

NEWSLETTER NO 1

March 2008

Following the decision of the Irish Government and Atlantic Philanthropies to co-finance the proposed Centre for Effective Services, the emphasis in recent weeks has been on taking steps to create the organisation. This, our First Newsletter, outlines recent developments and planned actions.

Our Role

The role of the Centre for Effective Services Ltd (CES) ^[1] is to make available technical and organisational expertise to client organisations that offer support to children and families at community level. CES will fill an internationally recognised gap by connecting the design and implementation of children's services with scientific and technical knowledge of what works.

Structure

The Centre for Effective Services Ltd has been established as a private company registered in the Republic of Ireland and limited by guarantee.

The Company was registered, and the initial board of directors appointed, in January 2008.

The board of directors is chaired by Dan Flinter. Dan is Chairman of the Governing Authority of National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and of the National Sports Campus Development Authority. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Ireland. The other founding member of the Board is Owen Keenan, Director of Middlequarter and former CEO of Barnardos.

The Chairman is delighted to announce that Mary Walsh and Ruth Lavery have accepted invitations to join the Board.

- o Mary Walsh is a chartered accountant, who spent 27 years as a partner in the professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers advising on tax and

on investing in Ireland, and who has recently been appointed by government to the Commission on Taxation.

- o Ruth Lavery, BCL (Oxon), LLB, Barrister-at Law, lectured in the School of Law in The Queens University Belfast from 1981-98. She specialised in teaching and research in child law and children's rights and was a member of Down Lisburn Health and Social Trust (2000-03). Ruth has been a member of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council since 2007.

Further appointments to the Board will be made over the coming months.

Funding

The Centre is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, the Office for the Minister for Children, and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Atlantic Philanthropies has committed a budget of €5.2 million to the project over five years and this will be matched by Irish government funds

Start Up Team

The Chairman, Dan Flinter has put in place an interim "Start-Up" team to get the Centre up and running.

The Team consists of the Chairman, Dan Flinter; Brendan Martin who is responsible for recruitment and establishing interim office facilities; and the Company Secretary, Mary Gallagher. This team is being supported by David Varian, who is responsible for putting into place the finance structures and systems for the new Centre.

The Start-Up Team have been meeting regularly since the start of January, commencing with a comprehensive briefing on the work of the original commissioning team and a formal hand over from the Prospectus team.

Recruitment

CES has begun the process of recruiting a Director and an initial staff of up to seven persons.

The advertisement for the Director appeared in the press in Northern Ireland, Ireland and the UK on 25th January and the formal recruitment process is now underway.

Advertisements for the initial members of the executive team will appear in the Irish Times and Belfast Telegraph on Friday 7th March. We will be seeking the following executives:

- o Development Manager and 3-4 Development Coordinators
- o A Knowledge Manager
- o An Office Manager

We will shortly be requesting expressions of interest for the provision of specialist training support for this executive team.

Office Accommodation

Arrangements are in hand to establish initial office accommodation for the team in the National College of Ireland in ISFC, Dublin. These offices will be commissioned during the Spring.

Web Site

A web site for the Centre has now been commissioned and it will be accessible next week at www.effectiveservices.org

Contacting Us

With effect from next week, you will be able to contact us at information@effectiveservices.org.