

Valuing Care – Recognising Work Campaign

The pandemic has highlighted the invaluable and vital work that is carried out by workers in organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector. These workers provide services to people with disabilities, to older people, to patients in hospitals and hospices, to people with addiction problems and to those in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities the length and breadth of the country. While it is recognised that these workers are not public servants and that the state is not their employer it is a fact that the state is the principal funder of the organisations in which they work and that they rely on the workers in these organisations to deliver what are in essence public services.

While the role of workers in the Community and Voluntary sector is highly valued, many of them have not received a pay increase since 2008. It is for this reason that Forsa, INMO, SIPTU with the support of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions have organised the Valuing Care – Recognising Work Campaign.

The Campaign has two principal aims, as follows:

- Secure an immediate increase in pay of 3% for workers in the Community and Voluntary sector in line with pay awards in the public sector; and
- Establish a Community and Voluntary Sector Dialogue Collective Bargaining Forum. The purpose of this forum would be to address amongst other things, the pay and conditions of workers in the sector, staffing in the sector, the training and development needs of workers and to provide for dialogue on the development of services and service delivery.
- The Forum would be comprised of representatives of employers, workers and funders including the main Government Departments and agencies. A lead representative should be appointed by government to represent and have authority to represent its cross departmental view.

ENDS.