

CAN Events

2025



Cork Access Network

Leaving No One Behind

Bridging the Gap

Developing a partnership model for the future coordination and development of Community Education

9.30am - 12.30pm (Registration 9.00am)
on Friday 21st November 2025

A valuable opportunity to collaborate with fellow community education providers, key stakeholders, and funders to explore and discuss how we may evolve in partnership a model aimed at coordinating and strengthening targeted approaches to address regional gaps in the coordination of funding, provision and future development of community education.

Clayton Hotel (Silversprings)
Tivoli, Cork, T23 E244

RSVP by **Friday 14th**
November
<https://bit.ly/CAN-ACCESS>

Free delegates car-parking available

Bridging the Gap -

Developing a partnership model for the coordination and future development of Community Education

The seminar focused on:

- An update on progress made on actions outlined in the Community Education Framework to date
- Highlighting good practice models of community education initiatives across the Cork Region
- Engaging in roundtable discussions to explore models that successfully coordinate a targeted partnership approach for funding, provision, and future developments in community education, bridging existing gaps and responding to emerging needs



CAN Events

2025



Access & Opportunity: Connecting Education and Employment

This event highlighted real-world examples of access to employment through learning, upskilling, and partnerships that drive success.

Event Highlights:

- Introductory Address – Prof. John O'Halloran, President of UCC
- Insights from J&J Innovative Medicine, Cork Chamber Company of the Year Winner 2025
- Bitesize Case Studies from businesses, education providers & employees
- Networking Breakfast with industry leaders & educators

**Access & Opportunity:
Connecting Education and Employment**

A Cork Access Network event showcasing
Impactful workplace learning partnerships

7:30 - 9:00 am
Wednesday, 9th April 2025
Aula Maxima, University College Cork

Join us for an inspiring morning celebrating the power of workplace learning and collaborations between employers, learners and education providers. This event will highlight real-world examples of access to employment through learning, upskilling and partnerships that drive success.

Event Highlights

Address: **Prof. John O'Halloran, President of UCC**

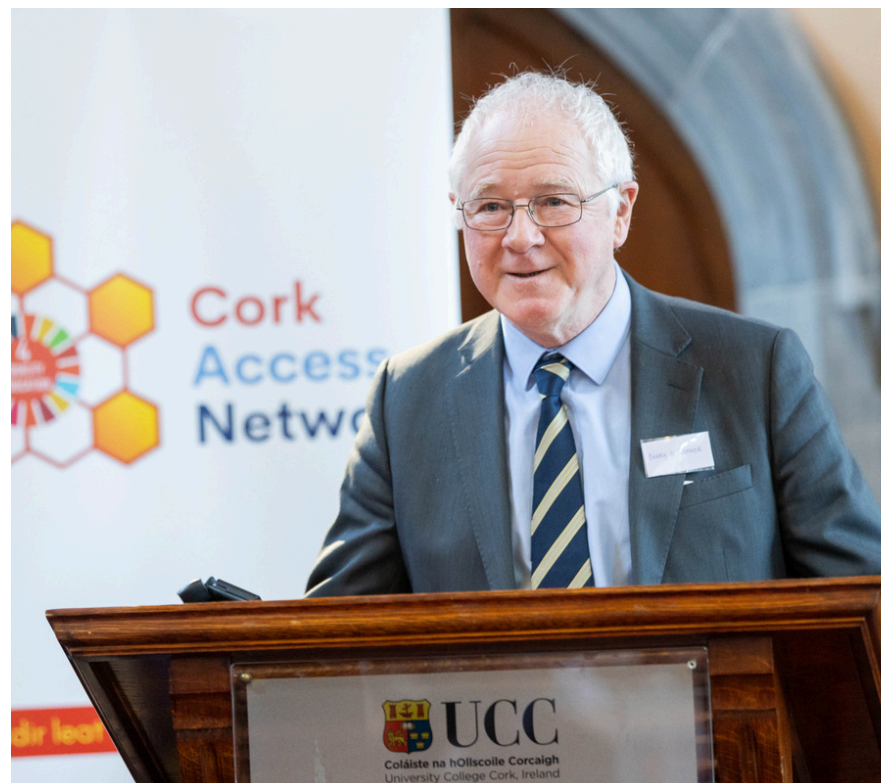
Insights from the 2025 Cork Chamber Company of the Year **Johnson & Johnson**

Bitesize Case Studies from businesses, education providers & employers

Networking Breakfast with Industry Leaders & Educators

Event Partners: cetb, Cork City Council, MTU, Cork Chamber, UCC, Cork Learning City, Johnson & Johnson, FORSA

For more info & to register for this event;
bit.ly/WBCAN25



CAN Events

2025



Cork Traveller Education Seminar 2025

Join the discussion around Ireland's new Traveller and Roma Education Strategy and Implementation Plan.

