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UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

LEaRNING NeighbOurhood

CORK LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOODS

CONTENTS

1.	**Background to Learning Neighbourhoods**	**4**
2.	**Learning Neighbourhood Activities 2016: Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny**	**9**
(POSTER)	How to build a Learning Neighbourhood?	20
3.	**Learning Neighbourhood Activities 2017: Mayfield & Togher**	**24**
4.	**Media and PR, National & International Collaborations**	**32**
5.	**Awards**	**38**

This document was prepared by Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan and Lorna Kenny, Centre for Adult Continuing Education, University College Cork

LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOODS STEERING GROUP

Learning Neighbourhoods has been supported by the members of the Steering Group:

- Denis Barrett, Cork City Learning Coordinator, formerly Cork Education and Training Board
- Deirdre Creedon, CIT Access Service
- Sarah Gallagher, Togher Youth Resilience Project
- Lorna Kenny, Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinator, Adult Continuing Education, UCC
- Willie McAuliffe, Learning Cities Chair
- Clíodhna O'Callaghan, Adult Continuing Education, UCC
- Siobhán O'Dowd, Ballyphehane Togher Community Development Project
- Liz O'Halloran, Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project/Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P.
- Sandra O'Meara, Cork City Council RAPID
- Sinéad O'Neill, Adult & Community Education Officer, UCC
- Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan, Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinator, Adult Continuing Education, UCC
- Dr Séamus O'Tuama, Adult Continuing Education, UCC
- Nuala Stewart, City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, Cork City Council

A particular word of thanks to Sara Dalila Hočevar, who worked with Learning Neighbourhoods on an ERASMUS placement in 2017.

What is a Learning Neighbourhood?

Cork Learning City defines a Learning Neighbourhood as an area that has an ongoing commitment to learning, providing inclusive and diverse learning opportunities for whole communities through partnership and collaboration.



SECTION 1

Background to Learning Neighbourhoods

In September 2015, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning presented Cork with a Learning City Award at the 2nd International Conference on Learning Cities in Mexico City. Cork is one of only three cities in Europe and one of twelve cities worldwide to achieve this special honour. Cork, Ireland's second most populous city has a tradition of lifelong learning and holds an annual vibrant Lifelong Learning Festival.

The Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities (2013) makes a commitment to social inclusion and expanding access to and participation in lifelong learning. However, as the Cork City Profile (2014) highlights, there remains a 'distinct spatial component to educational disadvantage in [Cork] city'. The concept of Learning Neighbourhoods was presented by Peter Kearns (former Director of PASCAL International Observatory Learning City Network) at a seminar with UNESCO during the 2015 Cork Lifelong Learning Festival. The Growing Lifelong Learning in Cork (GLLiC) steering group decided that the Learning Neighbourhood approach could help tackle aspects of educational disadvantage and therefore decided to pilot a Learning Neighbourhoods Programme in 2015-2016 in areas that face educational disadvantage with support from the Centre for Adult Continuing Education in University College Cork (UCC), Cork Education and Training Board (ETB), Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), and Cork City Council.

Learning Neighbourhoods aims to benefit residents by taking the learning city concept to the neighbourhood level. The programme aims to assist local education networks and organisations to showcase and develop lifelong learning opportunities. It offers an incentive to local organisations to develop learning opportunities through an award to recognise their efforts and good practice. The programme involves a number of activities including:

- Raising awareness of opportunities for learning,
- Developing new initiatives,
- Supporting promotional activities,
- Offering support and guidance to sustain activities of the learning neighbourhood.

Two neighbourhoods in Cork were chosen to pilot the project, Ballyphehane in the south of the city, and Knocknaheeny in the north of the city. Ballyphehane has a higher than average proportion of older residents; a quarter of its population is over 60. The area faces significant socio-economic disadvantage with 28% of its population having no education beyond primary school. Knocknaheeny has a much younger demographic (42% of its population is under 25) and also exhibits persistent socio-economic deprivation. In such a demographically young area, it is concerning that 30% of Knocknaheeny's population have no education beyond primary school. In both areas, there are very low levels of further and higher educational attainment compared to the city as a whole (Census 2011).

In 2016-17, Mayfield in the north of the city and Togher in the south of the city joined the programme. Both are designated RAPID areas and both have a higher proportion of older residents than the Cork City average (Census, 2016). Just over a quarter of Mayfield's population is over 60 (26%) and similarly 29% of Togher's population is over 60. Both areas have a significant proportion of their population who have no education beyond primary school (17% in Mayfield and 20% in Togher) and the rates of higher educational attainment are lower than the Cork City average.

LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOOD PRINCIPLES:

- Co-create, consult and involve
- Celebrate what is good
- Communicate and connect
- Develop the sustainability of initiatives
- Develop a bottom-up approach
- Promote new as well as support existing activities
- Promote equality and inclusion



Residents of Ballyphehane, pictured at the Lord Mayor's Reception to celebrate Cork's receipt of the UNESCO Learning City Award, 17th December 2015, City Hall



Residents of Knocknaheeny, pictured at the Lord Mayor's Reception to celebrate Cork's receipt of the UNESCO Learning City Award, 17th December 2015, City Hall

While all the neighbourhoods face social and educational disadvantage, they all have active community and education organisations and networks that are open to developing further learning opportunities, which is crucial to the success of Learning Neighbourhoods.

Learning Neighbourhoods is supported by a steering group comprised of staff from Cork ETB, Cork City Council, the Centre for Adult Continuing Education in UCC, CIT, and representatives from the neighbourhood coordinating groups, which are described in Section 1.1.

Learning Neighbourhoods has two dedicated part-time staff members to assist in coordinating and managing the programme and developing promotional materials, resources and project evaluation.

1.1 Community Engagement

Drawing on the approach of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, each project has involved local consultation and ongoing collaboration with neighbourhood residents and those active in a wide range of community and education organisations. Public engagement exercises were conducted in Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny in November and December 2015 in the public libraries and in Mayfield Arts Centre and Togher Girls School in February 2017. Over 150 local people and representatives from education organisations, schools, youth groups, sports, addiction, social housing, and social inclusion groups participated in the neighbourhood workshops to discuss on-going education initiatives, brainstorm new ideas and plan the Learning Neighbourhoods programme. Tables were facilitated by steering group members.

Following an introduction to Learning Neighbourhoods, the workshop involved two main discussions:

1. What's happening around lifelong learning in local projects and organisations:
This was considered to be a 'quick and dirty learning audit' as originally suggested by Peter Kearns, PASCAL. Facilitators distributed cards which people were given time to complete. This was followed by a round robin discussion at each table where people shared the activities that are run in their organisation.

