



'Thriving Together: Community Integration for Meaningful Lives'

A Full-Day Conference with Studio 3



Wednesday 6th November 2024 | 9:15am – 4:30pm GMT



Laois Education Support Centre, Block Rd, Portlaoise, R32 CP26, Laois

Studio 3 are hosting a live in-person conference day on Wednesday 6th November 2024. This is open to family members, individuals with lived experiences, practitioners and professionals in the field of psychology, autism, and mental health. This will be held at the Laois Education Centre, and will feature talks from experts such as Professor Andrew McDonnell, Bob Rhodes, Catherine Kelly-Mason, Aoife Ryan, and Catherine Carty. The aim of this event is to share information and ideas to enable professionals and families alike to think differently about supporting individuals in services, versus community-based supports. The event will run from 9.15am, with 1 hour slots per speaker and a panellist/Q&A discussion at the end.

At Studio 3, we passionately believe that individuals with complex support needs can be supported to live independent and meaningful lives outwith the limits of hospital and service settings. Studio 3 is a multi-disciplinary organisation specialising in working with individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders, often with complex and challenging presentations. We have extensive experience and success in developing bespoke service specifications and support plans for individuals who challenge services, and have undertaken considerable work of this nature with highly institutionalised individuals who have been traumatised by the experiences and abuses they have endured in inpatient settings. A key part of the work we do is in supporting transitions from hospitals to community settings, where the team around the person are the primary agents of change. Where standardised approaches are not working for a person in their hospital or care placement, we champion updated outlooks which are person-centred, autism and trauma informed, evidence-based, and bespoke to the person being supported. This event is for professionals and individuals who share our passion for thinking differently about how best to support individuals in an environment tailored towards their specific needs, moving away from traditional medicalised models where community integration has perhaps been overlooked in the past.

The venue will be open to delegates from 9am, and the event will finish at 4:30pm. Refreshments (tea, coffee, water) will be provided by the venue, as will lunch for all delegates. If you have any dietary or accessibility requirements, please get in touch with us at 01225 334 111 or admin@studio3.org to ensure your needs are met.

About the Speakers

Bob Rhodes on 'Getting a Life: More to Lives than Services';



Bob Rhodes (MA, Dip CW, RMN) is co-founder of LivesthroughFriends, inspiring associates dedicated to building interdependent, stronger and more inclusive communities, helping people (especially those with 'very challenging' labels) who are dependent upon 'health and social care' to 'get a life', and the people and agencies that assist them to be effective contributors to this outcome in the UK and worldwide.

Bob will share real stories and approaches to developing supportive networks and lives outside of services by enabling individuals to build connections through community support and meaningful relationships.

Professor Andrew McDonnell on 'Building a Safe and Flourishing Life in the Community'



BSc., MSc., PhD. Consultant Clinical Psychologist to and Director of Studio III Clinical Services; Director, clinical consultant and Team Leader to Studio III Training; formerly worked as a Clinical Psychologist in the NHS until 2002 as the manager of a service. Andrew has particular interest in the design of community settings for people who challenge. He has extensive experience of working with service users with a learning disability and/or an ASD who self harm.

Andy's talk will focus on supporting people with complex needs and behaviours of concern in community settings. Professor McDonnell will also provide practical examples of applying Low Arousal Approaches to support transitions and build meaningful relationships with supporters.

Dr Catherine Kelly-Mason on 'The Challenges of Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Voluntary Sector in Ireland'



Dr Catherine Kelly Mason is a lecturer in the Department of Nursing and Healthcare in South East Technological University, Waterford campus. Her work history charts a 30-year career as a Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability and as such she has worked in front, middle and senior management positions in a number of community and voluntary intellectual disability organisations. Formerly the deputy CEO of Walk, Catherine has been instrumental in developing a number of award winning, groundbreaking programmes which provide equal pathways for people with intellectual disability into training, education and employment within the public, civil and private sector. She is motivated and driven by an equality and human rights agenda.

In this session Dr Catherine Kelly Mason will discuss how the concept of intellectual disability has been socially constructed within the Irish socio-cultural context. Sharing real life stories, Catherine will discuss how the traditional social construct of intellectual disability negatively impacted on how traditional service models were delivered. In contrast, Catherine will present alternative models of support delivered within social enterprise, employment and university settings which have positively impacted and changed perceptions, beliefs and the lived experiences of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Aoife Ryan on 'The Living My Life Project: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Independence'



Aoife Ryan is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst based in Galway, Ireland. She has worked with adults and children with autism and intellectual & developmental disabilities across educational and social care settings for eight years.

The Living My Life Project adopts an interdisciplinary approach to promoting independent living. A core goal of this project is enabling people to live lives of their choosing. The project seeks to understand the values and perspectives of the individuals it supports. The team then works with the people supported to develop the necessary skills to help them achieve and live these values. Realising autonomy involves both the cultivation of independent living skills and identification of ongoing support needs. The Living My Life Project views development and growth as fundamental to achieving autonomy and upholding human rights. Recognising that personal development is dynamic and that everyone requires some level of support, the project offers opportunities for growth that align with the values of the supported individuals.

