



Press Release
8th November 2011

"Scair sa Bhaile" - CoAction West Cork launches exciting new Home Link Project

CoAction is delighted to announce the introduction of a brand new Home Link project, which will benefit children and adults with intellectual disability/autism, their families and the wider West Cork community.

Home Link is a home based respite scheme which will match CoAction clients with local host families or individuals who can provide them with short breaks on a regular basis. Breaks can be anything from a few hours during the day to a few days a month and could include overnight stays, weekends, short breaks or holidays.

People from all walks of life and experience are welcome to apply to become Home Link host families and previous experience of caring for a person with an intellectual disability/autism is not necessary, as full training and ongoing support will be provided. Personal qualities and a genuine desire to share in the care of a child or adult with an intellectual disability/autism are much more important than formal qualifications and experience.

Mr. Maurice Walsh, CEO of CoAction West Cork outlined the significant benefits of the new scheme to all involved, "Home Link will first and foremost provide a break to the families of our clients, giving them a chance to recharge their batteries. The positive benefits to our clients themselves are huge; new friendships outside the home can be formed and being involved with other people beyond their own family unit encourages independence, builds social skills and broadens horizons and experiences. For the Home Link host families there is a real opportunity to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities and autism, form new friendships and experience the joy of spending time with them while caring for them and sharing their own home and family life." In conclusion, Mr. Walsh said, " We are so pleased to launch this scheme and would urge the local community to join us in making it a success. We continue to be amazed and grateful to the people of West Cork for their unwavering support and generosity and hope that by sharing part of their lives and homes with our clients, all involved will find their lives enriched by the experience."

There will be two information evenings about the Home Link Project for all parents, guardians, families and those interested in becoming host families as follows:

Date: Thursday, 24th November

Date: Thursday 1st December

Venue: Children's Services Centre, Dunmanway
Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: The Park Hotel, Glengarriff,
Time: 7.30 pm

If you are unable to attend but would like further information please contact Eileen Murray on 023 8855505 or email: info@coaction.ie

Ends

Contact: Maurice Walsh, CEO – 086 1713448

CoAction Mission Statement:

CoAction West Cork provides quality services to support children and adults with an Intellectual Disability, and children with autism. This is achieved by helping each service user reach their full potential, working in partnership with their families and carers within the community.