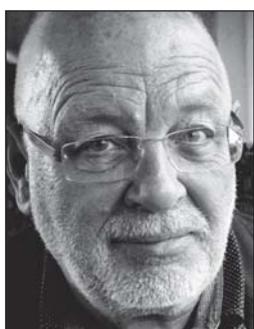


Leader

BULLETIN

FROM THE EDITOR

March has been a busy, busy month for school leaders!



Hot on the heels of Jacinta Kitt's book came *Towards a Better Future* (See opposite) which formed the subject matter and theme for a very lively NAPD/IPPN Symposium. We are very happy to be working with Conor Holmes of Outside the Box, who will be distributing both books for us.

Retirement will also be a theme, this month and next. NAPD-R members will be out to lunch at various venues throughout the country in coming weeks, but if you are thinking of joining the ranks of the superannuated, do note the venue and time of the retirement Seminar on April 4.

Twenty-six school leaders responded to the call to Berlin and an illuminating and inspiring time was had by all. A baggage handlers' strike at the airport meant that Day 2 was largely a case of *Planes, Trains and [finally] Automobiles* as the party struggled with last-minute changes and re-routing through Leipzig. The main point, though, is that they were delighted with the two schools they visited – progressive and student-centred – and many were vowing to return.

We're hoping that all members of the National Executive will be in their best bibs and tuckers for the meeting of 30 March, as Charlie McManus will be in Portlaoise to take the team photograph.

Look out for the *Spring Leader Quarterly*, which should be in your school in time for the Easter holidays.

Derek West
E: derek.west43@gmail.com

IPPN and NAPD commissioned five distinguished educationalists to undertake a thorough study of the contemporary Irish education system, from pre-school to the end of post-primary school. A key aspect of their work was to identify the main strengths, shortcomings, and opportunities for development. The resulting publication is *Towards a Better Future: A Review of the Irish School System*.



ippn
Leading and Learning

NAPD
PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

"A careful reading of the text will be of value to all stakeholders and to those interested in the good of Irish education. The review provides a conspectus for policy-makers, practitioners and participants of the comprehensive range of issues and concerns relevant to the achievement of the reform programme. We see the publication as a contribution, in line with our tradition, of cultivating enlightened awareness of educational issues, with a view towards a better future."

Seán Cottrell, IPPN CEO and Clive Byrne, NAPD Director

To purchase a copy of the publication, go to www.otb.ie/leadership and put 'towards a better future' in the search tool. The retail price is €20.

RETROSPECTIVE VETTING OF REGISTERED TEACHERS

From the Teaching Council

The wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons is a central element of the professional responsibility of teachers. This is why the Teaching Council has included a requirement to be vetted as part of the registration process since 2007.

In accordance with section 21 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012-2016, The Minister for Justice and Equality has prescribed that applications for the vetting of teachers who have not previously been vetted must be made by 31 December 2017.

Employers can be assured that the Council is proceeding to vet all registered teachers for whom it has not previously received a vetting disclosure since the establishment of the register in 2006. This retrospective vetting requirement is being facilitated by the Council as part of the registration renewal process in accordance with Section 33 of the Teaching Council Act and with the agreement of the Department of Education & Skills.

At the beginning of this year, approximately 33,000 registered teachers had not been vetted by the Council. The Council commenced the retrospective vetting process for these teachers on 6 January 2017. Already the Council has contacted almost 7,000 of these teachers, requesting them to apply online for vetting. To date many have complied with the request and the Council is processing their applications. The Council will continue to invite teachers to apply for vetting, in rotation, throughout 2017.

If a vetting request is not complied with, a teacher's registration may not be renewed.

As you are aware since January 2014 if teachers are not registered with the Council they cannot receive a state salary. The Council requests the cooperation of employers in the retrospective vetting process by encouraging teachers to wait until they receive a request from the Council to apply for vetting. Where teachers have been requested to apply for vetting it is important that they respond within the 28 day timeframe.

This is particularly important for teachers who have been issued a notice to apply for vetting and who are due to renew their registration before 28 March 2017.