09:30 - 14:00

Thursday, January 30th 2025

Cork City Hall
Anglesea Street Cork

Join us to discuss Ireland's new **Traveller and Roma Education Strategy and Implementation Plan** and to consider how we can improve Traveller education in Cork in a way that is aligned with the new **National Strategy**.

This in-person event is a great opportunity for those interested and involved in Traveller education to **work together on improving educational opportunities for Travellers** and to coproduce a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for Traveller children in Cork.

This event is organised by Traveller Visibility Group, Southern Traveller Health Network, Traveller Education Unit and supported by Cork Access Network Partners.



To register for this event: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/cork-traveller-education-seminar-2025-tickets-1088539042579?aff=oddtcreator>

Cork Traveller Education Seminar

Discussion on Ireland's New Traveller and Roma Education Strategy and Implementation Plan, to consider how we can improve Traveller Education in Cork in a way that is aligned with the new National Strategy.

This in-person event was a great opportunity for those interested in Traveller Education to work together to improve educational opportunities for Travellers, share experiences and insights and coproduce a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for Traveller Children in Cork.

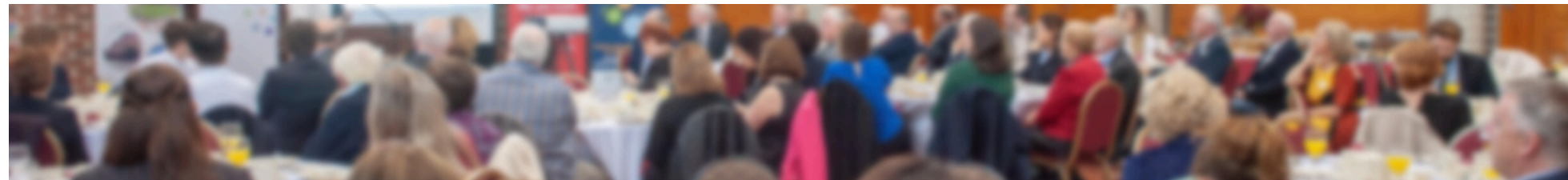
The event was hosted by Niall Crowley and Ann Irwin.



CAN Events



Is féidir leat ~ Leaving no one behind



Access through the Workplace Breakfast

A Cork Access Network event showcasing Community, Business and Education partnerships.

Sponsored by Cork Chamber Skillnet.

7:30 - 9:00am on Friday 12th May 2023

Tourism and Hospitality Building,
Munster Technological University, Rossa Ave.



Free delegates car-parking available on first come basis

Cork Access Network Workplace Learning Breakfast

Cork Access Network hosted a Workplace Learning Breakfast Seminar in Munster Technological University on May 12th.

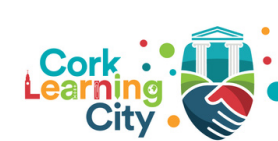
Generously sponsored by Cork Chamber Skillnet, this event served as a platform to showcase a range of effective and inspiring approaches to accessibility that have been developed locally. Through collaborative efforts between Cork-based companies and education partners, significant strides have been made in eliminating barriers to education and employment.

The event covered various topics, including practical examples of workplace learning initiatives like bridge-to-employment programs, leadership programs, disability and inclusion initiatives, as well as providing attendees with information on workplace support schemes. CAN firmly believes in ensuring that no one is left behind, as encapsulated in their motto "Is féidir leat" - Yes, You Can.

Each example presented during the event demonstrated what can be accomplished through collaboration and concerted efforts to overcome access challenges.

Speakers included;

- Cork Chamber Skillnet - Garrett O'Rourke
- J&J Bridge to Employment – Andrew Flynn, GM Janssen Pharmaceutical and Bursary student, Kyle Daly.
- Skills to Advance: Aspire Leadership Programme Cork ETB in partnership with the Trigon hotel group.
- Cork College of FET representative: Niamh Gaine, Assistant Manager
- Trigon Hotel Representative: Deirdre Staples L & D Specialist & Learner Representative
- Career Development – Disability & Inclusion Initiatives – MTU Careers Service & MTU Disability Support Service (DSS) and Access UCC, Disability Support.
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Intreo/Dermot Crosby, & Company example.



