YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SEVERELY LET DOWN

Less than half the recommended staff are in place to deal with increasing waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the staff shortages are severely letting down young people in South Dublin and beyond.

Figures obtained this month reveal an almost 60% shortage in required staff providing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Dublin South West. Commenting on the information, local Tallaght Councillor Charlie O’Connor said, “Despite being the largest Community Healthcare Organisation area in the country, our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services have less than half the clinical staff required and as specified in the State’s mental health strategy, “A Vision for Change.”

“The long waiting lists and the delays endured by the families of children in real need of services stem from the fact that there are severe shortages in staff. It’s been thirteen years since the national strategy was put in place, yet our area has only fulfilled 43% of the staffing requirements.

As a member of the Regional Health Forum for Dublin Mid-Leinster, this is sadly not the first time I have been made aware of inadequacy’s within mental health services. “The Mental Health Commission’s annual report which was recently published exposed many of the ongoing deficiencies in mental health services across the board.

The serious issues are becoming increasingly apparent and cannot be ignored. “During an era that has imposed new pressures on children and young people including social media and the internet we should be broadening access to mental health services not limiting it even further. If CAMHS services are not up to scratch, then we are letting down young people heading into the prime of their lives and stifling their prospects or at least delaying their growth.

“We are told to assure anyone in crisis to seek help or reach out for mental health support, but the system isn’t in the position to provide that help. It’s a fallacy really. “Addressing the deficits in mental health services and fully realising “A Vision for Change” must be made a priority. Otherwise the Government cannot continue to spin the baseless claims that they understand the severe, dangerous shortfalls that exist.”

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CALLS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A LIVING WAGE

Local TD Seán Crowe has welcomed the launch of his party’s proposals to introduce the Living Wage in Ireland. Sinn Féin are pledging to introduce a new Living Wage Act when in government, which will see workers earn enough which makes possible a minimum acceptable standard of living.

The proposals also include an exemption for financially vulnerable businesses, which would protect businesses who cannot afford this transition at this stage, Deputy Seán Crowe said: “This is a very important policy as we recognise that many workers across the country earning the current minimum wage simply can’t make ends meet. “While this Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil government have rolled out the red carpet for vulture funds and big business, they have pulled up the drawbridge on ordinary workers who are really struggling. “Social Justice Ireland estimates that there are 109,000 workers in Ireland, living in poverty. This is absolutely unacceptable. “In government Sinn Féin will introduce the Living Wage, which currently stands at €11.90 per hour, which will see workers earn enough to make ends meet and bring an end to the practice of profitable businesses posting huge profits, while their employees are living hand to mouth. “Sinn Féin’s Living Wage policy will specifically benefit over 130,000 workers who currently earn the minimum wage. “We believe every worker should get paid at least enough for their labour to be able to achieve a minimum acceptable standard of living. This is not too much to ask.” Crowe continued: “Our proposal also includes an exemption for those financially vulnerable businesses who can show they genuinely cannot afford this transition to the Living Wage.

“We don’t believe this clause will be used widely, as most SMEs value their employees and already pay their employees the living wage and much more. “However, this exemption safeguard businesses and jobs in those SMEs who find themselves in a difficult financial position. “The Eurofound report from 2018 shows that implementing a living wage could play a significant role in offsetting the rise of in-work poverty across the European Union.

“Sinn Féin wants Ireland to become the first country in the world to introduce a Living Wage on a legislative basis. “Proper wages and the eradication of precarious working practices must be the essential foundations of economic growth and productivity.”
DUBLIN CIVIL DEFENCE RECEIVES EMERGENCY VEHICLE BOOST

A new four wheel drive jeep that has the capacity to respond to national emergencies and extreme weather events will be added to the Dublin Civil Defence fleet, a Fine Gael Cllr. has said. Minister with responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe, confirmed that the 16 Ford Ranger Crewcab Pickup Vehicles will be joining the Civil Defence fleet in the coming weeks. And Cllr. Emer Higgins can reveal that Dublin is among the units that will receive a jeep. The purchase of the vehicles is part of a €500,000 allocation from the Dormant Accounts fund of the Department of Community and Rural Development.

The vehicles, priced at over €31,000 each, will improve the four wheel capability of the Civil Defence fleet and further improve its ability to support the Principal Response Agencies.

