National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign

Phase three: September 2018

Summary and evaluation report



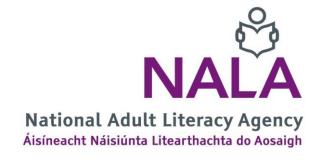














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About this report

This report is a summary and an evaluation of **phase three** of the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign which happened in September 2018. The report should be read in conjunction with the summary and evaluation of the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign phase one (September 2016¹) and phase two (September 2017²).

The National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign was funded by SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority of Ireland, and it was managed by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

Adult Literacy is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

The research in this report was completed by Coyne Research, an independent market research agency.

¹ SOLAS and NALA (2016), National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign: September 2016 Summary and Evaluation, Dublin.

² SOLAS and NALA (2017), National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign: September 2017 Summary and Evaluation, Dublin.

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Campaign ambassadors launch 'Take the first step', the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign ahead of International Literacy Day, 7 September 2018. Pictured L to R: Sinead Moriarty, Author; Eamon Delaney, Tipperary ETB learner; Catherine Devlin, Donegal ETB learner and Charlie Bird, Journalist.

Introduction and background information to this report

In September 2016, **SOLAS**, the Further Education and Training Authority in Ireland, funded a **national adult literacy and numeracy awareness campaign** to encourage those with literacy and numeracy difficulties to improve their skills.

The campaign was a key action in Ireland's **Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2014 – 2019** which sets out to meet the training needs of Ireland's labour market and society.

The campaign was managed by the **National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)** and it was supported by a range of stakeholders via a national steering committee.

The campaign included national and regional radio advertising, video and digital advertising, outdoor advertising, posters, leaflets and public relations activity.

An independent evaluation showed that the campaign performed strongly across a range of awareness raising metrics and made a number of **recommendations**.

In **September 2017**, SOLAS funded a **second phase** of the national adult literacy and numeracy awareness campaign which incorporated the recommendations. An independent evaluation showed that the 2017 campaign also performed strongly across a range of metrics and set out some new **recommendations**.

In **September 2018**, SOLAS funded a **third phase** of the national adult literacy and numeracy awareness campaign which incorporated the recommendations. This report is **a summary and an evaluation** of the third phase of the campaign. It is divided into three chapters as follows:

- 1. **Chapter one** provides a summary of the third phase of the campaign.
- 2. **Chapter two** provides the findings from an evaluation of the campaign.
- 3. Chapter three provides key insights and recommendations for future campaigns.

Executive summary

Overview of phase three of the awareness campaign

- Phase three of the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign was launched ahead of International Literacy Day, 7 September 2018.
- The awareness campaign was similar to phase one (September 2016) and phase two (September 2017) of the campaign. It was called 'Take the first step' and included national and regional radio advertising, video, digital and outdoor advertising as well as print and public relations (PR) activity. The awareness campaign promoted individuals who had addressed their literacy difficulty with the objective of encouraging others to reap the rewards by doing the same.
- There were a number of recommendations from the evaluation of the first and second phase of the campaign that were incorporated into the third phase such as the promotion of local ETB services and increasing awareness among younger people, including more TV (video), and improving the system for recording calls locally.
- All national advertising and PR activity encouraged those interested in improving their basic skills to contact a national Freephone and website. All regional activity encouraged people to contact local ETB adult literacy services and promoted local contact phone numbers.

Initial response to the campaign

- NALA provided information to about 600 individuals who phoned and wanted information about improving their literacy and numeracy skills. This is almost a three-fold increase in calls from the first phase of the campaign in 2016.
- The spilt of callers was about 60% female and 40% male callers, and each person was given details of their local ETB adult literacy service.
- When callers where asked 'Where did you hear about us?' Radio was the primary source of awareness, followed by events, online and word of mouth.
- There was a significant increase to the main campaign website takethefirststep.ie with 110% increase in sessions and 87% increase in users, during the campaign.
- Nine ETBs recorded they had received between 10 and 20 calls on foot of the national campaign.

Campaign evaluation

- An evaluation of the campaign showed that 38% of the total population recall the campaign, which is up from 34% in 2016. The biggest increases in awareness since last year are amongst younger cohorts (under 35s) and those experiencing literacy or numeracy difficulties. Amongst those experiencing difficulties, circa 3 in 4 (75%) recall the campaign.
- Across different media channels, the campaign registers the highest recall on radio (28%), followed by Online (21%) and Outdoor (18%). While recall of the campaign continues to be driven mainly by radio, recall of the online execution has increased significantly versus 2017 and 2016.
- Of those who recall the campaign, 89% of people consider it effective in encouraging people to consider seeking help which is similar to last year.
- Over half of the total population (51%) are aware that courses are available locally and free of charge, rising over 2 in 3 (69%) amongst those who had been exposed to the 'Take the First Step' campaign.
- Similar to the previous years, awareness in general increases with age from 40% of 18-24 year olds to 61% of 65+ year olds, highlighting the campaign's greater salience and impact with older age cohorts. However this year the greatest increase in awareness is among 18-24 year olds, an increase of 11% from the previous two years.

