

Press Release 29th January

The 29th January saw Treo officially open its new premises. Treo Port Lairge Ltd is a community-based organisation core funded by the Dept. of Justice through the Probation Service. Treo works with people aged 16 to 23 and offers educational, social, and vocational support, while challenging participants' offending attitudes and behaviour.

Treo has been working in Waterford since 2000. During that time initiatives, programmes and approaches have evolved to better challenge offending behaviour while supporting more positive choices by the people who use the service.

The refit of Treo's new facility was completely by its owners Sean & Kieran Carey while the Probation Service funded the refurnishing and equipment costs. It has dedicated rooms and spaces for the many training, education, IT, workshop, recreation & administration functions associated with working with over 100 people each year.

Treo's new premises allows participants to take part in a broader range of QQI accredited pro-social, education and training initiatives. The unit contains workshops where more bicycles, lawnmowers and small engines can be repaired daily for members of the public. Treo will soon run accredited repair and training courses for the public and these will be jointly tutored by experienced staff and service users. It is this type of approach that encourages participants of Treo to move away from their past behaviors and begin to give something meaningful back to their communities.

According to Ned Hogan, Treo's chairman, this facility sends out a clear message to those causing harm that we as a community are extremely serious about challenging this behaviour. He added though that we as a community must equally be serious in supporting people to make more positive choices in terms of their lifestyle, health, education and future.

Treo's new facility also houses the Waterford Restorative Practices Network (WRPN). This network comprises representatives from a variety of statutory and voluntary services. The aim of WRPN is to help Waterford develop as a community and to manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships. Multi agency Restorative Practices training, seminars and conferences regularly take place in the new unit at Lacken road and the facility is being successfully used by people, neighbors, communities and organisations for restorative practices purposes.

All involved with Treo are thrilled with the new premises. Treo now has a brighter more welcoming environment which encourages people to improve their lifestyles, establish meaningful routines, change their offending behavior and engage with a range of accredited and skill based initiatives.