

# Annual Report

JULY 2020 JUNE 2021

HSE Mid West Community Healthcare



## Acknowledgements

Mid West ARIES wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and groups who use their experience, expertise and commitment to support the development and roll-out of recovery education in the Mid West:



**Mid West Communities** 

**Our Volunteer Recovery Education Facilitators** 

**Our Partner Community Groups** 

Niamh Wallace (Head of Service)

**Area Management Team** 

Aoife Boland, Area Lead, Mental Health Engagement

**Service Improvement Steering Group** 

Mental Health Ireland

The Staff of the Mid West Mental Health Services

Service Reform Fund

**HSE Mental Health Engagement and Recovery** 

**Peer Educator Network** 

**Service Improvement Office** 

**HSE Mid West Community Healthcare** 

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#### **FOREWORD**

## **Head of Service**

Mental Health, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

At the heart of Mid West ARIES is a message of hope, that "recovery from mental health challenges is possible."

Never before has this message been more important.

| Niamh Wallace

# I am delighted to welcome you to the Mid West ARIES Annual Report July 2020 - June 2021.

This has been a busy and challenging year for all of us in Mid West Mental Health Services, as we have lived and worked with COVID-19 in our midst. Despite these challenges Mid West ARIES has had a remarkable year, going from strength to strength. The team itself has grown. The service has engaged more people in recovery education than ever before. Mid West ARIES responded with flexibility and creativity to COVID, continuously adapting and innovating to ensure a consistently high quality recovery education service is delivered to those who live in our communities, those who use our services and to staff working across our services.

Our recovery education team has grown. Our new team have a broad skillset and range of experience which has enhanced the service both in terms of development and delivery. They are the future of recovery education in the Mid West.

The move to online service delivery, while challenging, opened up new opportunities for Mid West ARIES. The service significantly extended its reach in the Mid West, evidenced by the growth in the number of community workshops delivered and attended. The service, in partnership with Mental Health Engagement, also contributed significantly to the needs of people Mental Health Services during the pandemic. Weekly "Coffee and Connection" virtual cafes were hosted for residents in HSE community residences and our acute services. Members of the ARIES team were central to the delivery of the "Social Calling" service which was set up to provide connection for the most vulnerable during a time of great uncertainty. The service co-produced a self-paced on line course "Getting the Best from Your Virtual Mental Health Appointment" to help all of us to navigate the changes in service delivery. The service continues to provide recovery education to our future healthcare professionals in the University of Limerick.

#### **FOREWORD**

As I reflect on the many highlights of the year and the excellent work of Mid West ARIES I want to take the opportunity to thank the entire Mid West ARIES team. Our gratitude goes to our volunteers, mental health services staff contributors and facilitators and our community partners whose invaluable work is making such a difference to the lives of so many.

On behalf of Mid West Mental Health Services thank you for your continued hard work, support and commitment and wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Niamh Wallace
Head of Service





## **Executive Summary**



July 2020 to June 2021 saw the Mid West ARIES team grow from two staff members to four full time and four part-time staff. This team has allowed us to increase our activities over the year.



Mid West ARIES has significantly extended our reach over the year within the Mid West and nationally. We have delivered **90 online community workshops**, an increase of 143% on last year. We also saw a **414% increase in community attendance with 1,013 participants.** 



Despite covid restrictions, Mid West ARIES continued to provide access to recovery education to people who are in-patients in our acute units, Unit 5B, University Hospital Limerick and the Acute Psychiatric Unit Ennis Hospital. 81 sessions were delivered in total with 514 participants. In May 2021 we returned to in-person delivery with 4 sessions every week. We were proud to be one of the first recovery education services to be back delivering face to face.



This was a challenging year to deliver Recovery Principles and Practice Training to staff. A number of Recovery Principles and Practice training events for staff were cancelled and rescheduled due to the HSE Cyberattack and staff availability. As a result we ran 1 RPPT1 training session online with 23 participants.