Recommendation

- A recommendation would be to repeat the campaign with higher media weight behind it, given the evidence to indicate that the campaign is effective for those exposed to it.
- Consideration should be given to how TV advertising could be supported in future campaigns to maximise impact and awareness.
- There is an opportunity to develop new campaign assets to promote a range of people and different scenarios so as to appeal to a greater cohort of the public.
- ETBs would like more localised awareness and promotion of literacy services and some suggested a number of regional campaigns rather than an annual campaign as September a particularly busy time of year.



Roisin Doherty and Ivica Milicevic, SOLAS with learners Catherine Devlin, Donegal ETB and Eamon Delaney, Tipperary ETB, and Siobhan McEntee, ETB Ireland at the launch of the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign, 7 September 2018.

Chapter one

Overview of phase three of the awareness campaign

1. Overview of phase three of the awareness campaign

This chapter summarises the third phase of the national adult literacy and numeracy awareness campaign that happened in September 2018.

1.1 National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign

Phase three of the National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign was launched on Friday 7 September 2018, one day ahead of International Literacy Day. It was launched at a photocall before a conference in Dublin called Literacy Matters: challenges and solutions for communicating effectively.

The creative approach and implementation of the third phase of the campaign was similar to first and second phase that happened in September 2016 and 2017 as the evaluation had shown that it performed strongly in terms of recall, reach, awareness and attitudes and no changes were recommended³.

The campaign used advertising and public relations activity to promote four individuals who had addressed their literacy difficulties with the objective of encouraging others to reap the rewards by doing the same. The content and message of each individual's story focused on the benefits of returning to education, as well as demonstrating that the service was free.

The campaign ran for three weeks and included national and regional radio, video, digital, print and outdoor advertising as well as a public relations (PR) activity.

All national advertising and PR activity encouraged those interested in improving their basic skills to 'Take the first step' by calling Freephone 1800 20 20 65, Text LEARN to 50050 or log onto takethefirststep.ie. Once they called or texted, NALA put them in contact with their local ETB Adult Education Centre or told them about other free services that would help them meet their needs. Regional advertising and PR encouraged people to contact local ETB adult education services for information.

³ SOLAS and NALA (2016), National Adult Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign: September 2016 Summary and Evaluation, Dublin.

1.2 Incorporation of recommendations from 2016 and 2017 campaign

There were a number of recommendations from the evaluation of the previous campaigns that were incorporated into the third phase in 2018, such as:

- the promotion of local ETB services,
- raising awareness amongst younger people,
- including more TV (video), and
- improving the system for recording calls locally.

There were two recommendations that could not be implemented as there was no additional funding to pay for them. These recommendations were to:

- repeat the campaign with a higher media spend, and
- include TV advertising to increase awareness.

EU branding

In June 2018, NALA was asked by European Social Fund Management Authority to include ESF and ESIF logos on all **new campaign assets**, and to use the strapline 'Adult Literacy is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020'. NALA implemented this when re-recording the outros for regional radio adverts, in new regional videos, local posters and outdoor print, the campaign website, as well as press and publicity information.

1.2.1 Promotion of local ETB services

One of the recommendations from the evaluation of the first phase of the campaign was **to emphasise the availability of local ETB adult education services.** In 2017, NALA recorded and broadcast six regional radio advertisements and offered ETBs posters and PR to promote local ETB services. In 2018, to build on this recommendation, NALA produced and broadcast five new regional videos to promote local services, as well as using regional radio, posters and PR.

a) Regional video campaign promoting local learners and ETBs *New*

NALA produced five new videos promoting local learners and ETBs in Tipperary, Carlow, Waterford, Cavan and Dublin. Each video featured learners in their home town talking about how going back to education has benefited them. The videos showed them going about their daily routines in their local communities – working, volunteering, doing hobbies and attending their local ETB adult education centre. The videos showed how these individuals had gained more confidence and were able to do more with their life since improving their literacy and numeracy skills. It also provided an opportunity to use local voices, accents and locations so that viewers would be able to identify the local ETB service.

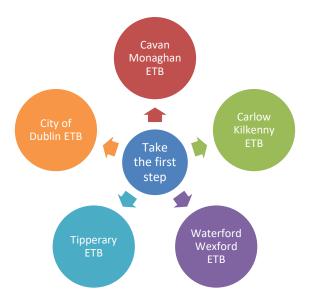
NALA produced two versions of each video:

- 1½ minute version that ETBs could promote and use at local events, and
- 1 minute version that could be promoted across social media platforms.

NALA also produced two end-frames with different call-to-actions for each video:

- local ETB name and phone number for use by the ETB and digital marketing geo-targeted at specific locations, and
- national Freephone number for use in national digital marketing to maximise engagement and views.