CAN Events



Is féidir leat ~ Leaving no one behind



Cork Access Network

Is Féidir Leat ~ Leaving No One Behind



Webinar

8th Oct 2021 @ 11am - 1pm

**New Department -
New Opportunities**
in Further Education, Higher Education,
Access and Progression

Keynotes from :

Dr Drew Koch

President, Gardner Institute for Excellence in
Undergraduate Education, North Carolina, USA
'Unjust Design in Education Systems'

&

Mr Jim Breslin

Secretary General at Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Including Access themed inputs from local examples of good practice



'CAN Access Partners Forum. (UN)JUST DESIGN IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?'

Cork Learning City partners host Access Network (CAN) Workshop with Guest speakers from the USA

The Lord Mayor hosted Cork Learning City partners in the Cork Access Network (CAN) with visiting academics from the USA following a workshop on 'UNJUST DESIGN IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?' in Council Chamber, Cork City Hall 23rd June 2024

The Workshop featured presentations by a strong range of Cork examples of tackling educational disadvantage in the Irish context including projects that focus on:

- Prisoners and families undertaken by Cork Prison Education Unit and Dillons Cross Project CETB
- Travellers – Lead by Leanne McDonagh and Breda Hogan (MTU, UCC)
- The Prevention of Early School Leaving through the TUSLA School Completion Programme – Ingrid O'Riordan (Le Chéile SCP)
- An Alternative for Early School Leavers through the Youthreach Programme – Des Cullinane (Cork City Learning Support Service)
- New Further Education and Higher Education Links Schemes – Gobnait Burke & Kathy Bradley (CETB)

The audience were addressed by Guest Speakers Dr Drew Koch CEO and Dr Sara Stein Koch of the Gardner Institute for Student Success in the USA, who outlined their work to support the success of under-represented groups in Higher Education.



CAN Events



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND 2022 CORK ACCESS NETWORK



Leave No One Behind Webinar

This virtual CAN event, featured a number of high-profile speakers from education, industry and community, including Mr Jim Breslin, Secretary General of the Dept. of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science and Mr Bob Savage, VP DELL Technologies, discussing the challenges and opportunities to enhance access and reduce barriers to educational success for all learners with local leaders including: Ann Doherty Cork City Council, Denis Leamy Cork ETB, Prof John O'Halloran UCC, Prof. Maggie Cusack MTU, Paula Cogan Cork Chamber, and Siobhan O'Dowd, Ballyphehane Togher CDP and CESCA. The Session was chaired by Dr Barry O'Connor, Chair of Cork Access Network.

This event recognised the success of Cork as a learning city sustained by active cross-sectoral/whole-of-City partnerships, will acknowledge the challenges, including the impact of COVID 19, and furthered the conversation and commitment to action to reduce educational disadvantage in the Cork region.

CHAIR DR BARRY O'CONNOR

GUEST PANELISTS


JIM BRESLIN
Sec General DFHERIS


PAULA COGAN
President Cork Chamber


BOB SAVAGE
VP DELL Technologies


SIOBHAN O'DOWD
Coordinator BTCDP


PROF MAGGIE CUSACK
PRESIDENT MTU

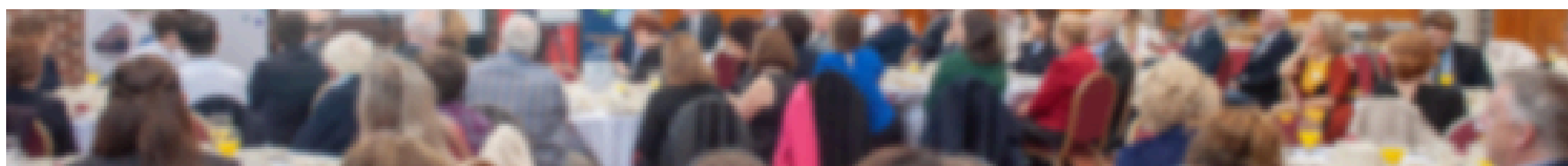

DENIS LEAMY
CE CORK ETB


PROF JOHN O'HALLORAN
PRESIDENT UCC


ANN DOHERTY
CE CORK CITY COUNCIL

FRIDAY JANUARY 28TH @ 9.30-10.30A.M

CAN Events



Is féidir leat - leaving no one behind

Workplace Learning Partnerships Networking & Breakfast

A Cork Access Network event showcasing successful Workplace Learning Partnerships and insights from business, industry, education partners and employees which are easily transferable for your business

