

## **Community Connect Conference – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

The 2017 Community Connect Conference being the inaugural Conference for community, voluntary and charity organisations in the southeast was held on the 1st of March in the Tower Hotel Waterford

The conference was for the people who attended to network, meet colleagues, gain contacts and above all acquire knowledge that will serve them well in their organisation.

John Warren the conference organiser opened the conference by welcoming everyone and it was officially opened by Minister of State for Training, Skills and Innovation, John Halligan T.D.

He talked about the work of communities and the importance of volunteers giving up their time to help make their communities a better place, he finished his speech with a quote from John Holmes " There is no exercise better for the heart then reaching down and lifting people up".

John Warren came back and outlined the talks that were going to be had and these are as follows,

### **LEGAL ESSENTIALS FOR NON-PROFITS**

Catherine O' Connor, MJ O' Solicitors discussed about the implications of the company's Act 2014 for charitable organisations together with some of their key legal responsibilities. Visit [www.mjoc.ie](http://www.mjoc.ie)

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Philip O' Meara, Pathbridge Consulting Limited shared his innovative and fun approach to strategic planning using a variety of tools and techniques to capture critical information. Visit [www.pathbridge.ie](http://www.pathbridge.ie)

### **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

Ms. Nicola Kent, Management Consulting shared her skills as an entrepreneurial skills tutor and start up consultant to help you get that social enterprise up and running. Visit <https://ie.linkedin.com/in/nicola-kent-07a98584>

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Jim Kelly, O' Connor & Kelly talked about helping those organisations that may or may not have an established marketing or communications function, to become more efficient in whatever activity they undertake, In a smarter way. Visit [www.oconnorandkelly.ie](http://www.oconnorandkelly.ie)

### **GOVERNANCE**

Ivan Cooper, Director of Advocacy, The Wheel discussed the role of governance within the sector including the role of the board and the importance of being transparent and accountable. Visit [www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

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Seàn Ormonde, Ormonde & Co.Solicitors shared his significant experience on helping organisations to meet their employment obligations and managing employee relations. Visit [www.ormondesolicitors.ie](http://www.ormondesolicitors.ie)

## VOLUNTEERISM

Stuart Garland Training and Programmes Manager for Volunteer Ireland discuss the recruitment and retention of volunteers and the critical role of volunteers in your organisation. Visit [www.volunteer.ie](http://www.volunteer.ie)

## CHARITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Eamonn O' Halloran discussed the steps required to register as a charitable organisation; the information you need to gather, and other helpful registration information. Visit [www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie](http://www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie)

## FUNDRAISING

Ms. Jordan Campbell, Director of Grants and Research, The Ireland Funds provided valuable insight into the work of The Ireland Funds and their grant application opportunities. Visit [www.theirelandfunds.org](http://www.theirelandfunds.org)

Fr. Peter McVerry delivered the key note speech in the afternoon which was very informative as he talked about homelessness and what has been done had not been enough and gave his own view of what the government could do to solve the homelessness crisis.

It was a very informative conference and well worth attending if John Warren was to organise another one.

ppn Social inclusion rep: Susan Murphy