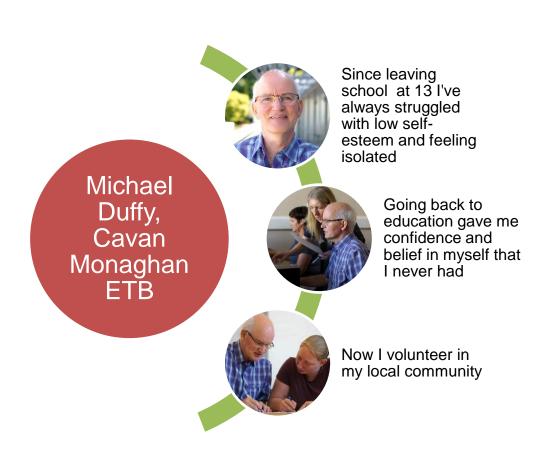
The regions and ETBs that were promoted were:



Learners who took part in the videos and themes they discussed

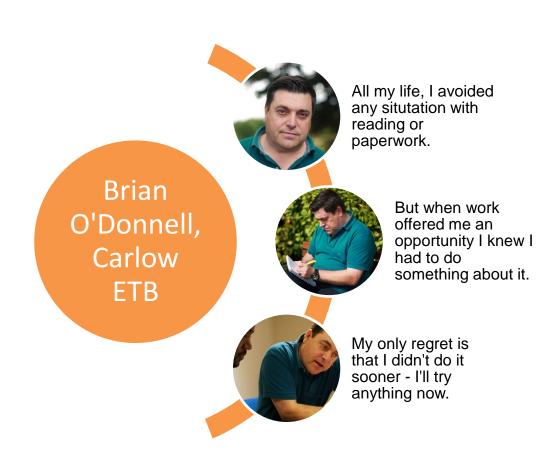
Michael Duffy - health and wellbeing

Many people with literacy difficulties feel isolated and unable to participate in society. In this video, Michael talks about how returning to education gave him the confidence to volunteer in this local community.



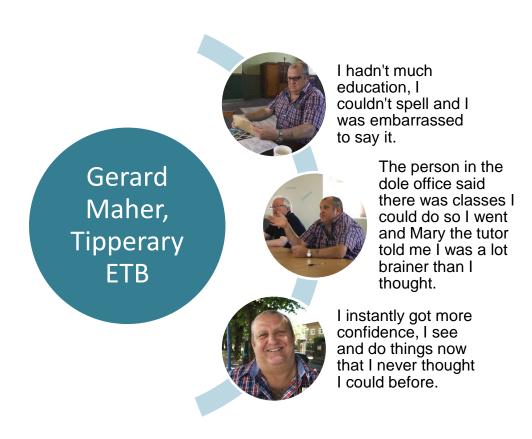
Brian O'Donnell – work and personal fulfilment

Sometimes people miss out on work or training opportunities because they are worried about their literacy skills and not being able to do written work. In this video, Brain explains how adult education has given him belief and confidence in himself to do a course for work that he never thought possible – he's only sorry he didn't give it a go earlier.



Gerard Maher – confidence

Often people feel too embarrassed to return to learning and go to great extremes to hide their difficulties from their friends and family. In this video Gerard explains how going back to education gave him more confidence to do things he never thought possible, like meeting the president in Áras an Úactaráin.



Robert Shannon – family

Every parent wants the best for their children but for those with literacy difficulties it can prove difficult. In this video, Robert, along with other students in Colaiste Dhulaigh City of Dublin ETB, talks about how returning to education gave him the skills to be able to help his kids with their homework.



Maurice Samon – upskilling for work and personal fulfilment

Many people feel left behind when they don't have good literacy skills. In this video Maurice explains how he left jobs because he couldn't read and write but within nine months of attending classes he was reading books and is now in a writer's group. He's also done my first test so that he can fit fireplaces and stoves which has given him a great feeling of pride and confidence.



b) Regional radio advertisements

Similar to our approach in 2017, NALA re-broadcast six local radio advertisements produced in 2017 that promoted local ETB services and phone numbers.

The **six local radio advertisements** were 40 second interview style vox-pop with about three students from each ETB talking about how going back to education had benefited them. This provides an opportunity to use local voices and accents to promote local ETB services. Each radio advert ended with details of the local ETB phone number to contact for further information on courses.

New

NALA received feedback from ETBs that the local phone number was difficult to understand and it would be useful to promote computer skills. NALA re-recorded the outros for many of the adverts so that the number would be stated twice and added computer skills. NALA also included the line 'Supported by the European Social Fund' in this re-recording.

