

Management Report March 2020

Local Enterprise Week from Monday March 2nd to Friday March 6th

It was Local Enterprise Week from Monday March 2nd to Friday March 6th and the Local Enterprise Office Offaly organised numerous events for start-ups and small businesses all over Offaly.

Events were held in a number of locations – Tullamore, Edenderry, Birr and Ferbane. There were so many highlights including the Offaly Enterprise Awards, Student Enterprise Awards, LEAN Lunchtime Seminar, Keep Your Eye on the Prize with Blaise Brosnan, Ferbane Food Mentoring Clinic, and Mentoring Clinic in Edenderry.

2020 County Enterprise Awards – Offaly Businesses Chance to Shine!

Euro Stallions Ltd. C/o Dr. Emma-Rose Conroy is Overall Winner of 2020 Offaly County Enterprise Award. As winner of the top award, receiving a trophy and cash prize of €1,500, Euro Stallions Ltd will now represent Co. Offaly and Local Enterprise Office Offaly at the National Enterprise Awards in May. Euro Stallions is a stallion semen agency offering a service whereby breeders can access semen from top class stallions worldwide.

Other winners at the awards ceremony, held at the Tullamore Court Hotel included four category prize-winners. Each of the category winners received a trophy and cash prize of €750. The four category prize winners were: Portarlinton based Equipeople Ltd (Business Growth Award); Rahan based NIS Ltd (Business Service Award); Portarlinton based Carla Mooney (Best Female Entrepreneur Award) and Edenderry based Derek McCreanor, T/a Enhance Acoustics (Innovation Award).



BANAGHER, TULLAMORE AND FERBANE SCHOOLS HEADING TO STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME NATIONAL FINALS

Local Enterprise Office Offaly have announced that winning teenager entrepreneurs from Banagher College, Tullamore College and Gallen Community School will represent Offaly at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park on the 1st May. The students all took part in the Offaly Final on 5th March, which was held at the Tullamore Court Hotel. An estimated 450 students from 10 schools took part in the annual programme locally.

In the Senior Category of the competition, Offaly will be represented on May 1st by Cathal Flannery from Clononey Crafts, Banagher College. Cathal produces a range of crafted wooden items including lamps, pens and bowls. In the Intermediate Category, Santa's Reindeers from Tullamore College will represent the county. The business is run by 3rd year student Anthony Gorman who makes handcrafted wooden reindeers. In the Junior Category, the students representing Offaly at the National Finals in Croke Park are: Oisin Kennedy, Ryan Keenaghan, Iris Samonte and Rachel Doorley from Cluny Sustainable Crafts in Gallen Community School. They produce flower arrangements using upcycled jars.



COVID 19 Supports

Remote Spring Business Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched the COVID 19 Business Training Courses. Booking is now available for a number of courses such as Remote Start your Own Business Course, Remote Digital marketing for Business and Keep Your Training & Consultancy Business Alive During Covid-19.

Remote Mentoring Sessions

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched a number of free mentoring sessions to assist businesses through the Covid 19 crisis. Please book online to arrange a mentoring session. The types of mentoring available are Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Business, Finance, Banking Supports & Advice, Covid-19 Remote Mentoring on Human Resources, Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Business Planning, Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Social Media Strategy, Covid-19 Remote Mentoring on Microfinance Loans and Trading Online Voucher One to One Mentoring - Phone or Video Call,

Continuity Voucher

The new Business Continuity Voucher is now available through Local Enterprise Office Offaly and is open to sole traders and companies across every business sector locally that employ up to 50 people. The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders in Offaly to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal is to help business owners make informed decisions about what immediate measures and actions should be taken to protect staff and sales.

The scheme is open to all types of businesses, across all industries and sectors that employ up to 50 people. To apply, companies or sole traders fill out a short application form and submit it directly to Local Enterprise Office Offaly by e-mail. When a company is issued with a voucher for third party consultancy, they begin working directly with a qualified expert, selected from existing Local Enterprise Office and Enterprise Ireland panels.

eCommerce Grants Available

Under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the expanded Trading Online Voucher Scheme helps small businesses with up to 10 employees to trade more online, boost sales and reach new markets. There is up to €2,500 available through the Local Enterprise Offices with co-funding of 10% from the business.

Training and further business supports are also provided by Local Enterprise Offices and businesses that have already received a Trading Online Voucher can now apply for a second voucher, where upgrades are required. Funding can be used towards adding payment facilities or booking systems to your website or developing new apps for your customers. The voucher can also be used towards subscriptions to low cost online retail platform solutions, to help companies quickly establish a retailing presence online.

Microfinance Ireland loans

The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland is a government initiative to support small businesses with less than 10 employees through the current period of uncertainty and protect job creation or sustainment in Ireland. Loans from €5,000 – €50,000 up to 3 years. First 6 months – 0% Interest & Zero repayments. Reduced interest rate 4.5% APR for LEO applications.

If your business is impacted or may be impacted by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in actual or projected turnover or profit, AND you are having difficulty in accessing finance from commercial lending providers, the MFI COVID-19 Business Loan may be able to help your business. Local Enterprise Office Offaly will provide assistance with MFI applications

LEO Feasibility Grant Call

Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available - Next closing date 30th June. Feasibility/Innovation Grants are designed to assist the promoter with researching market demand for a new product or service and examining its sustainability. It includes assistance with innovation including specific consultancy

requirements, private specialists, design, and prototype development. Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available.

LEO Financial Supports

Priming, Business Expansion & Feasibility grants are available for eligible businesses. Local Enterprise Office Offaly offers a wide range of financial assistance to help you start up your business or grow your existing business. We provide a free information and advisory service to new and existing entrepreneurs on all aspects of setting up and running a business. For further information, please visit www.localenterprise.ie/Offaly/