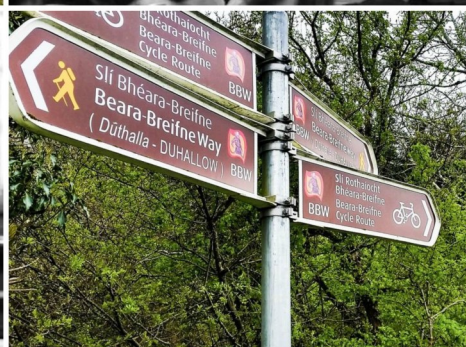
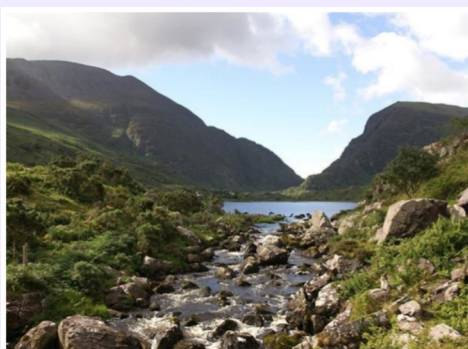


# COMMUNITIES CREATING JOBS

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017



*Minister Ring announces development of a  
National Policy on Social Enterprise on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September*



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## Editorial



A new focus is shining on social enterprise and the Department of Rural & Community Development is aiming to develop a 10 year strategy and set of policies by end of the first quarter in 2018. Representatives of six communities, Loop Head- Clare, St Munchin's- Limerick, Loughmore- Tipperary, Moate- Westmeath, Slane- Meath and Killeshandra- Cavan participated in a workshop on the development of social enterprise sector in Dublin on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September and contributed a range of views on a range of issues. Further regional workshops and an online survey is part of the research process and a range of stakeholders will be involved over the coming months.

Social Finance Foundation research study including Waterford, Cavan and Ballyhoura is holding its final meeting in Portlaoise on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The report on findings will be made available to those who completed the survey. See [www.ccj.ie](http://www.ccj.ie) post November for report.

Cumasú 22 jobs model (GAA, CCJ and Third Level Education) is to complete a second pilot involving Clare – Limerick IT, Waterford- Waterford IT, Westmeath – Athlone IT and Donegal- Letterkenny IT with respective GAA county boards from October to February 2018. Cumasú means empowerment and the 22 represents 2022 which is 5 years from 2018. It is intended to be a period in which every community in the country will be given the chance to complete the assets and opportunities audit and report on findings. It is expected that 10 jobs per community and 30,000 new jobs countrywide will be identified and developed.

Senan Cooke, Chairman, CCJ.





***Minister Ring announces development of a  
National Policy on Social Enterprise on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.***

The Minister for Rural and Community Development , Michael Ring TD announced a major initiative to support and develop the social enterprise sector in Ireland. Speaking at the premises of Speedpak in Coolock, Dublin, Minister Ring said: “While many studies have been conducted on the social enterprise sector in Ireland, there has been a gap up to now in terms of a cohesive national policy and roadmap for that sector. I am delighted to announce that my Department has partnered with the Social Finance Foundation (SFF) to conduct new research which will support the development of such a policy. I am confident that this research will underpin a world class social enterprise policy for Ireland”.

“I have established a Steering Group to oversee the research, involving key Government Departments and experienced social enterprise practitioners. I want to thank the SFF for their input to this project and I look forward to seeing the results of the work towards the end of this year. This research will assist the Government in formulating a comprehensive policy and road map for the social enterprise sector which will reflect the Government’s commitment to that sector”.

Minister Ring added “As our economy continues to improve, it is vital that we continue to support people who wish to create jobs and services and rebuild their communities. When these jobs are created in enterprises with a genuine commitment to reinvesting in social and community progress, it benefits everyone. Social enterprises also benefit from the unparalleled commitment amongst Irish people to volunteering and community work and I wish to put on record my appreciation for that effort and the huge contribution it makes to Irish Society”

# WALK

## Walkinstown – WALK Projects

WALK is the Walkinstown Association for people with intellectual disabilities and it is located in Dublin 12 and neighbouring areas since the late 1960s. Its premises are sited on the Long Mile Road linking the M50 to Crumlin Village. It is a major rehabilitation centre offering day services, residential services and supported employment opportunities to 140 people with disabilities. The day services offer community inclusion, social supports and training.