The radio stations, regions and ETBs that were promoted were:

- FM104 in Dublin CDETB
- 96FM in Cork CETB
- 95FM in Limerick LETB
- LMFM in Louth LMETB
- Galway Bay FM in Galway GRETB
- WLRFM in Waterford WWETB

Sample intro:

All over Ireland lots of people are returning to education to improve their reading, writing, maths and computer skills. Here's what some of them have to say (followed by student vox pops)

Sample outro:

For information on free courses, contact Galway Roscommon ETB on 091 847 850, that's 091 847 850 or go to takethefirststep.ie. Supported by European Social Fund, SOLAS and NALA.

c) Posters with local ETB contact details

Similar to the first phase of the campaign, NALA offered all ETBs and Adult Literacy Centres or Services bespoke posters with local contact phone numbers, websites and corresponding ETB logos.

- Seventy five centres ordered bespoke posters (with local contact details).
- Sixty nine centres ordered generic posters (with national contact details).

d) Regional events and PR

In September, special events were held by Tipperary ETB, Kilkenny and Carlow ETB and Cavan and Monaghan ETB to celebrate the learners who took part in NALA's Take the first step videos.

Tipperary ETB

On Tuesday 11 September an open day was held in the Adult Education Centre in Clonmel. At the event the video featuring local learner Gerard Maher was shown to visitors and students. The open day was attended by over 30 people and resulted in several new people signing-up for initial assessments for classes at the centre.

Kilkenny and Carlow ETB

On Friday 14 September a special Digital Storytelling event was held in Carlow Adult Learning Centre. As part of this event, the Take the first step video featuring local learner Brian O'Donnell was shown to 25 students and visitors to the centre.

Cavan and Monaghan ETB

On Monday 24 September Michael Duffy was a guest speaker at an awards night for hundreds of adult learners in Cavan. Michael's Take the first step video was also shown at the event.

1.2.2 Raising awareness of services among younger cohorts

A recommendation from the evaluation of the first phase of the campaign was that there was room for improvement for raising awareness of services among younger cohorts. To achieve this, NALA arranged through its partnership with Urban Media, a radio and online media agency, to promote the story of CDETB student Robert Shannon, who is in his 30's, talking about the benefits of returning to education, on several radio station websites. This was accompanied by digital display and a tutor interview shared on all radio stations' social media.

During the September 2018 campaign, NALA also invested in a digital marketing campaign to support the promotion of services among younger cohorts.





One young man is changing his life for the better and it's incredibly inspiring.

While many people can find the idea of going back to education a daunting one, the pay-off is absolutely massive.

Dublin man Robert, from Coolock, is living proof of this after he decided to take the leap.

Robert is currently attending classes at Colaiste Dhulaigh FE College, which is part of the City of Dublin ETB. While opening up about why he decided to return to education he said:

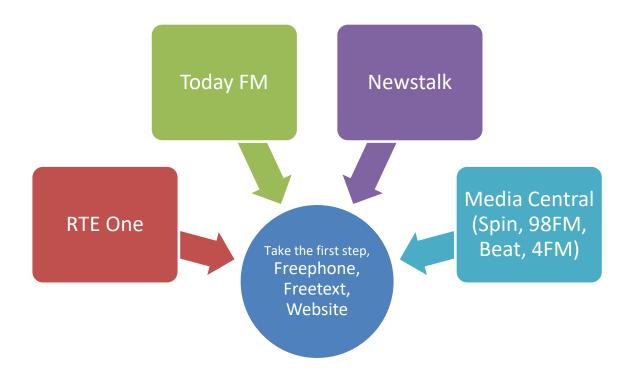
"I'd been out looking for work and obviously I can't get anywhere because I haven't got any qualifications, after leaving school at a young age, so I came here to get my qualifications. I couldn't read or write, so I wanted to brush up on that."

1.3 Integrated campaign approach

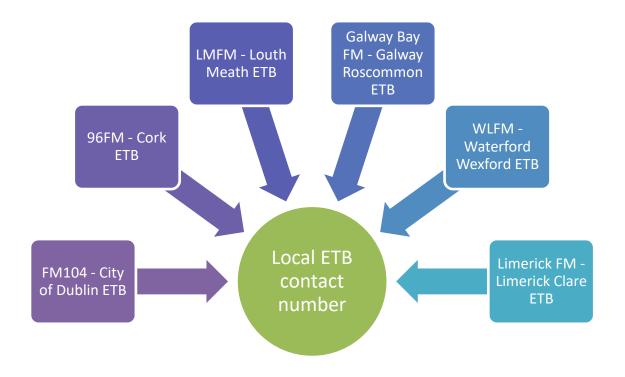
Similar to phase one and two of the campaign, an integrated campaign approach was chosen that included radio, digital and outdoor advertising aimed specifically at reaching the target audience, that is, individuals with literacy and or numeracy difficulties. This was supplemented with printed materials disseminated locally, PR and other awareness activity to augment the campaign and increase awareness.