Mid West ARIES responded rapidly and innovatively to the challenges brought about by Covid-19 and the HSE Cyberattack. In January 2021 our team carried out social calls to the most vulnerable service users. 194 hours of calls were logged. We also facilitated 15 Virtual Cafe Events, "Coffee & Connection", in partnership with Mental Health Engagement to support those living in HSE residences and the Acute Units with 247 attendees.



Mid West ARIES extended its partnership with the University of Limerick this year to educate mental health practitioners of the future. 137 students across allied health, nursing and clinical psychology participated in 3 online training events with great participation and positive feedback.



Mid West ARIES has a team of committed and excellent recovery education facilitators. **This year 8 new staff facilitators were recruited and trained.** Ongoing support and training sessions are provided for facilitators throughout the year.



With Covid restrictions in place it was a challenging time to onboard new volunteer facilitators. However, we trained **2 mental health staff facilitators** and **3 volunteer facilitators** with lived experience of mental health challenges.

## **Executive Summary**



In December 2020 we ran **2 co-production sessions** and shared a questionnaire. **31 individuals participated**, including staff members, service users and family members. This resulted in 7 new modules developed on Self Care, plus a large number of resources, handouts and video content.



In September 2020 we were delighted to be awarded funding from the **Staff & Wellbeing Fund** which funded a courseware authoring tool to develop online self paced courses.



We continue to develop and innovate. In January 2021 we launched the **first of our online self paced courses available 24/7.** "Getting the Best from My Virtual Appointment". We have also developed and reimagined our modules for online delivery.



As we emerge from lockdown and covid restrictions are lifted, the Mid West ARIES team look forward to returning to in-person delivery across the Mid West. Our community partners are getting ready to welcome us back to venues in Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary.



We have learned a lot from our forced move to online delivery and are planning a blended approach to recovery education in the next phase of our development plan. To this end we have shared a detailed Stakeholder Needs Analysis Survey to ask people (staff, those using the services, families/carers and community partners) what this next phase should look like. We have had **78 respondents** so far with an overwhelming majority requesting a mix of online and face to face workshops. We will share the full findings when complete.

As always, at the end of each year we take stock and look to the future. We had a very successful year bringing recovery education to the Mid West region and beyond, despite all of the challenges brought about by the pandemic and the HSE Cyberattack. We look forward with positivity and renewed vigour to the future, to building new partnerships and welcoming new opportunities.

# Our Year in Numbers (215) Events



90

Online Community Workshops 81

Acute
Psychiatric Unit
Workshops

16

ARIES Staff & Volunteer Training Modules

3rd LEVEL
Presentations &
RPPT Training

2,148

Reporticipants

In Mental Health

In Mental Health

Vohingra

Webinars

**1** with MHER 1 with Mental Health Reform 2 with Mental Health Ireland

Co-Production Sessions & Questionnaire

Mental Health
Staff Training

15

Virtual Cafe "Coffee & Connection"

Event	Number	Participants
Online Community Workshops	90	1013
Acute Unit Workshops	81	514
Staff & Volunteer Training Modules	16	13
3rd Level Presentations	3	137
Virtual Cafe Events	15	247
<b>Co-Production Sessions &amp; Questionnaire</b>	3	31
Webinars	5	168
Mental Health Staff Training	1	23
Additional Events	1	2
Total	215	2,148

# MID WEST ARIES Our Team

We have a dedicated team who are passionate about bringing recovery education to the Mid West.



Mike O'Neill Manager



Margaret Keane Education, Training & Development Officer



Cillian Keane
Peer Education, Training
& Development Officer



**Noelle Tanner**Recovery Education
Facilitator



**Eileen Hanley**Recovery Education
Facilitator



Mags Clifford Recovery Education Facilitator



**Aoife Dennehy**Recovery Education
Facilitator



**Laura Carey**Recovery Education
Facilitator



Thomas Cole Recovery Education Facilitator

## Vision & Mission

Mid West ARIES (Advancing Recovery in Ireland Education Service) offers a range of courses, information and educational materials on Recovery and Well-Being in Mental Health in Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary.