During national adverse weather events such as Storm Ophelia in October 2017 and Storm Emma in March 2018, the Civil Defence fleet of four-wheel drive vehicles were fully deployed.

The vehicles were utilised in carrying out a variety of tasks, assisting local authorities, the HSE and the National Ambulance Service and An Garda Síochána.

In a number of incidents, Civil Defence volunteers were involved in assisting vulnerable people including elderly who found themselves snowed in. They were also involved in transporting patients and carers, evacuating people from their homes and delivering meals.

The decision to award these vehicles to the Civil Defence Units came following a transparent allocation process, which looked at several criteria including the ratio of civil defence four wheel drive jeeps to the population of the county and the age profile of the four wheel jeeps currently within the Civil Defence unit in the county. Commenting on the decision, Cllr. Emer Higgins said: “These new vehicles will be an additional resource for those who give their time and work so hard in times of emergency such as severe weather events to keep people safe.

Their provision is also an important acknowledgement of the work of volunteers and their ongoing commitment to Civil Defence”.

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BARRIERS TO FIRST TIME BUYERS ACCESSING HOME OWNERSHIP

Sinn Féin Housing spokesperson Eoin Ó Broin TD has commented on the findings of a new report on housing affordability from the EY-DKM Economic Advisory. The report looks at two barriers to first time buyers accessing home ownership, the ability to afford the mortgage repayments on the home and the ability to save the 10% deposit required. Based on this analysis the report found that in 46% of the 26 counties home ownership is unaffordable for first time buyers on average incomes.

Deputy Ó Broin said: “The report by the EY-DKM Economic Advisory supports what many stakeholders have been raising. High house prices coupled with rising rents is pushing home ownership out of reach of many first-time buyers on average incomes. “The authors of the report highlight how in nine out of the 26 counties, housing was unaffordable based on the ability to raise a deposit of 10% of the median house price. Seven counties were unaffordable based on the ability to repay the mortgage if buyers were successful in saving the deposit.

“For example, in some counties, it could take more than 10 years to save enough, due to both high house prices and rental costs. In Meath, Wicklow and Kildare in could take up to 15 years. “While this report analyses affordability based on average wages, it the situation is analysed using median incomes the affordability gap would be starker.

“The CSO itself acknowledges that assessing median incomes is more useful than mean as it is not as skewed by very high or low salaries. “The government needs to focus on delivering affordable homes for people on median incomes, whether this is affordable rental or affordable purchase homes, on public land.

“Data has shown that the market cannot and will not provide homes workers on median incomes and they will continue to struggle to afford a home to rent or to buy on the private market.”

FAMILY MEMORIES AT ATHLONE SPRINGS

The Athlone Springs Hotel voted Midland Best Family hotel 2019 is the perfect location for you to enjoy a fun filled holiday or relaxing break away. With the hotel’s friendly staff, modern bedrooms, state of the art leisure facilities, bar and restaurant and just five minutes away from the lively Athlone Town, you will be spoiled for choice.

When you visit The Athlone Springs Hotel there are also lots of local attractions to keep you entertained throughout your holiday. All the hotel’s guests can enjoy complimentary access to Zen Leisure complex is one of the best in the midlands and plays host to a 20 metre swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobic centre, and large cardio area with state of the art integrated entertainment, system and weights zone, classes, personal trainers and changing facilities including family changing rooms.

There really is something for everyone so you can enjoy the pool with your family or still have your full work out whilst on holiday. If you are with the kids then the pool, kid’s evening camp and the nearby Glendeer Pet Farm are all perfect to keep you and the little ones entertained.

If you would like something a little more historical then the Clonmacnoise monastic settlements tour is a fantastic way to spend your day. Other attractions available are Athlone Castle, Birr Castle, Fore Abbey, Derryglad Folk Museum, Portlick Forest, Lough Boora Parklands and Belvedere House. Athlone Springs hotel is part of the family run So hotel Group, and since being taken over has undergone bedroom refurbishments with the addition of smart TV’s in every room, a newly refurbished gym and Bar area.

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GLENDEER PET FARM, ATHLONE CASTLE, VIKING TOURS IRELAND, JUMP FOR JOY, BOWLING & MUCH MORE!