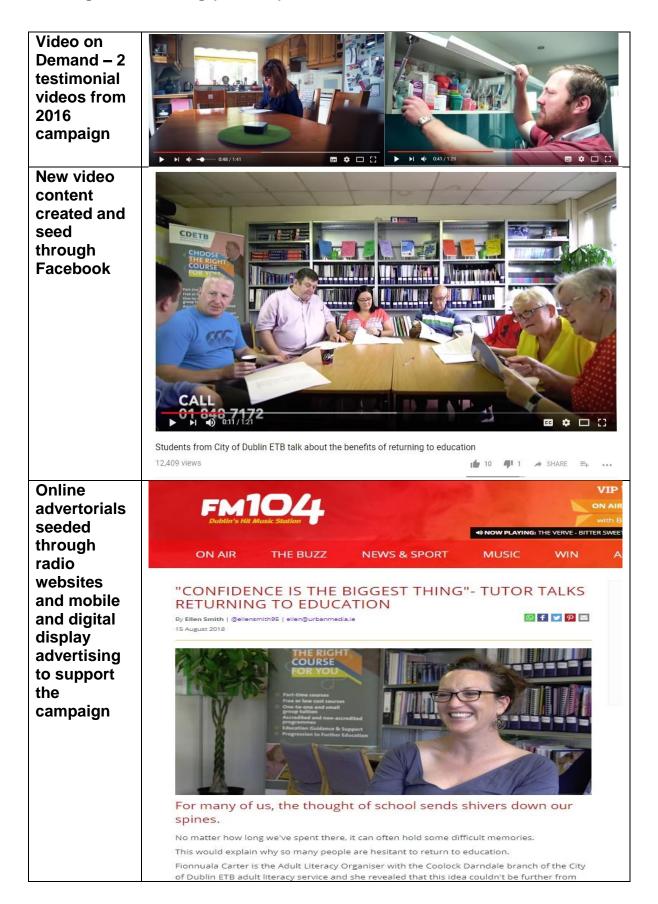
1.3.1 National radio advertising promoting Freephone and freetext (3 weeks)



1.3.2 Regional radio advertising promoting ETB adult literacy service (3 weeks)



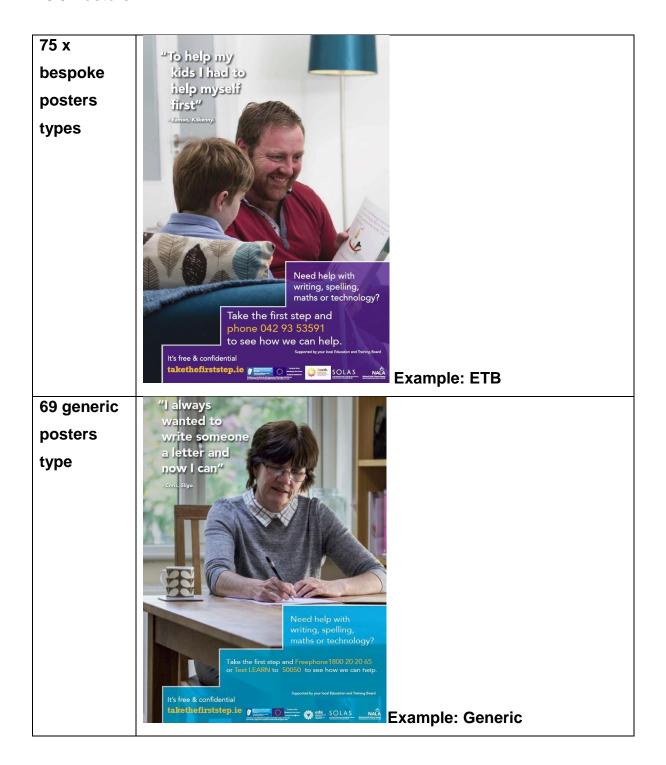
1.3.3 Digital advertising (4 weeks)



1.3.4 Outdoor advertising (2 weeks)



1.3.5 Posters



1.3.6 National PR and media coverage – the highlights

Date Activity Friday 7 September Literacy **Matters** Literacy Day 2018 **EUROPEAN UNION** Investing in Your Future **European Social Fund** NALA organised a conference to mark the start of National Adult Literacy Awareness Week and the launch of the SOLAS funded 'Take the first step' campaign. The conference was called 'Literacy Matters' and showed that organisations that are aware of literacy issues are more effective in meeting both the needs of the public and business. There were a host of interesting speakers including the Attorney General Seamus Wolfe (pictured next page) with Roisin Doherty, SOLAS, Sinead Moriarty and Charlie Bird, Campaign ambassadors, and Inez Bailey, NALA.



