



Newsletter



Open Now

2025 Collaboration and Innovation Fund

The call for proposals for the **2025 ALL Strategy Collaboration and Innovation Fund** has opened.

- Organisations that work in the public, not-for-profit, community and voluntary sector can apply.
- Funding is available for projects that support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and create a more equal society.
- A segment of the fund is available for Financial Literacy projects.
- The closing date for applications is **Friday 7 February 2025 at 5pm.**
- Applications must be made online.

You can scan the QR code to access or visit:

www.adultliteracyforlife.ie/fund/



New adult skills research

Ireland took part in the International survey of adult skills in 2023. The results were released on 10 December 2024. In Ireland 3,820 people did the survey. The results show that unmet literacy needs remain a challenge in Ireland.

PIAAC results in 2023

In **literacy**, **21%** of adults surveyed are at level 1 or below. The OECD average is 26%. This means around 700,000 people may find it difficult to read instructions and follow them.

In **numeracy**, **25%** of adults surveyed are at level 1 or below. The OECD average is 25%. This means around 835,000 people may struggle with working out a percentage or discount.

In **adaptive problem solving**, **28%** of adults surveyed are at level 1 or below. The OECD average is 29%. This means around 935,000 people may struggle with working out how to get from A to B in the fastest time.

Literacy:
Ireland is 13th out
of 31 countries.

Numeracy:
Ireland is 18th out
of 31 countries.

**Adaptive problem
solving: Ireland is 17th
out of 31 countries.**

Reference: Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) (2024). Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Central Statistics Office (CSO) carried out the survey in Ireland.



www.adultliteracyforlife.ie/news/



Let's talk about health literacy

New online courses



Two short eLearning courses on **health literacy** are now available from the the Adult Literacy for Life Programme Office:

- Course 1 (Let's talk about health literacy) is for anyone who uses health services and social care.
- Course 2 (Let's talk about a literacy friendly approach in healthcare) is for health and social care professionals.

You can scan the **QR code** to access these courses or visit:

www.adultliteracyforlife.ie/aware/



Updates from the ALL Office

- All 16 Regional Adult Literacy Coalitions are now set up. They are currently putting together their plans for 2025.
- A workshop on the **Literacy Ambassador Programme** was held on 10 October. There was representation from each ETB, as well as from AONTAS, NALA, and ETBI.
- The **thematic working group on Family Literacy** met at the NALA Family Literacy conference on 27 November.
- Staff from many organisations continue to take part in **Literacy Awareness** and **Plain English** training.
- The promotional campaign '**Let's talk about literacy**' took place on radio and social media in September. The campaign encouraged people across all of society to get engaged with literacy. It raised awareness of services and highlighted the positive impacts it brings to all.

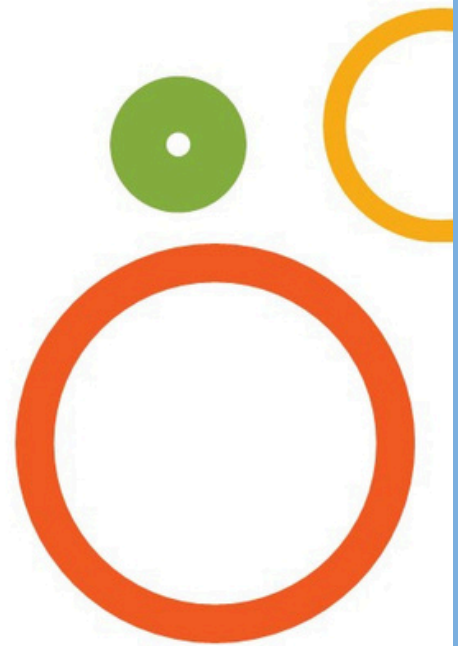


National Ploughing Championships

Regional Literacy Coordinators and National Programme Office staff shared a stand with NALA staff and volunteers at the National Ploughing Championship between the 17-19 September.

This was an great opportunity to promote the ALL Strategy to the public and other organisations.

Around 300 people visited the stand over three days. We gave out lots of materials and talked about returning to learning.



Cavan and Monaghan Integrating Literacy for Cavan Libraries

Ceinwen Fergus, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Cavan and Monaghan, delivered Integrating Literacy training for Cavan Library staff. This was part of their Literacy Champions project.