TALLAFEST 2019

Pictured at Tallafest in Tallaght Village were Cllr.Charlie O'Connor And Mayor Vicki Casserly

FAMILY MEMORIES AT ATHLONE SPRINGS

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CALUM BEST TO HOST CHARITY MATCH IN TALLAGHT IN AUGUST

South Dublin County Council and Shamrock Rovers have teamed up with Calum Best to raise money for the Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and UK-based Charity Naco (National Association for Children of Alcoholics). A host of celebrities will take to the Dublin 24 pitch to raise much needed funds for these worthy causes. Calum Best is the driving force behind the ‘My Tribute’ game, which is due to be staged on the 31st August at the stadium (3pm kick-off). Best, will captain one of the celebrity teams while their opposition will have Dubliner Brian McFadden as their skipper. Other celebrities taking part include Tony Bellew and Carl Frampton, James Argent of The Only Way Is Essex (TOWIE) fame and Dan Osborne, who appeared on Celebrity Big Brother and TOWIE.

Also out on the pitch will be Love Island stars Jack Fowler, Josh Denzel and Sam Gowland - Sam also appeared in Geordie Shore - along with English rapper, actor, television personality and former non-league footballer MC Harvey. F2 Freestylers - freestyle football duo Jeremy Lynch and Billy Wingrove - have confirmed they will be putting in an appearance, while Warren Phillips, who was also on our TV screens in Survivor of The Fittest last year, has also agreed to be there. More celebrities will be added to this stellar cast closer to the time! Sellebrity Soccer, which specialises in staging celebrity football matches throughout Ireland and the UK and raises money for charity in doing so, will organise the game in association with South Dublin County Council and Shamrock Rovers.

Tickets for the ‘My Tribute’ celebrity football match will cost €17 per adult and €10 per child (U16), family tickets at €50 will allow access for 2 x adults, 2 x children - plus booking fee. A limited number of VIP tickets with access to the Players Lounge will be available for €40. Tickets are on sale now on https://shamrockrovers.ie/.

FIRHOUSE CRC VISIT ATHLONE AND TUROE PET FARM

Clients from Firhouse CRC day centre enjoyed a day out in Athlone and Turoe Pet Farm in Loughrea while staying for a week in Cuisle Holiday centre in Co. Roscommon

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HSE ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WILL REMAIN IN CLONDALKIN

Eoin Ó Broin TD welcomes confirmation that Adult Mental Health Services will remain in Clondalkin. The TD has welcomed the news, following the leasing of a new premise for the service by the HSE. In late March, the HSE cast doubt over the future of accessing services in Clondalkin with proposals to temporarily relocate the service to the Belward Road, Tallaght until the new primary care centre at Boot Road had been developed.

Deputy Ó Broin said, “I was delighted to receive confirmation from the HSE that the relocation of Clondalkin Adult Mental Health Services has been averted and the service is to remain in Clondalkin. “Quite understandably, the possibility that the service might be lost to Tallaght was met with deep concern throughout the area, particularly for clients of the service and their families.

“On foot of requests to the HSE to secure a new property, followed up by strong lobbying from service users, the wider community and local politicians, the HSE have now confirmed that a new premises has been identified and approved for funding. “The service will move to Steeple House, Ninth Lock Road, once the redevelopment of the building has taken place. Currently, there is no commencement or completion dates for these works but I intend to keep a close eye on developments. Until then, these vital services will remain in situ at Orchard Road, Clondalkin.”

CLEAN UP OF TYMON PARK

Good turnout of volunteers including local TD Seán Crowe for the monthly clean up of Tymon Park on Saturday 29th of June. Organisers say newcomers are always welcome (you might even get a cup of tea and a scone or two) but apparently you have to smile in the group photo. The Friends of Tymon meet at 10am on the last Saturday of every month at both ends of the Park, the Rangers Office and the Car park at the Limekiln end.

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SUMMER URBAN MARKET IN ST. CATHERINE’S PARK

Now you have yet another reason to visit the spectacular St. Catherine’s Park with a new Sunday market opening. The Urban Food and Craft Market began last week in St. Catherine’s Park, Lucan, featuring a wide variety of stalls selling an assortment of food offerings, this venture is being supported by Fingal County Council to further enhance the extensive amenity of St. Catherine’s Park.