#### **Our Vision**

To provide the Mid West Region with an inspirational and inclusive educational programme on recovery and well-being.

#### **Our Mission**

- To provide education and resources created and delivered by service users, family members, carers and mental health professionals.
- To inspire hope, create opportunities and foster the belief that recovery and well-being are possible.
- To promote education as a tool in mental health recovery.
- To make this programme available in Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary.
- To promote a culture of inclusivity, mutual respect and learning among all: service providers, service users, family members, friends, carers and anyone with an interest in mental health and well-being.

## **Recovery Education**

All of Mid West ARIES activities are guided by the National Framework for Recovery in Mental Health 2018-2020, in particular the 4 principles which underpin a recovery orientated service.





## Quality Assurance

Mid West ARIES continues to maintain and enhance the quality of our recovery education service. Our vision, mission, values and principles are at the core of everything we do in the Mid West.



Our values, principles, guidelines and strategies are essential in improving the quality of our service. They serve to promote best practice, standardise delivery, ensure that legislative and regulatory requirements are met, and ensure that people are clear on their roles and responsibilities.

As the service grows and improves, we continue to offer continuous professional development training opportunities to our staff and volunteer facilitators.

Our Community Development Work Core Values and our Core Communication Principles have been especially useful when partnering with community groups.

We continue to use the "Resources to Support the Development and Implementation of Recovery Education 2020-2025 and the "Toolkit to Support the Development and Implementation of Recovery Education 2020-2025 as guidance in all of our development work.

## Quality Assurance

New living guidance documents and staff and volunteer training modules were created between July 2020 and June 2021.



- Mid West ARIES Social Media Communications Strategy
- Mid West ARIES Induction Training for Staff Recovery Education Facilitators
- Facilitation Skills Training for Recovery Education Facilitators
- Online Facilitations Skills Training for Recovery Education Facilitators
- Best Practice Guidelines for Online Facilitation
- Roles & Responsibilities for Mid West ARIES
   Online Facilitators
- Personal Narrative Training for Recovery Education Facilitators
- Self Care Training for Recovery Education Facilitators
- New Introduction Guidelines for Online Workshop Delivery
- Facilitator Reflection Guidelines
- New Permission to Contact Form

## **Activities**

While we were unable to deliver in person community workshops due to Covid restrictions, this year Mid West ARIES expanded on it's core activities. We adapted and responded to both service and user needs.

In the next sections you will discover just how much we adapted, innovated and continued to grow in this most difficult of years.







# Recovery Education in the Community







#### **Extending Our Reach**

We are committed to working with communities in the Mid West to provide an educational programme on recovery and well-being. Covid restrictions, however, meant that we had to remagine our community modules for online delivery while still maintaining key community partnerships.

