

## **INDIE Meeting**

**Tuesday 2nd June 2015**

The meeting opened with a welcome to ICS by CEO Jim Friars and a particular welcome to National Digital Champion Lord Puttnam.

Jim Devine introduced the agenda and welcomed speakers, noting that one of the key aims of INDIE is to make connections between organisations that address digital inclusion and adult learning in different ways. It is important to be able to identify and facilitate further opportunities for those who complete the BenefIT programme, whether these lead to ongoing informal engagement or to the next level of formal courses.

### **Presentation: Geraldine Howe**

Geraldine provided insights from her work as a trainer and course developer, focusing in particular on her work with physically disabled students and those with specific learning difficulties. She stressed the empowerment afforded by assistive technologies, and how the digital inclusion gap can be bridged. Programmes such as BenefIT are successful as the foundation for inclusive engagement, but the questionnaire to be completed by participants could be improved in terms of questions/administration, to address the particular circumstances of those with physical disabilities or specific learning difficulties. Check out Geraldine's presentation [here](#):

### **Presentation: Ian Roller and Riona Fitzgerald (DIT)**

This presentation provided an overview of access and civic engagement activities at DIT, including the CLiC programme that focuses on the development of computing skills, through a range of projects and activities, including BenefIT. DIT works with adult learners and with a number of DEIS schools (parents, teachers, students) to provide opportunities for skills development that can be standalone or can provide the foundation for advancement to certified programmes through, for example, ECDL or FIT. A pathway is also provided for those who wish to progress to DIT's Access programme, leading in turn to participation in mainstream DIT programmes. Riona and Ian's presentation can be seen [here](#):

### **Update from DCENR**

Caroline Henry (AP, DCENR, Cavan) introduced herself (having recently taken over from Albert Jordan), as did Finola Rossi (PO, DCENR, Dublin). Caroline and her team based in Cavan have assumed responsibility for the BenefIT programme. She provided an update, focusing on funding for the remainder of 2015 and the need to complete or urgently commit training activities to ensure that agreed targets are reached and that the next tranche of funding can be made available.

### **Presentation: Sarah Bowman (TCD and Campus Engage)**

Sarah brought two distinct perspectives, one based on her role as Director of Public Engagement for the EngAGE programme at TCD. This programme includes a wide range of research and public engagement activities related to active and healthy ageing. Sarah is also the TCD representative for Campus Engage, the organisation that provides a national focal point for the community engagement activities of all universities and institutes of technology. The website for Campus Engage [www.campusengage.ie](http://www.campusengage.ie) is a very useful portal for any community group or organisation interested in tapping into the resources of third level colleges and also provided the name and contact details for the relevant person in each college. Sarah's presentation can be seen [here](#):

### **Presentation: Mary Walsh (President of the Adult Education Officers Association)**

Mary provided a comprehensive overview of the role of Adult Education Officers within the Education and Training Board structures. In particular, she pointed to the services that can be provided by adult guidance counsellors in identifying learning pathways and opportunities for individuals interested in returning to education, from adult literacy programmes, ICT courses to further vocational and further education qualifications in a wide range of subject areas at Levels 4, 5 and 6. Mary's presentation can be seen [here](#):

### **Address by Lord Puttnam (National Digital Champion)**

Lord Puttnam offered a wide ranging perspective on digital inclusion and societal challenges more generally, with an underlying theme that we must up the pace of change and the drive to do better. Asian countries are surpassing Europe in this regard. The importance of equality cannot be understated and higher demands must be made of those who are endowed with wealth and who hold privileged positions in society, while at the same time we must raise expectations of those who are under-represented. He thanked presenters and expressed his continued support for the work of INDIE.

### **Closing remarks:**

Members expressed their thanks to ICS for hosting the event.

## **INDIE Meeting**

**11.00a.m. on Tuesday 2nd June 2015**

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

### **Agenda - Final**

- 1100 Welcome and introductions
- 1115 Geraldine Howe  
Trainer, working with Enable Ireland and St. Michael's House
- 1145 Presenting the work of INDIE members:  
Ian Roller (DIT)
- 1215 Caroline Henry (DCENR)  
Introduction to new DCENR team and update on Benefit programme and National Digital Strategy
- 1245 Sarah Bowman (TCD: Campus Engage Working Group Convenor and Director of Public Engagement at Trinity EngAGE)  
The work of Campus Engage and Trinity EngAGE
- 1315 Light lunch
- 1345 National Digital Champion - Lord David Puttnam
- 1415 Mary Walsh (President, Adult Education Officers Association)  
The role of Adult Education Officers in promoting Digital Inclusion
- 1445 Concluding remarks/other business
- 1500 Conclusion

**List of Participants:**

Sarah	Bowman	Trinity EngAGE
Pat	Byrne	NUI, Galway
Caroline	Carswell	Sound Advice
Lia	Clarkson	Warrenmount Community Education Centre
Mary	Cleary	ICS Skills
Joan	Connaughton	DIT
Dr. Trudy	Corrigan	DCU
Mark	Creegan	Enable Ireland
sharon	davis	none
Jim	Devine	DEVINE
Shauna	Doherty	Louth and Meath Education and Training Board
Riona	Fitzgerald	DIT
Michael	Fowler	WALK
Margaret	Gaynor	DIT
Eileen	Glackin	ICS Skills
Caroline	Henry	DCENR National Digital Strategy
Geraldine	Howe	Enable Ireland
Laura	Howe	Freelance
Stephen	Kavanagh	Enable Ireland
Anne-Marie	Kelly	Dublin City Public Libraries
Eileen	Kilbane	Past Benefit 4 Candidate
Ailbhe	Lee	Irish Internet Association
Mark	Magennis	NCBI
Helen	Mahon	FIT
Tommy	McLoughlin	NALA
Christina	Meade	Autism Support Louth

Sandra	Moran	Computer Gym
Andrew	More O'Ferrall	Tech Connect Local
Ann	Moriarty	Terenure Enterprise Centre
Fintan	Mulligan	121 Digital
Ray	Nangle	KBFRC
Aidan	O'Connor	Kerry Flyer
Anthony	O'Dea	Recosi and Green IT
Linda	O'Sullivan	IADT
Pauline	Power	Age Action
David	Puttnam	DCENR National Digital Strategy
Geraldine	Raftery	GRETB
Ann	Richardson	Pinnacle Training
Ian	Roller	DIT
Finola	Rossi	DCENR National Digital Strategy
Pat	Shannon	Caring For Carers Ireland
Nicholas	Simms	Age Action
Ciara	Stack	ICS Skills
Caroline	Viguiet	Digital Hub Development Agency
Mary	Walsh	WWETB
Aine	Whelan	WWETB
Monica	Whelan	Past Benefit 4 Candidate