

# Building Links to Mainstream Education

DLVEC, HSE, St. John of God Carmona Services



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*St. John of God  
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# LIFE... Leading into Further Education

## Why LIFE?

- Demand led; Referrals from ID students in mainstream secondary school
- EPSEN is growing up, coming of age and bearing fruit
- Need for innovative and joined up services
- Partnership and synergy with DLVEC and HSE
- Full commitment and support from all agencies

# Context

## Legislation and Policy :

- **EPSEN (Education for Persons with Special Education Needs Act) 2004**
- **Equal Status Act 2000**
- **Learning for Life: White Paper on Adult Education 2000**
- **A Strategy for Equality: CSPD (1996)**
- **The Salamanca Statement for Action on Special Needs Education (1994 and 2000)**

# Tailored Transitioning to Postsecondary Education

- The key focus of LIFE Programme is the development of a methodology to sustain the inclusive education process for students with intellectual disabilities.
- Supported transitioning until optimum mainstreaming is achieved at postsecondary level.

# Rationale

- The provision of an independent learning programme for young adults with intellectual disabilities moving from second level within the Dun Laoghaire area.
- Offering a full Level Three FETAC award recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications



# Rationale cont'd

- A combination of self directed academic achievement and targeted complementary skills teaching in inclusive postsecondary education (PSE)
- Building capacity amongst education and ID service providers for strategic planning of progression routes for ID students in PSE



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# Aims

- Offer inclusive progression opportunities for learners with intellectual disabilities who have completed second level education
- Provide self directed yet supported learning and lifestyle options.
- Create a template for best practice in PSE that could be replicated throughout VECs

# Objectives

**On completion of the programme the learner will:**

- Have completed a number of certified FETAC Modules at Level 2, 3 or 4.
- Some will have completed the 8 modules required for a Full National Certificate on the NQF
- Have attend a PSE Programme in a Further Education College



# Objectives

**On completion of the programme the learner will:**

- Have actively participated in the development of their own progression plans in conjunction Guidance Counsellors
- Have demonstrated an ability to be part of a process which informs Person Centred Planning
- Demonstrate greater proficiency in the areas of literacy and numeracy, computer literacy skills.

# Objectives

**On completion of the programme the learner will have:**

- Gained insights into future educational, vocational and life-style options
- Developed interpersonal and intrapersonal social skills
- Developed friendships
- Completed work experience in preparation for future employment
- Identified informed interests within the areas of education and employment

# Referral Process

- Information Sessions for Principals and Guidance Counsellors of local mainstream schools and special schools
- Information sharing with potential participants and parents
- “Initial Statement of Interest Form”
- Briefing session with possible participants and parents
- Student Record Form completed by potential participant or with Referral Agent
- Meeting between learner, programme co-ordinator and support service



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# Assessment System

- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) prepared for each learner on the programme in conjunction with the relevant secondary school
- Long and short-term goals agreed and recorded
- Progress assessed on an ongoing basis by the tutors, learner and Project Co-ordinator
- Progress Review for each training module between learners and tutors relating to specific goals identified
- Portfolio of work prepared for FETAC accreditation