2. Brainstorm and suggest ideas for Learning Neighbourhoods:
Each table then brainstormed ideas for Learning Neighbourhoods during the pilot year. Facilitators distributed blank cards so that people could write down any ideas that emerged throughout their discussion. This became an essential resource for the Learning Neighbourhoods team in developing the programme.

Suggestions from the Steering Group and local organisations were next circulated to the participants for discussion including a UCC lecture series, Faces of Learning poster campaign, community exchange, learning directory/booklet, learning fair/showcase, monthly themes, and community mural. Feedback was noted by facilitators so that the coordinators could keep track of any suggestions.



▲ Learning Neighbourhoods Workshop, Tory Top Library, Ballyphehane, 24th November 2015



▲ Learning Neighbourhoods Workshop, Hollyhill Library, Knocknaheeny, 3rd December 2015



▲ Learning Neighbourhoods Workshop, Togher Girls School, 1st February 2017



▲ Learning Neighbourhoods Workshop, Mayfield Arts Centre, 13th February 2017

Following the workshops, neighbourhood coordinating groups were established with members drawn from local education networks, community centres, schools, senior centres, health groups, youth groups, etc. In Knocknaheeny, an existing education network formed the basis for the Learning Neighbourhoods coordinating group, which was broadened to include additional community and education groups. In Mayfield, the existing network, The Mayfield Community Education Network (CEN), formed the basis for the Learning Neighbourhoods coordinating group.

The agenda for activities has thereby been led by regular local meetings and supported by the Learning Neighbourhoods Steering Group.

This collaboration is one of the successes of Learning Neighbourhoods and is enabling the ongoing building of relationships and new networking and connections to emerge over time. With thanks to all the neighbourhood coordinating group members:

BALLYPHEHANE

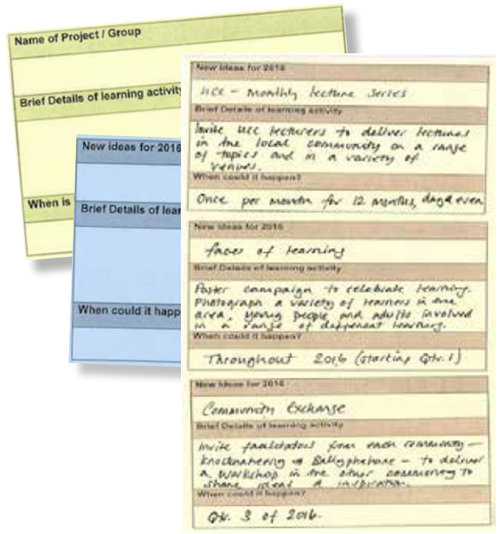
Mary Barry, Scoil Maria Assumpta, Ballyphehane
Sally Crowley, Ballyphehane Day Centre
Deirbhile Dennehy, Tory Top Library
Maura Lombard, Ballyphehane Day Centre
Cathy Kelly, RWN CETB/ Ballyphehane-Togher Community Development Programme
Niamh Ni Chinneide, HSCL Gaelscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa and Morning Star School
Siobhán O'Dowd and team, Ballyphehane-Togher Community Development Programme

KNOCKNAHEENY

Dave Cashman, Principal Sundays Well Boys National School
Katherine Harford, Young Knocknaheeny
Liz Horgan, Principal Sundays Well Girls National School
Ger O'Donovan, Principal St. Mary's on the Hill
Phil O'Flynn, Principal Terence McSwiney Community College
John O'Mahony, ForÓige
Noreen O'Regan, Cork City Partnership
Ingrid O'Riordan, Le Cheile Schools Completion Programme
Ann Riordan, Hollyhill Library
Jenna Russell, Barnardos
Nuala Stewart, City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, Cork City Council
Eva Winters, Le Cheile Schools Completion Programme

MAYFIELD

Karen Butler, Juvenile Liaison Officer
Siobhan Carne, Mayfield Community School
Mary Chambers, Literacy ETB
Deirdre Dennigan, Foróige KT
Mary Kelly, Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project CLG/ Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P.
Carmel Kennedy, Lotamore Family Centre



Geraldine Lynch, Foróige, St Joseph's
Joy Murray, St Patricks Primary
Eamonn Nash, Cope Foundation
David O'Brien, Cork City Council Rapid
Pat O'Grady, Aisling Services
Liz O'Halloran, Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project/Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P.
Martina O'Keeffe, Foróige Lotamore;
Eileen O'Sullivan, Frank O'Connor Library.
Lisa O'Sullivan, Mayfield arts
Rosella Sheehan, Newbury House Family Centre
Mairead Quarry, Advocate, Mayfield Community Youth Training Centre and Blackpool, Glen & Farranree Community Youth Training Centre.
Valerie O'Callaghan, Old Youghal Rd Childcare Project.
Donie O'Leary, Cork City Partnership CLG
Eileen O'Donovan, Scoil Mhuire Banrion
Amy Barry, St Johns the Apostle Primary School
Liz Ann MaCartain, St Patricks Secondary School

TOGHER

Catherine Cogan, O 'Connell Court
Carmel Forde, Foróige
Sarah Gallagher, Togher Youth Resilience Project
Margo Hayes, Cork City Partnership
Paul Hyde, Garda Siochána
Niall McCarthy, Togher Community Association
Maria Nyhan, Foróige
Kieran O'Connell, Foróige and Togher Community Association
Martin O' Connell, O 'Connell Court
Siobhán O'Dowd, Ballyphehane-Togher Community Development Programme
Owen O'Mahony, Garda Siochána
Sandra O'Meara, Cork City Council Rapid
Karen O' Sullivan, Togher Girls School
Pat Smith, Togher Community Association and Rapid
Geraldine Sutton, Cork City Council



SECTION 2

Learning Neighbourhood Activities 2016 Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny

2.1 UCC Learning Neighbourhood Lectures

The UCC Neighbourhood Lecture series aimed to create fun and engaging community-based lectures for residents of the two neighbourhoods in order to enhance the connections of UCC in areas where few people have progressed to third level education. Following the community workshops, notification was sent to academic staff in University College Cork asking those interested to provide a brief expression of interest, title of their lecture and a short description on how this would appeal to the general public. Over 50 expressions were received from interested lecturers throughout the university.

These expressions of interest were presented to the two neighbourhood coordinating groups who were asked to select topics they would be interested in hosting. The Learning Neighbourhoods team then liaised with the community groups and the lecturers on scheduling of the event in their area. The series of lectures was representative of the activity of the university, and there were contributions from each of the four Colleges.

