

Laois Public Participation Network April Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Page 2: COVID-19 Response Forum Helpline

Page 3: Mick Dowling Memorial Fund

Page 4: Community Grants Scheme 2020 - Deadline Extension

Page 5: COVID-19 Community Response Forum Numbers

Page 6: COVID-19 Advice for People giving support

Page 7: COVID-19 Advice for People who need support

Page 8: Laois County Library Services - Daily Newspapers

Page 9: Civic Amenity Sites

Page 10,11 & 12: Third Age Ireland

Page 13: Laois Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB)

Page 14: "Open Call to Teenagers" for Solutions to the Challenge of COVID-19

Page 15: Local Authority Waters Programme - Writing Competition

Page 16: Community Champion

Page 17: Irish Foster Care Association

Page 18: Laois County Council Library Services

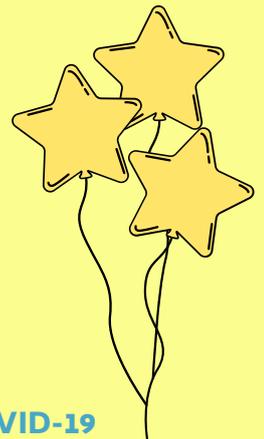
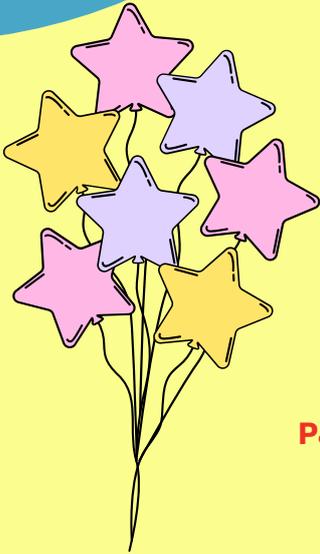
Page 19 & 20: In This Together

Page 21: Let's Play Ireland

Page 22: Food Provision Scheme for Young Children

Page 23: Nestle Foods

Page 24: Contact Us





A COVID-19 Response Forum has been established in Laois, co-ordinated by Laois County Council.

**The confidential, free helpline service is available
8am - 8pm, 7 days a week.**



Phone: 1800 832 010



Email: covidsupport@laoiscoco.ie



See <https://laois.ie/covid-19-community-support-response-page/>

... for more.



Laois PPN is part of the COVID-19 Community Response Forum. Laois PPN is represented by PPN Secretariat Member, Paddy Buggy and PPN Resource Worker, Dan Bergin. The helpline number will link vulnerable people with Community Groups who are offering supports in their areas.

We wish to thank all Community Groups who have registered with Laois PPN to be part of this initiative.





Mick Dowling Memorial Fund

Laois Public Participation Network in honour of the late Mick Dowling were honoured earlier this year to announce the Mick Dowling Memorial Fund.

Three groups (one from each Municipal District) will be awarded €1,000 each.

Application Forms can be downloaded at:
<https://www.laoisppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Mick-Dowling-Memorial-Fund-Application-Form.docx>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, We have Extended the Deadline for Receipt of Applications until

Tuesday 30th June 2020 @ 5:00pm

For further information email ppn@laoiscoco.ie
or call 057-8665661.

*Terms and Conditions Apply

Community Grants Scheme 2020- Deadline Extension

The deadline for receipt of fully completed applications has now been extended to Friday 15th May 2020 at 12pm.

Community Grants Scheme 2020

The Community Grants Scheme provides grant aid to Residents Associations, Community Groups and other groups / committees who are engaged in community amenity works in their own area. Each year applicants are invited for amenity projects such as landscaping, purchase of equipment i.e. strimmers, lawnmowers, etc. and the maximum grant available is determined by the number of complete and valid applications received.

The Grants Scheme for 2020 is now open. Forms can be obtained at the bottom of the page or by contacting the Community Section at

057 86 64078 or communitygrants@laoiscoco.ie

Closing date for Receipt of Applications is Friday 15th May at 12 noon. Due to the large number of applications received, incomplete and late applications will be refused and returned to the applicants.

