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Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil Cill Mhantáin

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow

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An Taoiseach launches new Local Enterprise Office

An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny, TD officially launched the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) at a packed event in Wicklow County Campus where he met with local businesses to share his vision for economic recovery driven by local enterprise. Formerly the Wicklow County Enterprise Board, the LEO Wicklow is part of a new nationwide network of 31 LEOs which will deliver an improved system of local enterprise supports to start-ups and small businesses across the country.

An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny TD said:

"The Government wants to make recovery local with a specific focus on regional towns like Wicklow Town, Bray, Arklow and Rathdrum. The new Wicklow LEO is all about supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to create local jobs. Jobs are the top priority of the Government and the past year has seen progress with over 1,000 jobs a week being created in the private sector. The vast majority of these jobs have been created in small, local companies so that's why we see the LEOs as crucial to driving a jobs recovery in Wicklow".

Speaking at the event, Mr Eddie Sheehy, CEO of Wicklow County Council, welcomed the expansion of the Local Authority's role in economic development:

"Wicklow County Council is committed to putting economic development at the heart of our vision for creating a vibrant County to live and work. Combining the efforts of our economic development unit with the services we can now offer through the new LEO, we will achieve a platform for sustainable job creation through local enterprise. In addition, with the support of our partners in IT Carlow, locating the LEO in Wicklow County Campus will be a key driver in realising the vision for County Wicklow of a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education and Innovation."

If you have a business idea, or if you are running or starting a business in County Wicklow, the LEO should be your first point of contact. Supports available include information, business advice, mentoring, training, financial supports for eligible business, access to local authority business services and access to information on other state supports and services relevant to business. For more information contact enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie or drop in to the office or call 0404 30800.



LEO Staff with An Taoiseach



Taoiseach meets Cathys Spelt for Health

Businesses Learn to Overcome Technology Pitfalls at First LEO Event in County Wicklow



Over 70 businesses from around County Wicklow attended the first seminar of the new Local Enterprise Office at The Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy. Carrying on Wicklow County Enterprise Board's history of technology seminars, the topic on this occasion was Technology Pitfalls.

Mike Harris, Cyber Security Services Partner at Grant Thornton and keynote speaker for the event, also lectures at the UCD Cyber Crime Institute. He talked about many of the dangers facing the small business community in Ireland, and how to overcome them. Mike gave a number of tips, concluding with 10 things a small business can do for their own security:

1. Train your Employees on basic security practice, have strong passwords and change them every 3 months
2. Protect your network and computers from attacks by installing antivirus software and by installing key software updates regularly
3. Install a firewall on your internet connection, or make sure your ISP has one!
4. Encrypt all mobile technology used in your business – from laptops to tablets to Smartphones – and set up a reporting structure for loss
5. Backup all your important business data every day – and remember to test the backups to make sure they have not corrupted over time
6. Control access – make sure each employee has a separate computer or separate account on the network and password protect them all
7. Secure your wireless networks – speak to your service provider about this, hide your wi-fi network, password protect it and use strong passwords
8. If you process payments online as part of your business, talk to your bank about using anti-fraud services and don't use the same computer to process payments and surf the web if possible
9. Limit employee authority to install software and do not allow one employee have access to everything – you never know what may happen
10. Have a planned response to a cyber attack – it's not a case of "what if" it's a case of "when"

Andrew Connolly from the Irish Domain Registry (IEDR) also presented on how the .ie domain is one of the safest in the world. The final two guest speakers at the event were well known Community Manager and member of the Irish Twitterati, Darragh Doyle who spoke with his business partner Ciamh McCrory of Jeanie Mc Communications. Also speaking at the event, Head of Local Enterprise Sheelagh Daly explained the enhanced services of LEO Wicklow to the assembled business owners, and encouraged them to join the team on Facebook. The LEO Wicklow Facebook page is where the most up to date communications from the team are published, and can be accessed and "liked" at www.facebook.com/localenterprisewicklow



New National initiative targets youth entrepreneurs

'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' (IBYE), is a National competition targeting entrepreneurs aged 30 and under who either have a business idea or have started a business. The Co. Wicklow finalists are currently participating in an intensive Boot Camp and business mentoring programme and the three winners will be chosen based on their business plan and investor pitch. The Winners will be announced at an event on 18th September and the overall winner will go on to represent Wicklow in the Regional competitions.

New Online Trading Voucher Programme now open



Small businesses throughout County Wicklow can now apply for digital vouchers to assist in helping their businesses trade online. Aimed at supporting small businesses to enhance their online trading presence, the voucher is a 50% grant up to a maximum of €2,500 towards costs associated with online trading.

Who is eligible?

The vouchers are targeted at businesses that have a limited online trading presence; less than 10 employees; turnover less than €2million; Applicants must be registered in County Wicklow and trading for minimum of 12 months.

Vouchers can be used for:

The Online Trading Vouchers can be used for the development or upgrade of an e-commerce website such as implementing online payments or booking systems. Other usage includes; purchase of Internet related software, online advertising, development of an app, implementation of a digital marketing strategy, consultation with ICT experts for early stage adopters of online strategy, training/skills development specifically to establish and manage an online trading activity.

For more detailed information or to apply for a voucher visit our website www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/
Or give Vibeke Delahunt a call on 0404 30800

Bright Future for Wicklow County Campus

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton visited Wicklow County Campus to view the facilities on offer, including the new Local Enterprise Office which replaces the former County Enterprise Board. The Minister took a tour of the campus and heard a presentation from the Head of Local Enterprise, Sheelagh Daly, which set out the vision for the development of the campus as a Centre for Excellence in enterprise, education & innovation.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr Eddie Sheehy, CEO of Wicklow County Council, reiterated the commitment of Wicklow County Council to supporting enterprise in the County, with the campus serving as a catalyst for economic development. Mr Andrew Doyle, TD, highlighted the opportunity for developing knowledge based enterprises on the campus with the support of the Institute of Technology Carlow, which operates part time programmes on the campus.



Enterprising Carnew students scoop Top Prize

Clermont Campus in Rathnew was a hive of activity as enterprising students from 12 schools from around County Wicklow showcased their enterprises at the Final of the Wicklow County Enterprise Board Student Enterprise Awards. There were 25 entries in the Senior Category, with businesses as diverse as bandanas for your pampered pooch [from Presentation College, Bray] to Cookbooks [from Colaiste Craobh Abhann], and boardgames [Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew].

The overall winner of the senior category was Board No More, from Colaiste Bhríde in Carnew, who represented County Wicklow in the Senior Category at the National Finals in Croke Park. Neill Murphy, Stanley Hadden, Joe Gardiner and Tony Kavanagh have designed and manufactured a wooden board game to a very high standard. This year, Wicklow was also represented in the Intermediate Category by Joshua Dargan-Hayes, of St. Gerard's in Bray, with his innovative business, Connect Shade.

The Awards were presented by Mr Eddie Sheehy, CEO of Wicklow County Council. Speaking to the students Mr Sheehy praised them for their entrepreneurial spirit "The achievement of all of the young entrepreneurs at these awards is exceptional."

Excellence in Enterprise

The County Final of the Student Enterprise Awards is run each year by the Local Enterprise Office, Wicklow. This year over 1100 students took part in the programme which runs in schools from September. The purpose of the mini-company programme is to give students the opportunity to experience self-employment, entrepreneurship and the thrill of being your own boss.



Autumn Winter 2014 Training Programme Now Available

A lot of the old training favourites are back and we are constantly updating our courses & content to what you want & need. Log on to www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events to see our new schedule and book your place!


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