

Press Release

Weare <u>still</u> here Polio Survivors to meet in Donegal

For Immediate Release 12 April 2015

The usual reaction to mention of the Post Polio Support Group is ± thought Polio was gone?q Unfortunately, for the 7,000 Survivors of Polio, thought to live in Ireland today, while the disease is no longer being contracted by now vaccinated children, many people are living with disabilities brought on by the disease once known as infantile paralysis. Others are suffering with the late effects, or what shown as Post Polio Syndrome, impacting on mobility and causing pain and other neurological symptoms later in life.

To provide support to Survivors, the Donegal Post Polio Support Group will hold its first meeting of 2015 in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, on Saturday 18th April at 3pm. Convenor Donal K. Opoyle, who will host the meeting, is a Polio Survivor who has had an active career as a journalist and is currently on the Board of the Donegal Centre for Independent Living. Post Polio Support Group CEO, Fran Brennan will also be present at this meeting.

Polio Survivors, whether members of PPSG or not, are welcome along to meet with their fellow survivors and to discuss the issues faced by those who are living with late effects of this disorder, or who contracted the illness as a child and now live with disability or difficulties as a result. Family and friends are equally welcome.

About the Post Polio Support Group

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. We are the only organisation in Ireland providing practical support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children.

We provide stair lifts, callipers, bespoke footwear, electric scooters and wheelchairs. We also help Survivors access Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Respite Breaks, and we help those who need it with assistance with their heating bills. The group works to raise awareness, provide information on Polio and its late effects and to ensure Polio Survivors can live with dignity.

For further information contact:

Emma Clarke Conway, Development Officer, <u>DO@ppsg.ie</u> or 087 2981944 Donal K. Oфoyle, Convenor & Polio Survivor, <u>donalkoboyle@eircom.net</u> or 087 6172112

Post Polio Support Group, Unit 319, Capel Buildings, Maryos Abbey, Dublin 7, 01 8898920.