Staff from public libraries and Loughan House prison attended the training session, which took place in Johnstown Central Library.

Ceinwen delivered a 90-minute training session on literacy awareness and how to help people with unmet literacy needs. Ceinwen also explored the use of plain language with the participants.

Library staff will also attend online NALA webinars on plain language this autumn.



**To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
ceinwenfergus@cmetsb.ie
087 068 7841**

City of Dublin

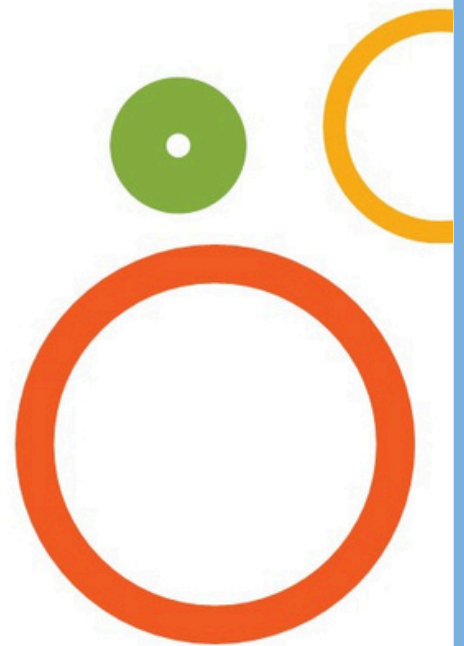
Learner Engagement and Support

Andrew Connolly, Regional Literacy Coordinator for the City of Dublin, provided an article for the newsletter of the Learner Support and Engagement Service.

The Learner Support and Engagement Service released a special issue newsletter for International Literacy Day.

Articles covered a variety of topics, such as the work undertaken by regional literacy coordinators and learner ambassadors.

This newsletter, which focuses on different topics every month, is a fantastic way to share ideas and information in the learner support area.



**City
of Dublin**
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Education and Training Board

**Learner Support and
Engagement Service**

To find out more, contact Andrew Connolly:

andrew.connolly@aes.cdetb.ie

086 601 8180

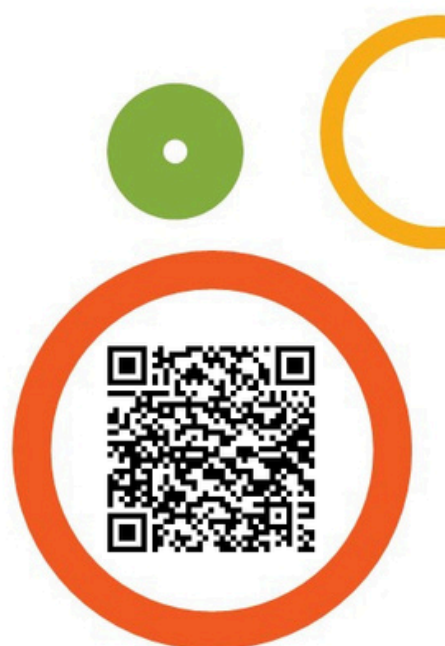
Donegal

Launch of Donegal's Regional Adult Literacy Coalition Plan

Members of Donegal's Regional Adult Literacy Coalition recorded a video to launch their Action Plan.

This video raised awareness about the aims of the plan on various social media platforms for International Literacy Day.

Scan here for more information on the action plan and to access the video.



**Adult
Literacy
for Life**

**To find out more, contact Adele McElhinney:
adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie
086 084 9284**

Donegal

The In:Clusion Project

Adele McElhinney, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Donegal, met learners taking part in the In:Clusion Project at Greencastle Community Centre.

Susan McAleer, Greencastle Centre manager, welcomed Adele and showed her around.



The In:Clusion Project combines music and arts and crafts with literacy and numeracy. It aims to create a safe space for adults with learning difficulties to come together, learn new skills, and have fun



Drive to Thrive

Adele also visited learners taking part in the Drive to Thrive project in Buncrana and Inishowen.

The Drive to Thrive project helps people with language difficulties and the long-term unemployed to pass their driving test.