The lectures were open to the general public and took place in a variety of local community spaces. Some of the topics covered included science, health, arts, history, and engineering. Many of the lectures included participatory activities question and answer sessions, and tea/coffee was provided. The lectures were generally well attended and feedback from the sessions was very positive from attendees and lecturers alike. For the lectures that weren't as well attended, we are reviewing the approach and aiming to better match lectures with local groups.

The first talk in Ballyphehane was held on 23 February in Ballyphehane Togher CDP and was facilitated by Aodh Quinlivan, Department of Government. The first talk in Knocknaheeny was held on 22 April in Hollyhill Library and was facilitated by Janas Harrington, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. One of the impacts of the talks is that new relationships have been established between UCC lecturers and community groups with some embarking on future research together.



Posters promoting the series of lectures held in both locations throughout the year.



Learning Neighbourhoods
Ballyphehane
UCC Lecture Series
April/May 2016

Lecture	When?	Where?
Sile Creedon Your Health on the Net: What's a good website?	8th April 11.30am	Torytop Library
Annalisa Setti Cognitive Healthy Ageing and the role of the environment we live in	19th April 2pm	Ballyphehane Day Care Centre
Heather Laird Daniel Corkery & Sean O'Faolain:A Reassessment	4th May 2pm	Ballyphehane Day Care Centre
Jaqueline Pando-Kelly Healthy Eating in Children and Adolescents	11th May 10.30am	Ballyphehane Maria Assumpta Primary School
Gabriel Doherty Commemorating the Easter Rising	17th May 7.30pm	Ballyphehane History Group

Please check with the venue closer to the time as the lectures may be subject to change.
learningneighbourhoods@ucc.ie

CORK UNESCO LEARNING CITY AWARD · UCC

Learning Neighbourhoods
Knocknaheeny
UCC Lecture Series
April/May 2016

Lecture	When?	Where?
Janas Harrington Healthy Food Healthy Body	22nd April 11am	Hollyhill Library
Edel Semple Introducing Shakespeare	26th April 11am	Hollyhill Library
John Quinn Birds have personalities too!	April 26th 7.30pm	Terence MacSwiney Community College
Gabriel Doherty Commemorating the Easter Rising	4th May 11am	Cork City Partnership
Jaqueline Pando-Kelly Healthy Eating in Children and Adolescents	10th May 12.30 pm	Terence MacSwiney Community College
Vikram Pakrashi What's up with the Shaky Bridge?	11th May 3pm	Hollyhill Library

Please check with the venue closer to the time as the lectures may be subject to change.
learningneighbourhoods@ucc.ie

CORK UNESCO LEARNING CITY AWARD · UCC

Activities were promoted on social media which is a great source of engagement

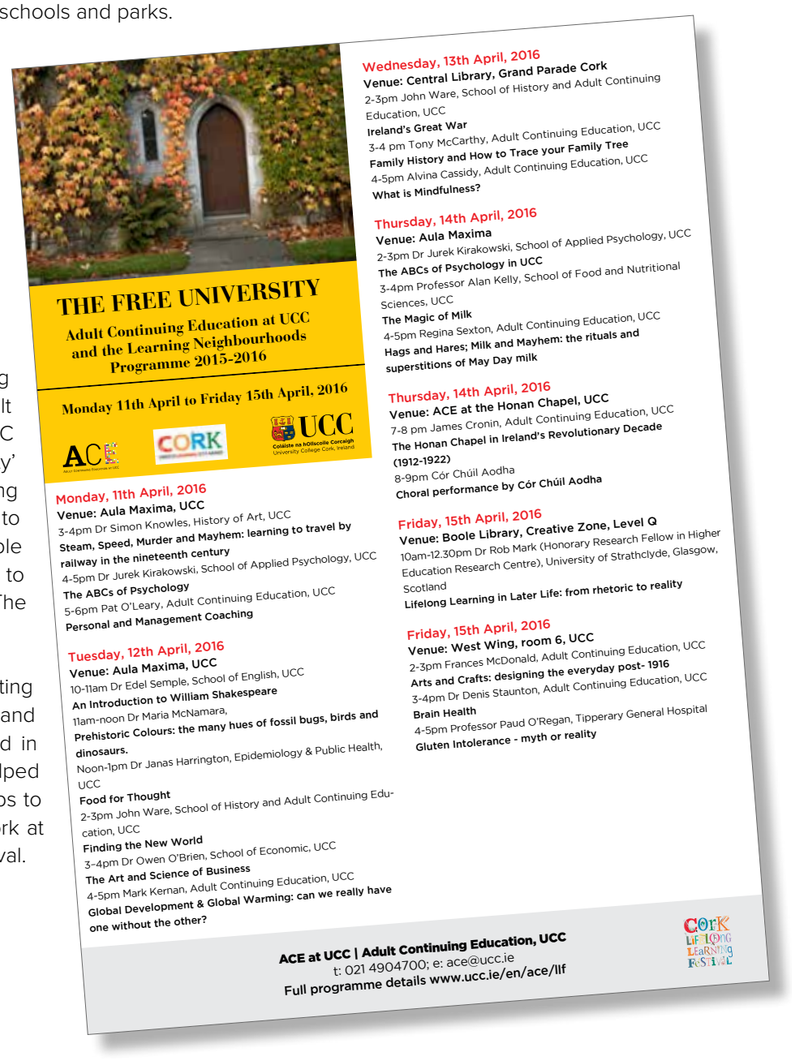




2.2 Lifelong Learning Festival

Cork's Lifelong Learning Festival promotes and celebrates learning of all kinds, across all ages, interests and abilities, from pre-school to post retirement. During the week of the Lifelong Learning Festival in April 2016, a wide range of activities and events were held in Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny. Lifelong learning was promoted through performances, demonstrations, tours, charity events, lectures, walks, and exhibitions. These took place in a variety of venues, including the local libraries, community centres, schools and parks.

Further details of the activities that took place can be found in the Festival brochure on *https://issuu.com/corkcitylearningforum/docs/lifelong_learning_fest.2016_program/1*



2.2.1 'The Free University'

As part of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, Adult Continuing Education at UCC hosted 'The Free University' in collaboration with Learning Neighbourhoods. This aims to encourage and facilitate people of all ages and backgrounds to visit UCC and participate in 'The Free University'.

The local coordinating groups in Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny were involved in the lecture selection and helped organise different local groups to attend University College Cork at various times during the festival.

2.2.2 Schools Visit to 'The Free University'

One of the memorable parts of the weeklong 'Free University' was the participation of schools from Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny. Primary school children from Sundays Well Boys and Girls National Schools and St. Mary's on the Hill, Knocknaheeny and Scoil Maria Assumpta, Ballyphehane visited UCC on the morning of Tuesday 12th of April and took part in three lectures on Shakespeare, fossils and healthy eating.

