



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Northside Community Enterprises

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# CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

A.G.M. Board of Management

May 28th 2019

The mission statement of N.C.E. is:

Since its formation NCE's values and commitment to the community remains steadfast.

We believe that all people have the right to integrate with others in our community, re-educate, train, work and gain the relevant experience to progress to future full time employment.

Our aim is to promote social inclusion and provide accessible training opportunities to serve the needs of the local community.

With this statement as a background I would like to thank the board of management, Noreen Hegarty, General Manager of NCE, all supervisors and staff who during the past year to the best of their ability have tried to put this statement into practice in the following areas.

- Farranferris Campus
- Visitors Centre, Roman Street
- Eason's Hill
- Health & Fitness in St Vincent's GAA Club
- The Energy Hub
- Childcare & Early Education Centre

The Farranferris campus during the past year housed the following

- The participants of N.C.E. / outreach through education, training, employment and social enterprises

Gael Scoil Pheig Sayers

- SHEP
- CETB hospitality course
- Childcare facility to accommodate 100 children
- An E Learning Centre
- CETB Workskills and Construction Skills course currently being developed by the Energy Hub

All these activities on site in Farranferris campus in combination with our off campus facilities gives N.C.E. a varied approach to the many people who come to us for education training and employment.

During the past year the Energy Hub and CETB have forged a good working relationship in the development courses both on site in Farranferris and in other facilities.

The hospitality course has given a new dimension to the area of enterprises in Farranferris and as always we welcome and encourage new initiatives in the ongoing development of N.C.E.

Sometimes it might seem to people that N.C.E. at different times have taken one step back but these are opportunities to go three or four steps forward with what we learn through the experience.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Tabor Group and Teach Mhure for their ongoing support in the outreach programme.

I look forward to the capacity to be always adaptable to change, which has been the motto of N.C.E. since 1993 through two recessions, a large fire in Sunbeam in 2004 and a major move to the Farranferris campus.

I finish with these two lines:

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May the road always rise up to meet N.C.E and may the wind be always at its back in its journey for all the people who come through its doors.

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## NCE MAIN OBJECT

To establish, maintain, promote, advance, assist, facilitate and organise the carrying on of a Community Enterprise Centre and in so doing to advance the education of unemployed people, provide help services to the elderly and to provide and advance educational services to children and adults alike.

## ABOUT NCE

Northside Community Enterprises Ltd was founded in 1993 to provide support services to communities in Cork City and to offer new opportunities to the long term unemployed through work experience, training, and education. Since its formation NCE's values and commitment to the community remains steadfast. NCE believes that all people have the right to integrate with others in our community, re-educate, train, work and gain the relevant experience to progress to future full time employment. Our aim is to promote social inclusion and provide accessible training opportunities to serve the needs of the local community.



Through partnerships with educational organisations and government agencies NCE offers effective solutions to enhance workforce preparation and increase employment levels in the area. NCE offers a diverse range of training programmes that are sector specific and which serve the social and economic needs of the local community. NCE is spread over 4 locations around the North side of Cork city namely Farranferris education & training campus, North Cathedral Visitors Centre, St Vincent's health & fitness centre and Eason's Hill, Shandon.

NCE offers training and education opportunities in the following areas that are designed to assist long term unemployed return to full time employment:

- Childcare
- Catering

- Insulation
- Floral Arrangement
- Security Training
- Administration
- Gardening
- Accounts
- Historical Research
- Sport and Fitness.

NCE is an accredited Q.Q.I, ITEC, and ECDL Centre. NCE has 48 company employees and 245 people are employed through community employment social projects. The above-mentioned projects have created a positive impact in the community and local economy through increased spending in these areas which in turn creates more employment opportunities and has a positive impact on people lives.

The employees of NCE come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences; however, the integration of training and education programmes takes place in a natural and inclusive environment. NCE has always emphasised the importance of integration on site, to facilitate this, Farranferris also hosts Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers, (280 children), SHEP Social Health Education Project, Cork Folklore & Ethnology project in conjunction with U.C.C., L.T.I. Work Initiative for Northside, & CETB Hospitality Course.



# OUR HISTORY

## St. Finbarr's College

In the 1870s the seminary for the Diocese of Cork and Ross, Saint Finbarr's Seminary, was located at St. Patrick's Place in the city (The current home of 96FM). This premises proved inadequate for attendees requiring boarding accommodation, and a new college was built between 1883 and 1885 in response.



Designed as a Diocesan College attached to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cork and Ross. The current building was constructed between 1883 and 1885 at a cost of £17,000. A secondary school only in its later years, it closed in 2007. Front Elevation published in *The Architect*, May 16th 1885.

The college opened in September 1887 and the building in St. Patrick's Place was handed over to the Christian Brothers who founded a new school in its place.

In 1960 St. Finbarr's College, Farranferris was expanded and it began to take non-seminary boarders. With time, the college also began to accept pupils as day students.

