

AGM Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 (7 30pm -11 00pm)

Institute of Irish Leadership ,Pomeroy

Committee present. M Quinn, K Burns, M O'Coinne, B Burns

We have had another very busy and successful year at Institute of Irish Leadership throughout 2022, with the first full year of uninterrupted activities after the Covid pandemic. The activities included many of the annual and seasonal initiatives we regularly deliver, as well as a large number of new activities. All of the activities had a community focus and we were very glad to welcome so many new faces into our centre and engage in our activities. Over the course of the year, we worked with such a large number of people from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and genders. All with the focus of increase opportunity to engage in community, cultural and heritage based activities. We had our largest year on record for number of participants and reach of our activities and have set a fantastic platform for all of this work to continue growing in 2023.

We were glad to work with so many funders again throughout the year. Many of whom were instrumental in the delivery of certain programmes and initiatives. Their support has been invaluable and we look forward to working with many of them again to deliver initiatives to the community. Some of the funders included: Mid Ulster District Council, The Community Foundation NI, Public Health Agency, Fibrus etc.

We were so happy to welcome people back into our facility over the course of the year. However we did still facilitate some of the services and events online, as our participants had requested this and we were able to engage with people from much further afield online. We believe that we achieved a good balance of quality service delivery to the highest level, while also allowing our community to come together in our space and increase levels of social interaction and learning.

Please see a brief description of the activities delivered over the course of 2022 below:

We facilitated our annual Ciorcal Comhra/ Irish Language Conversation Circle from Jan 2022 for a period of 12 weeks. This included both on Zoom and in person, allowing as many to participate as possible, also not being limited to the centres capacity.

We run a number of programmes and events with the local primary school, St Mary's Primary School. This included linking in with Healthy Kidz again to run a programme with the help of funding from the Public Health Agency. The aim of these activities were to enhance the health and well-being of some of the youngest members of our community, while also engaging them in cultural and educational activities.

Community Pharmacy Project May – June 2022 for a period of 6 weeks. Here we brought older people in the community together here in the centre , with our local pharmacist delivering different topics and to advice them on health and well-being. They also educated them on key issues such as Alzheimer/dementia, mental health, diabetes etc. This gave older people a forum to come and ask questions and get clarity on many issues they were having or were unsure on. This project was very successful and was a good example of new programming we introduced this year and will continue to do so in future years.

We also developed a number of outdoor focused projects and activities, such as a sensory walk through the forest. This brought people together, while also engaging them in Irish and local stories and heritage along the way. This was instrumental in bringing people back together socially and engaging them in community based activities. They enhanced their knowledge in the outdoors, such