Walkinstown Green is a subsidiary of WALK. In 2013 WALK signed a lease on 12. Walkinstown Green which was a derelict property for 20 years and owned by Dublin City Council. It is sited in a prime location about 100 metres from Walkinstown Church and its green centre which hosts a playground and a number of safe walk-

ways that offers peace and solace to local inhabitants. Planning permission was granted in December 2013 for the renovation of the property which was opened for trading in September 2014 with Lord Mayor of Dublin doing the honours.

The Mission Statement for Centre is:

***‘Provide training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities and for other people in Walkinstown and surrounding areas that are not in employment , education or training’.***

The projects set up under this development include:

1. Green Kitchen Café
2. Green Garden Centre
3. Gardening Service
4. Training / conference / meeting room



*Pictured above: The Green Garden Centre*

Green Garden Centre has employed a new manager/horticulturalist since January 2016. He is assisted by 3 workers including 2 part-time workers from WALK Rehabilitation Services and 1 internship from the Botanic Gardens. Since the start of 2016 the garden centre has built up a business income of €3,000 per week. Garden training includes FETAC Level 3 and 4 in horticulture and beekeeping. Non accredited training includes workshop demonstrations and work placements.



A Men's Shed was set up and facilitates a group of 22 people. They operate under the men's shed programme and produce garden furniture which is sold in the Garden Centre. Pieces of furniture are made to order including seating, railings, wooden flower and shrub holders. A variety of garden furniture is selling very well giving the people involved great satisfaction.

The Green Café employs 6 workers under a number of supported employment schemes. It has developed into a very busy and popular cafe in the Walkinstown area. Café training in FETAC Levels 3 and 4 include culinary skills and restaurant skills. Non accredited training includes work experience and workshop demonstrations.



*Pictured above: The Green Kitchen Café*

The Training Room offers a meeting place to community groups free of charge. As a training centre it provides programmes in employability skills, specialist training on hospitality and horticulture which are FETAC and QQI accredited.

Community training programmes in youth cafe services, health, fitness and nutrition awareness is planned for 2016. The community garden programmes include workshops and partnerships with Dublin City Council and Alzheimer's Society.

Overall the initiative has proven extremely successful and a once derelict building is now hosting three social enterprises, employing ten people in different work formats and is attracting in hundreds of customers to the cafe and to the garden centre for flowers and shrubs that they are very happy to purchase. The costs are very competitive and the quality of the products is first class.

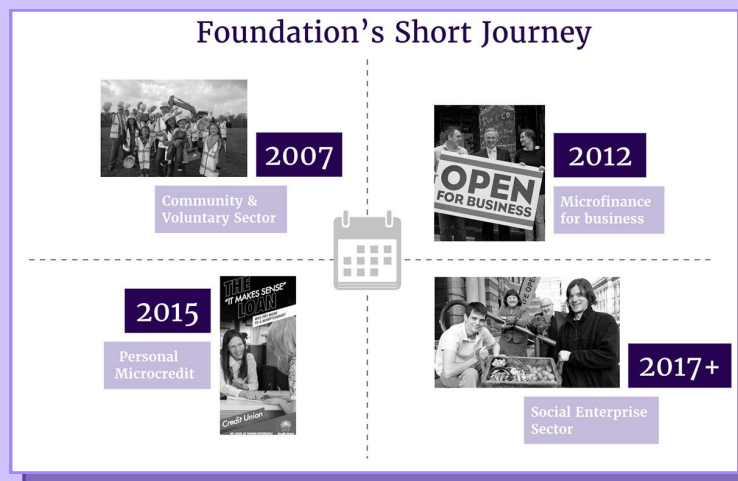
# 10th Anniversary of the Social Finance Foundation



The Social Finance Foundation (SFF) celebrated its 10th anniversary by hosting a conference in the historic venue of Smock Alley Theatre.

The conference theme was ***‘Finance for Social Good’*** which is the Foundation’s motto.