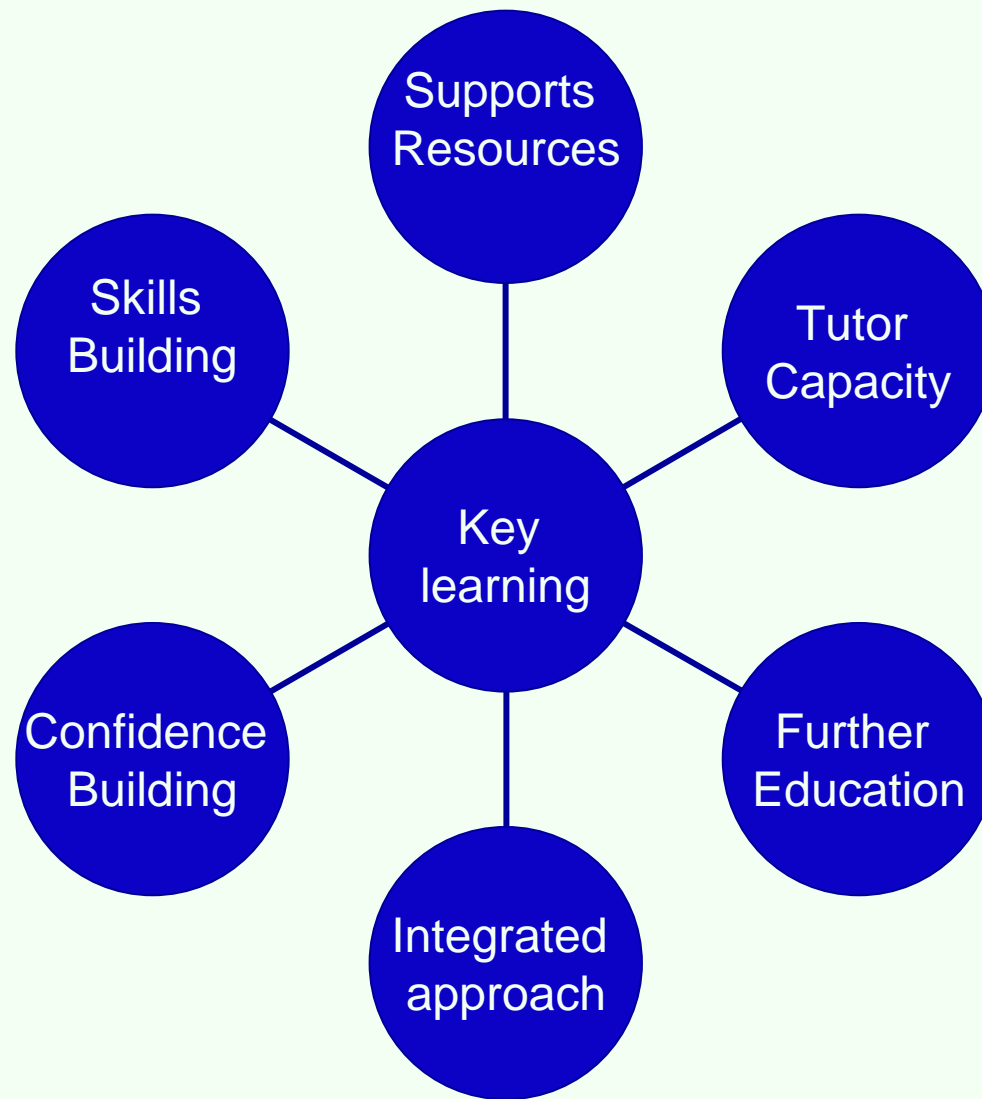
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# DLVEC LIFE Programme Content

## The programme :

- Two year (academic) Period
- Central Dun Laoghaire
- Educational Guidance

The Fetac Level 3 Certificate is awarded to a learner who meets the requirement in a total of 8 modules comprising the following 3 core modules

1. Communications (1 credit)
2. Personal Effectiveness or Personal and Interpersonal Skills (1 credit)
3. Mathematics (1 credit)

And five additional modules:

e.g. Self Advocacy (1 credit), Arts Option (1 credit), ICT Module (1 credit), Language (1 credit), Preparation for Work (1 credit)

# LIFE



## Complementary Programme



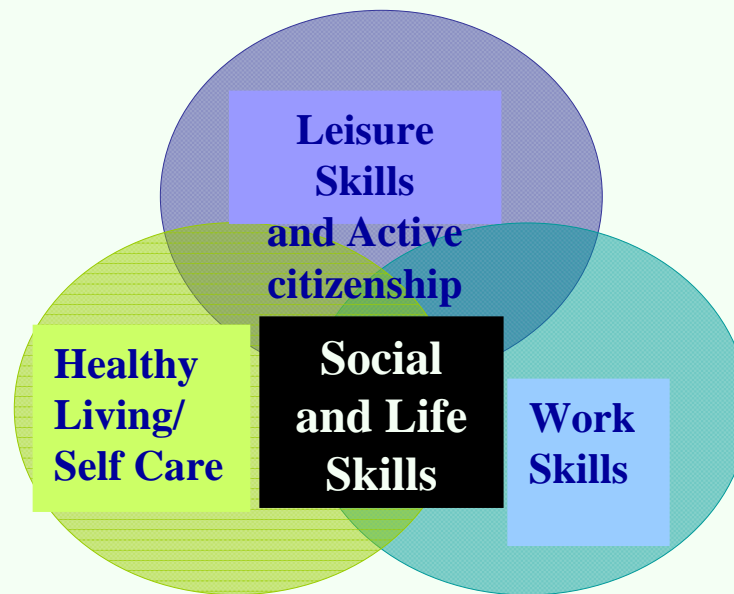
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# Complementary Programme and Supports

- Provision of a complementary programme focusing on enhanced life and social skills to aid the learners transition to adulthood
- Designed and delivered by St. John of God Carmona Services.