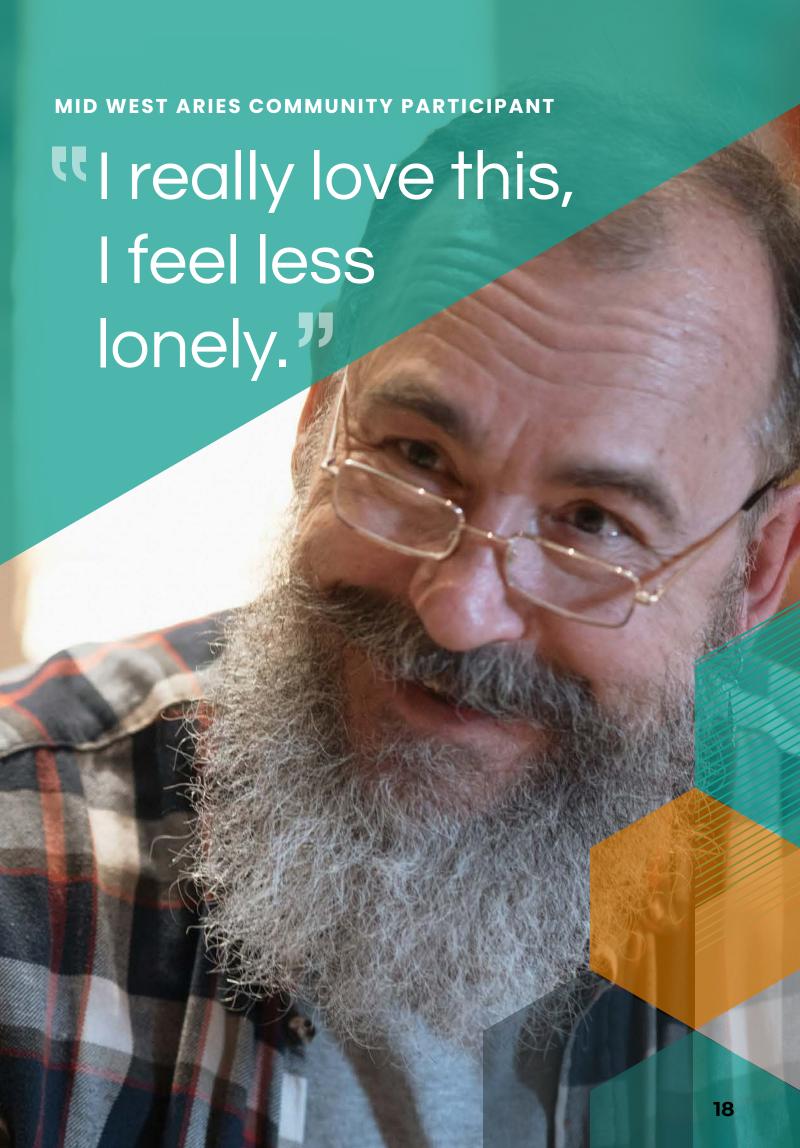
We delivered **90 online community workshops**, up **143%** on the previous year. We also saw a big **414%** increase in attendance as we could reach more people online. This also highlights the real need and appetite for recovery education.

#### **Maintaining Community Partnerships**

Our community partners have supported our online recovery education workshop programme by promoting events through their websites and social media.

Keeping these relationships relevant and alive throughout the pandemic has made the transition back to in person delivery easier than anticipated.





# Online Community Modules















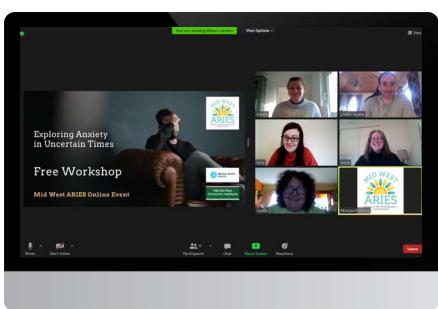
















## Online Community

### Quantitative Feedback





**416**Respondents



IDENTITY

Felt their identity was respected

and valued



#### **CONNECTEDNESS**

Felt connected to the activities and processes in the session



#### HOPE

Felt hopeful about recovery after taking part



#### MEANING

Felt that the material delivered was meaningful



#### **EMPOWERMENT**

Felt more empowered after taking part

#### Co-Evaluation & Feedback

Co-evaluation of all workshop content and delivery is key to maintaining a quality assured recovery education service. At the end of each online workshop an anonymous google form link is shared with participants. This takes the form of both quantitative and qualitative questions.

We use two 5-point Likert scales to evaluate each workshop. The first scale evaluates participants' satisfaction with the facilitation and delivery. Responses from 416 participants indicated a 98% satisfaction rate between July 2020 and June 2021.

The second scale is based on the principles of CHIME. Responses from 416 participants are represented above.

We also gather qualitative feedback by asking what worked best and what worked less well or could be improved at the end of each module delivered.

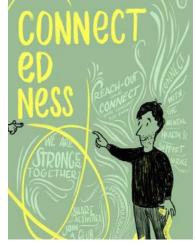
All of this feedback is then used to evaluate, reflect and update our learning content and delivery.