Brendan Whelan, CEO outlined the journey of the Foundation from 2007 when it was first set up as a wholesale provider of finance to the Community & Voluntary sector, through to the launch of Microfinance Ireland in 2012, the launch of the Personal Microcredit scheme in 2015 and more recently the commencement of a new body of work, in collaboration with several stakeholders, on the policy and strategy for the Social Enterprise sector in Ireland.



## ***Community and Voluntary Sector***

Geraldine Comerford from the North Wall Community Development Project talked passionately about how with the help of Clann Credo the project now provides a range of critical services, including childcare, community employment and training programmes. Brian Mc Weeney shared the story of his personal journey of addiction. With the support of North Wall, he has turned his life around and now holds a Degree from UCD in Drug Counselling.

For more information on the North Wall Community Development Project [click here](#).

Sean Mullan, owner of Third Space Smithfield spoke about the role that the Café plays in creating a friendly and informal environment in a Dublin neighbourhood. Sean also highlighted the importance of having a strong relationship when dealing with financial institutions and that’s where Community Finance Ireland delivers so well.

For more information on Third Space [click here](#).



## Regeneration of Tipperary Mid-West Uplands

### *Championing an Integrated Approach*

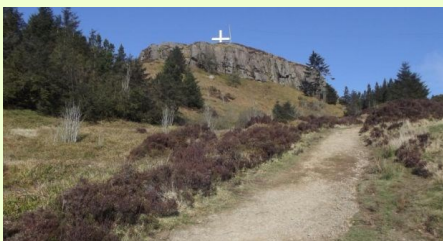
In 1995 a national body 'The Irish Uplands Forum' was established to help sustain upland areas and communities in the face of unprecedented social, economic and environmental change. It draws its membership from agriculture, environmental, academic, rural community development, recreation and tourism interests. The Forum consists of 25 upland areas throughout the country and is focused on developing a partnership model that will address rural upland decline.

Upland communities are those living 150 metres or more above sea level in recognised upland areas and where the principal peaks are above 300m. The 25 upland areas constitute 14% of national land mass and 2% of population. These numbers are declining to the point that a further reduction to 1% in population is conceivable within our lifetimes. Many people are concerned that such a reduction will have negative effects on services, infrastructure, the environment and landscape, economic activity, tourism, recreational usage of traditional upland and on farming culture and practice. There are undoubtedly significant threats to this cornerstone of rural life.



*Pictured above: Keeper Hill*

The Slieve Felim Mountain Uplands in Mid West Tipperary is a member of the Irish National Uplands Forum. The highest peak in the mountain range is Slieve Ciamaltha / Keeper Hill at 694m. In total the area covers approximately 50,000 hectares (2.47 acres per hectare). It is located between the perimeter towns of Nenagh, Thurles, Tipperary Town and Limerick. Slieve Felim, Silvermines and Arra mountain ranges stretches from Mid West to North Tipperary.



*Pictured above: Devil's Bit*

A network of small villages and towns provide personality to the main Slieve Felim mountain range including well known landmark, the Devil's Bit. The villages include Newport, Toor, Killoscully, Silvermines, Templederry, Borrisoleigh, Drom and Inch, Rathcardin, Milestone, Hollyford, Cappawhite, Kilcommon, Curreeney, Rearcross and Murroe. The area has

lush fertile plains and significant sitka afforestation ascending to raised and blanket bog and plateaus of deep moorland mosses sedges and rushes with small lakes and Shandangan fens known as kettle-holes.

The mountain range is rich in biodiversity including endangered species such as the Red Grouse. It is part designated a 'Special Preserved Area' (SPA) under the Birds Directive associated with the Hen Harrier and with more than half the area afforested. There is a National Heritage Area (NHA) x 4 in the wider area. Overall there is about 22,000 hectares of designated SPA, SAC and NHA combined.