Criteria and Eligibility

- **Groups / Committees/ Organisations must be formally constituted, i.e. hold an AGM or regular meetings.**
- **Copy of minutes of recent committee meeting to be submitted with application.**
- **An up to date quotation for goods/services to be submitted with application.**
- **Be Revenue compliant and provide TRN/ Revenue number for your group /committee. This must be applied for from Revenue, Business Registrations South, Officer of the Revenue Commissioners, PO Box 1, Wexford. Any queries should be directed to 01 738 3630.**
- **New Committees or those who have changed their details must also request a supplier set up form from the Community Section or can be obtained at the bottom of the page.**
- **On completion of the project, invoices, receipts and before and after photographs must be submitted.**

General Information

- **All works must comply with relevant legislation and all local authority requirements. For clarification, applicants should seek advice from relevant sections within Laois County Council. It is recommended that applicants arrange adequate insurance cover and provide for maintenance and upkeep after the works have been completed.**

Forms

<https://laois.ie/community-grants-2020/>



Coronavirus COVID-19 Information



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



Covid-19 Community Response Fora

Local Authority	Community Response Number	Email Address
Carlow County Council	1800 814 300	covidsupport@carlowcoco.ie
Cavan County Council	1800 300 404	covidsupport@cavancoco.ie
Clare County Council	1890 252 943	covidsupport@clarecoco.ie
Cork City Council	1800 222 226	covidsupport@corkcity.ie
Cork County Council	1800 805 819	covidsupport@corkcoco.ie
Donegal County Council	1800 928 982	covidsupport@donegalcoco.ie
Dublin City Council	01 222 8555	covidsupport@dublincity.ie
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	01 271 3199	covidsupport@drlrcoco.ie
Fingal County Council	01 890 5000	covidsupport@fingal.ie
Galway City Council	1800 400 150	covidsupport@galwaycity.ie
Galway County Council	1800 928 894 and 091 509 390	covidsupport@galwaycoco.ie
Kerry County Council	1800 807 009	covidsupport@kerrycoco.ie
Kildare County Council	045 980 202	covidsupport@kildarecoco.ie
Kilkenny County Council	1800 500 000	covidsupport@kilkennycoco.ie
Laois County Council	1800 832 010	covidsupport@laoiscoco.ie
Leitrim County Council	071 965 0473	covidsupport@leitrimcoco.ie
Limerick City & County Council	1800 832 005	covidsupport@limerick.ie
Longford County Council	043 334 4255	covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie
Louth County Council	1800 805 817	covidsupport@louthcoco.ie
Mayo County Council	094 906 4660	covidsupport@mayococo.ie
Meath County Council	1800 808 809	covidsupport@meathcoco.ie
Monaghan County Council	1800 804 158	covidsupport@monaghancoco.ie
Offaly County Council	1800 818 181	covidsupport@offalycoco.ie
Roscommon County Council	1800 200 727	covidsupport@roscommoncoco.ie
Sligo County Council	1800 292 765	covidsupport@sligococo.ie
South Dublin County Council	01 414 9043	covidsupport@southdublincoco.ie
Tipperary County Council	0761 06 5000	covidsupport@tipperarycoco.ie
Waterford City and County Council	1800 250 185	covidsupport@waterfordcouncil.ie
Westmeath County Council	1800 805 816	covidsupport@westmeathcoco.ie
Wexford County Council	053 919 6000	covidsupport@wexfordcoco.ie
Wicklow County Council	1800 868 399	covidsupport@wicklowcoco.ie

ALONE, National Helpline: 0818 222 024

ALONE, the national charity for older people, is partnering each Covid-19 Community Response Forum. If you need to talk or are looking for emotional support, you can call them on 0818 222 024 or your call can be directed from your local Covid-19 Community Response Forum helpline. You can also contact ALONE if you are experiencing difficulties with physical and mental health, finance, housing, loneliness and other challenges.

