

Note of INDIE Members' Meeting - 3rd March 2015

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

In all, the meeting attracted 19 participants, including the speakers. 7 apologies from members were also recorded.

Invited Speakers:

1. Sean Lyons, ESRI provided an overview of the evaluation currently being undertaken of the 100MB schools broadband initiative. You can review Sean's' slide set [here](#). In the discussion that followed, the question of adult/community groups being able to avail of schools' broadband (outside of school hours) was raised. It is unlikely that DCENR or the Department of Education and Skills would take a 'centralised' view on this; however, it is known anecdotally that arrangements have been put in place locally in a number of cases.
2. Helen Mahon (on behalf of Edel Hesnan), FIT gave an introduction to a new two-year apprenticeship-style (learn & earn) pathway to a career in the ICT sector, being put in place with support from SOLAS and the ETBs and paid placements being provided by a number of major companies in the sector. The scheme is open to anyone over 18 years of age with Leaving Cert level of education or equivalent. You can review the slide set [here](#). [Siliconrepublic article](#). [Student brochure](#). [Employee brochure](#).

Updates from Government Departments/Agencies:

Albert Jordan (DCENR) provided an update on the National Digital Strategy and on the BenefIT programme in particular. He advised that the funding situation for the second half of 2015 is difficult, with funding amounting to half of what has been committed for the first half of 2015. A decision about the process to be adopted in allocating these limited funds will be taken in the coming weeks. Albert also advised that as of 16th March he will be moving to another role within DCENR. Responsibility for BenefIT and for some aspects of the Digital Strategy will move to a unit based in DCENR/Cavan. The INDIE membership thanked Albert for his support over many years and wished him the best in his new role.

Member presentations:

The intention is to devote a section of the agenda of each meeting to sharing of information between members. To this end 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, four presentations were made by:

Caroline Carswell (Social Innovator). Caroline focused on particular tools/apps that can support deaf persons, particularly captioning tools. Her slide set is [here](#).

Ray Nangle (Localworlds eCommerce Platforms Ltd). Ray focused on a range of community engagement, employment and entrepreneurship activities that he has initiated and on a new initiative aimed at the role of pharmacists in local healthcare. Ray's slide set is [here](#).

Pat Byrne (NUIG): Pat provided an overview of the 'Click and Connect' programme at NUIG, which involves student volunteers working with older adults. Pat's slide set is [here](#).

Trudy Corrigan (DCU): Trudy spoke about the intergenerational learning programme at DCU in the context of the DCU 'age friendly campus' strategy. Trudy's slide set is [here](#) and further information can be viewed at <http://www.dcu.ie/cegie/ilp/index.shtml> .

Discussion Items:

1. Rural Broadband:

There has been a good response to the request to members to flag particular instances of inadequate broadband services. These have been compiled by Pauline Power and can be forwarded to DCENR. The intention is to send the list of issues with a covering letter, addressed directly to the Minister. A suggestion, also to be made to DCENR is that the BenefIT participant questionnaire could include a question on broadband access available to individual participants and a request that they carry out a speed check and report the result as part of the questionnaire return.

2. Access for research purposes to anonymised data collected through the BenefIT questionnaires was again mentioned. Sean Lyons provided advised that, in general, data sets from Government Departments/Agencies can be brought into the research domain through the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) or in the case of particularly sensitive data through an intervention of the Central Statistics Office.

3. Inventory of digital inclusion initiatives across the country:

The Steering Group has looked at a number of options for resourcing a project aimed at compiling an inventory of digital inclusion initiatives. With the changes now in train at DCENR it is now intended to await a discussion with the new team.

4. Make or Break: The UK's Digital Future: This report by a House of Lords Select Committee has many pointers that are also relevant to the Irish context. The report can be accessed at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldselect/lddigital/111/111.pdf>

Acknowledgements:

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

Appendix:

Agenda 3rd March 2015

- 1100 Welcome and introductions
- 1115 Sean Lyons (ESRI)
Impact of the Broadband for Schools programme
- 1145 Edel Hesnan (FIT)
The ICT Associate Professional qualification
- 1215 Presenting the work of INDIE members:
Caroline Carswell (Social Innovator)
- 1230 Albert Jordan - DCENR
Update on Benefit programme and on the National Digital Strategy
- 1245 Light lunch
- 1315 Presenting the work of three INDIE members: -
 - Ray Nangle (Localworlds eCommerce Platforms Ltd)
 - Pat Byrne (NUIG)
 - Trudy Corrigan (DCU)
- 1400 Items for discussion
 - Rural Broadband (follow up)
 - Inventory of digital inclusion initiatives in Ireland (follow-up)
 - Recent UK report: 'Make or Break: The UK's Digital Future'
- 1445 Conclusion

Attendees:

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|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Inez | Bailey | NALA |
| Pat | Byrne | NUI, Galway |
| Caroline | Carswell | Sound Advice |
| Mary | Cleary | ICS Skills |
| Trudy | Corrigan | DCU |
| Jim | Devine | DEVINE |
| Eileen | Glackin | ICS Skills |
| Edmund | Henry | Terenure Enterprise Centre |
| Geraldine | Howe | Enable Ireland |
| Albert | Jordan | DCENR National Digital Strategy |
| Denise | Leahy | Trinity College |
| Sean | Lyons | ESRI |
| Helen | Mahon | Fit |
| Ina | McCrumlish | Louth Leader Partnership |
| Tommy | McLoughlin | NALA |
| Ray | Nangle | Local Worlds eCommerce Platforms Ltd |
| Joshue | O Connor | NCBI |
| Pauline | Power | Age Action |
| Ian | Roller | DIT |

Apologies:

Conor McCaffery
Mark McGennis
Darren Bayliss
Edel Hesnan
Nicola Coss
Roisin Doherty
Tara O'Brien