*Pictured above: Red Grouse*

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*Pictured above: Hen Harrier*

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## ***People***

The Tipperary Mid West Uplands Forum joined the National Uplands Forum in 2012 with Matt Ryan of Templederry appointed board member. Matt has been a leader in the field of conservation, preservation and improvement for many years. He is the leading organiser of voluntary support from the local villages for the main projects in the wider area. The Uplands Group actively collaborates with a number of agencies including Co Councils, Leader Partnerships, Local Enterprise Office, Irish Heritage Council, Coillte, Office of Public Works, Ireland Peatlands Council, EU Social and Regional Development Funds, Failte Ireland, Shannon Development, Irish Sports Council, National Rural Network, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey of Ireland and others. The overall vision is to facilitate, deliver, promote, sustain and improve the social, community, cultural and economic lives of all the citizens of the area through a partnership approach. The objectives cover three primary areas for development.

## ***Environment***

Introduce a set of practical measures to reverse the decline in quality habitats based on good management practice to alter the catastrophic loss of biodiversity including upland and moorland birds.

## ***Economic***

Promote and cultivate economic growth to enhance the quality of life for all in the area.

## ***Community***

Make Slieve Felim a place where all families, individuals and visitors can prosper.

The Tipperary Mid West Uplands Forum has several sub - committees each one concentrating on specific developments. The main representative body promotes collaboration in identifying and leveraging supports in order to progress the development of strategies and plans Up to 50 volunteers from local villages serve on the various strategic committees.



Everyone understands the necessity to collaborate and work together to preserve and enhance a mixed farming and wildlife habitat area that has the capacity to support local families. Each village and town has individual objectives to pursue and every improvement adds value to the overall result. The main group organises studies, develops plans, make applications for grant aid, identify sustainable solutions in partnership with expert agencies and implement them. These include promoting conservation measures that include water purification, protection of wildlife, flora and fauna, maintenance of soils, rivers, forestry, pathways and services that all help to maintain livelihoods.

Most villages and towns have voluntary groups involved in tidy towns, heritage projects, social and recreational facilities and services. In time these integrated set of improvements will create a tourism ecopark at the heart of County Tipperary. It will encourage people to remain, return and move into the area to live, work and invest in it. There is so much available and to be developed. These include cycling and walking, boating fishing and shooting, arts and crafts, music, song and dance, information, communications and green technologies, small & medium alternative farm enterprises specialising in agri-products, forestry, tourism, heritage, technology, food, social, health and recreational services along with administration and retail.

## **Water**

According to Luna Leopold, hydrologist “*the health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land*”. Alan Levere, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection states that “*a river is the report card for its watershed*” These two quotes address the core issue at the heart of the Water Catchment Management and Water Framework Directive implementation. The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office was established to deliver two key objectives:

1. Co-ordinate the activities of all 31 local authorities in areas relevant to the Water Framework Directive
2. Carry out public consultation and engage with communities and stakeholders as required by the Directive

In Ireland we are never far away from at least one of our natural waters, be they our rivers, lakes, transitional coastal and ground waters. The quality of these waters and the wildlife habitats they sustain play an important part in many aspects of our lives. John Muir states that “*Rivers flow not past, but through us; tingling, vibrating, exciting every cell and fibre in our bodies, making them sing and glide*” They are a rich and precious resource on which human and animal life depend for living and lifestyle purposes.

The two main rivers in the wider catchment area are the Shannon and Suir. There are 7 river tributaries of both of them running through the area into the Shannon at the western side of Slieve Felim mountains and the Suir on the southern side. The tributaries include the Drish, Tipperary Clodiagh, Multeen, Aherlow, Nier and Anner rivers. To the west Lough Derg and the lower Shannon is a handsome inland sea, set in an attractive blend of mountain and hillside, woodland and farm. It ranges from Terryglass in Co Tipperary through majestic Limerick City with its medieval quarter and Hunt museum, King John’s Castle and excellent restaurants and shopping.

Nearby Lough Derg has 13,000 hectares (52,000 acres) of spectacular waterway which is ideal for all kinds of water sports, cruising and angling. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside which is perfect for walking, cycling, horse riding and other visitor pursuits. The extensive shoreline involves the three large counties of Clare, Galway and Tipperary. This area is widely known as “*Ireland’s Pleasure Lake*”.



