/5-Step-Method

Young Persons' Support Programme Information Seminar

We are delighted to announce that we now have a new date for the Young Persons Support Programme Information Seminar that was previously postponed. The seminar will now take place on the **25th of July**, in the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Buildings, Green Street, Dublin 7** from **10:30am to 1pm**. 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**.

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.

Network Highlights

Crinan Youth Project Family Support Programme

We would like to congratulate The Crinan Youth Project on the launch of their new 8-week Family Support Programme, held on Wednesday the 23rd, at which our CEO Sadie spoke. The programme is aimed at supporting those affected by a young person's (14 - 21) drug use and will take place in Crinan Youth Service at 72, Lower Sean McDermott Street, Dublin 1. We wish them all the best in running the programme. To book a place or inquire for more information please contact **Brenda Browne** at brenda@crinany.org or call on **01-8558792**.

Young Persons' Support Programme Info Sessions

This month our Development Officer Conor delivered two successful information sessions on the Young Persons' Support Programme in Ardee and Clones, on the 15th of May. These information sessions were attended by representatives from 14 local organizations and services, who were briefed on the Young Persons Support Programme and its contents. The session was highly enjoyed by all, and we look forward to working with local organizations to roll out the programme in the North

East. Please contact **Conor** at development@fsn.ie or **01-898-0148** if you are interested in hosting an information session on the programme in your area.

Bereavement Support Service

You may have heard that NFSN have been advertising online for a Bereavement Support Worker. This is a new role, generously funded by the Arch diocese of Dublin, which will be based in the North Inner City and which will support families affected by a drug related death through therapeutic interventions, advocacy and support. We are so excited to take on this new role and we will keep you updated on the launch of the new service in the coming months.

Stop the Stigma

This month Sadie and Aoife attended a follow up planning session from Citywide's 'Stop the Stigma' campaign, which launched in April. NFSN know how deeply stigma affects people who use drugs and their families, and we are committed to reducing this stigma and promoting equality through language used by the public and in the media, challenging stigma in the delivery of services and supporting stronger and better-resourced community and family support programmes. We will keep you updated as to how this project unfolds!

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 June. You can email us at development@fsn.ie or call 01-898-0148.

All the best,

The NFSN team