

## News Roundup



*Pictured above: (left to right) Siofra Roche, Gráinne Fogarty and Sonya Griffen at the Co. Clare heats for the 2008 Rose of Tralee in April.*

## RehabCare Comes up Roses!

### THEY WERE COMING UP ROSES AT REHABCARE'S

Inis Grove children's residential service in Ennis as two members of staff were among the contestants who competed to be Co. Clare's representative in the 2008 Rose of Tralee. Social Care Worker Siofra Roche, who represented RehabCare in the competition, was joined by her colleague, Relief Social Care Worker Sonya Griffen, on stage. Although, unfortunately, neither went forward, Gráinne Fogarty, Social Care Manager at the service, was extremely proud of their performance. "The girls were fantastic, a real credit to RehabCare," she said.

## Minister Gives Haven the Thumbs Up!



*Pictured above: Anne McGuire MP, UK Minister for Disabled People, examining the facilities at Haven Products' new learning centre in Hillington, Glasgow.*

### THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MOMENTUM'S SOCIAL

enterprise firm, Haven Products, were highlighted by the UK's Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, recently when she opened its new learning centre in Hillington, Glasgow. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Minister presented a new plaque for the learning centre to Haven employees as well as a number of awards

Haven had recently won – the Investors in People Award, the Social Enterprise Coalition – Enterprising Solutions Award and the Social Firms UK STAR Award, the only social firm in Scotland to receive this. The Minister was given a tour of the new facilities, including the learning centre where employees will be able to develop their IT, numeracy and literacy skills.

A roundup of News from across the Rehab Group

# Holding out for a Hero

The build-up to Ireland's national people's awards ceremony, the People of the Year Awards, is hotting up and the search is truly on to find Ireland's People of the Year.

**L**AUNCHED IN APRIL, THE AWARDS, WHICH are organised by Rehab, sponsored by QUINN-healthcare and televised live on RTÉ One, honour the great and the good of Irish society – individuals and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to life in Ireland or abroad.

Previous winners of the People of the Year Awards include Sir Bob Geldof, Pádraig Harrington, Mary Robinson, Terry Wogan, Veronica Guerin, Mo Mowlam, Maeve Binchy, Sonia O'Sullivan, TK Whittaker, Tommy Tiernan and Christy Moore.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors, Colin Morgan, General Manager, Quinn Insurances, said, "This is QUINN-healthcare's second year working with the People of the Year Awards. Communities all over Ireland benefit from the great work of unsung heroes – ordinary people who do extraordinary things and we want to recognise the achievement of these individuals at the People of the Year Awards."

Following her stunning performance at last year's event, the RTÉ presenter Gráinne Seoige will again present the Awards on RTÉ One live from Dublin's CityWest Hotel on Saturday, 13 September.

There are 12 categories this year including the Irish Person of the Year, the International Person of the Year and the Young Irish Person of the Year (under 25 years of age). In addition, there are a number of Awards presented for achievements in the areas of community service, arts and culture, sports and public sector achievement. The winners are chosen by members of the public through a nominations process and finalised by a panel of adjudicators comprising



*Pictured above:* The People of the Year Awards 2008 which are organised by Rehab and sponsored by QUINN-healthcare were recently launched by RTÉ's Gráinne Seoige with the help of Young Irish Person of the Year 2007, Gerald Killeen, and Ciara MacMahon, who won the same award in 2003.

leading members of the media, business, public service and community sectors.

Speaking to *Rehab News*, Angela Kerins, Rehab's Chief Executive, says it is important to recognise great achievement. "This is the 34th year of the People of the Year Awards, which are now a household name, and Rehab is proud to have established the Awards and been the organiser for over three decades. The People of the Year Awards provide us with an opportunity to give real recognition to people whose achievements and stories lift and inspire us all."

RTÉ Television's Gráinne Seoige said, "This is RTÉ's 25th year to televise the People of the Year Awards, and my second as presenter. I am delighted to play a role, alongside our colleagues in QUINN-healthcare and Rehab, in bringing the stories of these outstanding individuals and their achievements to as wide an audience as possible."

To find out the latest news on the People of the Year Awards, simply log on to [www.peopleoftheyear.com](http://www.peopleoftheyear.com)

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### Out of the Blue for Rehab UK

**TO MARK BRAIN INJURY WEEK IN THE UK (31 MARCH TO 6 APRIL), A NUMBER OF** events were held by Rehab UK services to raise funds. In Newcastle, 33 brave souls abseiled from the Tyne Bridge which raised £1,376 and still counting. Other events included a sponsored walk by seven clients around the Newcastle quayside and a “dress down day” in the north-east centre. In London, Rehab UK held a brain injury seminar which was addressed by Mark Harper MP, the UK’s Shadow Minister for Disabled People. You can read about the seminar as well as information on Rehab UK and Momentum’s brain injury services and the experiences of one client, Tom Patterson, on pages 40 to 41.

