



Western Region
drugs task force

Meitheal Drugaí an Iarthair

Home Truths: The Culture of Alcohol in our Homes

At the Clayton Hotel, Galway
Monday November 11th 2013 at 11am

**Followed by official launch of the
2013 WRDTF Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week
by Minister Alex White, TD at 2pm**



Biographies

Dr Mark Garavan

Dr. Mark Garavan is a lecturer in Applied Social Studies at GMIT, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. He has worked as a social care worker with homeless people in Dublin and with young people in Carlow and Kerry. He is chairperson of Mayo Citizens Information Service and chairperson of Feasta – The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability. He is the author of *Compassionate Activism: An Exploration of Integral Social Care*. He supervised an extensive study of alcohol use among GMIT students in 2012 titled: *The Sozzled Survey*.

Dr Ann Hope

Dr. Ann Hope has a background in education, research and health promotion and was Senior Researcher at NUI, Galway for many years. She was appointed National Alcohol Policy Advisor and worked with the Department of Health and Children in Ireland on alcohol issues from 1995–2005. As advisor, she acted as a catalyst for the development of many alcohol policy initiatives and for the work of the Strategic Task Force on Alcohol set up by the Minister of Health in 2001. At international level, Ann was involved in the drafting of the WHO European Alcohol Action Plan, the Declaration on Young People and the Framework for alcohol policy in the European region. She was a member of the EU expert group on Alcohol and Health and is involved with several EU projects and international alcohol research consortia. Dr Hope is currently a Research Associate in Trinity College, Dublin.

Dr Bobby Smyth MRCPsych, MB BCH BAO

Dr Bobby Smyth is a Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, working with adolescents who have substance-use problems, since 2003. He is clinical lead at three multidisciplinary outpatient treatment services in South Dublin. He graduated in medicine from University College, Dublin and completed higher specialist training in child and adolescent psychiatry in Liverpool.

He is also a Senior Clinical Lecturer with the Department of Public Health & Primary Care at Trinity College, Dublin. He has been involved in addiction research for 20 years and has published over 50 addiction research papers. He is co-author of a book entitled *Adolescents and Substance Use: The handbook for professionals working with young people*. He is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs & Alcohol.

Ms Suzanne Costello

Ms Suzanne Costello joined Alcohol Action Ireland from the Samaritans, where she served as the organisation's Executive Director for Ireland over a period of six years, consolidating Samaritans Ireland as the leading provider of emotional support in Ireland, a key contributor to national policy development and delivery in the area of suicide prevention.

Suzanne has extensive senior management experience in the non-profit sector in the UK and Ireland. She has a background in social policy and business, including a primary degree in Social Science from UCD and a Master of Business from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.

Ms Gráinne McMahon

Editor of GALWAYnow magazine, Ms Gráinne McMahon is an award-winning journalist who has worked in various forms of media for 13 years. Holding a BA International (hons) in Law and French from NUI Galway, she is an Attorney-at-Law admitted in the state of New York. She has worked as a staff journalist at Galway Bay FM and Galway Independent and has written for the Connacht Tribune Group as well as national newspapers and publications.

Gráinne founded the news and sports service for iRadio in 2007 and was the youngest radio editor in the country. In 2012, she joined Goldenegg Productions where she edits GALWAYnow and WEDDINGSnow magazines in addition to a number of commercial magazines. Under her guidance, her team at iRadio was awarded a Leading Lights Award from the Road Safety Authority for its promotion of road safety among young people.

Mr Liam Horan

Mr Liam Horan is owner of the career training company SliNuaCareers.com, and works closely with clients in helping them to create career paths in which they will flourish. He is a former Gaelic games correspondent of the Irish Independent, and the creator of RTE Radio One's Championship Man series (Drivetime Sport).

He also dabbles in theatre and is co-writer and co-actor of the popular play: *The Pull* (by Half Solid Productions) which enjoyed an excellent run at 25 nationwide venues during winter 2012/2013. An experienced broadcaster and event chairperson, Liam has hosted a number of seminars on drugs and alcohol abuse.



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| 11.00 | Seminar Registration |
| 11.15: | Welcome by Martin Lee, Chairperson of the Western Region Drugs Task Force |
| 11.25: | "The Culture of Alcohol" Dr. Mark Garavan, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Castlebar |
| 11.45: | Mr Liam Horan will host individual interviews with guest speakers: |
| | Dr Ann Hope , Consultant Researcher, Trinity College, Dublin Alcohol and the Harm to Others |
| | Ms Gráinne McMahon , Editor, GALWAYnow Magazine Media Influences and the Increasing Wine Culture |
| | Dr Bobby Smyth , Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist The Influence of Parents upon Teenagers' Drinking Decisions |
| | Ms Suzanne Costello , CEO Alcohol Action Ireland Campaigning for Change |
| 1.00 | Mr Liam Horan will host a panel discussion with all speakers |
| 1.30 | Questions and Answers |
| 1.45 | Short Break for Refreshments |
| 2.00 | Official launch of WRDTF Awareness Week 2013 By Minister Alex White, TD |

This seminar is being hosted by the Western Region Drugs Task Force (WRDTF) in partnership with South West Mayo Development Company (SWMDC), and Galway Roscommon Education Training Board as part of the Western Region Drugs Task Forces third regional Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week, November 11th to 16th 2013. The week will see a full calendar of events across the region. Details of other events are available on the Western Region Drugs Task Force website and calendars distributed throughout the region.

How to book this seminar

Places can be booked by contacting the Western Region Drugs Task Force on 091 480044 or emailing info@wrdtf.ie

Attendance is free and open to all.

The Western Region Drugs Task Force is a co-ordinating body established in May 2003 as one of the key recommendations of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008. It was established to research, develop and implement, using a partnership approach, a co-ordinated, regionally appropriate response to substance misuse.

The overall aim is to significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs through a concerted focus on supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research. The objectives are to develop an integrated and well-managed response to drug and alcohol problems, propose a range of solutions and service interventions based on the five pillars of the National Drugs Strategy and ensure that all responses are monitored and evaluated according to best practice and value for money principles.



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WRDTF

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