**SOILSE WINS STAR AWARD FOR ADULT EDUCATION WORK**

OILSE, the HSE daytime rehabilitation programme, has won a prestigious STAR Award. The Soilse Education and Detoxification Programme in North Dublin, supports drug-users from dependency into recovery.

The STAR Awards are organised by AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation, as part of its annual Adult Learners’ Festival. The awards recognise outstanding work in adult education.

The Soilse Education and Detoxification Programme was selected as the Leinster winner in this year’s Awards – in the ‘large organisations’ category. Peter Baldwin, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Education and Skills, presented representatives of the group with their award at a special ceremony that took place in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin.

The Soilse Education and Detoxification Programme is designed to support drug users from dependency on methadone treatment and other drugs into recovery. The programme’s aim is to concentrate on the developmental needs of service users - building on their assets. The education programme consists of soft skill development using arts, relaxation, mindfulness, health and fitness, literacy and personal development to nurture confidence and motivation. This is supported by one to one sessions and group work.

Soilse is also part of a European Union Grundtvig adult learning project called RECOVEU which is developing innovative learning activities to help adults in addiction recovery prepare for and succeed in college or university. By creating a dialogue with people in recovery, educators and treatment providers the goal is to develop access to learning courses.

Soilse is the HSE daytime drug rehabilitation service. It supports people in recovery to move towards a drug-free lifestyle. The programme is heavily experiential in addressing recovery and educational needs. Care planning around psycho-social needs underpins the learning process and is facilitated by key workers.

The model is eclectic (bio-psychosocial) with the emphasis on moving from dependence to independence, along a continuum of care. Essentially, Soilse is at the forefront of reorienting drug services and drug users into a recovery paradigm which in now emerging as the organisational construct for drug services in the US and UK.

Soilse was piloted in 1992 and following evaluation was mainstreamed in 1994. The overarching vision of Soilse is to break the spiral of addiction, dependency and social isolation and to motivate recovering drug users to realise their potential. Since its inception, Soilse has established itself as a model of best practice and has received much recognition for its work.

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**CHARITY FUNDRAISER AT UHL**

A CHARITY fashion show organised by staff at University Hospital Limerick has raised €13,000 for Spinal Injuries Ireland and for the Trauma Ward at UHL. “It’s all about staff giving something back,” explained Nicola Quinn, night nurse manager, University Hospital Limerick, of the fashion show hosted by Celia Holman Lee at the Strand Hotel. The event saw some hospital staff swap the wards for the catwalk as €9,900 was raised for Spinal Injuries Ireland and €3,100 for the Trauma Ward.

“We chose Spinal Injuries Ireland because there has been a lot of young people in the Mid-West area in the last few years who have suffered spinal injuries. It is a life-debilitating injury and we thought it would be a great cause to focus on because people need support over many years,” said Nicola.

Pictured right are Nicola Quinn, night nurse manager; Majella Coughlan, staff nurse; Paula Lynch, staff nurse; Kerry McAuliffe, assistant director of nursing, Perioperative Directorate; Lucy Leahy, staff nurse; Linda Broderick, staff nurse; Siobhan Stackpoole, clerical officer, and Lisa Gubbins, clinical nurse manager.