



The Dublin Region Enterprise Awards 2018 will take place in the Woodquay Venue in the Civic Offices, Dublin, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, in partnership with the Local Enterprise office, Microfinance Ireland, and the Department of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP). These awards will recognise successful entrepreneurs based in Dublin who have started their businesses with the support of the Back to Work & Short Term Enterprise Allowance Schemes, both of which are government initiatives that offer financial supports to unemployed people who want to start a small business.

These awards are organised and run by the Dublin based Local Partnership companies and the Dublin City Community Co-op/ Inner City Enterprise. The eight organisations that are participating in the awards and the finalist from each organisation are:

| Name          | Business name                | Nominating Organisation                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|
| Agnes Chvojka | Aggies Food Studio           | Empower (Blanchardstown Area Partnership)                |
| Karen Tynan   | K Star Academy               | Dublin City Community Cooperative/ Inner City Enterprise |
| Kate O'Moore  | Maker Creative               | Northside Partnership                                    |
| Daniel Nugent | Amber Eyewear                | Southside Partnership                                    |
| Claire Bonass | Bonass Designs               | Dublin South City Partnership                            |
| Niamh Kelly   | Hippo Education Technologies | South Dublin County Partnership                          |
| Jackie Maher  | Cat Sitter At Home           | Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership                       |
| Lisa Flanagan | Be Brand Brave               | Dublin North West Area Partnership                       |

All eight of these organisation offer ongoing enterprise supports to unemployed individuals in Dublin. They work closely with DEASP Intreo offices, Local employment services and communities to help tackle unemployment and offer a pathway back to work through self-employment.

Speaking about the Awards, David Orford Business and Economic Manager in one of the participating partnerships companies, Dublin North West Area partnership, said:

‘These awards will showcase a group of resilient, resourceful and hardworking entrepreneurs who have managed to move from unemployment to starting their own successful small businesses. They

will highlight the significant contribution and impact that entrepreneurs are making in our city and they offer insight into one of the key ways that the Department of Employment and Social Protection as well as Local Partnership Companies support enterprise development in Dublin.'

This is the second time Dublin Region Enterprise Awards have been held. The Awards are supported by the Department of Employment & Social Protection, Dublin Local Enterprise Office and Microfinance Ireland, all agencies who actively work with entrepreneurs in Dublin.

A wide range of businesses have been shortlisted for the final and with prizes of €1000, €750 and €500 being awarded to three winning entrepreneurs, plus a special achievements award, its sure to be an exciting and inspiring event.