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**From:** DRCD Info  
**Sent:** 14 May 2019 16:18  
**To:** DRCD SEConsultation <seconsultation@drcd.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Public Consultation on Social Enterprise

Helle,

Please find attached here a submission re: Social Enterprise in response to the public consultation.

Kind Regards,

**Maura Lyskey**  
*Organisational Development/ Coordination Unit*

**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and Community Development

**Trinity Point, 10-11 Sráid Laighean Theas, Baile Atha Cliath 2, D02 EF85**  
Trinity Point, 10-11 Leinster Street South, Dublin 2, D02 EF85

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**From:** Castlebar Social Services (<mailto:castlebarvss@gmail.com>)  
**Sent:** 14 May 2019 16:01  
**To:** DRCD Info  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Social Enterprise

Dear Sir/Madam,

Castlebar Social Services were founded in 1973 to care for the older and more vulnerable people of Castlebar and the surrounding areas and we work out of a building donated by the Sisters of Mercy at Castle Street Car Park, Castlebar. Our responsibilities have now increased enormously in that the demand for our service is greater than ever. We provide this service 7 days a week, 365 days of the year and to help us do this we have a 17 seater minibus and a meals on wheels delivery van. Our charitable status number is CHY 9885 and we are governed by an 11 member voluntary board of management. Our day to day operations are overseen by our Manager Deirdre Waldron. We are lucky to have approx 60 volunteers who assist us in providing a variety of services.

Our services include a day centre of safety and comfort and a general drop in centre for the elderly where they can avail of our restaurant services and we provide outreach meals on wheels services to approx 100 clients every day, some of who reside as far as 14 miles from our centre at a cost of €5 for 3 course meal. We also offer a basic laundry service and a free community bus service 2 days per week by our own private bus. We offer a chiropody service with a clinic every 6 weeks or as needed in our centre . We facilitate GP visits, hairdresser appointments and other medical and social requirements for our clients. In good weather, we provide social outings by taking them on scenic tours etc. During the winter periods we organize special attentive supports to the elderly such as advice from visiting state agencies and artistic and recreational

activities such as art classes, music & dance, gentle aerobics etc. We deliver the Seniors Alert Scheme for the homes of the elderly such as pendant alarm etc.

From our centre we run a telephone befriending service free of charge 5 days per week to the elderly. This is serviced by trained volunteers with the support of the HSE West. This service is found to be invaluable to the elderly clients that receive the service and anyone can avail of a call.

We work closely with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and provide meals on wheels to the local daycare respite home here in Castlebar.

Our service is found to be of immense value to the older people and is convenient to them in many ways. The service is available to both rural and urban areas of the Castlebar and surrounding area. We work closely with discharge planning and Public Health Nurses allowing older and vulnerable people to return to their homes and maintain them living there for as long as possible. The assistance and value for money of our services are invaluable and alleviate the pressure on family members.

We take students from 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges, level 5 courses and transition year students on work placement and this has proven to be a hugely formative and educationally rich experience for students. We also welcome students who wish to volunteer with us on a personal basis to enhance their life experiences. The older people and students benefit greatly from this interaction and have found it to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile time.

Services such as ours are grossly underfunded and charitable organisations such as ours are the centre of the community and need to be valued and enhanced by government in order to sustain into the future.

Yours faithfully,

Deirdre Waldron

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Deirdre Waldron  
Manager

Castlebar Voluntary Social Services

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