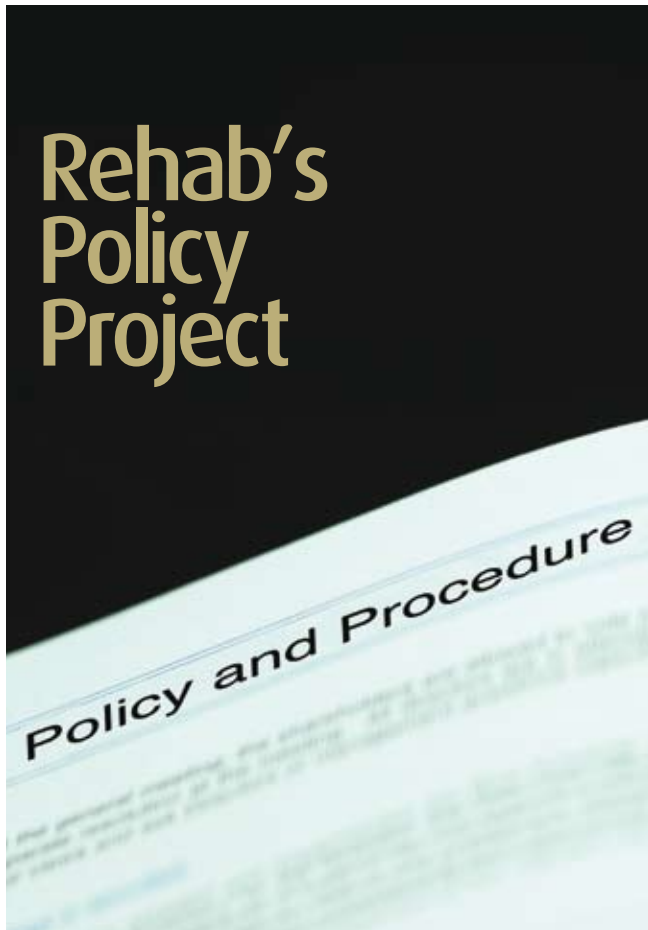
## New Rehab UK Service Opens



**REHAB UK HAS RECENTLY INITIATED A NEW BRAIN** injury service in Blyth, Northumberland. Operating four days a week, the day centre and outreach service supports 25 regular service users of adult age with acquired brain injuries. It provides activities which work on developing the service users’ numeracy, literacy, IT and daily living skills, as well as offering art lessons. The centre aims to increase service users’ quality of life, contribute to community and social inclusion, and support families and carers on a daily basis.

As part of the UK’s Brain Injury Week, the centre held an Open Day to give people a better insight into the services offered. Clients of the centre demonstrated their skills with an arts and crafts display and in the preparation of lunch. The event was well attended by families, carers and potential local supporters interested in finding out more about the work of the centre.

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**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY ORGANISATION HAS** policies in place to ensure good governance and a consistent approach by everyone with a stake in it. As an organisation grows, so too does the number of decisions it needs to take, the positions it must hold and the areas it needs to regulate.

Against this backdrop, led by the Director of Policy and Co-ordination, Sarah-Jane Dillon, a small team joined the Rehab Group last year to examine policies. The Group has enjoyed considerable growth in recent years and now has the opportunity to review the policies and procedures that have applied to date and to reflect on how to improve the quality of services. The first policies have now been approved by the Management Team. The policy team continues to consult widely with staff, service users and stakeholders to ensure that Group policies are directed by best practice and help the organisation work well for everyone.

If you are interested in the policy process and getting involved, please contact Sharon Dillon-Lyons on 00353 1 205 7376 or email [policy@rehab.ie](mailto:policy@rehab.ie)

## Coffee Moments

Keith Poole is the Director of Finance with the Rehab Group. Here he gives *Rehab News* an exclusive insight into the man behind the numbers and the driving forces that motivate him.



**1. What do you do to relax?**

I love nothing better than to go sailing.

**2. What are you reading at the moment?**

*Judging Dev* by Diarmaid Ferriter.

**3. What is the best holiday you have ever had?**

Two weeks' hill walking in Corsica.

