

Note of INDIE Members' Meeting - 23rd September 2014

The following is a brief summary. The agenda for the meeting is copied again for information in the Appendix.

In all, the meeting attracted 28 participants, including the speakers. Eight apologies from members were also recorded.

Invited Speaker:

Manus Hanratty of FIT covered the change agenda as it affects digital inclusion and also provided insights into specific activities and projects being undertaken by FIT. You can download Manus' slide set [here](#).

Updates from Government Departments/Agencies:

Roisin Doherty (SOLAS) joined the meeting for the first time, accompanied by Tara O'Brien. Roisin took the opportunity to answer questions from the floor on the evolving role of SOLAS and the changing environment for adult education. Roisin has kindly committed to attending future INDIE meetings and to updating members as new policies and practices evolve.

Albert Jordan (DCENR) provided an update on the National Digital Strategy and on the BenefitIT programme in particular. A key concern in the run up to the budget was the attempt to maintain a level of funding for BenefitIT that is on a par with 2014.

Member presentations:

The intention is to devote a section of the agenda of each meeting to sharing of information between members. To this end, three member organisations will be invited at each meeting to make a brief presentation and to take questions. The idea is to provide a wider context for the digital inclusion aspects of the work of widely different organisations and to explore and share practices and experience. For this meeting, presentations were made by:

Pauline Power (Age Action Ireland). See Pauline's presentation here:

http://prezi.com/cbj2sw_y_ebm/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share

Mary Cleary (ICS Skills). Download Mary's slide set [here](#).

Conor McCaffery (Maynooth University - SESADI Project). Download Conor's slide set [here](#).

Discussion Items:

The Steering Group, following discussion at the meeting will consider how to progress the following two matters:

1. Rural Broadband:

Members note recent reports and media coverage and are concerned that some digital inclusion initiatives/communities may be experiencing the difficulties of no broadband or poor/unreliable coverage. Some members reported direct experience of problems.

2. Inventory of digital inclusion initiatives across the country:

If INDIE is to become an effective network, membership must be drawn from a wider base than at present. As a first step to promoting INDIE membership, we need to develop an inventory/map to include known digital inclusion initiatives, the organisations sponsoring them and the networks/funding umbrellas under which they operate.

Developing this inventory is a project in itself that need to be scoped and resourced.

Acknowledgements:

Members acknowledged ICS Skills and Mary Cleary for hosting the meeting, including lunch and refreshments.

Appendix:

Agenda for the meeting

INDIE Meeting

11.00a.m. on Tuesday 23rd September 2014

**Venue: Irish Computer Society (ICS): 87-89 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
(opposite Ballsbridge Hotel)**

Agenda

- 1100 Welcome and introductions
- 1115 Manus Hanratty - FIT
"ICT moves so fast, how can we keep up!"
- 1145 Roisin Doherty - SOLAS
Overview of inclusion activities of SOLAS
- 1215 Albert Jordan - DCENR
Update on Benefit programme and on the National Digital Strategy
Feedback from members on Benefit 4 – Tranche 2
- 1245 Light lunch
- 1315 Panel discussion presenting the work of three INDIE members:
 - Mary Cleary: ICS Skills (skills perspective)
 - Pauline Power: Age Action Ireland (community perspective)
 - Conor McCaffery: Maynooth University (Sesadi project)
- 1400 Items for discussion - should INDIE get involved?
 - Rural Broadband
 - Inventory of digital inclusion initiatives in Ireland
- 1445 Concluding remarks