## Online Community



## QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK

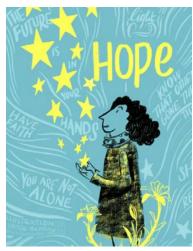


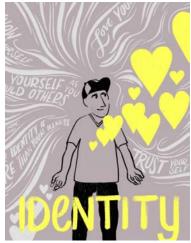
"Hearing what people are doing to help themselves."

"The honesty and live chat."

"Brilliant workshop!"

"Lots of tips."

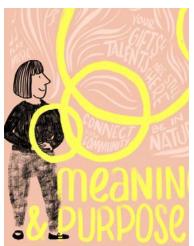




"Love what you do, thank you."

"Confidential, safe, honest."

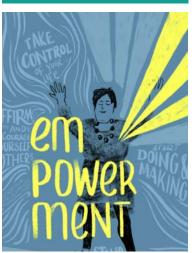
"I loved it, great facilitation, caring and kind."



"Good hearing other participants' experiences and their great challenges."

"Breakout groups and sharing of experiences."

"Thanks, I learned a lot."



"Insights into anxiety and knowing we are not alone in how we feel."

"It was very inspiring."

"Kindness, understanding, being heard."

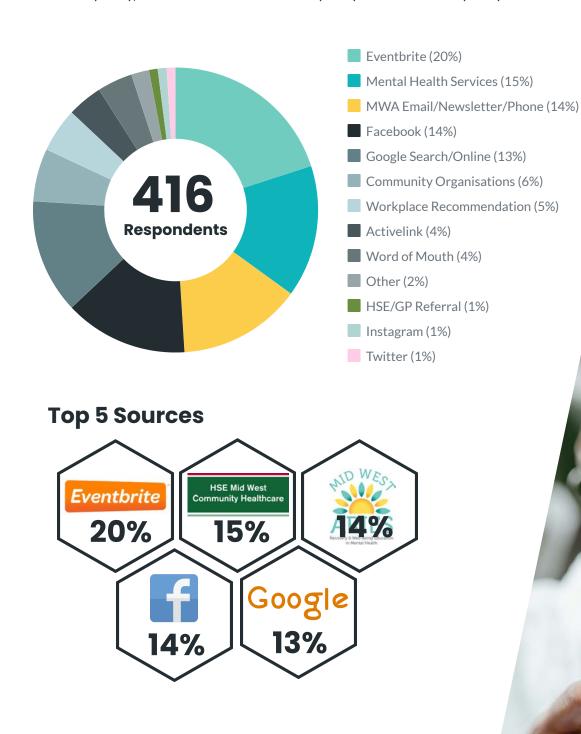
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## Online Community

# Where Did Attendees Hear About Us?



This year we wanted to explore how people discovered Mid West ARIES. To this end we added an additional question to our online feedback questionnaire. The responses showed that our promotion strategy was the main driver of attendance, with the main sources being Eventbrite (20%), Mental Health Services (15%), Mid West ARIES Contact (14%) and Facebook (14%).





# Recovery Education in Acute Psychiatric Units







#### **Bringing A Message of Hope**

We continued with our successful delivery of recovery education modules in acute services in Ennis APU and in Unit 5B UHL this year, increasing our number of workshops delivered by 50%. Reflecting the need for social distancing in the Units our attendance grew by a more modest 6%.

We have had enormous support from staff in both 5B and Ennis. Since May 7th 2021 we are delivering in person workshops, facilitated by a Mid West ARIES Facilitator and a volunteer Mental Health Staff Facilitator.

#### **Thank You**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteer mental health staff, in particular, Sarah Danagher and Barbara Keating in 5B and John O'Connor and Alison Flynn in Ennis APU. We could not bring recovery education to the Acute Units without their support.

#### **Positive Feedback**

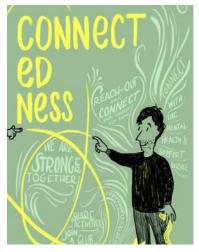
We have had consistently positive feedback from attendees throughout the year. A simple qualitative feedback form is used for evaluation at the end of each module.