These lectures had been selected by the schools from the neighbourhoods and were designed to include a younger audience. Over 120 young people took part in the series in the Aula Maxima. The morning was exciting and dynamic with lots of involvement from the young people throughout.

2.2.3 Ballyphehane Open Morning and UNESCO Visit

To honour Cork's status as a UNESCO Learning City and Ballyphehane's designation as a Learning Neighbourhood, Ballyphehane-Togher Community Education Network held an open morning to celebrate the achievements of education and community groups in the area under the theme: 'Learning Neighbourhoods learn together. Learning Neighbourhoods learn from one another."

The event was hosted by Jennie O'Sullivan, RTE's Southern correspondent, with the open morning consisting of performances, talks and exhibition stands in Ballyphehane Community centre where collaborations between different learning groups took centre stage. The event showcased the collaboration and engagement between groups in the area and was covered by the Evening Echo: *http://www.eveningecho.ie/life/young-old-uniting-festival/1979088/#.Vwgvbv1ATS0.facebook*

An interactive art workshop was held on the theme, 'How to Build a Learning Neighbourhood', and people in attendance collaborated together and brainstormed the topic. These creative pieces have been designed into a poster by the Ballyphehane/Togher CDP (see Section 2.4).

A presentation was made to the oldest learner in the community, Mary McGrath who celebrated her 100th birthday in April 2016. Mary is also part of Faces of Learning described in Section 2.3.

Representatives from UNESCO visited Ballyphehane during the morning and presented the community with a framed certificate in recognition of their commitment to lifelong learning and Learning Neighbourhoods.



▲ Oldest learner Mary McGrath with representatives from UNESCO



▲ School children participate in the fossil lecture during 'The Free University', Aula Maxima, UCC



▲ Ballyphehane Arts and Crafts Initiative with students from Maria Assumpta National School 'Dress up for Learning'

2.3 Faces of Learning Poster Campaign

Throughout the pilot year, Learning Neighbourhoods has been developing the 'Faces of Learning' poster campaign. The aim of the campaign is to celebrate the wonderful learners of all ages in the neighbourhoods and encourage other people to engage in lifelong learning. Faces of Learning involves portraits of local people of all ages who participate in lifelong learning, from 0 to 100, with design by COOLGREY Creative Agency.

The first session took place in Hollyhill Library, Knocknaheeny during the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival in April 2016, with 25 people taking part. A session for the Ballyphehane community took place in the Tory Top Library in September 2016 with 40 people taking part. Photographer Eddie Hennessey from Knocknaheeny took the portraits in both neighbourhoods. All participants signed Learning Neighbourhood release forms and parental consent was mandatory for participants under 18. There was a fun and relaxed atmosphere on both days with opportunities for participants to meet other learners from their community.

The roll-out of the campaign is anticipated to occur over a number of stages, with an official launch at the Learning Neighbourhoods award ceremony. It is also proposed that the project involve installations and exhibitions across different local and city venues with simultaneous Facebook publicity.

FACES OF LEARNING



▲ Sally Crowley, Mary McGrath, Marie O'Mahony, Pauline Kingston at Faces of Learning, Tory Top Library, Ballyphehane



▲ Photographer Eddie Hennessey and Learner Eileen Matthews, Hollyhill Library, Knocknaheeny

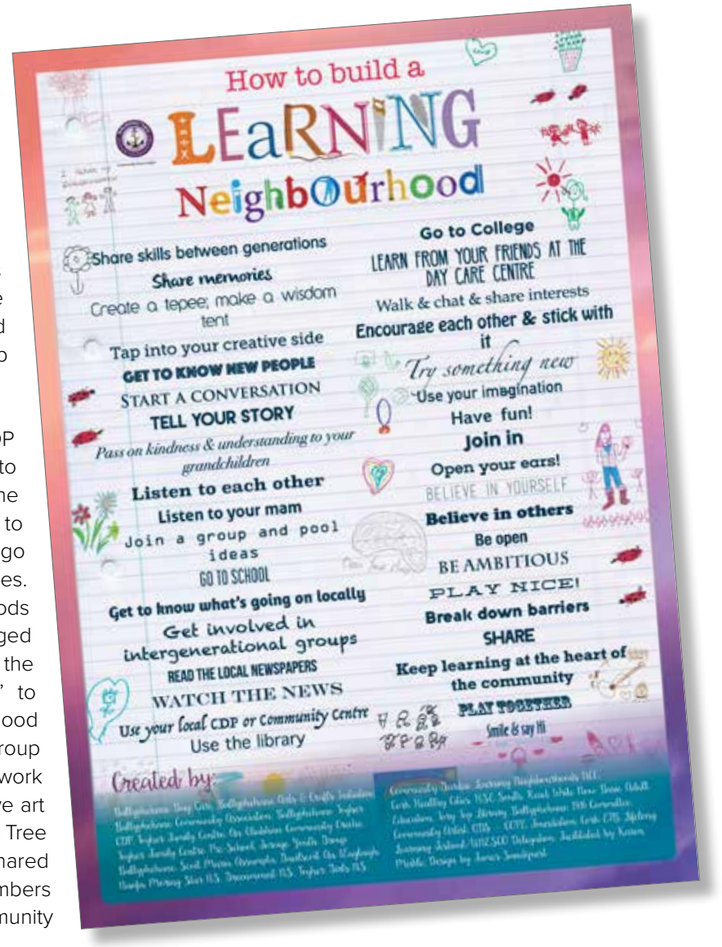


With thanks to all the participants in Faces of Learning, the photographer Eddie Hennessy, design team at Coolgrey Creative Agency, Tramore Road and the sponsors: AIB-Ballyhehane, Ballyphehane-Togher CDP and Cork City Partnership.

2.4 Ballyphehane Poster ‘How to Build a Learning Neighbourhood’

Following from the art workshop that took place during the Lifelong Learning Festival, a poster ‘How to Build a Learning Neighbourhood’ has been drafted. It is planned to distribute these throughout the community and to follow up with a reflective workshop event.

The Ballyphehane Togher CDP facilitated seven local arts groups to come together as the Ballyphehane Togher Community Arts Network to participate in joint initiatives that would go beyond their individual group activities. As part of Learning Neighbourhoods the network groups were encouraged to create collective art pieces under the heading ‘Colour My Neighbourhood’ to contribute to the Learning Neighbourhood theme. In May 2016 the Mixed Art Group held an exhibition of all the groups work in Tory Top library. One of the collective art pieces created and displayed was ‘The Tree of Learning’ which portrayed the shared and diverse learning experiences members gained from participating in the community arts group.