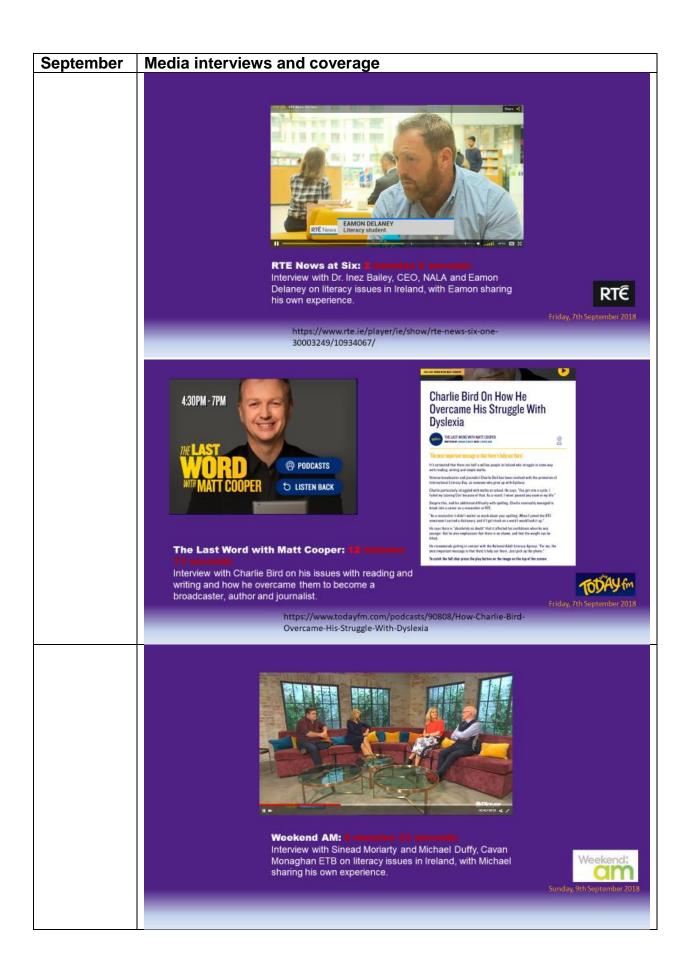
Speakers and topics:

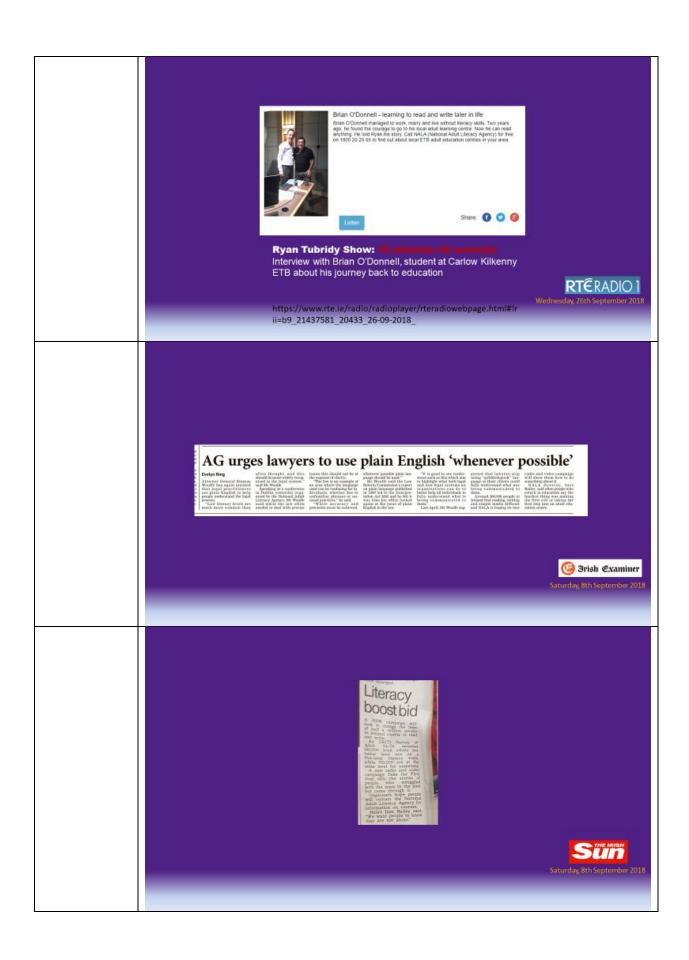
- Introduction: Conor Pope, Author and Consumer Affairs correspondent, The Irish Times
- Literacy levels in Ireland their impact on individuals, society and the economy: Dr Inez Bailey, Chief Executive, National Adult Literacy Agency
- The personal consequences: Eamon Delaney, Adult Literacy Student, Tipperary Education and Training Board (ETB)
- · Plain English and the law: Attorney General, Séamus Woulfe
- Understanding and responding to patients' information needs:
 Sarah Lane and Tara Droog, Cancer Information Editors, Irish
 Cancer Society
- GDPR and the public, making the complicated accessible: MB Donnelly, Head of GDPR Awareness and Training, Assistant Commissioner, Data Protection Commission, Ireland
- Integrating literacy into apprenticeship programmes, workplace training and taster programmes for the unemployed: Joann Power, Adult Literacy Organiser, Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board
- How document design can support people who struggle with reading: Rob Waller, Simplification Centre, UK
- Communications: A bridge or a barrier? Jennifer Hanrahan, Senior Investigator, Office of the Ombudsman