As schools will need to be able to determine the vetting status of each teacher on staff, the Council would like to draw your attention to the *My Registration* section of the Council's website. All registered teachers can log in and check their vetting status there. Teachers with the approved status are exempt from the retrospective vetting process as they have completed vetting in the past and have applied with the relevant legislation. More information including a sample screenshot can be found on the Council's website under the Frequently Asked Questions for Retrospective Vetting.

Schools should note that there is no period of validity on NVB vetting disclosures which are dated after 29 April 2016. The DES Circular 31/2016 which outlines the requirements for the commencement of the statutory requirements for vetting continues to apply to new employees. Retrospective vetting is covered by a separate circular.

Detailed information on the retrospective vetting process including FAQs, guidance outlining how to complete the retrospective vetting process and relevant legislation is available on the vetting section of the Teaching Council website: www.teachingcouncil.ie.

DON'T FORGET!

IF RETIREMENT IS ON YOUR MIND COME TO THE SEMINAR!

**TUESDAY 4 APRIL
2pm
SHERATON HOTEL
ATHLONE**



NAPD-R is hosting a Seminar in the Sheraton for NAPD members who are about to retire.

Representatives of Cornmarket and of the DES Pensions Sections will be in attendance to offer advice and information.



Timetabling for better learning



Barry O'Callaghan's article in the autumn edition of Leader Quarterly aroused considerable interest and we have received requests for the two Powerpoint presentations (by Patricia Hayden of St. Joseph's Rush and Leo Hogan of CBS Carlow) which were referred to in the text. If you would like to acquire these presentations, please contact the Editor, E: derek.west43@gmail.com.

Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership (PDSL)

Information on Aspiring Leaders Programme

In September 2017, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) launch a new Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership (PDSL) for aspiring school leaders, to be jointly awarded by University of Limerick (UL), the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) (including St Angela's) and University College Dublin (UCD) with additional academic support by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT).

The programme will be a part-time (18 months) blended learning professional diploma, delivered locally in six regional locations throughout the country (details on regional locations not yet available)

- There will be specific provision for teachers in Irish-medium schools in NUI Galway.
- Fees support for this programme will be provided by the DES/CSL.
- Engagement with the programme will involve a mix of lectures, face-to-face seminars, online tutorials and on-campus learning (including some Saturdays and a summer school).

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Semester One: September – December 2017

- Module 1: Leading Learning and Teaching in the Irish Context;
- Module 2: Professional Growth Development

Semester Two: January – May 2018

- Module 3: Leading School Transformation: Looking in Our Schools
- Module 4: Mentoring and Coaching

Semester Three: September – December 2018

- Module 5: Leading School Development: Continuity Change and Capacity Building
- Module 6: Building Culture Capacity and Teams

Mental Health First Aid

The Mental Health Needs Assessment (2015) carried out by the National Youth Health Programme [NYHP] identified the need to support youth workers develop a deeper understanding of different mental health issues and how they can present in youth services, with particular reference to self-harm and suicide. A deeper understanding would help them support the young person more effectively. The NYHP is delighted to partner with Mental Health First Aid Ireland to deliver Mental Health First Aid training to meet this need.

What is Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)? MHFA is the initial help given to someone who is developing a mental health problem, or is in a mental health crisis, until appropriate professional help is received or until the crisis is resolved. MHFA is an evidence-based programme available in 23 countries worldwide. It deals with the signs and symptoms of mental health problems and how to support someone experiencing them. Emerging mental health problems covered in the course include depression, anxiety, psychosis, substance misuse and self-harm. The programme is targeted at adults to enable them support people of 18 years and older.

Who is MHFA for? MHFA is for everyone, but many people are unsure of how to recognise mental health problems, how to respond to the person, and what supports are available. MHFA training will equip you with the skills to support individuals experiencing mental health difficulties.

Aims of training: To increase the knowledge, skills and capacity of participants, to provide mental health first aid to people developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem or in a mental health crisis until appropriate professional help is received or until the crisis resolves. Participants will:

- Be able to recognise the more common mental illnesses and know how to respond to them
- Know how to access supports and information in relation to the more common mental illnesses
- Through their first aid activities, join the national effort to break the stigma that surrounds mental illness.