The Centenary of the founding of the seminary was celebrated in 1987.

Farranferris closed to boarding pupils at the end of the 1999-2000 academic year, and ceased to operate as a college fully in 2006.

## OUR LOCATIONS

### **Farranferris Campus**

Surrounded by beautiful landscapes, Farranferris boasts a proud tradition in learning. Located in the old college of Farranferris, NCE offers a convenient location just 5 minutes from the city centre. Our vibrant campus is an excellent centre in which to develop new and existing enterprises which play host to a broad range of training opportunities. Our state of the art facilities include fully equipped kitchens, workshops, training rooms, childcare facilities, and coffee shop.



### **Sports Complex**

Our Sports Complex is one of the leading sports and fitness education training centres in Cork. It boasts excellent training facilities for those wishing to pursue a career in Sport and Fitness. In addition to a fully equipped modern gym, we also have indoor and outdoor pitches, plus class rooms to study and learn theory. It is located at St Vincent's GAA Club in the north side of Cork City.

### **North Cathedral Visitor's Centre**

The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne (or North Cathedral) Visitor Centre was established in 2017 in the crypt of the Cathedral. The Visitor's Centre invites the public to view the various exhibitions relating to the history of the cathedral and the wider community. The Visitor's Centre also offers the services of a café and houses the Cork Folklore Project.



### **Eason's Hill**

Located in historic Shandon, NCE's newest location is in the recently refurbished Eason's Hill Community Centre. This location is home to the Work Initiative Northside project, a CETB-funded Local Training Initiative which provides full-time training and Office Skills certification to participants.

## OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE....

### Farranferris Community Services

2019 has been a great year at Farranferris as we continued to offer invaluable services to the community.

Our bakery has continued to provide fresh confectionaries and savoury items



to Cup n Cino, The Cathedral Café, Creche at NCE, and to other external customers.

Our staff at Papillon Flowers design have been producing a wide variety of floral arrangements for all occasions and for a variety of customers.

The laundry service has been providing a washing, drying & ironing service for local churches, soccer/GAA teams, and the general public.

### Little Hands Creche

Little Hands has continued to offer childcare facilities for the local community. This year, the crèche has begun to take part in Healthy Ireland Smart Start (HISS), a national Health Promotion Programme which is specifically aimed at pre-school services. The programme focuses on promoting health, emotional wellbeing and literacy, physical activity, nutrition, oral health, and health and safety for young children. The programme has seen the crèche begin to implement new health promoting policies and practices, along with staff training and development.



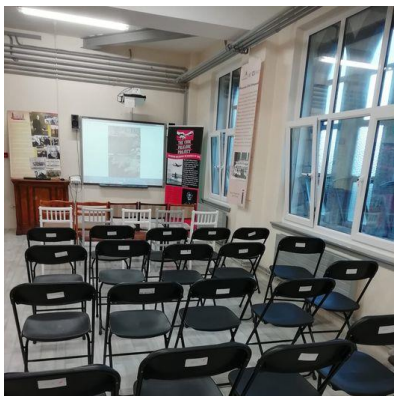
## Cathedral Visitor's Centre

Over the past year, the Visitor's Centre has continued to welcome locals and tourists alike, encouraging them to take part in the interactive displays and offering tours of the historic Cathedral. The Cafe has continued to be a hub of the community, providing a place for people to come for a cup of tea or a chat.



## Cork Folklore Project

The Cork Folklore Project has continued to operate from their Outreach Hub in the Cathedral Visitor's Centre. The CFP was busy in 2019 with plenty of educational activities for the community to take part in.



In August, the CFP took part in Cork Heritage Open Day, offering members of the public to view the collections and listen to extracts of some of the collection's oral history recordings gathered in the community.

In October, CFP took part in UCC's Community Week 2019 with their *Evening of Memory and Lore*.

For this event, audio samples from the oral history and folklore recordings of the Cork Folklore Project were presented, focusing on the community memories documented by the group over many years.

In December, Cork Folklore Project released their *Christmas Memory leaflets*, which printed and shared stories and Christmas traditions of local community members.





## Work Initiative Northside

The Work Initiative Northside (WIN) project continued to provide Office Skills and Customer Service training in its QQI Level 4 Local Training Initiative. WIN had an eventful year in 2019, with a move from the Farranferris campus to their new home in the recently refurbished Eason's Hill Community Centre in Shandon. The new location not only provided more space for the growing course, but also increased its catchment area, allowing WIN to cater to more members of the wider community.

August saw the graduation of the 14<sup>th</sup> group of students trained under the WIN programme. These students had the opportunity to take part in one of NCE's first Greener Living initiatives. This was a short course aimed to equip students with a greater knowledge of sustainability and how they can make positive changes in their own energy consumption.



In October, the WIN team welcomed their 15<sup>th</sup> group of full-time students who were set to complete the course in August 2020.