Free workshops from 1.30pm

- 1. Writing clearly for the web
- 2. Plain English editing and writing
- 3. How to be a literacy friendly organisation

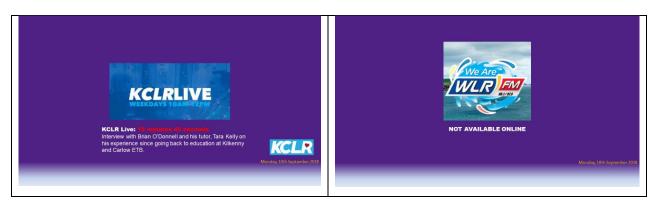
3.00 Close







1.3.7 Regional media coverage – highlights





1.3.8 Attendance at events

18 – 21 September

National Ploughing Championships and other shows



Learner Ambassadors attended the National Ploughing Championships in Scregan, Tullamore and raised regional awareness of the benefits of adult education and local ETB services, with the farming community.

Students also attended the Virginia Show at the end of August to promote adult education.

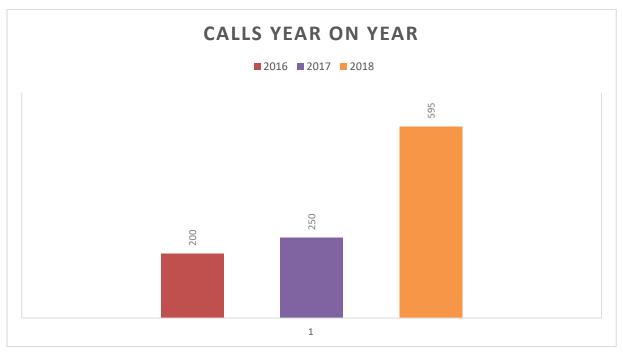
Intreo offices

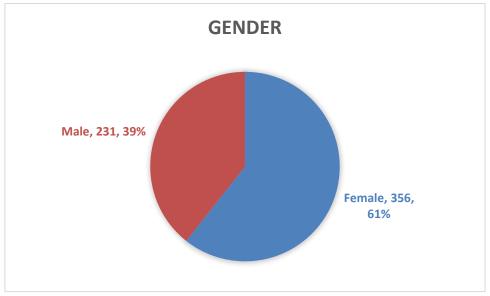
The Department of Employment and Social Protection, who are members the campaign awareness raising steering committee, arranged for NALA staff to attend busy signing-on days in Intreo offices in Balbriggan and Blanchardstown, and talk to DEASP clients about adult education opportunities in their area. This helped to raise awareness of literacy and numeracy services locally.

1.4 Initial response to the campaign

1.4.1 Freephone calls

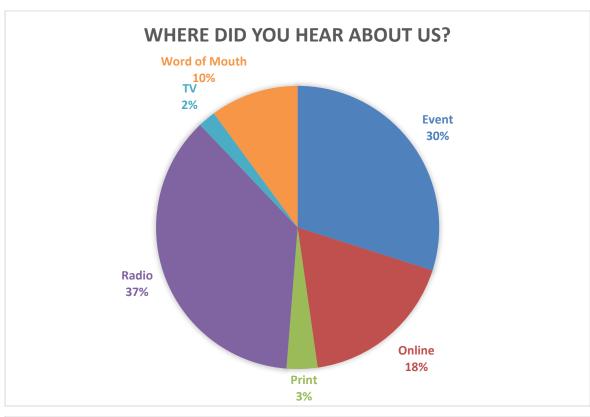
Following the third phase of the campaign NALA provided information to **595 individuals** who wanted information about improving their literacy and numeracy skills. This is nearly a threefold increase in calls from the first phase of the campaign in 2016 when there were 200 calls. It can be divided 61% female and 39% male.

