

ATECI

Re: Recruitment of Part-time Facilitators for a Mental Health Awareness Initiative in Primary Schools

September 2016

Dear Principal,

One of the key indicators of mental health in young people is access to *One Good Adult* and in times of need teachers are well placed to act as that One Good Adult. The Association of Teacher Education Centres in Ireland (ATECI), working in collaboration with Jigsaw has developed and rolled out an awareness raising programme on the issue of teenage mental health in Post Primary schools over the last three years. The ATECI has now decided to extend this initiative to **fifth and sixth class teachers in primary schools**. It is envisaged that this initiative will assist **Primary** schools in developing a whole-school approach in the promotion of positive mental health for all as outlined in the recent DES publication *Well – Being in Primary Schools*.

The roll-out of the initiative to schools will be facilitated by the Network of Full Time Education Centres.

Initially each Education Centre will recruit **2 primary teachers** to act as *lead facilitators* to promote and deliver the programme in their own full time Education Centre catchment area during the 2016/17 Academic term. These facilitators will be trained to deliver Mental Health Awareness training to fifth and sixth class teachers and to the parents of pupils in fifth / sixth classes.

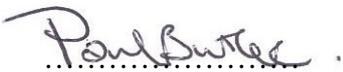
Therefore, the **Mayo Education Centre** is now seeking an expression of interest from suitably qualified teachers to train as lead facilitators. Ideally the teacher applying for this initial training will:

- have shown a particular interest in promoting positive mental health (e.g. have led work in this area in his/her school, or pursued further studies in the area, or facilitated teacher professional development (CPD) events on aspects of promoting positive mental health)
- have demonstrated a particular interest in the implementation of the SPHE curriculum framework at classroom and whole-school levels
- demonstrate a knowledge of *Well – Being in Primary Schools* (demonstrate a knowledge of current developments in the area of mental health promotion)
- demonstrate his/her openness to new ideas and information
- be a good communicator
- have proven facilitation skills
- be competent in using ICT, (e.g. PowerPoint, websites, and multi-media files)
- commit to working with Mayo Education Centre in the delivery of workshops and/or Summer Course following the facilitation training.

Please see attached an application form for interested **primary** teachers. You are invited to distribute it to any teacher in your school whom you believe would be qualified for and suited to the role as *lead facilitator* in this project. **We also welcome applications from principals.** If an application is successful a teacher will be required to attend a one day training in Athlone on Saturday 1st October 2016.

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter and apologise for the short notice for the training date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Butler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a dotted horizontal line.

Director
Mayo Education Centre