2.5 Knocknaheeny and STEAM Education

The Knocknaheeny Learning Neighbourhoods coordinating group has secured substantial funding to run a STEAM Education programme in Knocknaheeny in the 2016 school year. STEAM Education was formed by a group of individuals from backgrounds in industry, academia and youth education. It aims to address the serious gaps which exist in the education system and the widening shortfall of highly qualified science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) graduates.

This is an exciting initiative to support the education of young people in Knocknaheeny and create closer collaboration between schools and UCC, which is one of the key aims of Knocknaheeny Learning Neighbourhoods.

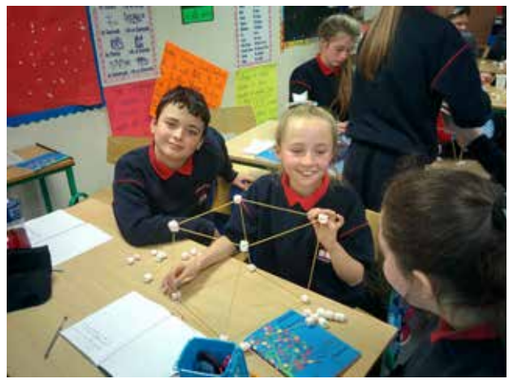
The year culminated with ‘mini-graduations’ in UCC from 7th-9th March 2017 for all the 131 young people who participated in the STEAM programme, ‘Engineering in a Box’. Postgraduate engineers from University College Cork delivered the programme with the support of the 5th and 6th class primary school teachers in Sundays Well Girls and Boys National Schools, St Marys on the Hill, Knocknaheeny, Scoil Padre Pio, Churchfield, and Blarney Street School.

The STEAM engineering programme was found to be a really empowering process for the children in relation to their attitudes to further education.

According to Dr Chrys Ngwa (Insight Centre for Data Analytics & volunteer to the STEAM programme): “When I first met the girls, I asked the whole class how many were interested in going all the way to University with their studies. I was so moved that no more than three kids were interested in University studies...I repeated the question at the end of my third class with the girls and I was so happy to find that almost all wanted to earn a third level certificate.”



▲ 6th class pupils from St Mary’s on the Hill National School, Knocknaheeny pictured in UCC at the STEAM graduations.



▲ Children participating in STEAM classes in Scoil Padre Pio

The Knocknaheeny STEAM collaboration is made possible by sponsorship from Gurranabraher Credit Union, Cork City Council and Cork City Partnership.

The programme was launched in University College Cork on the 21st September 2016 and locally in Knocknaheeny on Friday 30th September in the Community Room in Hollyhill Library.

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Comhar Chathair Chorcaí Teo
Cork City Partnership Ltd
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steam

2.6 Ballyphehane Closing Workshop

A closing workshop was held in the Tory Top Library, Ballyphehane on the 25th of January 2017. The event involved over 30 people from the Ballyphehane community who reflected on the programme and highlighted the building of new collaborations, intergenerational connections, raising of awareness of learning, and the level of inclusion of Learning Neighbourhoods.

The new UCC President Professor Patrick O'Shea attended the event in one of first public engagements and presented local community groups with the 'How to Build a Learning Neighbourhood' poster in recognition of their participation in Learning Neighbourhoods. He also launched the Faces of Learning photographic exhibition in Tory Top Library. President O'Shea highlighted the value of external engagement for UCC and the importance of the Learning Neighbourhoods programme and delivered a very clear message that his vision for UCC is of a university that is "in the community, of the community and for the community".



▲ Prof Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC launches Faces of Learning in Tory Top Library



▲ Prof Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC, presents participants with poster at the Ballyphehane Closing Workshop

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Learning Neighbourhoods Cork

HOW TO BUILD A LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOOD

What is a Learning Neighbourhood?

Cork Learning City defines a Learning Neighbourhood as an area that has an ongoing commitment to learning, providing inclusive and diverse learning opportunities for whole communities through partnership and collaboration.

How long does the process take?

The Learning Neighbourhood project generally organises a programme of activities during one calendar or academic year either from September to September or from January to January.

Key steps in becoming a Learning Neighbourhood?

The following are the recommendations from the experience of the Cork City Learning Neighbourhoods over the first two years of this programme. The Cork approach is based on the following principles:

- CO-CREATE, CONSULT AND INVOLVE
- CELEBRATE WHAT IS GOOD
- COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT
- DEVELOP THE SUSTAINABILITY OF INITIATIVES
- DEVELOP A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH
- PROMOTE NEW AS WELL AS SUPPORT EXISTING ACTIVITIES
- PROMOTE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION



HOW TO BUILD A LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOOD

CREATED BY

Learning Neighbourhoods coordinators Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan and Lorna Kenny with support from Sara Dalila Hočevar, the Learning Neighbourhoods Steering Group and Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinating Groups

UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

ACE Adult Continuing Education at UCC

CIT Cork Institute of Technology Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí Cork City Council

cetb Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chorcaí Cork Education and Training Board



TOP TIPS

- ☐ INVOLVE AS MANY COMMUNITY GROUPS AND RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE
- ☐ MAKE SURE TO CELEBRATE ALL THE GREAT LEARNING ACTIVITIES ALREADY GOING ON IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
- ☐ TRY NEW THINGS!
- ☐ TALK TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WHO ARE NOT NORMALLY INVOLVED IN LEARNING, INCLUDING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND EXPLORE HOW THEY CAN GET INVOLVED
- ☐ HAVE FUN – ENTHUSIASM IS A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT!

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

Neighbourhoods express an interest in becoming involved in the Learning Neighbourhood programme by contacting the Learning Neighbourhoods coordinators (learningneighbourhoods@ucc.ie), Centre for Adult Continuing Education (ACE), University College Cork.

MEETING WITH KEY LOCAL LEADERS:

The purpose of this meeting is to outline the Learning Neighbourhood programme with local organisations, residents and services from the neighbourhood.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS:

The process beings with local consultation with neighbourhood residents and those active in a wide range of community and education organisations to discuss what is happening around lifelong learning in the area and brainstorm and suggest ideas for Learning Neighbourhoods.

FORMATION OF A LOCAL COORDINATION GROUP:

Following the workshops, a neighbourhood coordinating group is established with members drawn from local education networks, community centres, schools, senior centres, health groups, youth groups, etc. It is important that the Learning Neighbourhood coordination group meets regularly to progress actions and ensure successful collaboration.

