

SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

WICKLOW LOCAL
AUTHORITIES

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COUNTY WICKLOW NETWORK FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A VOICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE
IN COUNTY WICKLOW



Why did we set up the network

- ◆ To provide a platform for older people across the County to get their voices heard
- ◆ Lack of co-ordinated service delivery to older people

Issues facing older people

- ◆ Income Poverty
- ◆ Exclusion
- ◆ Isolation
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Access to quality health services

How did we go about it?

- ◆ Publicized our plans across the county in
 - ◆ Local press
 - ◆ Local radio
 - ◆ Active retirement groups
 - ◆ Local Development Partnerships

Information meetings

- ◆ Over 180 people attended two meetings
- ◆ We organised transportation and lunch for interested parties
- ◆ Open forum used to identify issues and whether there was any enthusiasm to establish the Network
- ◆ Committee was set up from Volunteers

The Network

- ◆ Formally established in December 2007 at AGM in Brockagh Resource Centre in Laragh
- ◆ Constitution was adopted.
- ◆ Executive Committee was formed representing all the geographical areas of the County

The aims and values of the Network

- ◆ To enhance the longevity, quality of life and care provisions for older citizens
- ◆ To recognise the contributions of older citizens in Communities and Society in County Wicklow
- ◆ To work with (but not duplicate) other associations and to speak with a unified voice in matters of concern for older people in our County
- ◆ To make representation to appropriate authorities on issues facing older people
- ◆ To establish communications network for older people in the County

Core Values

- ◆ The Core value of the County Wicklow Network for Older people is one of equality and inclusion for all older people
- ◆ Membership is open to ALL organisations and individuals committed to improving the quality of life of older people in the County
- ◆ Run BY Older people FOR Older people.

What's happened so far?

- ◆ The Committee meets once a month
- ◆ Subgroups formed to develop the workplan
- ◆ Application submitted to Age and Opportunity for funding
- ◆ Newsletter developed
- ◆ Seminar Organised

Achievements to date

- ◆ Our 1st Newsletter
- ◆ Seminar on Rights and Entitlements
- ◆ Invited to present the Network to Age and Opportunity in a few weeks time

Going Forward

- ◆ We're still at the early stages of the Network but a lot of people are putting in an enormous effort
- ◆ We are promoting networking between different groups and organisations around the County and a united voice for older people
- ◆ It will take a year or so for the full effects of the network to become apparent

Going Forward (Cont.)

- ◆ We are working towards building confidence in the network and for to achieve results on the ground by taking on realistic and achievable projects and thus build the foundations for an age-friendly society in County Wicklow

