



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**CAVAN INSTITUTE**

**DROGHEDA INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

**DUNBOYNE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

**DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**MONAGHAN INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION &  
TRAINING**

**AND**

**O FIAICH INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

## **1. The Parties**

The North East Further and Higher Education Alliance (NEFHEA) is an agreement of the following parties:

### **(a) Cavan Institute**

Cavan Institute is an Institute of Further Education of excellence, in which staff and learners can achieve their potential in a collaborative, friendly, progressive and responsive environment.

and

### **(b) Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE)**

The College is dedicated solely to the provision of Post Leaving Certificate/Further Education Courses. Their aim is to provide the highest quality in education and training by offering excellent courses in a supportive environment. Thus the students are motivated and enabled to achieve their full potential.

and

### **(c) Dunboyne College of Further Education**

Dunboyne College of Further Education is a well-established College of Further Education providing full-time courses at FETAC level 5. The College operates under the authority of County Meath Vocational Education Committee which operates second level and further education opportunities in the County Meath area.

and

### **(d) Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT)**

Dundalk Institute of Technology is a higher level educational institution in the North East of Ireland. Its role is to provide the community with quality third level education and services, relevant to the economic, social and cultural development of the region in the national and international context.

and

### **(e) Monaghan Institute of Further Education & Training (MIFET)**

Monaghan Institute's mission is to provide high quality education & training to all learners in an open, inclusive and supportive environment. Our courses aim to improve the employment and progression prospects of students, while meeting the needs of enterprise, in particular the local economy.

and

## **(f) O Fiaich Institute of Further Education**

O'Fiaich Institute of Higher Education is a modern and progressive educational establishment whose staff are totally committed to offering the best possible educational service and training facilities available to all its students. The courses offered are relevant, highly skilled and innovative.

### **2. Terms of Agreement**

The parties recognise the significant set of shared values, missions, goals and constituencies of their organisations. The parties agree to cooperatively develop plans and implement programs and services to support our community and constituencies.

This Memorandum of Understanding articulates the commitments that the parties will make to work cooperatively as set out in section 5.

It is also agreed that each year the parties will review the operation of this agreement against the measures outlined at 5 below and revise the specific collaborative activities and commitments for the upcoming year in line with the outcomes of the review.

### **3. Nature of Agreement**

This Memorandum of Understanding is not a contract, as the parties do not intend to create a legally binding agreement at this stage. It is anticipated that as a result of the alliance greater levels of co-operation and support will develop between the member institutions.

### **4. Values**

The values of the North East Further and Higher Education Alliance (NEFHEA) are:

- Spirit of partnership/co-operation (mutually supportive) to underpin the work
- Progression/welfare of the students should be central and govern all we do
- Try to work towards consensus. Look for compromise/adjustments where conflict may arise e.g. in Working Groups.

### **5. Areas of Collaboration**

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree the following:

- To promote access, transfer and progression between further and higher education in the North East Region
- Increase progression from Further Education Colleges to Dundalk Institute of Technology

- Identify expertise & supports that could be shared between Further and Higher Education Institutions that support student learning, retention and progression. This would include learner assessment, targeted learning support, shared services such as ICT, Library & E-Learning
- Develop collaboratively a Pre Entry to College Module.

In order to progress its intentions there are a number of sub-groups in operation. These include:

- Access Sub Group
- Business/Sport
- IT
- Caring Group
- Engineering and Service.

## **6. Implementation of the Agreement**

In order to implement this agreement an Inter Institutional Steering Committee will be established by the partners. Each partner will nominate members to this Committee and the Committee will draft its own terms of reference to enable this agreement to be implemented. The Forum will meet regularly and over the first year will discuss and develop its programme of activity in the areas of:

- Course Development
- Improving access and transfer arrangements
- Mutual exchange of ideas in a broad range of disciplines
- Developing a range of learner and teacher supports.

An annual report on the operation of the agreement to inform the annual review and make any necessary recommendations for the upcoming year as prescribed at 2 above will be prepared.

7. Approval

Signed on behalf of Cavan Institute

Director Ann Marie Lacey

Date 25/11/2008

Signed on behalf of Drogheda Institute of Further Education

Director David M. Connelley

Date 25/11/08

Signed on behalf of Dunboyne College of Further Education

Director Martin Lacey

Date 25/11/08

Signed on behalf of Dundalk Institute of Technology

President Denis Cunningham

Date 25/11/08

Signed on behalf of Monaghan Institute of Further Education & Training

Director Frankie McGath

Date 25/11/08

Signed on behalf of O Fiaich Institute of Further Education

Director Patrick McKeown

Date 25 November 2008