SETTING PRIORITIES & DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN:

Drawing on the community consultation, the Learning Neighbourhoods coordination group will identify activities and themes for action. The co-ordinators of Learning Neighbourhoods and the steering group will provide guidance and support and assist with developing promotional materials, obtaining resources and project evaluation. Residents should be kept informed throughout the year and encouraged to participate.

RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION:

Learning Neighbourhoods is a continuous process and it is important to acknowledge work done, to highlight achieved goals and to celebrate. To conclude the year, a Lord Mayor´s reception is held to celebrate the activities of the neighbourhoods throughout the programme year.

REVIEWING AND EVALUATING:

It is important to reflect on what worked well, what could be done differently, and what the memorable moments were for people involved in Learning Neighbourhoods. After recognition and celebration, the neighbourhood can review the work they have done, their successes and challenges and decide what activities the neighbourhood may like to continue at the end of the programme.

Pull Out Page



SECTION 3

Learning Neighbourhood Activities 2017 Mayfield and Togher: The Story so Far

3.1 Mayfield Learning Neighbourhood Launch

The Mayfield Arts Centre hosted the launch of 'Learning Neighbourhood, Mayfield 2017' on 27th February 2017. People came from all over the community to celebrate the many achievements made in community education and to celebrate the beginning of the Learning Neighbourhood initiative. It was a great event which involved different community groups, organisations and schools who collaborate and work together.

Part of the occasion incorporated an official presentation of 100 QQI certificates (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) to successful learners from the Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P., Mayfield Write On Adult Literacy Scheme, Old Youghal Rd Childcare Community Employment Project and Mayfield Arts. Each recipient was presented with their certificate by the Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh. During the morning attendees were welcomed by the 'Pop up' Art Cafe hosted by Aisling Services who provided sweet treats to everyone as they experienced an exhibition of the learners work.



◂ Participants at the launch of Mayfield Learning Neighbourhoods



◂ Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh pictured with John Fitzgibbons, Cork ETB and Denis Barrett and Willie McAuliffe, Cork Learning Cities at the launch of Mayfield Learning Neighbourhoods

3.2 Togher Expo and Learning Neighbourhood Launch

Togher's approach emphasises the importance of everyday learning and sharing of knowledge and life experience based on a whole community approach with inclusive and far reaching events. Togher held a Learning Neighbourhoods Expo in St Finbarr's Hurling and Football Club on 28th March 2017 to launch the initiative and to showcase services available to the Togher community including sports clubs, educational courses, clubs and youth groups.

It was a huge success with a fantastic turnout. Over 40 local groups and organisations held stalls at the event along with CIT Access Office, UCC Plus and ACE UCC. Attendance from the community was huge with over 400 people attending the event and there was great coverage from local media and 96 FM.



▴ Crowds at the Togher Learning Neighbourhoods Expo





▴ Crowds at the Togher Learning Neighbourhoods Expo

▾ Some of the organisers of the Togher Learning Neighbourhoods Expo



3.3 Lifelong Learning Festival 2017

The 14th Cork Lifelong Learning Festival ran from the 3rd to the 9th April 2017 with over 600 free events being organised across the city and county.

On 5th April 2017, the Mayfield community organised a memorable event in the Frank O'Connor Library which celebrated and showcased learning in all its forms. Officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Des Cahill, a range of lively performances and activities took place from local schools (including St John's the Apostle School, Gaelscoil Ghoirt Álainn, St. Patrick's School, Naionarí in St. Joseph's, Mayfield Community School, and Scoil Mhuire Banríon), the Men's Shed, Mayfield CDP, APC Microbiome Institute (UCC), Teagasc, local bridge club and Cúig studio artists. As the performances took place a range of information stands were on display from many local community groups and refreshments were provided by the 'Pop up' Cafe hosted by Aisling Services.



▲ Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Des Cahill pictured with members of the 'Pop up' Cafe hosted by Aisling Services.



▲ Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Des Cahill pictured with Mayfield Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinating Group.

Ballyphehane and Togher Learning Neighbourhoods collaborated on a morning of music and musicals on 5th April, hosted by Ballyphehane-Togher CDP in St Finbarr's Hurling and Football Club, Togher. This showcased the diversity of learning in the community, involving an inclusive festival of singing, drama, dancing and wonderful musical performances from across the community and between many age groups, mc'd by John Allen. Many local businesses donated refreshments and the great catering team looked after everyone at the event.

Knocknaheeny coordinated a leaflet of all the local activities during the Lifelong Learning Festival. During the week, a vibrant awards night was held in Terence McSwiney Community College on 5th April to celebrate the work of school students and their collaboration with staff in Apple Computers.

The Learning Neighbourhoods also participated in a morning of workshops on Tuesday 4th April in the Aula Maxima, UCC as part of UCC's 'Free University'. It involved two excellent participatory talks: on fossils by Dr Maria McNamara and healthy eating by Dr Janas Harrington. Over 100 pupils in 4th, 5th and 6th classes from Togher Girls School, Togher Boys School, Scoil Mhuire Banrion and Scoil Eoin, Mayfield took part and it was also open to members of the public.



▲ Dr Janas Harrington's talk in the 'Free University' UCC during the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival

3.4 Togher Monthly Themes

Togher developed monthly themes for the year from the two separate community workshops they held in February. They have held an activity every month, sometimes more, based on the theme for the month.



APRIL - **COMMUNITY CLEAN UP**

Involving a community clean up from 24-30th April. Many organisations, local residents, from young to old took part, including Cur Le Chéile Preschool, the Happyhub, Tús an Bhóthair Pre-School, and O'Connell Court.



MAY - **BEALTAINE AND TOGHER OPEN SERVICES WEEK**

An opening of services and places in Togher to the public took place from 26th May to 2nd June including O'Connell Court, Togher Link up, TACT, Togher Athletic Club, Togher Youth Development Project, Wednesday Social Group, Togher Community Centre, Meals on Wheels, Cork City Partnership/Local Employment Service Office, Scouts, Togher Music School, Togher Credit Union, Togher Family Centre, L'Arche, Togher Tidy Towns, and Ballyphehane/Togher CDP.



JUNE - **FRIENDSHIP AND SAFETY**

During the month young people from Togher Family Centre and Foróige-Togher Youth Development Project with rap artist GMC Beats (Gary McCarthy) wrote a rap on bullying and the struggle young people face every day.

An Emergency Services Showcase was held in Lehenaghmore Park on 10th June involving the Army, the Ambulance Service, An Garda Siochána, the fire brigade, and coast guard.

And every Wednesday for the month of June transport was provided to the park from The Community Centre in Togher to enable greater community access to the park facilities, outdoor gym facilities and walks.