7.20am-9.00am Friday 11th March 2022

**Dining Hall, Tourism and Hospitality Building
Munster Technological University-Cork Campus
T12 P928**

7:20am Registration

7:30am Breakfast & Networking

7.50am Welcome : Prof Maggie Cusack, President MTU

8.00am Introduction : Dr. Barry O' Connor, Chair Cork Access Network

**Free delegates
car-parking
available**

Bitesize Inputs from across Public and Private Sector
workplace partnership Initiatives including

**Cork City Council . CETB . MTU . J&J
UCC . Cork Chamber . One Movement**

Keynote speaker : Mr. Donal O'Sullivan, CEO, Nutribio Ltd

8.50am Closing remarks

**For more info & to register for this event before March 4th
catherine_sheahan@corkcity.ie**



This event showcased a series of effective and inspirational access approaches developed locally, in which Cork based companies, trade unions and education partners through working together have successfully reduced and removed barriers to education and employment.

'CAN believes in leaving no-one behind and as our motto says 'Is féidir leat' - Yes you can'. We heard from organisations including Cork Chamber, the COPE Foundation, Johnson and Johnson, the FÓRSA Trade Union, Boston Scientific, DELL, and Apple on their partnerships with MTU, UCC, Cork ETB and Cork City Council. Each example was a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved through collaborations and by working together to reduce access challenges.

President Maggie Cusack of MTU, opening the event said "We were delighted to bring so many employers and educationalists together to highlight some innovative exemplars of practice in relation to Access to and within the workplace. We are all committed to working together on this initiative."



CAN Events





Cork Access Network

is féidir leat ~ leaving no one behind

'Community Education - Gateway or Goal?'

Community Education can provide access routes for a wide range of learners, across a variety of settings, towards a wide range of destinations.

- Inspiring learner stories;
- Good practice examples from across City and County;
- Information on policies on Community Education
- Engage with decision makers, local and national.

Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Tivoli, Cork, T23 E244

Tea & Coffee

Registration Required Via **Eventbrite**
Enquiries : Catherine_Sheahan@corkcity.ie

Save The Date!

Friday

27th May 2022

9am - 12.30pm



Community Education - Gateway or Goal

Community education provides flexible learning options in your community, allowing learners to identify and reach recreational, social, cultural, creative and wellbeing goals.

It can be a gateway of progression to Further and Third Level education, and to employment.

This seminar explored this transformational learning experience for individuals and groups.

An opportunity for Community Education Organisations, practioners and learners from across Cork City and County to network and to discuss the community Education Framework & New Further Education & Training Strategy.





Cork Access Network

Leaving No One Behind

Access - Transforming the Framework of Community Education

9.30am - 12.30pm
Friday 29th November 2024

**Clayton Hotel (Silversprings)
Tivoli, Cork, T23 E244**

9.00 - Registration

9.30 - Welcome
Dr Barry O'Connor, Chairperson CAN

9.35 - Opening Address
Cllr. Gillian Coughlan, Chairperson Cork ETB

9.45 - **Irish Wheelchair Association** - Community Inclusion
REACH Lighting Presentation **Margaret O'Connor**

9.55 - **Moving Age, Farranree** - Stories from the Northside
REACH Lighting Presentation

10.05 - Case Study: Transformative Nature of Community Education for Lone Parents
Siobhan O'Neill, Mayfield Community Intergration Project

10.15 - **The Travellers of North Cork**
REACH Lighting Presentation

10.25 - SOLAS Community Education Framework & New FET Strategy
Nina Burke, SOLAS

10.40 - **Durrus Community Council** - Community Pride
REACH Lighting Presentation

10.50 - Refreshment Break & Networking

11.15 - Panel Discussion
SOLAS - **Nina Burke**, CETB - **John Fitzgibbons**, ETBI - **Fergus Craddock**, MTU - **Deirdre Creedon**, UCC - **Olive Byrne**, Cork City Partnership, **Margo Hayes**, CAN - **Dr. Barry O'Connor**

11.45 - Panel Q&A

11.55 - Round Table Discussions

12.15 - Reflections

12.25 - Closing Address
Denis Leamy, Chief Executive Cork ETB

12.30 - Close
Dr Barry O'Connor, Chairperson CAN