*Pictured above: Lough Derg*

### ***Tourism and Hospitality***

A core tourism project for the wider area is the Beara to Breifne walkway celebrating the epic march undertaken by Donal Cam O Sullivan Beare and 1,000 men, women and children in seeking to escape from the Crown Forces under Wilmott in January 1603. They travelled from Allihies in the Beara Peninsula and through Kilgarvan in Kerry through Cork again and then through Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and finally to Blacklion in Cavan which was their end destination. The route was covered in 14 days (leaving on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1602 and arriving on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1603). They were attacked all along the route with many killed and with some settling in different locations. Only 35 men made it to the end of the journey. Within the group were members of the clans of O’Collins, McAuliffe, O’Rourke, Fitzpatrick, McGuire, O’Keeffe, O’Donoghue, O’Driscoll, McCarthy, McSweeney, Carr, Quigley and Naughton. The descendants of those who settled along the route are today still known as the Bearas.

The route has been developed as a ‘**Way Marked Way**’ for walking, cycling, heritage and clan gatherings. The Tipperary section of the Beara to Breifne route is named the ‘**Ormonde Way**’ and it stretches from Tipperary Town to Lorrha a distance of 55 miles. Much of the route is through private farm land. Matt and his team visited every farmer en route encouraging them to facilitate a walking route under set conditions. Stiles and signs have been installed. Insurance cover has been arranged and appropriate fencing completed. The official opening is planned for the summer of 2017. The 200 mile route will be marked out in stages. It can be completed in stages over days, weeks, months and years depending on preference. The signage will provide information on distances between villages where necessary accommodations and refreshments will be provided.



### **Beara to Breifne Way**

Following the official opening the route which runs through over 60 small villages and towns will enchant and inspire the visitors with a wide variety of magical experiences. The route has so much to offer. It will undoubtedly become a major international tourist attraction within a few years of marketing the product. Many once isolated village communities will have an opportunity to start new businesses and create new jobs addressing needs and opportunities presented by the influx of new tourists to the area. Each village and town has its own set of facilities, attractions, landscapes, hospitality features, heritage landmarks and stories, music, song and dance to offer. The many gifted singers, musicians, dancers, story tellers will entertain and provide many memorable experiences. The combination and integration of the many outstanding attractions along the route will ensure that each day will bring its own unique set of recreational experiences. They will include walking, cycling, adventures, heritage sites, ecology, education, environmental, fishing, shooting, horse riding, cultural, sport, food, landscape, hospitality, music and dance, drama, crafts and local festivals that will enchant local and visitor alike.



**WELCOME AVRIL!**



The Tipperary PPN Secretariat would like to welcome Avril Wilson as the new PPN co-ordinator for County Tipperary.

Avril can be contacted on:

- **Mobile:** 087 - 4567111
- **Landline:** 0504 - 61014
- **Email:** ppntipperary@gmail.com

On behalf of the Secretariat we hope you join us in wishing Avril every success in her role, one in which we have no doubt she will excel.



# Community Reuse Network

## *Introduction to the Network*

The Community Reuse Network Ireland is an all-island representative body for community based reuse, recycling and waste prevention organisations. Our vision is an Ireland where the word 'waste' doesn't exist and where our entire community benefits from the social, environmental and economic value of all reusable resources. The network is funded under the EPA's National Waste Prevention Programme.

## *Moving Toward a Circular Economy*

Nearly 40% of all new products sold in Europe become waste within the same year. If we carry on using resources at this pace, we will need the equivalent of more than two planets to sustain us by 2050.



The Circular Economy concept aims to reduce our resource consumption and minimise the generation of waste. This will help to boost the EU's competitiveness, **create local jobs at all skills levels** and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, amongst other things.

At the very heart of this Circular Economy concept are reuse and recycling. **Reuse** involves recirculating products – such as clothing, electrical goods or furniture – in our economy. **Recycling** ensures that the material in products – such as paper, plastic or aluminium – is returned to market.

## *Reuse and Recycling in Ireland*

CRNI's members (see [here](#)) are market leaders in community reuse and recycling, contributing to the environment, the economy and the community, or the “triple bottom line”.

In 2016, they enabled the reuse of 32,500 tonnes goods and recycled 17,800 tonnes specialist materials including mattresses. In doing so, they sustained over 760 jobs and provided 210 training opportunities and 7,600 voluntary positions right throughout Ireland.