**4. What is your favourite animal?**

My dog Harry.

**5. What is your top finance tip?**

Avoid borrowings.

**6. If you won the lotto, what would you do?**

I'd buy a house in West Cork and promptly retire.

**7. Best film of all time?**

*Apocalypse Now*.

**8. Last concert you attended?**

Bob Dylan at the Point – got the tickets as a present!

**9. What has been the most memorable day of your life?**

My oldest friend's wedding – I was the best man.

**10. Stranded on a desert island, what three things would you bring with you?**

Fishing gear, a dinghy and my dog (assuming I'm not allowed take my family!).

**11. Your all-time hero?**

That's a hard call. Either Des O'Malley or Roy Keane.

**12. When you were a little boy, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I wanted to be a pilot.

**13. The secret to happiness?**

With four daughters, it has to be to surround yourself with women.

**14. What would you do if you became Taoiseach in the morning?**

I'd get rid of the bus lanes on the Rock Road in Dublin.

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### Munster Teams Battle on the Pitch



*Pictured above:* Students from National Learning Network's "Sporting Chance" programme in Tralee, Co. Kerry, celebrate after participating in the Mayfield FC Cup run by the Football Association of Ireland as part of its "Football for All" programme.

#### FOOTBALL TEAMS FROM NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

in Cork and Kerry recently lined out for the Mayfield FC Cup run by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) as part of its "Football for All" programme. The four teams taking part in the thrilling tournament which took place on 4 March were the Tralee Headbangers, the Tralee Legends, Hollyhill and Bantry. The game of the day was the Tralee Headbangers versus the Tralee Legends, which was a nail-biting match. With five minutes to go, the scores were deadlocked but two winning strikes from Jonathan Berry resulted in the final score: Tralee Headbangers 2, Tralee Legends 1.

The "Football for All" days allow everybody, regardless of playing experience or ability, the opportunity to participate and compete in football in a fun but challenging environment. All of the students who participated thoroughly enjoyed the competition and National Learning Network is very grateful to the FAI and to "Football for All" officer, Oisín Jordan, for an excellently-run day.

## OPEL Service Users Recognised

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Momentum service users who were recently recognised for their achievements in employment at South Lanarkshire Council's "Celebration of Success" event in March. The Lord Provost, Russell Clearie MBE, presented service users with certificates from a range of employability programmes across the Council area, including people from Momentum's Opportunities for Progression through Employment and Learning (OPEL) service.



*Pictured:* The Lord Provost of South Lanarkshire Council, Russell Clearie MBE, presents a certificate to Momentum student Laura Clarkin at the Council's "Celebration of Success".

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## Marathon Men

**WELL DONE TO DANIEL RIBBITS AND DEAN MCSHEA WHO RAN THE LONDON MARATHON FOR REHAB UK AND Momentum respectively in April.** It was the first time Momentum had a runner in the race thanks to the Silver Bond scheme which allowed charities previously not represented to have a one-off opportunity of becoming involved. Daniel completed the race in 5 hours 8 minutes, raising over £1,200 for Rehab UK. Dean, from Aberdeenshire, raised more than £6,000 online at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com). Thanks to both Daniel and Dean for their energetic efforts.

## National Learning Network Celebrates Lifelong Learning

**NATIONAL LEARNING NETWORK IN HOLLYHILL, CORK,** threw open its doors to the whole city recently for the start of the fifth Cork Lifelong Learning Festival. Mr Seán Haughey TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, was at the centre to officially open the week-long festival which showcases adult learning opportunities through more than 230 free events across the city.

The motto of this year's festival was "Investigate, Participate, Celebrate" and the centre took this to heart by participating in a number of activities to spread the word about its learning opportunities. It held an open day featuring exhibits from its rehabilitative and vocational training programmes as well as an external art exhibition in conjunction with local groups in Knocknaheeny as part of the Knocknaheeny Education Network Celebration. National Learning Network also had information stands around Cork city and gave



*Pictured above:* Outside the National Learning Network centre in Hollyhill, Cork, at the official opening of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival are (left to right) Deputy Lord Mayor Tony Fitzgerald, Ted Owens, CEO Cork VEC, Tina Neylon, Co-ordinator of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, Willie McAuliffe, Chair of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival Committee, Noel O'Flynn TD, Seán Haughey TD, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning and Noel Shannon, Area Manager, National Learning Network.

information sessions, digital photography classes and talks on internet security from its mobile training unit in conjunction with Cork City Council, Cork City Adult Guidance and Cork City Libraries.