“I was delighted to attend the official opening alongside Mayor Vicki Casserly and Cllrs. Emer Currie and Joe Neville. The pop-up food and craft market takes place near the playground in St. Catherine’s Park and will run every Sunday from 10am to 5pm right through the summer months, until October.

On offer is everything from hot food, baked goods, coffee, fresh fruit and veg, to artisan crafts and lots more. They are focusing on running an eco-friendly and sustainable market with an emphasis on biodegradable materials and a leave no trace policy. It’s a fantastic initiative and I wish them every success. When you’re out for your walk why not pop down to taste great food and support the local traders at the market” said Cllr. Higgins

SDCC CONSULTATION ON DIGITAL STRATEGY

South Dublin County Council is developing a Digital Strategy to set out its ambitions to meet the needs and aspirations of the citizens, businesses, and communities of South Dublin County, by enabling them to benefit from digital technologies and infrastructure throughout the county. The Council is now asking members of the public to let us know what they would like to see in the Strategy.

Digital is the nearly instant, free and flawless ability to connect people, devices, physical objects and information anywhere. It involves not just Broadband telecommunications being delivered under the National Broadband Plan, but also considers; Mobile and wireless networks; The introduction of new technological tools and equipment; Online services; and Supporting the development of the skills for citizens to use the technologies and systems available.

Over the last year, South Dublin County Council has launched a number of innovative digital projects including electric car charging points and the MyDoorStep housing and planning platform, whilst also securing funding for the Tallaght District Heating Scheme through the government’s new Climate Action Fund. Speaking about the launch of the Digital Strategy consultation period, Danny McLoughlin, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, said: “South Dublin County Council want to support all citizens and businesses to take full advantage of digital opportunities in their lives. We would like our citizens to get involved and let us know what they think, so I would encourage you to make your views known through this consultation process.” South Dublin County Council’s Digital Strategy consultation is running from Tuesday 2 July to 31 July 2019. Hard copies of the Digital Strategy survey are available at all South Dublin County Council libraries.
“SHOWHOUSE ON SALE AT NEWTOWN MANOR, KILL, COUNTY KILDARE”

MMWard are delighted to bring to market the fantastic 4 Bed Semi Showhome at the highly sought after estate of Newtown Manor in Kill Co.Kildare.

Superbly located facing a Large green area, on a small cul de sac and at the front of this stunning development, this immaculate home showcases the ideal circumstances for family living with the prestige of interior designed layout throughout. It comes with all contents included, new furniture, kitchen and utility appliances, carpets, flooring, lights and open fire fireplace to name but a few and is a must see even for the most discerning of purchaser and has the added advantage of immediate occupancy if necessary.

Nestled away nicely between Rathcoole & Naas off the N7, Kill is a friendly, traditional country village the town is located approximately a 15 minute drive from the Red Cow roundabout and with the Luas line extended out as far as Citywest and the train line from Sallins, minutes away and the regular local Bus Eireann service in the village itself, it leaves ample forms of public transport available on route to the City Centre and surrounding areas.

A New Large modern Primary school has opened in Kill catering for both boys and girls and secondary are easily accessible with private bus operators servicing both Rathcoole and Naas schools also.

This Showhome was designed with the modern purchaser in mind, beautiful modern fully fitted kitchen with all appliances included. Tiled Bathrooms and En Suite, Front driveway and Garden Walls, Open fire and Fireplace, carpets, built in wardrobes, front garden walls are just some of the features to capture the imagination.

Cavan Developments homes are built with reduction of maintenance in mind and with the PVC fascia and soffit and the walls being brick and dry dashed, this goes a long way to emphasizing that point.

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Ideal for downsizers and first time buyers, these homes are also suitable as a rental opportunity for those with a little extra garden space. SkyClad Homes are a more cost effective solution than traditional building methods. Build times are reduced by 60%, saving customer’s time and money on the overall construction. Unpredictable weather means that traditional builds can often go over budget, unlike, a SkyClad Home which is constructed in a factory setting. The process from sign off of design, to handing over of keys is complete in a number of weeks.

As a result of this cost efficient build process, SkyClad has seen a lot of customers opting for a personal loan rather than the need for a mortgage, meaning greater financial freedom while providing customers with sustainable smarter living.