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Coronavirus COVID-19 Information



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



Advice for people giving support

Making contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the person to confirm your visit • Phone the person when you arrive outside their home • Complete hand hygiene before leaving your vehicle • Ring doorbell or knock loudly and step back 2 metres • Inform the person who you are, the reason for the visit and show your ID
Once you arrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the person to move to another room • Place items inside the front door • If essential to enter the home follow the cocooning guidelines about handwashing and physical distance
When you leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm time and date of next visit • Reassure the person that contact and deliveries will be maintained while they remain at home • Complete hand hygiene prior to returning to vehicle • Telephone or email confirmation of visit and wellbeing of person
What if the person is unwell?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person reports feeling unwell ask if the person has contacted GP • If the person has not contacted GP, obtain the name and number of GP and do so on their behalf • If the GP can't be contacted, phone the emergency services
What if the person is frail and needs help with delivery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify location of kitchen and bring in goods/fuel • Unload goods ensuring they are accessible for the person • Leave the residence and step back 2 metres • Reassure the person that contact and deliveries will be maintained while they remain at home
What if there is no response?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no reply, ring contact telephone number • If no answer, contact the Local Authority for any additional contact numbers • After numerous attempts to contact the person without success, phone the emergency services for further assistance • Remain at the residence until the emergency services attend • Contact the Local Authority with outcome and update on the person

Follow these 6 steps to prevent coronavirus



Stop

shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance

yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid

touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Coronavirus COVID-19 Information



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



Advice for people who need support

DO

- ✓ Do remember that help and advice is only a phone-call away.
- ✓ Do make yourself aware of contact numbers for vital services and keep these numbers handy.
- ✓ Do keep in touch with neighbours.
- ✓ Do ask to see identification if a stranger calls to the door. If in doubt, call the organisation they claim to represent for verification.
- ✓ Do remember to practise physical distancing, keeping a space of 2 metres between you and other people.
- ✓ Do follow guidelines around hand washing, sneezing and coughing into your arm or a tissue.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't answer the door to someone you don't know unless you feel comfortable doing so.
- ✗ Don't shake hands with anyone that might come to the door.
- ✗ Don't let someone into your home unless you know them or it is absolutely necessary.
- ✗ Don't give **ANY** personal details including your bank details or your credit/debit card to anyone you don't trust – whether in person or over the phone.
- ✗ Don't interact with other vulnerable members of your community if you have any symptoms of illness.
- ✗ Don't be alarmed by **false information** on social media – stick to HSE advice.

Follow these 6 steps to prevent coronavirus



Stop
shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid
touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean
and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

For Daily Updates Visit
www.gov.ie/health-covid-19
www.hse.ie

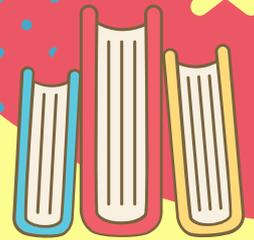


Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Laois County Library Services

A reminder that members of Laois County Library Services can access daily newspapers from home on their laptop, tablet device or smart phone.

Pressreader - <https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>

is an online service provided by your library which gives you free access to hundreds of newspapers, so you can keep up to date with news and events. Irish titles include The Irish Independent, Sunday Independent, Irish Examiner, Daily Mirror, etc...

There are hundreds of UK, USA, European and worldwide titles also.



All you need is an updated library card number and PIN number to get started. If your membership is out of date or perhaps you have lost your card etc, feel free to contact us by email on

library@laoiscoco.ie

or by phone on

057 85 94982

and we will get you started and joined up.



You can also join online and start using all our e-resources straight away.

All this information is available on the main council website -

<https://laois.ie/departments/libraries/on-line-resources/>



The Portlaoise and Portarlinton Civic Amenity Sites for recyclable goods, along with the Landfill / Tipping Area at Kyletalesha, Portlaoise, are open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.00am to 3.30pm and Saturdays 8.00am to 1.00pm.



In the interests of the health, safety and welfare of staff and members of the public, please take note of the COVID-19 control measures on site. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.



Third Age Ireland

With the outbreak of COVID-19, Third Age - managers, staff and volunteers - have adapted each programme to ensure continuity of service and to provide new solutions for a changed time.

Third Age has been developing innovative programmes in Ireland since 1988, emphasising the importance of community and family, and the value of older people in our society. We work to identify issues, provide creative solutions and opportunities, and meet the needs of people in their third age.

