

**Dublin West Education Centre**  
**AGM 27th February 2006**  
**Chairperson's Address.**

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir anocht chuig an Cruinniú Cinn Bliaina 2006 d'Ionad Oideachais Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar. Is mór an onóir dom seasamh ós bhúr gcómhair mar Chathaoirleach arís.

On behalf of the Management Committee of Dublin West Education Centre and on my own behalf as Chairperson I would like to welcome you all here tonight to our Annual General Meeting 2006 when we look back over the year 2005 and report on the Centre's activities for the year. Once again it has been a busy year for the Centre which in addition to its main activity of providing services for teachers in the West Dublin area has seen welcome additions in personnel both here in the Centre and in our national programmes. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members of staff and wish them well during their time with us.

Before I address the work of Dublin West Education Centre in 2005, I must once again acknowledge the contribution of our Director, Gerard Mc Hugh. This year, as in the other years since he has taken up the position of Director at Dublin West, Gerard has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Centre. Due to the volume of work falling on the Director's shoulders in running such a busy Centre, Management Committee continued to lobby the Department of Education and Science for the appointment of a Deputy Director in 2005. While this appeal fell on deaf ears, we have succeeded in appointing a Development and Operations Manager, and we hope that this appointment will help to ease the Director's workload somewhat. How Gerard manages to give generously of his time here in the Centre and on our National Programmes is a continual source of amazement to me. On behalf of the Management Committee I wish to formally acknowledge the dedication and professionalism Gerard brings to his position as Director and to thank him for all of his work during the past year. On a personal note I would like to thank him for his endless kindness and courtesy to me during my four year term as Chairperson.

The administrative staff of Dublin West Education Centre is a team second to none. Our administrator, Deirdre Cleary, presides over the smooth running of the Centre on a daily basis.

I wish to thank her most sincerely along with all of our full-time and part-time staff members. Yvonne, Carmel, Angie and Emer provided support for the National programmes at Dublin West, PCSP (Local), The Substance Misuse Prevention Programme (SMPP), the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) ICT Programme and the DES Social Inclusion Unit. They have provided tremendous support and back-up for tutors of local programmes and the participants on these programmes. They are also the friendly faces behind the

reception desk and the voices that most of you hear on the phone when you call the Centre. Unfortunately Emer Meighan-Kennedy left our administration team before Christmas to follow her first love of teaching Speech and Drama, we wish her every success and thank her for all of her work for Dublin West.

Marian, our housekeeper, continues to receive many compliments from Centre users for her friendliness and courtesy. Marion has taken on extra duties in the Centre this year and I would like to express our appreciation for her invaluable contribution. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our caretaker, Peter Howe.

We have recently made several new appointments to our administration team, I would like to extend a "Céad Míle Fáilte" to Linda, Doireann, Mary and Siobhán. Their appointment to the team allows us to expand and develop the work we do in Dublin West in new and exciting ways. We hope to develop the area of Teacher Professional Communities, explore the possibilities of e-learning and develop closer links with our neighbours in IT Tallaght in the coming year.

I also wish to acknowledge the work of the team which provides support for the Primary Curriculum Support Programme, Kathleen, the administrator, Susan, Anne, Jennifer, Tracey and Stephanie, always provide an exceptional service to tutors and all other callers and visitors to the PCSP office. Many thanks for your hard work and dedication again this year. To all our staff, Management Committee wishes to acknowledge your dedication to the Centre and your contribution to the services we provide to schools and teachers in the area and to the projects we support.

### **Local Programmes:**

Dublin West Education Centre has had an even busier year in 2005 than in 2004. Our Local Programmes and Activities are dealt with in greater detail in the Centre's Annual Report. Our usual courses and workshops including Walk Tall, Counselling Skills, Drama, Music, Water Safety, Arts and Visual Arts, Changing Children's Reputations and Walk Tall Courses remain popular with teachers. We also have support groups for Resource Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Support Teachers, Teachers of International Pupils and Principal Teachers. We continue our work with Special Needs Assistants. With PCSP inservice in History and Geography and the Cuiditheoireacht Service in other subjects the Centre is busier than ever

As always DWEC is to the forefront in the provision of ICT Courses for teachers. I wish to acknowledge the work of our ICT Advisor, Fintan Keating in this regard. I also wish to acknowledge his contribution to our "Roots and Wings" programme. Fintan has made an invaluable contribution to this project which is greatly appreciated.

### **National Programmes:**

As a Centre we have long tradition of hosting National Programmes. At present Dublin West Education Centre is home to the following.

- Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP)

- Substance Misuse Prevention Programme
- National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) ICT Programme

We have had a larger team than ever working with PCSP this year and continue to fill vacancies. Interviews have already taken place for next year's team and we strongly urge the Department of Education to work within a realistic time-frame with regard to dates for secondment for successful candidates this year in order to decrease uncertainty for teachers and their Boards of Management.

I would like to welcome Ursula Smyth who joined the SMPP team this year. I hope that her time with the programme will be both happy and fulfilling.

I would also like to welcome Concepta Conaty to the Dublin West "family". Though Concepta is no stranger to Dublin West and to Tallaght we look forward to working with her and the Social Inclusion unit in the year to come.

Before I finish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the voluntary members of the Management Committee for their hard work and dedication to the Centre. The time they give to Dublin West Education Centre is in addition to demanding "day jobs" and can sometimes be a thankless task. Their membership of the committee is motivated by an intrinsic interest in, and a deep commitment to education. I would also like to thank them for their support and patience during my term as Chairperson, I am confident that 2006 will see Dublin West Education Centre continue as the progressive and vibrant Centre it has become over the past number of years.

Mar fhocal scoir:

Guím gach rath ar an Ionad, an fhoireann agus na múinteoirí a bhaineann usáid as na h-áiseanna atá ar fáil anseo. Táim cinnte go leanfaidh fás agus forbairt Ionad Oideachais Bhaile Átha Cliath Thiar sa bhliain atá le teacht Go raibh míle maith agaibh as ucht éisteacht liom anocht.

Máirín Ní Chéileachair,  
Cathaoirleach  
27th February 2006.