Shauna Coyne, Chief Operations Officer for SkyClad Homes states ‘there is an opportunity for homes such as ours to replace traditional builds. Walking into a SkyClad home, feels like you’re walking into a traditional built home. The only difference being - our home was built in a matter of weeks!’ Customers have used these homes for many solutions such as extensions, garden offices, granny flats, rental properties and additional work space. SkyClad Homes have a show house on display at their premises in Milltownpass, Co. Westmeath.

For more information or to receive a free quote call +353 (0) 44 922 2655 or visit www.skyclad.ie

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**MARATHON MAN TO IRONMAN FAMILY RUN A HUGE SUCCESS**

In Corkagh Park on the 30th of June, Stephen Martin of Marathon Man To Ironman hosted a Family Fun Run with 2.5Km and 5Km distances. All funds raised will go Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland. Participants walked, ran or jogged around the course. All participants received medals and a great day was had by all! For more information www.challengeme.ie.

Pictured Stephen Martin and daughter Libby
JALSA SALANA 14TH OF JULY 2019

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association Ireland will hold their 18th Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) on Sunday 14th of July 2019 at Glenroyal Hotel Maynooth co. Kildare. Muslims all over Ireland will be travelling and get together in order to reaffirm their rejection of violence and extremism, as the community is totally committed to eradicate any kind of extremism from Islam.

The Imam of the largest mosque in Western Europe (Morden London), respected Imam Naseem Ahmed Bajwa will also honour this event. It will officially begin with a flag hoisting ceremony in the morning at 9.50 AM in which the Irish Tricolor, and the flags of the four provinces will be raised, along with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community flag. The second session of event from 11.30 AM will be attended by the TDs, councillors and Members of An Garda Siochana,* who will also address the convention. The focus of this conference* will be on role of the spirituality in boosting the moral values* of oneself so as to form a peaceful society and learn ways to work for the betterment of fellow human beings. On this day meetings, speeches and prayers will be held in the name of ‘Peace’. An introductory presentation on community activities in the last year will also be shown. A book stall and exhibition on the community’s history in Ireland, key Islamic beliefs and topics will also be on display, which will be open to all community members and guests during the convention.

CLONBURRIS N.S. FUNDRAISE WITH THE REYNOLDS FAMILY FOR LAURA LYNN

June Reynolds was presented with a cheque for The Laura Lynn Hospice by Clonburris N.S. Principal John Murphy. June and Joe Reynold’s son Lucas, was a patient at Laura Lynn and they commended Clonburris N.S. for their fundraising efforts over the years. Lucas’ brothers, Joseph and Zach both attended Clonburris and helped raise awareness of the wonderful work the Laura Lynn Hospice does in caring for children with life limiting conditions. Those who would like to donate can do so at www.lauralynn.ie.
CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY CHILDCARE SCHEMES

People Before Profit Cllr Madeleine Johansson has expressed concern that community childcare schemes are being phased out from October 2019. The National Childcare Scheme to be introduced in October 2019 will negatively affect those who most need child care, and will have devastating consequences for Community child care. Parents using childcare through CETS and CCS will lose out financially with the new scheme.

Councillor Johansson said: “Recently I attended a briefing hosted by People Before Profit with SPARK and an independent researcher to inform TDs and Senators of the impact the National Childcare Scheme will have on low income families. As a local Cllrr I am concerned that the loss of the current CETS scheme will impact negatively on community crèches locally.

The CETS scheme is what is currently holding community crèches as it allows parents on either an ETB course or on a CE scheme to access childcare, and is run by many parents availing of CE schemes.

Similar losses are faced by parents on CCS scheme as some parents currently availing of CCS will end up paying almost 400 euros more under the new subsidy scheme. I am asking Minister Zappone to act immediately to ensure low income families can pay for childcare and to protect our local community childcare. It is a massive flaw in policy that a new National Childcare Scheme will hit the families that need childcare the most.

I will be working alongside local community crèche providers to raise their concerns. If any parents or childcare providers have concerns with the National Childcare Scheme do not hesitate to contact me.”

SICKLE CELL MATTERS ANNUAL BALL - MARKING WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY

Members of the African community hosted a celebration of diversity, inclusion, positive mental health, fashion and music to mark World Sickle Cell Day. The Sickle Cell Education and Awareness Ball took place in the Hilton Hotel and was attended by Yemi Adenuga, Fine Gael Councillor for Navan and the first African woman elected in Ireland and Cllr. Emer Higgins who supports the event every year. This year marked the 7th sold out celebration, and the aim was to come together to raise funds, to educate and have fun, while at the same time to better our understanding and hear about the impact and true stories of people living with sickle cell in Ireland.