Across all programmes, we are working with the health, social, emotional and psychological needs of older people, and our services are responding to their needs in the light of the current - and ever changing - health and social situation. Every Third Age programme is now devoted to this end, offering maximum support to the state. Please find details below:

Senior Line: This is Ireland's only dedicated peer to peer telephone services for older people with 180 trained older volunteers working everyday from 10am to 10pm. This service is funded by the HSE. In recent weeks we have seen an increase of up to 200% in calls dealing with stress, anxiety and isolation. We issue twice daily COVID-19 updates to volunteers on best health practice, information, other community supports, tips on how to cocoon successfully and other helpful referrals. Our information is accurate and keeps pace with the changing dynamic. Our callers tell us we are their lifeline, Freephone number is 1800 80 45 91.

Age Well: This is a community support programme in partnership with the HSE where trained companions visit vulnerable older people at home. We are currently providing telephone support. Each client receives two calls per week during which companions use a 20 Question Health App to monitor ongoing health. This is an early warning tool, and we ensure that if necessary each client is immediately connected to the right community care. We are currently working with a US stakeholder to repurpose our Health App to identify complaints indicative of early COVID-19 infection.

Third Age Ireland

Failte Isteach: This programme has 1,250 trained tutors teaching free conversational classes in English each week to over 4,000 migrants, refugee and asylum seekers. Classes have now moved online to teaching groups through Zoom, Office Teams and WhatsApp. We provide updated teaching materials and teaching ideas each week, thereby remaining connected with students and maintaining the conversations that build English language skills. We are also using our network to forward information from the HSE, the Department of Social Protection and the Department of Justice, helping our students understand what is happening in Ireland now,

Navigate your Work Future: This programme in partnership with the global consulting firm Accenture, began as a way of enabling older people (50+) to plan their working life. The supports include career coaching, interview preparation, networking and future work trend information. The priority has changed in the current climate, and we are harnessing our network and Accenture's expertise to provide a suite of on-line supports including Accenture Digital Skills and their Skills 2 Succeed Academy programmes. We are also being used by the Department of Social Protection to disseminate critical information rapidly to those who have lost their jobs as a result of the crisis.

Third Age Summerhill: Our headquarters in Summerhill, Co Meath, co-located with the Primary Care Centre, is now working virtually. We are leading a community-based volunteer support system for members and local older people. We are keeping contact, phoning our members weekly, organising delivery of shopping and medicines, and beginning to reframe a practical sense of community cocooning. We have a growing database of older people and happy to extend this service to all who need it. In addition to this, our Digital Skills trainers are maintaining telephone contact with their database of older students.

Third Age Ireland

All our services continue to operate, and to provide critical support to those most at risk from COVID-19. We have committed staff, a strong reputation and wonderful support from our volunteer teams. We are determined to do what we can to minimise the impact on our older population and to be as much of a service to the state as possible.

Third Age has worked for over 30 years for social inclusion and to promote the contribution of everyone in society irrespective of age or gender, We believe there is a part for everyone to play, and at this time of global crisis, we will not be found wanting.

Third Age

Challenging ourselves and each other to respond effectively in a national crisis.

Collaborating with statutory, voluntary, community, business and private organisations.

Making volunteer led action matter.

For more information, contact Anne Dempsey, Communications Manager

087 745 0721

www.thirdageireland.ie



loetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Laoise agus Uíbh Fhailí
*Laois and Offaly
Education and Training Board*

**LOETB's Community
Education Service have
uploaded a number of art and
craft, woodwork and
gardening tutorials on
their Facebook Page see:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Laois-and-Offaly-ETB-Community-Education-100349704747179/>



facebook

Minister Canney welcomes Young Social Innovators "Open Call to Teenagers" for solutions to the challenges of COVID-19

Mr Sean Canney TD, the Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development, has today (Monday, 20th April) welcomed and initiative by Young Social Innovators (YSI). It calls for young people across Ireland to put forward solutions on how to respond to the challenges of coronavirus in their communities.