JULY - **TOGHER COMMUNITY MURAL**

Following a Summer Break in August, the monthly themes for Autumn/Winter are as follows:

SEPTEMBER	**HISTORY & HERITAGE**
OCTOBER	**HEALTH & WELLBEING**
NOVEMBER	**REIMAGINE TOGHER**
DECEMBER	**HERO'S & HELPERS OF TOGHER**

Togher Learning Neighbourhoods are also planning to participate in the STEAM programme in the Autumn, with sponsorship secured from Creative Ireland.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme
2017–2022



Young people in Togher performing the rap as part of Friendship and Safety Month



Participants at Togher Emergency Services Day as part of Friendship and Safety Month



Young people in Togher take part in Togher Community Clean Up

3.5 Mayfield Activities Faces of Learning

For 2017 Mayfield continued to work on developing The Faces of Learning campaign. The photographic session took place in the Frank O'Connor Library, Mayfield, on 15th June with 42 people taking part, ages ranging from 4 months to 80+.



▲ Photographer Eddie Hennessey with learner Eireann Stokes Byrne as part of Mayfield Faces of Learning

The photographer for the session was Eddie Hennessy who also took the portraits for the 2016 campaign. Each participant was asked a couple of questions which will be used to create a 'story' next to their picture when the exhibition will be launched in the Autumn. It was a morning full of enjoyment with the chance for participants to meet other learners from their community.

UCC Lectures

Mayfield organised three lectures as part of the UCC Neighbourhood Lecture series. The Neighbourhood Lecture series was similar to 2016 and aimed to create fun and engaging community-based lectures for Mayfield residents. Mayfield Library hosted a talk from UCC lecturer Dr Maria McNamara on fossils for several schools in the area, held on 28th June 2017. Lotamore Family Resource Centre organised a talk with UCC lecturer Siobhan Murphy on osteoporosis for the community, held on the 27th June 2017 in Mayfield Library. UCC Lecturer Pat O'Leary gave a mindfulness workshop during mental health week for teenagers with ASD called "Active Lives, Healthy Mind", held in July 2017.

Other events

Many other events have been held in Mayfield during the Learning Neighbourhoods year including a Music Mash Up & Mayfield Rap Group concert on 24th May; a messy play session to mark Infant Mental Health Week held on 15th June 2017 in Newbury House; a celebration of the 10-year anniversary of Rainbow Childcare service (CDP Community Resource Centre) and Presentation of Occupational First Aid Level 5 QQI certificates on 19th June; and a Foróige march against bullying held on 30th June.

Faces of Learning in Mayfield has been supported by Creative Ireland.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



3.6 Learning City Roundtable and Mayfield and Togher Meet-up

Representatives from all four Learning Neighbourhoods attended a Cork Learning City Roundtable meeting on 10th May, 2017 in Millennium Hall, City Hall. This was part of a process of consultation designed to bring a wide range of interested individuals and organisations together to feed into a three-year plan for Cork Learning City. This process and the plan being developed are important steps towards hosting of the 3rd UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities in September 2017 – Cork being the first city in Europe to host such a prestigious event.

▼ Members of Mayfield and Togher Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinating Group at the Meet-up, Millennium Hall, City Hall



Prior to the Roundtable, Mayfield and Togher Learning Neighbourhoods met to learn from each other's experiences. Following from the success of this meet-up in May, on 6th June 2017 Togher craft groups hosted a visit from Mayfield craft groups to discuss the work they do and to explore developing a joint project. Plans are now underway to work on a collaborative piece and meet again in the Autumn.



▲ Members of Mayfield and Togher Learning Neighbourhoods Coordinating Group at the Meet-up, Millennium Hall, City Hall



▼ Togher craft group hosts visit from Mayfield craft group





SECTION 4

Media and PR, National & International Collaborations

4.1 Media and PR

BlueMonkey PR promoted the launch of Learning Neighbourhoods in late 2015. Learning Neighbourhoods featured in a number of local news stories in the Evening Echo and Cork independent and on news broadcasts on 96FM and Red FM throughout November and December 2015. This helped the programme gain a level of initial exposure.

In October 2016, RTE's Nationwide television team visited Knocknaheeny to focus on the human interest stories and events happening across the area. Video footage was captured of the various activities taking place in the area as part of Learning Neighbourhoods and the Learning Neighbourhood coordinator Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan was interviewed by Mary Kennedy for the TV programme. The episode was aired on Monday 7th November and broadcast the fantastic programmes in Knocknaheeny to a national audience – for more see http://www.rte.ie/news/player/nationwide/2016/1107/

Facebook is also being used as a tool to give Learning Neighbourhoods a voice and a presence on social media and to act as a social community hub between the two neighbourhoods. The Learning Neighbourhoods page is used to interact with organisations in the Learning Neighbourhoods to promote their activities and raise awareness of lifelong learning opportunities. The page maintains ongoing engagement by keeping supporters informed about the programme through regular posting of news. Our Facebook currently stands at 383 likes and is growing day by day.

Follow us on Facebook
Learning Neighbourhoods Cork





▲ Cork and Taipei Delegates at the PASCAL International Conference

4.2 National and International Collaborations, Presentations and Reports

The Learning Neighbourhoods project can be viewed as an emerging model that contributes to the Learning Cities agenda and one that could potentially be replicated in other neighbourhoods in Cork, nationally and in learning communities around the world. UNESCO has expressed interested in Learning Neighbourhoods as a case study. The Head of Publications at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning commented that 'the whole initiative is amazing and fruitful… your initiative might warrant a book as it is a unique aspect of Learning Cities and likely is not well documented.' The Learning Neighbourhoods team has participated in a number of conferences and exchanges to share experiences to date.

4.2.1 AAACE Conference, Oklahoma USA

Séamus O'Tuama presented a paper on Designing and Implementing Learning Neighbourhoods in Cork's UNESCO Learning City Project at the 64th Annual Conference of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education held in Oklahoma from 17-20 November 2015. The paper was subsequently published in conference proceedings: O'Tuama, S. and O'Sullivan, S. (2015). Designing and Implementing Learning Neighbourhoods in Cork's UNESCO Learning City Project, CIAE (Commission on International Adult Education) Pre-Conference at AAACE Conference, Oklahoma City, USA DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.1.1575.4320

4.2.2 Conference on Working and Communicating with Communities, Newcastle UK

On 8th and 9th January 2016 a number of representatives from the Learning Neighbourhoods steering group including Denis Barrett, Siobhán O'Dowd, Siobhán O'Sullivan and Séamus O'Tuama, participated in a workshop held in Newcastle upon Tyne and the former mining community of Ashington. There were presentations on a number of case studies, including Learning Neighbourhoods and EcCoWell and the development of a guide for communities dealing with academics. This is part of a broader project run by Dr Matthew Johnson, Lancaster University funded by the British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and more information is available on: *http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/good-culture/*

The group returned to Newcastle the following year for a follow up Conference from 6th-8th January 2017. Siobhán O'Sullivan and Séamus O'Tuama presented a paper on responding to educational inequality with a case study of Learning Neighbourhoods.