Sickle Cell Ireland have successfully donated €6000 to Crumlin children’s hospital launching the first ever Sickle Cell support services for children and families in Ireland. “I was delighted to attend the World Sickle Cell Day celebrations to help raise awareness of the anaemia. Thankfully it’s a rarity in Ireland today, but as modern Ireland becomes more multicultural, diverse and inclusive, unless we promote awareness of the disease we could risk changing that. It’s a genetic condition of which many people, particularly those of African descent, are carriers. Being a carrier doesn’t impact your life but it could impact your child’s,” said Cllr. Emer Higgins.

“The event itself was fantastic, a celebration of diversity, song, dance and fashion. Many congratulations to Debola Sakinah Abdul-Ibiyeye and Ester on another successful fundraiser.” concluded Cllr. Emer Higgins.
HEALTHY SOUTH DUBLIN STRATEGY

On the 26th June Minister Catherine Byrne T.D., Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, in the presence of the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Vicki Casserly, officially launched the Healthy South Dublin Strategy.

Launching the Strategy, Minister Byrne said: “Our vision for a Healthy Ireland is one where everyone, young and old, is empowered and supported to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life. This plan for a Healthy South Dublin shows a strong partnership at the local level and a commitment to implementing key actions across all communities such as promoting physical activity and healthy eating and supporting people to reduce their alcohol intake and quit smoking.

It is particularly encouraging to see a strong focus on young people and actions to support good physical, mental and sexual health. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in developing this Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin. Working together, we can make the healthy choice the easy choice”.

Healthy South Dublin is led by South Dublin County Council and the HSE, with members from the ETB, Tusla, South Dublin County Volunteer Centre, South Dublin County Partnership, Technical University Tallaght and Tallaght Hospital. The launch took place as part of an interactive workshop taking place in the Russell Building in Tallaght.

The Healthy South Dublin Strategy, which was developed with input from a wide variety of local people and organisations under the auspices of the Local Community Development Committee and the Children’s Services Committee, will for the first time identify local actions that will improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in South Dublin County.

The actions cover six areas identified by the national Health Ireland Strategy: Healthy Weight, Physical Activity, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Sexual Health, Alcohol and Tobacco.

Each of us has the power to make changes in our lives to improve health and wellbeing. The first step in this process is developing an awareness of a particular challenge or a problem, such as giving up smoking, getting fitter, learning cooking skills or managing anxiety. The second step is to get help addressing that challenge by identifying and working with appropriate health care or social service providers.

A Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin 2019 – 2022 brings together a wealth of information on the national and local level policies and programmes available to residents of South Dublin County.

It identifies a wide range of ongoing initiatives that can be accessed in the community and new programmes that will come into being over the timeline of the strategy. The strategy will be implemented in the coming years in the context of Healthy South Dublin, which is part of the Healthy City and County network.

The network is aligned with the World Health Organisation’s longstanding approach to improve health and wellbeing through the development of local collaborations.

Pictured in the Russell Centre, Tallaght, at the launch of A Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin were Councillor Charlie O’Connor, Mayor Vicki Casserly, and Catherine Byrne T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health.
The new Mercedes-Benz GLE is the fourth generation of the premium German manufacturer’s large SUV, having started life badged as an ‘ML’ back in 1997. The ML was an instant sales success for Mercedes-Benz worldwide, so much so, that it went on to become the best-selling SUV in the history of the company. The ML spanned two generations, but with the third generation model in 2015 came a name change to reflect a massive uplift in technology, refinement, performance and desirability. The path being followed by Mercedes-Benz, by injecting replacement models with a new sense of youthfulness, is most evident in the latest GLE, which has just launched in Ireland.

Significantly Important Luxury SUV;

The new GLE is entering a vastly different market than the first-generation ML did in 1997, with multiple large-SUV offerings from rival manufacturer’s available now in many different sizes and configurations. With seven seats available for the first time (a reasonably-priced cost option), the GLE’s main competitors are the BMW X5, Audi Q7 & Q8, and the Range Rover Sport. The luxury SUV market now makes up a sizeable share of the total new car market across the world, so the new GLE is a significantly important car for Mercedes-Benz. In fact, since 1997, combined ML and GLE sales have topped the 2-million mark worldwide.