We estimate the total value of this employment to be €44.7 million and turnover for the sector to be over €70 million.



32,500 t reused  
17,800 t recycled



Supporting 750 jobs  
210 training opportunities  
7,650 volunteer positions



Over €70 million turnover  
Est. €44.7 million  
employment value

## *Potential for Growth*

CRNI estimates that over 2.6 million tonnes waste was generated in 2016 in Ireland. This means that our member's reuse activities account for only 2% and community recycling for only 1% of the waste we generate. To meet the Circular Economy vision, there will have to be considerable growth in reuse and recycling in Ireland – which will go hand in hand with significant opportunities for job creation in the community.



Jobs in the reuse and recycling sector cover a wide range of skills, including trade and craft skills (e.g. carpentry), industry specific skills (e.g. health and safety, forklift / van driving), retail, business management skills and life skills (e.g. team work, first aid). In providing access to these skills, community reuse and recycling organisations create high quality employment and training opportunities for people with the furthest distance to the labour market.

Many of these skills are associated with sectors that have traditionally gone into decline (e.g. manual labour, remanufacturing), so their return to the labour market can be seen as welcome. Furthermore, jobs in this sector generally add to the current jobs market rather than displacing traditional jobs.

Reuse and recycling also supports local and community development. By sourcing products from and returning them to the local community, reuse helps to retain value locally and contributes strongly to the local economy. This also promotes competitiveness by protecting businesses against volatile commodity prices.



Finally, many reuse organisations return goods to the consumer market at affordable prices. This supports low-income households by providing them with the opportunity to meet their needs without incurring debts or making do without essential items.

## *Reuse Month October*

As part of Reuse Month October, CRNI is encouraging local community and business groups and authorities to visit their local reuse and community recycling centres to better understand the growth and jobs potential of this sector. We invite you to get in touch with us on **info@crni.ie** or on **087 173 5184** should you be interested in arranging such an event.



# Common Purpose Celebrates 20 Years of Alumni in Ireland!



On the evening of 6th September 2017, Common Purpose celebrated 20 years of alumni in Ireland at its annual Graduate 360 Connect Event, held in Richmond Barracks in Dublin. The event brought together 20 years of Common Purpose alumni from across Ireland. The keynote speaker was Julia Middleton, Founder and Chief Executive of Common Purpose Charitable Trust.

Common Purpose is an independent international not-for-profit organisation that was founded in Newcastle in 1989. It has grown to be one of the biggest leadership development organizations in the world; every year, 4,000 leaders benefit from its programmes. Common Purpose opened in Dublin in 1996. Since then, it has provided experiential leadership programmes for over 2,000 senior, emerging and student leaders in cities across the Republic of Ireland including Cork, Limerick and Dublin. Common Purpose alumni are from a wide range of public, private and not-for-profit organisations.

Isobel Phillips, CEO of Common Purpose Ireland, commented: “Since opening its doors in Dublin in 1996, Common Purpose has offered leaders from all sectors of society, across all levels, the skills, inspiration and connections to become better leaders in their organisations and communities. We are so proud of our alumni and were pleased to have the opportunity to bring them together and recognise their many achievements at this year’s Graduate 360 Connect Event.”

She continued: “In today’s world it is more important than ever that leaders are equipped with the skills and networks to navigate through complexity and address multi-faceted problems. Common Purpose will continue to work diligently to develop and provide programmes that foster empathic, cross-boundary leadership.”





## What We Do and Why We Do It

Common Purpose runs leadership development programmes all over the world that inspire and equip people to work across boundaries. This enables them to solve complex problems in organizations and in society. Founded in 1989, 4,000 leaders now benefit from our programmes every year.

## Our Vision

To inspire and equip leaders worldwide to solve complex problems in organizations and in society.