4.2.3 HELLIN Visit to Learning Neighbourhoods, Cork Lifelong Learning Festival

The aim of the Higher Education Lifelong Learning Ireland Network (HELLIN) is to promote and advance Lifelong Learning and Continuing and Professional Education within Universities, Institutes of Technology and other relevant bodies throughout Ireland. A group from HELLIN visited the Learning Neighbourhoods on 14th April as part of a community experience during the Lifelong Learning Festival to experience and learn from what is happening around lifelong learning in those neighbourhoods. The morning involved visits to the CDP in Ballyphehane and a number of organisations in Knocknaheeny including the sensory garden in Sundays Wells Boys School, the Youthlinks Campus, Hollyhill Library and a music generation event in the Youth Centre.

4.2.4 PASCAL Conference, Glasgow

The 13th PASCAL International Conference took place from 3rd to 5th June, 2016 in Glasgow, Scotland. The conference focused on future directions for Learning Cities at a time of considerable challenge and opportunity for cities. Denis Barrett and Willie McAuliffe presented a paper on behalf of Siobhán O'Sullivan and the Learning Neighbourhoods team entitled, 'Designing and implementing learning neighbourhoods in Cork's UNESCO Learning City project'. This paper demonstrated the role and value of the Learning Neighbourhoods project in Cork City and explored the design and achievements so far of the pilots and how the emerging model can contribute to the Learning Cities agenda. They received a great reception and formed new connections with groups from Taipei and Philadelphia (see section 2.6.5 below).

For more on the conference see: *http://conference2016.pascalobservatory.org/sites/default/files/conference2016/PASCAL2016-Conference_Programme.pdf*

4.2.5 UCC Celebrating Community Partners Summer Event

The 2nd 'UCC Celebration of Community Partners' networking event was held on 7th June 2016 in the Aula Maxima, UCC. The event was jointly hosted by the Community Engagement Committee of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences and the University's Social Responsibility Committee (USREP). The purpose of the event was to recognise, celebrate and endorse the work of community partners who are engaged with the university in a wide range of mutually beneficial activities. Representatives from the Learning Neighbourhood communities of Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny were guests on the evening. The event provided a networking opportunity where community partners could learn more about engaging with UCC and establish new connections with other areas of the city and academics.

4.2.6 Taipei Visit to Cork Learning Neighbourhoods

On 11th and 12th June four delegates from Taipei's Learning City visited Cork City, Knocknaheeny and Ballyphehane following the PASCAL conference. The delegates visited Cork City Partnership in the Community Building, the Community Garden, and Hollyhill Library in Knocknaheeny and Tory Top Library and the Ballyphehane Craft Group in Ballyphehane. They are interested in partnering two of their districts with Learning Neighbourhoods and were very impressed with the programme, the community structures and groups they met.

4.2.7 Conference Board of Canada Report

The Conference Board of Canada is an independent, evidence-based, not-for-profit applied research organisation in Canada. They have conducted a research piece on Cork's Learning City initiative titled 'Higher Education and Collaboration in a Learning City: Lessons from Cork, Ireland', which draws on a number of interviews with GLLiC members and includes a focus on Learning Neighbourhoods. The study is expected to be published in the coming months as part of a spotlight series on best practices in post-secondary education around the world. Previously published spotlight studies are available on: *www.conferenceboard.ca/spse/research.aspx]www.conferenceboard.ca/spse/research.aspx*

4.2.8 Merrimack Boston Visit to Mayfield Learning Neighbourhood

On the 14th March 2017 representatives from the Mayfield Learning Neighbourhood met with a group of post graduate students who are completing a Masters Degree in Higher Education in Merrimack College, near Boston, USA. The group visited the Kerrigan Tyrell Centre, Mayfield Community Resource Centre, Newbury House Family Centre and Mayfield Arts to gain insights into learning in Mayfield.

4.2.9 UMass Lowell Visit to Knocknaheeny Learning Neighbourhood

The Knocknaheeny Learning Neighbourhood hosted a visit of academics from UMass Lowell, USA on 4th April who are interested in setting up a Learning City and Neighbourhoods in their city. The group spent the morning visiting alternative learning environments including Sunday's Well Boys School Sensory Garden and NICHE Community Garden and hearing about the Learning Neighbourhoods programme.



▲ Denis Barrett and Tina Neylon at the 13th PASCAL International Conference



SECTION 5

Awards

AWARDS

During the Lifelong Learning Festival, GLLiC organised an International Seminar and Plenary on Tuesday 12th of April in the Council Chamber, Cork City Hall with a focus on 'UNESCO Learning City Award for Cork – What Next?'

Representatives from other UNESCO Learning City award winners in Europe, Espoo in Finland and Swansea in the UK shared their experiences. The morning deliberated on how Learning Cities can progress and what they can learn from one another in order to continue the work done so far.

Learning Neighbourhood community members from Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny participated in the seminar and were presented with a framed certificate in recognition of their efforts and good practice in the pilot Learning Neighbourhoods programmes by Cork City Council CEO Ann Doherty.

To conclude the pilot year, a Lord Mayor's reception was held in The Council Chamber, Cork City Hall on 24th November 2016. This celebrated the activities of the pilot neighbourhoods throughout the year, the UCC Neighbourhood Lecture Series and the commitment of the communities to the programme, recognising the commitment of residents, organisations and UCC lecturers to good practice in growing lifelong learning in communities in Cork City through the presentation of certificates by the Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Fergal Dennehy.

The event also involved the launch of the 'Faces of Learning' photographic exhibition, which was exhibited in the Council Chamber and was followed by exhibitions in Hollyhill Library, Tory Top Library, and Knocknaheeny Community Building throughout January 2017.



▲ Ballyphehane Community Groups at the Learning Neighbourhoods Lord Mayor's reception



▲ Knocknaheeny Community Groups at the Learning Neighbourhoods Lord Mayor's reception



▲ Mary McGrath, centenarian, with Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Fergal Dennehy at the Learning Neighbourhoods Lord Mayor's reception



▲ Students from Terence McSwiney Community College at Faces of Learning Exhibition as part of the Learning Neighbourhoods Lord Mayor's reception

▼ UCC Lecturers at the Learning Neighbourhoods Lord Mayor's reception



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NeighbOurhood

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cetb Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chorcaí Cork Education and Training Board