

From: DRCD Info
Sent: 15 May 2019 10:08
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: FW: Public Consultation on Social Enterprise

From: Admin [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2019 18:14
To: DRCD Info
Subject: Fwd: Public Consultation on Social Enterprise

To whom it may concern,

Re. Ballina Heritage Costume Company
Ballina Costume Company
Kevin Barry Street,
Ballina,
Co. Mayo
CSP Project No. CSO 21

We are a social enterprise located in the town of Ballina in Mayo

The services we provide are as follows, Hire, design and make costumes suitable for use in schools, drama, musicals, festivals ect. we do alterations for the general public/run classes in arts and crafts for the over 55s, up-cycle classes for adults, furniture up-cycle with western care service users and young adults under the care of parole officers (this project was supported by Mayo North East) we provide arts and crafts during school holidays to children, a number of these

children would have disabilities, or come from one parent families. The company provide work experience placements for school children, we currently have a western care service user on work placement Aine has been with the company for the last year. We have just finished a twelve week work placement with a young student from the National learning Network. We work with Westport College where they run a photography and makeup artistry classes we provide the costumes for the student to use in return we get the photographs. We do art projects with Arbour Hill prison, they done some of the squares for a famine quilt we were involved in, we are currently working on another project with them that will go on display for National Heritage week. We re involved in all festivals and events that take place in Ballina and the surrounding area. We do hospital visits to the children in hospital over the Christmas or Easter where Santa or the Easter bunny visits.

We are grateful for the funding we receive from the Department however it does not cover 100% of our wage bill. The cost of meeting the minimum wage from€8.65 to €9.80 and all overheads

We are finding that the programme has become more focused on income generation/sustainability, than on the social side, we have more demand for our services than ever before. We were involved in a project with the community where we made a quilt in memory of Mayo forgotten famine girls, we had over four hundred people involved in this project from all over the world and the country, during the making of this quilt a few facts came to light the amount of lonely people in this country is terrible, people got in contact with us after a radio interview done on Mid West radio regarding the project, one lady had been listening to the radio interview on playback at three o clock in the morning because she doesn't sleep, she is afraid to go to sleep at night and spends her time with the radio on. We are still in contact with that lady where we ring her twice every week to check up on her, we have never meet her however we have a social conscious that will not allow us to forget her. For this reason we have been asked

by people involved in the project to do something else with them, therefore we are currently starting another project which involves children from special schools in Ballina, children from travelling community, hope house in Foxford, Arbour Hill prison, mens shed, young adults, western care service users as well as anyone else that wants to be involved. During the projects we have meeting nights for a cup of tea and a chat in the Jackie Clarke in Ballina. these projects involve no money however it is what a social enterprise is all about or should be.

Some of the services we offer are supplied commercial however for example where there are privately run Summer camps in the town they do not offer children with disabilities a place as they would need more staff therefor cutting down on profit, we take children with disability therefor we cannot take as many other children, so profit is down

The Community Services programme needs the same government investment as other programmes/schemes receive in order to sustain the delivery of those vital services to the local community. The managers wages as well as workers wages should be in line with other government schemes.

Thanking you for affording us this opportunity to highlight our services/activities and the financial constraints and concerns that we are expected to operate under as a voluntary Board of Directors.

Jane Crean
Manager