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed the way we live, work, learn, connect, communicate, travel and care for each other. YSI's new research has found that 68% of young people in Ireland are optimistic that society will change for the better in the aftermath of coronavirus. Young people have plenty of ideas about how to tackle these challenges in new and creative ways and need to be heard.

Minister Canney said:

"Young Social Innovators has come up with a fantastic idea in challenging teenagers to come up with creative ideas to the challenges faced during these difficult times. The 'Open Call for Teenagers' gives them a platform for their voices to be heard, to find ways to tackle some of the problems that we as a community are facing now and into the future. I would encourage teenagers to think about what is working for their community, what can be done better and how can we make a difference."

The Young Social Innovators have launched an 'Open Call to Teenagers'. The initiative invites teenagers to create, explore and make a difference around the issues caused by the Coronavirus. The 'Open Call' is asking young people for their ideas on how to tackle the problems in their communities. Young Social Innovators believe that young people have a powerful role to play and their ideas and voices are important. The 'Open Call' will run from 20th April until 31st May and is open to young people aged between 13-19.

The ideas with the most potential to impact, as a result of the Coronavirus, will be given the opportunity to pitch to a digital panel of team leaders from across the Government, NGO's and business, which will be hosted by Virgin Media.

It is important that we understand how young people are doing amidst such crisis and uncertainty. The level of awareness among young people, their interest in staying informed, their knowledge of Government guidelines, and their high levels of commitment to following them is encouraging. However, while many young people are remaining positive, there are others who may not be managing as well and they should be encouraged to express how they are feeling, particularly around the many frustrations they may have.

Minister Canney stated:

"This initiative provides young people with an avenue to contribute and participate in the discussions around what kind of world we wish to live in after the crisis. We need to listen to young people's anxieties and provide them with a platform to express these while also considering potential solutions."

For more information, visit: youngsocialinnovators.ie



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Local Authority Waters Programme

'Stories from the waterside' writing competition



The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) has launched a national Storytelling Competition 'Stories from the Waterside' / 'Scéalta Ó Thaobh An Uisce'.

The competition is open to all, with two categories: Under-18s and Over-18s and there is €4,000 in prizes to be won. Entries are welcomed from across the Island of Ireland and entries may be submitted in either English or Irish.

Please submit stories of 600 words or less and only original and previously unpublished stories can be accepted.

Closing Date is 31st May 2020.

For more information on the competition, and to download an application form,

visit: <https://bit.ly/2KEICih>



COMMUNITY CHAMPION



Meet Paddy Buggy, Laois Public Participation Network Secretariat Member, Manager of Mountmellick Development Association and representative on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Paddy has become the 'Local Champion' to sit on the COVID-19 Community Response Forum which has been established in Laois and is co-ordinated by Laois County Council.

The role of the 'local community champion' is to ensure that no area or household in Laois is left behind during the COVID-19 crisis. Working with the local authority and other state agencies and organisations, the champion will help streamline the community response.

If vulnerable members of the community do not have family members or neighbours close by, they should contact the 'local community champion' and he will link them with any services they need. You can contact Paddy by phone on 087 623 8268 or by email buggypaddy@gmail.com

The Forum has established a dedicated helpline to assist the vulnerable members of our communities. The helpline is open 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week.

Phone 1800 832 010 or email covidsupport@laoiscoco.ie



Irish Foster Care Association



Irish Foster Care Association has a National Helpline, which is open from Monday to Friday between 10am - 3pm.



This service is open to all those involved in Foster Families, callers do not need to be a member of IFCA. The helpline provides support, advice and a listening ear to foster families.



Telephone: 01 458 5123

Email: support@ifca.ie



Laois County Council Library Services



Are you cocooning with no access to books or reading material or do you know someone who is elderly or vulnerable and who is cocooning at home?

You can now request a selection of library books, audio-books, and DVDs from Laois County Council Library Services. Driver for Volunteer Laois will then deliver these library items to your house.



How does it work?

A person who is cocooning contacts the Laois Community Response Forum on the Call Helpline at

1800 832 010

or by email

covidsupport@laoiscoco.ie



Library staff will contact the person who is cocooning and select suitable library material. Volunteer Laois volunteers will then make arrangements with you to deliver these library items to your doorstep.