# Online & In Person Acute Psychiatric Units



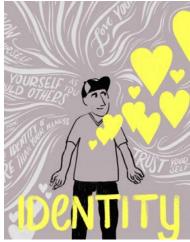
## **QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK**



"Being able to speak in a group, first time I've done that."

"Being able to speak about what matter's to me in a safe confidential environment.'



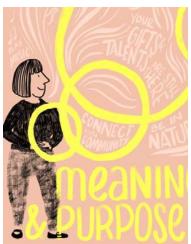


"To be heard and understood."

" CHIME. Never heard of that before."

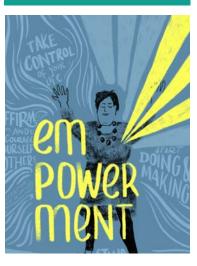
"Enlightening and hopeful."

"Seeing there is light at the end of the tunnel."



"Listening to other people talk about how they can build resilience has helped me."

'Positivity of learning and hearing from those who have recovered but still have bad days.'

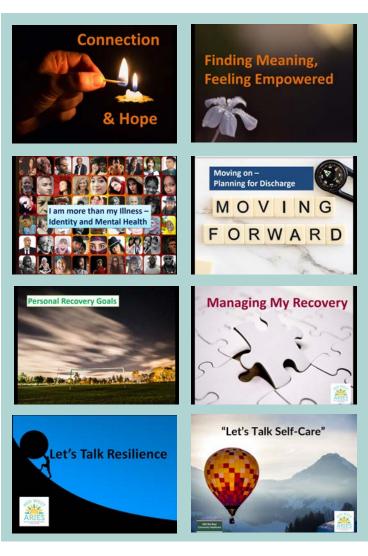


"Everybody can think more positive after this class, it has helped give me hope."

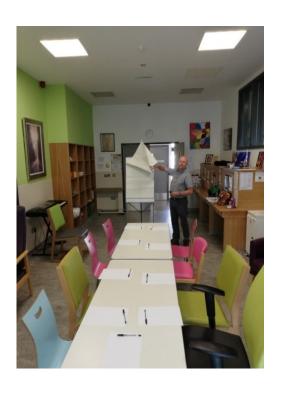
"Interesting to hear a family member perspective."

## Acute Unit Modules

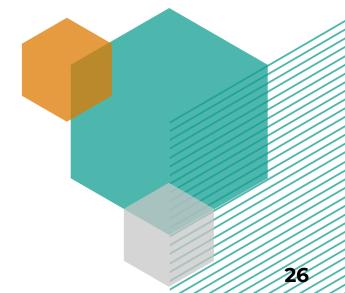
This year saw a total re-imagining of how we delivered recovery education in the Acute Units, with new colourful and engaging presentations.













# Recovery Education - 3rd Level Partnership







#### **University of Limerick**

Mid West ARIES provides recovery education to undergraduate students to introduce future mental health professionals to recovery orientated and person-centered practice. We achieve this through partnership with University of Limerick.

In spite of covid restrictions we were delighted to maintain this crucial partnership with a 22% increase in attendance on last year.





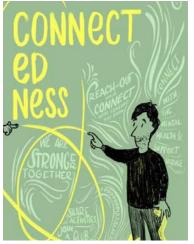




## 3rd Level Feedback



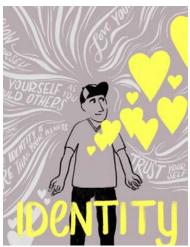
### **QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK**



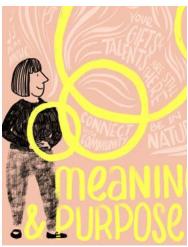
"Personal narratives really brought home message of recovery orientated practice and what impact it can have on the lives of service users."

"Excellent facilitators who clearly communicated."

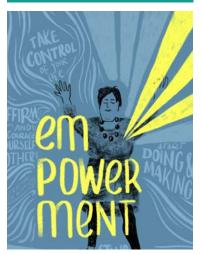




"The personal narratives were powerful illustrating important aspects of the lived experience of mental health difficulties, as well as the impact on carers, and what it is like to work within the medical model of mental health."