Engines, Transmission & Drivetrain;

Three diesel models make up the new GLE range all with 4MATIC transmission (9-Speed G-Tronic Automatic, with 4WD) as standard - a GLE 300d, GLE 350d, and GLE 400d. The GLE 300d is powered by a 1,950cc 4-cylinder engine, while the other models in the range are fitted with a 3.0-litre, 6-cylinder power plant. A 3.0-litre, 6-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine (producing 367bhp) is also available, and is badged as a GLE 450. For drivers looking for even more power, high-performance AMG53 and AMG63 models are due to join the new GLE line-up in the near future. Also promised later is a plug-in hybrid electric version with, a rival-bating, full electric capability of up to 100km’s. Ranked the first SUV in its class to meet Euro 6d emissions standards (not coming into force until January 2020), it is fitted with an extended exhaust gas after-treatment system and additional under-body SCR catalytic converter technology that reduce nitrogen oxide emissions down to 20milligrams per kilometre on average.

Test Car;

My test car was a new Mercedes-Benz GLE 300d 4MATIC finished in stylish Selenite Grey metallic paint with black Nappa leather interior. Producing 245bhp, and a truly impressive 500Nm of torque, the smooth and responsive turbo-diesel engine in the 300d is capable of sprinting from 0-100km/h in just 7.2-seconds, on its way to a top speed of 224km/h (where permitted). Accompanying these remarkable performance figures, are equally remarkable fuel efficiency figures, with as little as 6.1-litres of diesel consumed for every 100km’s driven on a combined driving cycle. Courtesy of an optional AMG Line pack, my test car was adorned with an AMG front apron, striking sports air intakes in the wing lines, flared wheel arches, side skirts, rear apron with diffuser-look insert in black and trim stripe in chrome, sports pedals in brushed stainless steel with black rubber studs, along with striking 20” AMG twin-spoke light-alloy wheels for outstanding visual impact. Quiet and smooth-running in terms of its driving and handling characteristics - with the latest-generation of suspension and comfort control features - the new GLE is even more responsive, delivering greater enjoyment and driving comfort in normal road conditions and an even more competent off-road performance. The new GLE possesses outstanding driving dynamics, irrespective of the quality of the road surface, while precise steering direction - with terrific feedback - along with strong braking performance, ensures ultimate driver enjoyment on every journey. As we have come to expect from the Mercedes-Benz brand, standard specification in the new GLE is hugely impressive in terms of safety, security, convenience, comfort, and cutting-edge technology.

Elegant Presence;

Though fitted with the power needed to handle the rough and tumble (with a towing capacity of 3500kg), the GLE now has a noticeably more-rounded, more-elegant presence, with Mercedes-Benz’ designers having toned down its predecessor’s bold muscular lines. With its younger-looking, ready-to-rock appearance - with 80mm longer wheelbase, short overhangs and flush-fitted wheels - the overall objective was to ensure that the new GLE will appeal to male and female owners in more equal numbers. Helping this will be its fuel-efficient, best-in-segment, 0.29 Cd value (down from 0.32). Achieving such a low coefficient of drag (Cd) figure is seriously impressive for such a large SUV, and is testament to the craftsmanship, and vision, of the cars exterior design team.

Sumptuous Interior;

Equally impressive is the sumptuous interior of the new GLE, with digital displays, open-pore wood trim, and distinctive SUV design details displaying impressive inner greatness. As with every new Mercedes-Benz, high-tech features are to the fore. A standard feature is the acclaimed MBUX driver assistance and infotainment system with ‘Hey Mercedes’ voice-activation. In its latest form, MBUX has the day and night capacity to ‘read’ driver and front passenger hand and arm movements to facilitate the contactless operation of interior features such as seat adjustment, reading lamp and light functions. Touch screen technology functions can be controlled intuitively, and displayed according to individual preference, on two large screens arranged to create a panoramic effect.

Cabin & Boot Space;

With a wheelbase which is almost 3-metres long, the new GLE is more spacious than ever, with room for up to seven occupants. This extra spaciousness is reflected in its longer, wider dimensions with increased front and rear headroom, better elbow and shoulder room, and better load capacity. For music lovers, there is the enjoyment of surround sound to be experienced. With the rear seats in my 5-seat test car in the upright position, boot space is a cavernous 630-litres, but this can be extended to a massive 2,225-litres with the rear seats folded flat.