## Our Upcoming Programmes

We run a range of leadership development programmes for people from different backgrounds at all stages of their career. Our upcoming programmes in Dublin are:

**Meridian:** A flexible and personalised leadership programme that offers modular learning and development for 55-65 senior-level leaders. Programme runs from Oct 2017-April 2018. Mandatory core dates are: 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018 & 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**Profile:** A two-day local briefing for senior leaders who want to quickly understand the town or city where they live or work. 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Navigator:** A leadership programme for the rising generation of high-potential emerging leaders. This is a 5-day programme held over 2 weeks: 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Frontrunner:** A leadership course designed to support the leadership development of third-level students. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

**YourTurn:** A 3-day educational programme for Transition Year students which encourages leadership, raises aspirations and increases confidence. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

We also offer **Pitstops** across Ireland. These are client-specific leadership development interventions for teams from within an organization.

## How to Get Involved

Contact Kristina Moody, Common Purpose Programme Manager in Dublin:

**T:** +353 1 872 9322 **M:** +353 87 091 8246 **E:** [kristina.moody@commonpurpose.ie](mailto:kristina.moody@commonpurpose.ie)

Find out more on our website [www.commonpurpose.ie](http://www.commonpurpose.ie) or follow us on social media:

**Facebook:** [@CommonPurposeIreland](https://www.facebook.com/CommonPurposeIreland)

**Twitter:** [@CommonPurposeIE](https://twitter.com/CommonPurposeIE)

**LinkedIn:** [CommonPurposeIreland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CommonPurposeIreland)



## Social Innovation Fund Ireland (SIFI)

Social Innovation Fund Ireland (SIFI) was established by the Irish Government in 2013 with the mission to provide growth capital and supports to the best social innovations in Ireland to help them to scale and maximise their impact. Every euro raised in philanthropic donations by Social Innovation Fund Ireland, is matched by a euro from the Irish Government.

### Recent Events

#### *Inspired by Animate*

SIFI have recently completed the interview phase of the 2017 Animate fund and will look forward to announce the Awardees in November of this year. The initiative is a €220,000 fund which has two elements. The first seeks out early stage innovations that have smart responses to general community issues such as poverty, educational disadvantage etc. The second element has a specific focus on community health with the new Healthy Community Awards which is proudly supported by Medtronic and the Irish Government.



*Pictured above: Alma Curran, Medtronic (left), Deirdre Mortell, SIFI CEO (right), pictured with Sean Peters, 'Save a Selfie' app founder/Animate Awardee 2016*

#### *Tech for Good*

In August, all four awardees of the 2016 THINKTECH fund, appeared with their beneficiaries in a feature piece in the Irish Times: [click here](#) to see this article. THINKTECH is a €1 million Tech for Good fund looking to find and back tech based solutions to Ireland's critical social issues, which was sponsored by Google.org and the Irish Government in 2016. The winners of the award are iScoil, Food-Cloud, Space Engagers, and the Alone Platform.



*Pictured above: Daniel Hoskins from Longford believes that he would be in prison by now if it hadn't been for his opportunity to join the iScoil programme*



## **Empowerment in Education**

Throughout the year, SIFI have been supporting the winners of Engage & Educate Fund, a €450,000 fund and a three-year commitment between Mason Hayes & Curran, Social Innovation Fund Ireland and the Irish Government. The Fund was set up to support local projects that empower people through education. The Awardees, Blossom Gateway, Intercultural Language Service, Galway Community Circus and Pieta House Resilience Academy were selected based on their commitment to these values.



*Pictured above: Minister for Housing & Planning, Eoghan Murphy, T.D. (left), Deirdre Mortell, SIFI CEO, Declan Black, Managing Partner Mason Hayes & Curran (right) with students, Mithran Tharmendran and Isabella Keogh*

## **Watch this Space**

The team at SIFI will be excited to announce the winners of the Education Fund in October, a three-year initiative which aims to improve educational attainment and access to higher education for students affected by educational disadvantage.

For more information on SIFI and our funds, visit our website: [www.socialinnovation.ie](http://www.socialinnovation.ie)



*Pictured above: Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton, TD. And Deirdre Mortell, SIFI pictured with the Education Fund Advisory Group; Brian Fleming, Brendan Kirk, Áine Hyland and Maura Grant.*



## ***Congratulations!***

“Happy Hours” Play Group - Cavan Town who won the €1,000 prize in the Social Finance Foundation Draw for social enterprises that completed their research survey forms in Waterford, Cavan and Ballyhoura Leader Partnership regions.