All items are on long loan, there are no overdue fines or fees and access to the service is always FREE!

In This Together

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government Action Plan acknowledged the importance of people maintaining their wellbeing and resilience to help see them through this unprecedented and unique challenge.

The Department of Health and the HSE, in collaboration with key cross-government and cross-sectoral partners, have developed this mental wellbeing campaign where you will find lots of advice and tips on how you can look after your mental wellbeing, stay active and stay connected.

In This Together draws together a huge range of activities that you can pursue in your home or your locality, by yourself or with family members or with friends on-line. There are ideas and activities for people of all ages.

The campaign provides tips and advice from cross-government and Healthy Ireland partners on topics such as physical activity, parenting, coping with daily routines, supporting the 'cocooned' and getting involved in the community solidarity efforts. This campaign is about uniting all of us. Bringing us together in the name of wellbeing to support everybody.



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

In This Together

The campaign emphasises the importance of collective support and staying connected to others, and while all of us are experiencing different concerns, it highlights "no matter what you're going through, let's stay connected and make it through, together." #InThisTogether

Its a one-stop shop site that is sign posting people to links across all the government departments and relevant agencies who have an offering in this wellbeing space. This website gives people advice, information and support under

the following headings:

-  **Your Mental Health** 
- **Coping at Home**
-  **Eating Well** 
- **Staying Active** 
- **Cocooning** 
- **Helping in the Community**
-  **Lets Play Ireland** 
- **Local Resources**

To view the suite of resources, follow the link for further information

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/together/>

Let's Play Ireland



Let's Play Ireland is an online portal on Gov.ie, providing access to a range of play resources for children.

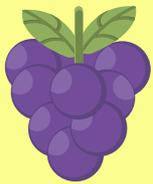
- **Let's Play during COVID-19**
- **Let's Play Ideas**
- **Why Play?**
- **Let's Play Families**
- **Let's Play Screen Time**
- **Let's Play Links and Resources**

Full details: <https://bit.ly/3bGq3Wx>

Food Provision Scheme for Young Children during COVID-19



The Children's Rights Alliance, with €50,000 funding from the Bank of Ireland, have established a direct food provision scheme to support the nutritional needs for children under the age of 6 years experiencing poverty and deprivation during the COVID-19 crisis.



Applications are available on the Children's Rights Alliance website



<https://www.childrensrights.ie/content/food-provision-scheme>

and through your local CYPSC.



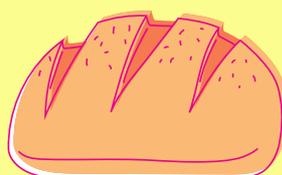
Applicants must fill out the application form and contact their local CYPSC to seek endorsement for their application.

Following endorsement of local CYPSC, the application must be submitted by Friday 1st May to

mary@childrensrights.ie



Applications will be reviewed and processed by the Children's Rights Alliance Grant Group and successful applicants will be notified by Friday May 8th.



Nestle Foods



POSITIVITEA



Nestle Good Food, Good Life

Laois PPN were delighted to get involved with a recent initiative by Nestle Foods.



Nestle Foods have offered to provide a supply of food and water nationwide through the Irish Red Cross and in association with the local PPN's.

Products range from coffee, water, confectionery, cereals, noodles and pet food.

Laois PPN helped the process by organising a drop off point, getting in contact with Laois Red Cross and streamlining the delivery process.



On Wednesday 29th April, Laois received a donation of food supplies from Nestle Foods which will be particularly welcome by the many households that are being supported during the COVID-19 crisis.



CONTACT US

The Laois Public Participation Network Office is currently closed to the public but the team are working hard behind closed doors.

You can still contact Dan or Ailish by



Email:

ppn@laoiscoco.ie

or by

Phone:

Dan: 086 035 2107



or by post

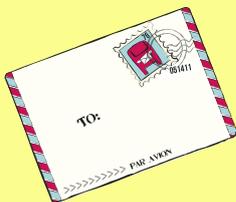
Laois Public Participation Network

JFL Avenue

Lyster Square

Portlaoise

Co. Laois



Follow us on

 twitter

 facebook

 Instagram

Stay Safe and Well