



Dear Colleagues,

In this July issue, we are delighted to announce another past pupil's success in starting their own 'social care' based enterprise. Applications are still being received for our online Level 5 disability focussed course for Autumn 2025, as well as our disabilities focussed level 8 Honours degree. We report that the application centre for our CORU approved BA in Social Care is now closed. A new Empowerment and Advocacy course is hot off the presses. On a more somber note, however, we also mark the passing of the legendary visionary who was Mr. John O'Brien. Thank you for reading.

Calling all Social Care graduates - opportunity to earn your Honours Level 8 degree, starting in September 2025.

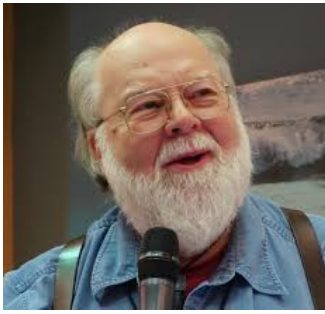


The BA (Honours) in Applied Social Studies (Disability Service Management) programme aims to provide learners with specialised knowledge and understanding that enables them to manage and lead effectively in the context of ongoing and future developments in the services and supports offered to people with disabilities in Ireland.

Please view the Honours course details [HERE](#)

Honouring the Legacy of John O'Brien.

Since its foundation in 1990, the Open Training College (OTC) has upheld a strong value base rooted in dignity, inclusion, and human rights. This foundation has been shaped by the contributions of many influential figures in the field of disability rights—among them, the esteemed John O'Brien.



We are deeply saddened to share that John O'Brien passed away on 27th June 2025. His passing marks the loss of a visionary and tireless advocate for disability rights and social inclusion. [Read more](#)

Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice (online, L5 award) is now enrolling for a September intake.

As some of you know, for many years educational providers struggled with offering a professional qualification at level 5 through a completely online model of delivery. The learner profile made it challenging and the technology wasn't fully available to students to inspire and motivate them to engage with an online course delivery. That's all changed now and the OTC is receiving plenty of applications from eager students wishing to upskill for positions in the disability sector.

Please view the L5 course details [HERE](#).



BA in Social Care: Applications Update

Acceptances for places on our BA in Social Care, commencing in September, are now complete, and the online **application centre is closed**.

Enquirers are now asked to check back in March 2026 in order to commence their application for the course intake in September 2026.

We do advise early applications in 2026 to avoid disappointment. Please contact me if you wish to be added to the enquiry list.



OTC Graduate: Julette Kearney MD of a successful social care based enterprise

Julette Kearney is another OTC graduate success story. A graduate of both our level 7 social care degree and our level 8 Honours degree, Julette has journeyed a fascinating route to where she is today.

'The Open Training College provided a strong academic and professional foundation for my career. Its flexible, work-based learning model made it possible to study while working in the field, ensuring every lesson had direct practical relevance.'

[Click Here](#) to read more about Julette's story and her informed business idea for the sector.



Monthly Wellness podcast:

"The closest thing to be cared for is to care for someone else."
Carson Mc Cullers

From the beginning of our lives, we are wired to connect with each other to survive. Becoming more aware and concerned of how fellow students, friends, family members or colleagues might be finding things difficult is an important part of what makes us and connects us as humans; the ability to have compassion and care for another person.

Our informative and supportive monthly podcast can be heard [HERE](#)



CPD options:

Upcoming Continuing Professional Development courses

Always a popular course for practitioners, the latest schedule for our [Certificate in Empowerment and Advocacy](#) is now published and the application centre is open.

It is ideal for practitioners with a social studies/care/community development qualification who would like to:

- Gain an in-depth knowledge of this area
- Critically reflect upon their role as a practitioner.

Delivered completely online and supported by a single workshop event, delivered by Zoom, this course format helps students to study and work at the same time. All course details can be accessed [HERE](#)

Perfect for PICs! New management microcredential course - the [Certificate in Human Service Manager Skills](#) - is now open for applications for a commencement in October.



This is a short online course that is perfect for those in, or seeking PIC or PPIM roles, and meets the HIQA compliance standard requiring that all frontline managers possess a management qualification. As you would expect from the OTC, this course is delivered by tutors with actual frontline experience and the course assignments tackle issues that students are likely to face in the workplace.

Course features:

- Delivered online and totally flexible
- Only two online zoom workshops to attend throughout the course
- Flexible, user-friendly online interface for daily interactions
- Price per participant for this two-module, QQI award is €645. Apply now! All course details can be found [HERE](#)

Please do not delay. The last 3 courses sold out!



The OTC is of the sector, for the sector!

Best wishes,
Conor
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PS Please feel free to forward this to an interested colleague.
Thank you.

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