"I've failed my driver test three times now but I'm hoping I will pass now. It's great to learn together."- quote from a learner

**To find out more, contact Adele McElhinney:
adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie
086 084 9284**

Donegal

Numeracy Trails

Donegal Local Development, in collaboration with the Irish Men's Shed Association, are trying out a new project called Numeracy Trails.

Men's shed members are working with numbers to measure and build wooden leaves with a ladybird design.

Learners engrave numbers on the leaves, allowing the public to count the dots on each leaf as they walk by. Leaves will be placed in three walking trails across the country:

- Rosslongan trail in Donegal,
- a Coillte walk in Falcarragh, and
- a Coillte trail in Kilmacrennan.

"It's great to work on a project together in the shed. It helps keep our heads right." - a learner



To find out more, contact Adele McElhinney:
adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie
086 084 9284

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Financial Literacy Awareness Event

The Adult Education Service North West was delighted to welcome Minister for Finance, Jack Chambers, to the Financial Literacy Awareness Event in Draiocht, Blanchardstown to launch Financial Literacy workshops.

The aim of the event was to:

- promote financial literacy,
- establish partnerships with financial institutions, and
- embed Plain English guidelines for banks.

Scan here for more information

Speakers highlighted the key role that financial literacy and financial wellbeing plays throughout our lives.

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB will collaborate with financial institutions to get a practice site. This site will help teach learners how to use online banking. Plans are underway to create a learner handbook as well.

“An excellent event that is much needed”- Minister
Jack Chambers

**To find out more, contact Nuala Nedjati:
nualanedjati@ddletbaes.ie
086 047 2363**



Galway and Roscommon Literacy and Dyslexia Conference

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) and the Adult Literacy for Life team organised a conference on dyslexia for literacy tutors, coalition members, and front-line staff. Over 100 people attended the conference at the Clayton Hotel, Galway on 5 September.

Donald Ewing, Head of Education and Policy at Dyslexia Ireland, was a keynote speaker at the event. He gave a very detailed overview of dyslexia, how to recognise it, and how to help people who have it.

**Scan here for more information on
dyslexia**

“The conference day was very well run and organised. The Dyslexia section and presentation was very interesting and very well delivered.”
an attendee



**Dyslexia
Ireland**

**To find out more, contact Bernadette Smith:
bernadette.smith@gretb.ie
087 763 6260**

Tipperary

Literacy Awareness Webinar

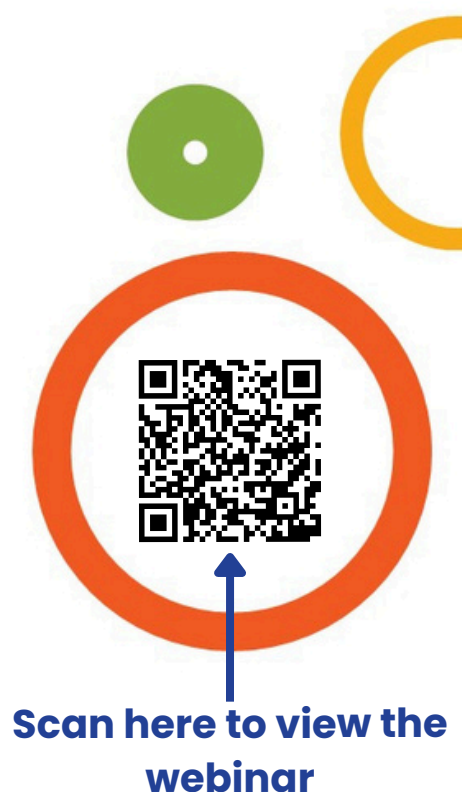
The Tipperary Adult Literacy coalition hosted a literacy awareness webinar on 24 September for Literacy month. Ester Mackey, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Tipperary ETB, had an informative chat with Literacy Ambassador Michael Power during the webinar.