# Some Components of the Complementary Programme

- “STREETWISE” Training with an Garda Síochána
- “MoneyCounts.ie ” Money management and budgeting training
- “FRIENDS” A friendship skills training course
- Travel Training
- Career Development Programme with Carmona Services and FAS.
- Work Experience
- Health and Nutrition Course with HSE
- Active Citizenship – Voting workshops



**“Computers is my favourite subject and art and travel training. I have learned how to be safe, be healthy and do exercise. I enjoy learning new things.” Learner**



# Other Aspects of College Life

- Social Committee: cinema, theatre, dinner
- Summer and Easter Activity programme
- Sports and Fitness with DLRCOCO (Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council) Sports Partnership.
- Graduation

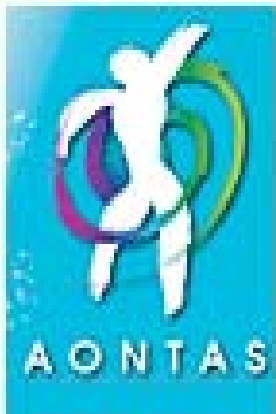


# Achievements

Nationwide winner of the **Aontas Star Awards 2009** – recognising excellence in the provision of adult learning programmes in the community.

Star Award focuses on:

- Teamwork/partnerships
- Learner centred approach to education provision
- Adult education practice and methodologies



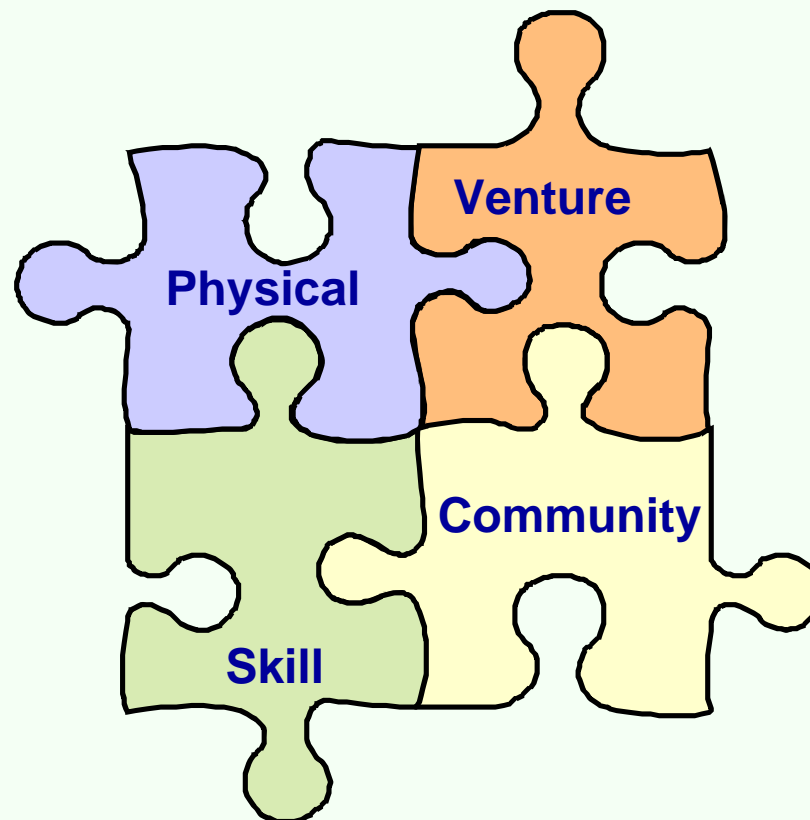


# Gaisce President's Award

## *Mission Statement*

***“To involve as many young people as possible in the Award activities especially those young people most in need of opportunity”***

- The Award works on the basis that each participant sets themselves personal challenges in four different challenge areas.



Venture



Physical

Skill

Community





# Community Partnerships

## Value of Interagency partnerships



An Garda Síochána



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*Educating for life*  
*Oideachas don Saol*



# Progression / Recent Developments

- Currently 2 LIFE programmes running in DLVEC supported by Carmona Services and HSE
- Catering for more diverse abilities (level 2 – 4)
- Aiming for An Gaisce The President's Award Silver medal



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# Future Plans

➤ Publish and present Course Evaluation during Social Inclusion Week in October 2010 in conjunction with DLRCoCo

➤ **Progression:**

- Disseminate the findings of the evaluation
- Replicate the LIFE model of PSE throughout Ireland

# Where Are They Now??

- 1 is in FE – Level 4 Caring for Children and possible Child Development. Working in a Montessori. Volunteering in PSE
- 1 is in FE NIID
- 1 is in p/t employment
- 1 is hoping to do FE this year
- 1 is doing DJ training and volunteering in local youth club
- 1 is in employment in the catering industry
- 1 is in a radio station working in admin
- 1 went back to his day service

# Contact Information

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