"I learnt very important and meaningful things about recovery process which I am going to implement in my work. Among many things - kindness and compassion."



"Understanding the recovery journey from service user and family member perspective."

"The speakers were excellent at explaining all topics."

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# Mental Health Staff Training - RPPT1







#### **Background**

In keeping with The National Framework for Recovery in Mental Health 2018-2020 (Action 4.1.3), we continue our delivery of Recovery Principles and Practice (RPP) Module One. Action 4.1.3 requires that all mental health staff are provided with Recovery Principles and Practice workshops within the two years of the Framework.

# During these workshops, we facilitate discussions about recovery principles and explore how they can fit with peoples work practices. Staff consider and share what recovery means to them. Our facilitators share their personal narratives and their experience of the recovery journey from a lived experience, family member and staff perspective.

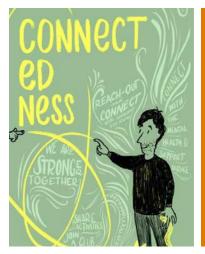
#### **A Challenging Year**

A combination of the pressures on the service brought about by Covid and the HSE cyber attack severely impacted on our ability to delivery our usual schedule of Recovery Principles & Practice Training Module One. We had a number of cancellations and could only deliver one session to mental health staff with 23 attendees. We have however re-scheduled all cancelled events and have an ambitious targeted training programme scheduled for 2021/2022.

## RPPT1 Feedback

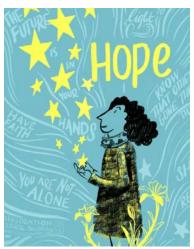


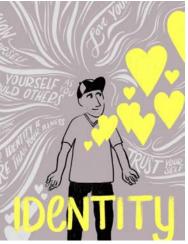
## **QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK**



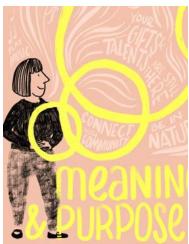
"The perspectives from the service user, family member and staff were particularly helpful to hear."

"The breakout sessions were a good opportunity to talk and share."

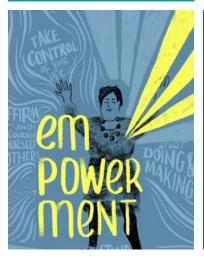




"This training was an excellent overview of recovery principles and practice. The level of engagement was very useful and the facilitators provided an environment that was friendly and encouraging."



"I thought the sharing of personal narratives really brought to life the principles of recovery in a very meaningful and tangible way."



"I found the workshop very helpful and thought provoking."

"No room for improvement, I found it excellent."

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## Development & Innovation



Moving to online delivery meant that we needed to re-imagine our modules to accommodate online learning. We reviewed all of our presentations, making them more visually appealing with the use of images, icons and simplified language.

Acute Units
Return to
Face to Face
Delivery
4 Workshops Each Week

RESPONSE TO COVID & CYBER ATTACK

19 Face to Face
Workshops

Covid restrictions had put a temporary hold on in person delivery in the Acute Units. After the HSE cyber attack in early May we were delighted to be welcomed back in to the Unit as recovery education was viewed as an essential service.



In January 2021 our team became involved in the Social Calls Project. Partnering with Mental Health Engagement Mid West ARIES Facilitators provided phone support for vulnerable, isolated people using the mental health services.



Mid West ARIES facilitators ran a Virtual Cafe every Friday morning (Jan-May 2021) in partnership with Mental Health Engagement. A mix of song, poetry, stories and craic, this popular event was provided to HSE Residents and Acute Unit in-patients.

## Development & Innovation



In January 2021 more mental health appointments were being delivered virtually. We created an online, self paced course, available 24/7 to support staff and those using the services to get the best from their virtual mental health appointment.



Finding new ways to connect with people to promote recovery education is an important development strategy. We have run 5 webinars in this period, in partnership with Mental Health Reform, Mental Health Engagement & Recovery and Mental Health Ireland.



A new development team with a wide range of multi-media and learning development skills has allowed Mid West ARIES to develop it's online video content from promotional videos to a range of guided meditations.