The webinar ended with a call-to-action that encouraged coalition members to:

- take the new online course,
- [read the factsheet](#),
- stay in touch with the Tipperary Literacy Coalition and Regional Literacy Coordinator, and
- attend the upcoming **Let's be literacy friendly in Tipperary** events in Clonmel on the 22 October or in Nenagh on the 12 November

'Amazing to hear Michael's story and to know I can make it easier by being more aware.' - an attendee

To find out more, contact Ester Mackey:
emackey@tipperaryetb.ie
087 062 6937



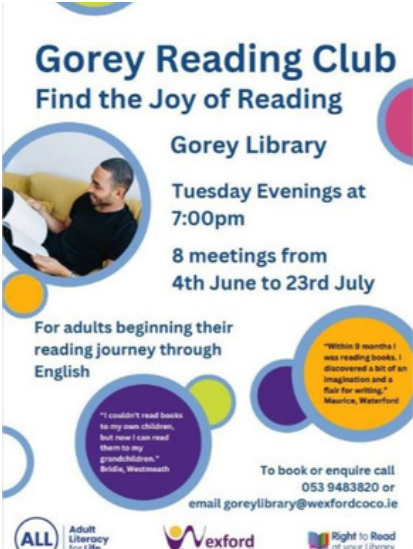
**Scan here to view the
webinar**

Waterford and Wexford Adult Reading Club – Gorey Library

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) and Wexford library service piloted an adult reading club between May and August 2024.

The project was originally piloted in Wexford town and has now been extended to Gorey Library.

This pilot helps adults and people whose first language is not English to improve their reading skills in a friendly environment.



Gorey Reading Club
Find the Joy of Reading

Gorey Library
Tuesday Evenings at 7:00pm
8 meetings from 4th June to 23rd July

For adults beginning their reading journey through English

"I couldn't read books to my own children, but now I can read them to my grandchildren."
Bridie, Westmeath

"Within 9 months I was reading books. I discovered a lot of imagination and a flair for writing."
Maureen, Waterford

To book or enquire call 053 9483820 or email goreylibrary@wexfordcoco.ie

ALL Adult Literacy for Life
Wexford County Council
Right to Read at your Library



Film for ALL – Gorey School of Art

The Gorey School of Art, WWETB, and the ALL Unit funded workshops that helped Ukrainian nationals learn English through the medium of film.

These workshops were a great opportunity for people with unmet literacy needs to improve their speaking, understanding, and listening skills.

The workshops took place in a film theatre in Gorey School of Art. It was a fun and creative way for people to build their confidence and learn new things.

To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354

Waterford and Wexford Age Well Coffee Morning

Age Friendly Waterford organised an Age Well Coffee Morning for people over 55 at the Tower Hotel on 13 September.

This event gave attendees the opportunity to explore literacy as a superpower for aging well.

Speakers covered a wide range of topics, including:

- writing for wellness,
- health literacy for living well, and
- film workshops.

Literacy ambassador Maurice Sammon also talked about his literacy journey.

Attendees found the event very enjoyable and informative. Many people were inspired to pick up creative writing as a hobby.



**To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354**

Waterford and Wexford Melodic Literacy Learners

The Melodic Literacy Learners project allowed non-English speaking adults to improve their English language skills through singing over the summer.

This project was the result of a collaboration between Creative Waterford Emeralds, Waterford New Communities Network, and Wexford and Waterford ETB.

Learners gained a huge amount of confidence by singing in a language they only recently begun to learn.



**To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354**

Launch of Literacy Awareness eLearning module

Regional Literacy Coordinators Edel Finan and Tom Kent attended the launch of the new online course **Let's talk about literacy** on 6 September. Minister Patrick O'Donovan launched the course at Limerick City Library to mark International Literacy Day.

This online course will help those in contact with the public to respond better to unmet literacy needs.

Minister O'Donovan met Maurice Sammon, a Literacy Ambassador with WWETB, who shared his experience of returning to learning.



Contact your Regional Literacy Coordinator or our National Office for questions, literacy awareness, support and referrals:



Region	Regional Literacy Coordinator	Email and phone
Cavan and Monaghan	Ceinwen Fergus	ceinwenfergus@cmetb.ie 087 068 7841
Cork	Veronica Bowen	veronica.bowen@corketb.ie 086 029 6086
City of Dublin	Andrew Connolly	andrew.connolly@aes.cdetb.ie 086 601 8180
Donegal	Adele McElhinney	adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie 086 084 9284
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire	Nuala Nedjati	nualanedjati@ddletbaes.ie 086 047 2363
Galway and Roscommon	Bernadette Smith	bernadette.smith@gretb.ie 087 763 6260
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