Verdict & Pricing;

More intelligent, aware and considerate than ever, the new Mercedes-Benz GLE shows the SUV in a new light. Its tremendous elegance, supreme comfort, outright practicality, ultimate refinement, and prestige image are enough to ensure that the new GLE remains in control of the large SUV market. On sale now, the new Mercedes-Benz GLE is priced from £78,395 (ex-works).
Palmerstown Camera Club Annual Exhibition

Recently Palmerstown Camera Club had its annual exhibition a great night was had by all with presentations of prizes to members. The exhibition highlights the work done by our members. The exhibition was opened by the newly elected Mayor of South Dublin County Council Vicki Casserly. Vicki said she had seen a wealth of talent in the club with an amazing ray of photography she mentioned that this was our 10th-anniversary exhibition and she was delighted to be asked to open the exhibition. Prizes were presented by Hugh Wilkinson LFF. Mayor Vicki Casserly and Councillor Shane Moynihan posed with winning members for photographs after the awards were handed out. Further information see www.palmerstowncameraclub.com.

Hugh Wilkinson with Elaine Butler Advanced silver medal winner

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Clondalkin Village Festival was held at the end of June, a fun family weekend for all! Pictured are crowds being entertained. Pictured are Clondalkin Youth Band taking part in festivities. Pics credit: Tommy Keogh

Clondalkin Village Festival 2019

Clondalkin Village Festival 2019
MIRACLE PRAYER  Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. Special mention to the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary for great favour witness received.

H.B

MIRACLE PRAYER  Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. Special mention to the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary for great favour witness received.

F.M

MIRACLE PRAYER  Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. Special mention to the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary for great favour witness received.

F.M

DAILY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR EMPLOYMENT
Dear St. Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with Fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety over my present inability to support my family. Please help me to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart, and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessing from God. Amen M.M.

MIRACLE PRAYER  Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you for a very special one. Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in His merciful eyes it will become your favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible. Never known to fail. Special mention to the United Hearts of Jesus and Mary for great favour witness received.

F.M

PRAYER TO ST ANNE TO OBTAIN SOME SPECIAL FAVOUR
Glorious St Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke thee, and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at thy feet, and humbly beg of thee to take the present affair which I recommend to thee under thy special protection. Vouchsafe to commend it to thy Daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus, so that He may bring it to a happy issue. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all obtain for me the grace of one day beholding my God face to face, and with thee and Mary and all the saints praising and blessing Him for all eternity. Good St Anne, Mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope, pray to her for us, and obtain our request. (Say three times.) M.M.

As our regular readers will know we have asked for your generosity in supporting very worthy charities over the years. Going forward, we are delighted to support Laura Lynn Children’s Hospice. LauraLynn, Ireland’s Children’s Hospice provides palliative care to children with life-limiting conditions and their families, from the point of diagnosis to end of life, and throughout bereavement. It costs €5.2 million to keep LauraLynn’s Children’s Hospice open, €3.5 million of which must be generated each year through fundraised income. Since opening in 2011, LauraLynn has cared for more than 325 children and their families and provided more than 265,000 hours of short stay care provided to children in LauraLynn Hospice. For further information please visit lauralynn.ie.

If you would like us to publish your pictures in our upcoming editions please email to admin@newsgroup.ie

GETTING NOSTALGIC WITH NEWSGROUP

Pictured below Tony McClafferty Managing Director of West Link presenting prize of Suzuki Alto to Bridget McMahon to Link presenting prize of Suzuki Alto to Bridget McMahon to celebrate public of West Link’s new guide to Dublin driving on 24th May 1991. Image appeared in the South West Express incorporating the Tallaght News and South City Express.

We are getting all nostalgic here at Newsgroup, in recent editions we have been featuring images which ran in our old newspaper South West Express incorporating the Tallaght News and South City Express.

Do you have a old picture with a caption?

If you would like us to publish your pictures in our upcoming editions please email to admin@newsgroup.ie

Pictured above Two football teams at South Dublin County Council Offices in 1996. Image appeared in the South West Express incorporating the Tallaght News and South City Express.
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