Podcasts are a great way to connect and learn. This year we re-branded our podcast. "The Wellness Panel" is an audio recording of our monthly webinar. Topics include Educational Pathways to Recovery to Resilience and Self Care.

## Development & Innovation

#### **New Modules**

This year we co-produced and developed 23 modules with a large number of associated multimedia resources including worksheets, handouts, videos and audio clips.











We co-produced 3 hour (for in person delivery) and 2 hour versions (for online delivery) of all 4 of the Accessing Mental Health Services Series. Plus 1 self paced online course.

13 Modules in total.





We co-produced 3
hour and 2 hour
versions of "Self Care,
Buiding My
Resiliences" and
"Exploring Self Care"
Plus 2 self paced
online courses
currently in
development.
6 Modules in total.













In addition to re-imagining all workshops for online delivery in the Acute Units, we also coproduced 4 brand new modules.

# Development & Innovation

#### New Resources

Below are a sample of the new resources we developed for our new modules, in particular the Accessing Mental Health Services Series and the Self Care Series. The resources developed for the Accessing Mental Health Services Series has been widely distributed across the mental health services.

#### **Accessing Mental Health Services Series**



#### **Self Care Series**



# Development & Innovation

### Multi Media Resources

Our development team have a strong background in elearning, instructional design and video production. As a result we have developed a number of multi-media resources which we host on our YouTube Channel and use in our workshops and webinars.

#### **Video Resources**



- Volunteer Staff Facilitator- Barriers to Self-Care
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator Self Care Tips
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator -Self Care Tips -Managing Stress
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator Self Care Tips
- Body Scan Meditation
- Mid West ARIES Staff Self Care Video Part 1
- Mid West ARIES Staff Self Care Video Part 2
- Mid West ARIES Staff Gratitude Journal Video
- Gratitude Meditation
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator Self-Care Introduction
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator Self-Care Tips
- Volunteer Staff Facilitator- Self-Care Gratitude
- Loving Kindness Meditation
- Mid West ARIES Staff -Self Care
- Mid West ARIES Staff -Self Care Part 2
- Self Care Quotes Collage
- Stretching Fitness Video
- Mid West ARIES Staff -Walking in Nature Self-Care
- Walking Meditation
- Mid West ARIES Staff Why is Self-Care Important?
- Working with Difficult Emotions Meditation
- Guided Meditation
- Webinar Edit- Barriers to Resilience
- Webinar Edit- Building on your Resilience
- Webinar Edit- What Resilience Means to You
- Mid West ARIES Staff Lockdown Tips x 1
- Mid West ARIES Staff Lockdown Tips x 2

Above are the list of multi-media resources linked to modules only. We have also produced a large number of Mid West ARIES videos for distribution on social media and for other presentations.

#### **Audio Resources**



- 5-4-3-2-1 Technique
- Body Scan Meditation
- Loving Kindness Meditation
- Gratitude Meditations x 2
- Walking Meditation
- Working with Difficult Emotions Meditation



## Social Media

### Our Goals

- To increase engagement among our stakeholders.
- To provide Information and signposting.
- To provide recovery learning resources.
- To increase awareness of recovery education in the Mid West, in particular that recovery from mental health challenges is possible.
- To build and maintain key relationships with community partners in the Mid West.
- To build an online community for those interested in recovery education.
- To promote our online and in person community courses.











Guided by our Social Media Communications Strategy we have used the various platforms to inform, engage and signpost.

We are delighted to see it's effectiveness with an increase in reach and engagement.

Recovery from mental health challenges is possible.

Mid West ARIES provides free, inclusive, transformative recovery education locally in the Mid West and nationally online. We are part of HSE Mid West Community Healthcare.

in Mental Health

#### Mid West ARIES

Elmhurst, St. Joseph's Health Campus, Mulgrave Street, Limerick Email: michael.oneill8@hse.ie | Tel. 061 461276 / 085 876 8517

HSE Mid West Community Healthcare