



Press Release

Clonmel Community Engages in Substance Use Discussions at Public Meeting

Clonmel, Ireland – March 13, 2025 – On March 5, 2025, the Talbot Hotel in Clonmel hosted a pivotal public meeting titled "Community Conversations – Substance Use in Clonmel Update." This gathering marked a significant step in addressing substance misuse within the community, bringing together various stakeholders to discuss challenges and collaborative solutions.

The meeting served as a follow-up to a series of community conversations held in late 2023 and early 2024, targeting four key groups: businesses and hospitality sectors, clubs and organizations, parents and schools, and individuals with lived experience of substance use. These discussions aimed to explore the community's experiences with substance misuse and identify actionable steps toward fostering a healthy and safe environment for all.

The event was organised by Tipperary County Council as part of its Sláintecare Healthy Communities initiative, with support from local agencies and community groups.

Key Highlights from the Meeting:

Community Feedback: Dr Marie Walsh Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), presented on what the community said about substance misuse in Clonmel; what's working well and the eight key priority items. Dr Walsh said "From this research, it is clear that there is a significant substance misuse issue in Clonmel that is impacting on individuals, families, communities and businesses. It also highlights a series of actions that Clonmel has identified will help address this issue including; further training, centralising information, a joined-up services approach, more gardai/improved legislation and promoting recovery as a positive". Insights gathered from previous conversations were shared, highlighting concerns about vaping, drug misuse, and the need for safe recreational spaces.

Ongoing Initiatives: Updates were provided by the four key groups on what is happening in response to what was said at the previous Community conversations, the implementation of the Substance Misuse Action Plan, detailing collaborative efforts among agencies to address identified issues.

Collective Commitment: Attendees discussed strategies for continued community involvement, emphasising the importance of collective whole community action in creating a vibrant, safe, and supportive environment in Clonmel. It was agreed that a joined-up services and community led approach to address substance misuse issue in Clonmel is needed. Attendees were given the





Sláintecare.

Healthy Communities

opportunity to sign up to preferred subgroups enabling them to stay engaged in the work on the eight priority areas for action on Substance misuse in Clonmel. The agencies, via the sub groups are providing the structures but the actions remain ones for the community to engage in and own. The community can do this by joining the relevant subgroups in Clonmel to create relevant actions for response.

Looking Ahead:

The success of this meeting underscores the community's dedication to tackling substance misuse.

Plans are underway for additional conversations and initiatives aimed at sustaining momentum and ensuring Clonmel remains a safe, vibrant, and enjoyable place to live.

For More Information:

<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/community/community/community-latest-news/2025/community-conversations-substance-use-clonmel>

Please contact Catriona Crowe at (087) 9723482 or

Catriona.crowe@tipperarycoco.ie to sign up to a subgroup and for further details on upcoming events and initiatives related to substance use awareness and community well-being.

End of Press Release



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Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council