## NCE OUTREACH

In 1998 the Local Drugs Task force within the Department of Justice in coordination with D.S.P and statutory bodies, made places available for training through Community Employment for people in recovery from addiction or engaged with Probation services. Through this programme, NCE Ltd set-up "Outreach".

The NCE Outreach Programme works in partnership with the Department of Employment & Social Protection (DEASP), the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Tabor Group, Cuan Mhuire and the Probation services.

NCE Outreach acts as an inclusive and unique training model that aims to support participants during different stages in their rehabilitation by providing Individual Learning Plans (ILP's), specialised training programmes and work experience to build confidence, advance transferable skills and develop career pathways for each participant.

## **NCE OUTREACH MAIN OBJECT**

To establish, promote and operate a community employment scheme to help long term unemployed people of Cork in order to create and provide greater opportunities for community members to take up or regain full time or part time employment through the provision of skills and training programmes.



# NCE OUTREACH: OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE...

In 2019 NCE was awarded funding by the Cork Education and Training Board (CETB) to run two pilot programmes that were coordinated and delivered at the campus in Farranferris. These courses were Workwise Skills and Construction Skills. Participants for the courses were recruited from NCE Outreach. These programmes were instrumental in providing participants with new skills and confidence while undergoing treatment in addiction services.

## Workwise Skills

The Workwise Skills course ran from July to December and took on 16 students. The main objective of the course was to work with the participants

*"It was the opportunity to take stock of where I was at and where I wanted to go. It was good to recognise my strengths and weaknesses and to see how I could work on them."*

from NCE Outreach to provide training that would help to improve education, training and employment prospects, increase confidence and self-awareness. This was with the aim of assisting them in identifying their next steps in regard to possible retraining or upskilling during or after their time in rehabilitation with Tabor Group or Cuan Mhuire.

The Workwise Skills course provided the opportunity for participants to gain three QQI Level 4 Certified components that could be used towards gaining a Major Level 4 Award. Tutors and course coordinators

took pride in offering a tailored and participatory approach to teaching and learning strategies, making sure that classes were engaging and held in an encouraging atmosphere.

The course was a great success with positive feedback received from the participants.

### **Construction Skills**

The Construction Skills course ran from July to December and took on 17 participants from NCE Outreach. The aims of the course were similar to those of Workwise Skills; to provide participants with a stepping stone to further training, build their confidence in the classroom, and teach valuable skills for the workplace.

Participants on the Construction Skills course highlighted a need for training that would help access employment for the sector. Certified training for the construction site and workshops in sustainable building and retrofitting were included as a weekly workshop to support the participants in developing skills and knowledge for an ever-evolving sector. Other modules undertaken by participants included Practical Work Skills, Communications and Teamworking.

*"This course and the people running it helped me regain my confidence and belief that I could manage the basics which had been lost to me; basics like showing up to work every day, being on time, actively participating while I was here and being able to hold my head up again because I am back in employment. This course allowed me to feel like a functioning member of society. I am very grateful for that."*

### **E-Learning Centre**

The set-up of the E-Learning Centre made possible with funding received from the DSP. This academic resource allowed participants from the Construction Skills and Workwise Skills courses to augment their studies by completing ECDL courses online. ECDL is a widely recognized certification

which will give participants an extra boost in their studies and on the jobs market.



## Our Graduation Ceremony

A graduation ceremony was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at NCE where participants received Certificates of Completion for completing their Construction Skills and Workwise Skills courses.

The ceremony was attended by Fr John O'Donovan, Chairperson of NCE, Noreen Hegarty General Manager of NCE as well as Chief Executive of Cork ETB Denis Leamy, CETB Adult Education Officer, Ger Canning and Elaine Cronin, Back to Education Initiative Coordinator and Darragh Mc Namara, Resource Worker with the CETB.

Norma O'Brien from the Department of Social Protection was also present as the second half of the ceremony was dedicated to certificates achieved through the DSP funded E-Learning Centre. Many participants were there to receive awards from both programmes.

NCE welcomed participants and guests which included representatives from the CETB, NCE staff and Supervisors, Tabor Group and Cuan Mhuire.

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The ceremony was hosted at Far ranferis Education and Training Campus. MC'd by Corinna McDonnell and speeches from Fr John O'Donovan, Ger Canning and Norma O'Brien which celebrated the participants on their career pathway, life journey and their achievements.

## CHRISTMAS AT NCE

NCE's Christmas Jumper Day was a great way to end the year! Participants were 'dressed to the nines,' indicative of how much it meant to them. The event was brilliantly planned and coordinated with a photography display and installation afterwards. Alishen O'Connell and Barbara Byrne did everyone proud with a delicious selection of food. The fundraiser was a huge



success, raising €575 euro for Cork Simon Community.

The event was attended by representatives from DEASP, Fellowship, Cuan Mhuire and ETB to witness 17 ECDL awards and almost 30 ETB QQI level 4 awards being awarded. A

speech from one of the participants stole the show, giving a heartfelt insight into what it all meant from their view point.