Catherine Carty on 'Human Rights: Mental Health and Community Living'



Catherine Carty is the UNESCO Chair Manager at Munster Technological University. Human Rights and Mental Health have been a key area of focus of the UNESCO Chair, who supported an Irish Government event on Mental Health and Human rights at the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Conference of State Parties (CRPD-COSP16) in New York in 2023. Catherine has represented UNESCO at the UN Human Rights Social Forum and presented on the Chair work to the Committees on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Catherine is the principal investigator of Aclu, a human rights-based holistic mental health initiative that examines physical activity, nutrition, and digital technology.

Catherine will speak about a human rights approach in mental health and how it impacts transitioning into community life. There is a policy gap in the implementation of a human rights approach in day-to-day mental health care. Action has been called for by the United Nations, WHO, OECD, many national and international organisations, people with psychosocial disabilities and their families. What does this mean for people living with mental health difficulties, their families and friends and those working in mental health settings?

Ticket Information

Full Rate: €130

Purchase your ticket now via the Studio 3 website: www.studio3.org/news/events. For more information or to speak to a member of our team, contact us at admin@studio3.org.

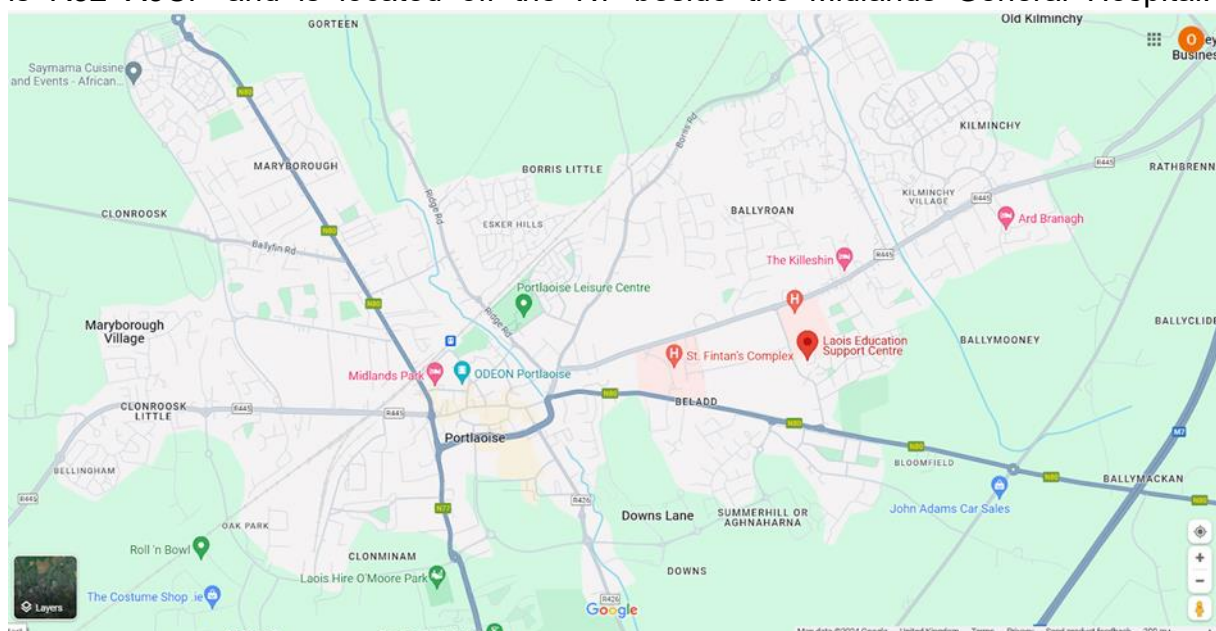
Event Schedule

9am - 9:15am	Welcome and refreshments
9:15am – 10:15am	Bob Rhodes on 'Getting a Life' – Real stories and approaches to developing supportive relationships and networks.
10:15am – 11:15am	Catherine Carty on 'Human Rights: Mental Health and Community Living' – Human rights approaches in mental health, and how this applies to transitions from hospitals to community settings.

11:15am - 11:30 am	Break
11:30am - 12:30pm	Catherine Kelly Mason on 'Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Voluntary Sector' – Traditional versus alternative models of support
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 2:30pm	Aoife Ryan on 'The Living My Life Project' – Promoting independent living and giving a voice to consumers of services.
2.30pm - 2.45pm	Break
2:45pm – 3:45pm	Andrew McDonnell on 'A safe and flourishing life in the community' – Supporting transitions and building meaningful connections.
3:45pm - 4:30pm	Panelist Discussion with Q&A
4:30pm	Conference End

Travel Information

The venue is located in Portlaoise and has various transport links. The venue's Eircode is R32 X3CP and is located off the N7 beside the Midlands General Hospital.



Enter through the main door at Laois Education Support Centre into the Lower Reception Area. The conference will take place in the main seminar room.



2 - Lower Reception Area



1 Main Seminar Room

For Drivers:

The onsite carpark is wheelchair accessible, as is the main entrance of the venue.

Public Transport:

Bus links from Laoise Shopping Centre or Dublin Airport are available on service number 735. The closest bus stop is a 7 minute walk from the venue.

Accessibility

The car park and main entrance are wheelchair-accessible. There is a designated area within the seminar room for wheelchair users - please get in touch with us so we can ensure that sufficient space is provided for you.

If there is anything we can do to make this event more accessible for anyone wishing to attend, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at admin@studio3.org or by calling 01225 334 111.