

# IRISH AFTERCARE NETWORK

*Providing Support to People Working With Care Leavers*

Dear Member,

We are happy to bring you updates on the work of the network since our last newsletter in December.

Since our last newsletter, Daniel Keogh has now changed roles therefore has now resigned as Chairperson of the Irish Aftercare Network, we are delighted to welcome Neil Forsyth as the new Chairperson, who will bring a wealth of experience to this role.

As always, if the network can help you in anyway, please get in touch, all our contact details are at end of this newsletter.

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## Network Members Meeting, February 2024

Thank you to all who attended the Network Members Meeting in the Community Space in LinkedIn on 20 February 2024. We are very grateful to DECDIY for their sponsorship of this event and to LinkedIn for allowing us to use their amazing space. The feedback was very positive. A thank you to all our presenters on the morning, who are as follows:



- Dr Carol Coulter, Executive Director, Child Law Project
- Ciaran Kenny and Stuart Lynch, Tusla – Football Forum & Findings
- Aoife Murphy and Shane Smart, EPIC - EPIC's model of Youth Engagement & Participation
- Neil Forsyth, Chairperson Irish Aftercare Network – Group Discussion on priority issues for network members



## 2024 Irish Aftercare Network meetings with the Ombudsman for Children



Irish Aftercare  
Care Network  
Chairperson Neil  
Forsyth and Vice

Chairperson Ciaran Kenny recently met with The Ombudsman for Children Dr. Niall Muldoon on 06 February 2024. A positive and open discussion relating to a variety of issues that have been raised by our members nationally took place. The main topics of conversation related to the ongoing urgent need for long term housing for young people with care experience, explicitly focusing on both CAS housing and the joint protocol currently in place with Tusla and the local

authorities, issues regarding unaccompanied minors entering the state and the lack of concrete aftercare supports that are in place for them as well as reviewing the breakdown recently given by Tusla, relating to the current housing status of all young people at present accessing formal aftercare supports from Tusla Nationally. Dr. Niall Muldoon has given a clear commitment to continue to work with the Irish Aftercare network going forward in addressing all issues that come to the fore from our members. A follow-on meeting has been scheduled later this year and we will update our members on any significant outcomes that come from these meetings.

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## Care Day 2024

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was a special day which saw numerous events throughout the Country to mark “Care Day”, a day celebrating the achievements of young people currently in care and those who have care experience. Vice Chairperson of the Irish Aftercare



Network, Ciaran Kenny from Tusla DNC Aftercare along with his colleague from Tusla Stuart Lynch put together a day of celebration in Dublin North central, consisting of numerous football matches which took place in TUD Grangegorman. Teams representing Tusla, Don Bosco Care, Sport Against Racism Ireland, Crosscare and TUD were present on the day. It was great to see the level of staff engagement from these organisations, playing alongside the

young people. The day itself saw have young people from many diverse backgrounds come together and share a space of celebration, exhibiting some great skills on the pitch and new friendships forged off it. Former Irish International Keith Treacy and former football manager and author Roddy Collins were in attendance along with representatives from Bohemian F.C and the Ombudsman for Children's office. There were plenty of pizza, soft drinks and trophies on show for all present on what was a magical day.



## Youth Homelessness Strategy – Report Card 2024



To read more on this please click on this link and see pages 186-196

[Report-Card-2024.pdf \(childrensrights.ie\)](#)

## Update on Strategic Plan for Aftercare Services for Young People and Young Adults (2023-2026)

An Aftercare Strategy Implementation Project Group (ASIPG) has been established and now operational within the broader Alternative Care Practice Reform Programme to develop and deliver agreed actions and will liaise with all internal / external stakeholders to progress this work. Tusla looks forward to implementing the Strategic Plan for Aftercare in partnership with our key stakeholders, including the Irish Aftercare Network. This is a great opportunity to build and improve support networks for young people and young adults in aftercare.



### Dates for Diary

#### Members' Network Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Venue:** The Absolute Hotel, Sir Harrys Mall, Limerick, V94 WP52

More information will follow via email nearer the date.

#### Annual Conference 2024

**Date:** Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Venue:** The Sheraton Hotel, Gleeson St, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 D953

If any member would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please get in touch.

If any of your colleagues would like to become members of the network please send them this link:

<https://www.irishaftercare.com/membership-form/>

	01 6060858
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	<a href="mailto:info@breakingthrough.org">info@breakingthrough.org</a>
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