ABOUT THE TRAINING:

- Training methods include group work, discussion and PowerPoint to support participants learning.
- Light lunch, tea, coffee and refreshments are provided.
- You'll receive a MHFA Standard manual that you can take away with you at the end of the course and also an attendance certificate from MHFA Ireland

Who can attend: Youth work leaders who work with young people aged 18+

Duration: The course takes place at the Croke Park Hotel, Dublin, over 2 consecutive full days, from 9.30am – 4.30pm. It is limited to 20 people per training event and 2 participants per organisation. Thursday- Friday, April 27- 28

Booking Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mental-health-first-aid-tickets-32813515107>

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Mentors Needed for New Deputy Principals

NAPD is looking for up to 30 experienced post-primary Deputy Principals (or Principals with at least three years' experience as Deputy Principals) to train as mentors and to work with newly-appointed Deputy Principals in 2017. We will offer you two days of quality Continuing Professional Development Training in June 2017. Application Form and full details are on www.napd.ie.

Closing date for applications 24 March 2017

DIARY – MARCH TO APRIL

MARCH

22	NAPD-R LUNCH [DUBLIN]
23	PRAMERICA GALA [FINALS]
30	NATIONAL EXECUTIVE WELFARE COMMITTEE

APRIL

4	RETIREMENT SEMINAR NAPD-R LUNCH [GALWAY]
23-24	MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

REMINDERS

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING CONFERENCE

Keep an eye on www.napd.ie for details of the FET conference, which has been postponed until Autumn.

CONFERENCE DATES

OCTOBER 2017 – Killarney

The NAPD Annual Conference will be held on **Thursday 19 and Friday 20 October** at the **Maldron Hotel, Killarney**.

VISIT WWW.NAPD.IE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

VERY USEFUL GUIDE

Shay Bannon has been working with Gerry O'Toole of Allianz on accident Case Studies and these will be available shortly on line and from derek.west43@gmail.com

**Positive
Behaviours,
Relationships
and Emotions**
The Heart of Leadership in a School

Jacinta Kitt



DIGITAL WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS



This event is based on **DigComp 2.0**
The digital competence framework for citizens.

WHY DIGITAL WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS?



Students and teachers now live in both real and virtual worlds. They have a map to negotiate the real world. However, they do not have a map to deal with the virtual world/digital environment.

Students and teachers need to learn how to look after their personal health, safety, relationships and work-life-balance in a digital environment. In other words, they need to enjoy digital wellbeing.

This workshop will explore how schools can empower students and teachers to embrace their digital lives to enhance learning.

At the end of the workshop, participants will have a greater understanding of data literacy, communication, online safety, problem solving and digital content creation in a digital environment.

THIS WORKSHOP IS INFORMED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION DIGCOMP 2.0: DIGITAL COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK THEMES:

- INFORMATION AND DATA LITERACY
- COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION
- DIGITAL CONTENT CREATION
- SAFETY
- PROBLEM SOLVING



IN LINE WITH THE DIGCOMP 2.0 THEMES, THIS WORKSHOP LOOKS CLOSELY AT HOW THE FORCES OF DIGITAL MEDIA ARE INCREASINGLY AFFECTING:



1. OUR SELF-CONCEPTION (WHO WE ARE)
2. OUR MUTUAL INTERACTIONS (HOW WE SOCIALISE)
3. OUR CONCEPTION OF REALITY
4. OUR INTERACTIONS WITH REALITY

THIS WORKSHOP WILL EMPOWER STUDENTS AND
TEACHERS TO CONTROL THESE INFLUENCES.

COURSE DETAILS

Date: 10th April 2017
Time: 9.30am-4 pm
Venue: Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.
Price: € 120
Please register by 20th March by visiting www.digital-wellbeing.org for full details
Presenters: Digital Education Partners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL EVENT@DIGITAL-WELLBEING.ORG