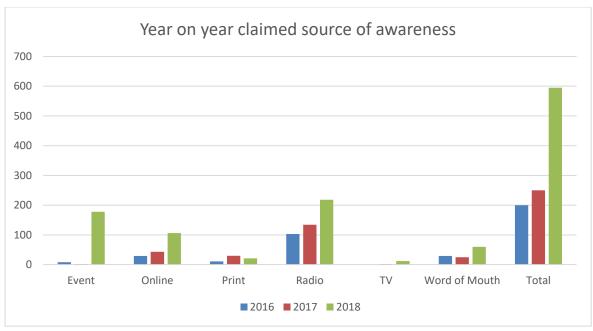




1.4.2 Freephone calls and claimed source of awareness

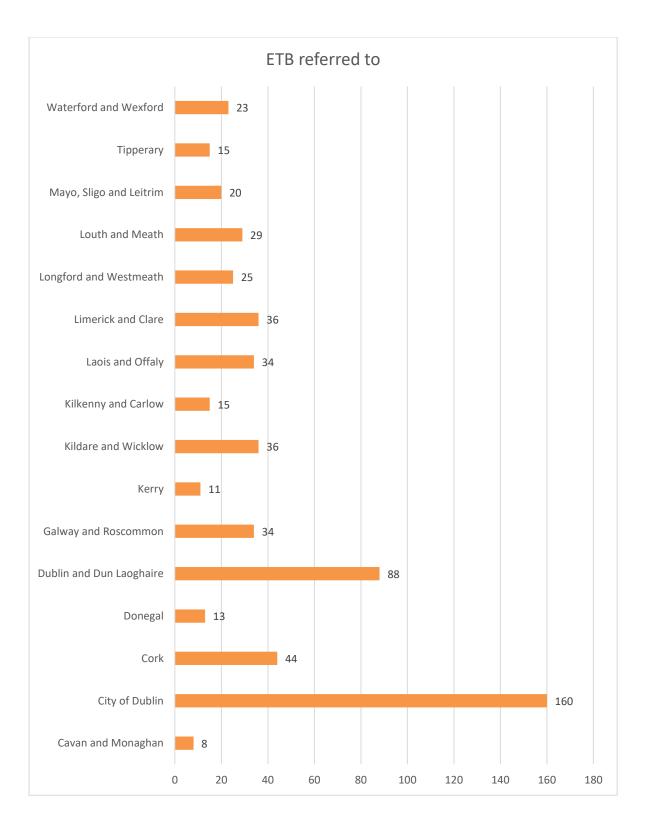
In the third phase of the campaign when callers where asked 'Where did you hear about us?' Radio remained the primary claimed source of awareness amongst those given information, followed by events, online, word of mouth and print.





1.4.3 Freephone campaign referrals

The chart below shows the number of responses where callers were given details for centres by ETB: activity is predominant in the Dublin area. Other significant areas of call origin are Cork, Waterford, Galway, Kildare Wicklow and Limerick.



1.4.4 Website traffic

Following the third phase of the campaign in September 2018 there was a significant increase to the main campaign website takethefirststep.ie as follows:

- 19,000 sessions on takethefirststep.ie (110% increase from 2016)
- 42,000 page views on takethefirststep.ie (236% increase from 2016)
- 15,000 users on takethefirstsep.ie (87% increase from 2016)

1.4.5 Calls and enquiries recorded by ETB adult literacy centres

The evaluation of the previous campaigns recommended improving the system for recording calls locally. To achieve this, Education and Training Boards Ireland agreed to collect this data (calls and enquiries recorded) from 16 ETBs.

A questionnaire was designed by ETBI to gather information from each ETB on their awareness of the national campaign, the effectiveness of the campaign in their area, enquiries and/or referrals on foot of national and local awareness raising.

Below is a summary of information received by NALA from the ETBI. This information is based on data received by the ETBI as there is no centralised system for recording calls nationally.

Feedback from ETB questionnaires:

The questionnaire was sent to all 16 ETBs and there was a response rate of 87% (14 ETBs)

- All but one of the ETBs was aware of the campaign.
- Seven of the ETBs who responded has collaborated with NALA on promotion, for example, radio Interviews and producing local videos
- 12 ETBs carried out local promotion in additional to the national campaign
- 8 ETBs had a designated person to answer calls. All staff asked callers how they heard of the service and the information was recorded

- Calls on foot of the National Campaign
 - 1. 9 ETBs recorded they had received between 10 and 20 calls on foot of the national campaign
 - 2. 1 ETB recorded less than 10 on foot of national campaign
 - 3. 2 ETBs recorded no calls on foot of national campaign
 - 4. 1 ETB couldn't quantify
 - 5. 1 ETB had not collated and would forward at a later date
- Calls on foot of referrals from NALA
 - 1 ETB recoded 4 referrals from students and 2 for Volunteer Tutor
 Training
 - 2. 1 ETB recorded 3 referrals from NALA
 - 3. 3 ETBs recorded 1 referral from NALA
- Most effective promotion methods: ETBs varied in what was most effective for them and included parish Bulletins, Local referral agencies as other effective methods than those stated on the questionnaire
- Improvements to Campaign:
 - 1. More localised promotion of ETB literacy services and programmes
 - 2. More recognition of ETBs as main provider of literacy services
 - 3. Regular articles in national papers
 - 4. Include local details on promotion materials

Other Comments

Overall the response to the Literacy Awareness Campaign was positive with the majority of ETBs reporting it was a very good campaign. In particular Learner Stories are a very effective method of promotion as are television and radio. ETBs would like more localised awareness and promotion of literacy services.

Awareness raising campaign in September can cause some difficulties for ETBs as it is a particularly busy time of year and some suggested a number of regional campaigns rather than an annual campaign. Some have suggested January or June as alternative times.



Robert Shannon, student and Fionnuala Carter tutor at Colaiste Dhulaigh City of Dubin ETB both took part in the new local awareness videos that were promoted on social and digital media as part of the Take the first step campaign in 2018.

Chapter two

Campaign evaluation

2. Campaign evaluation

This section provides details on quantitative research that was done to provide an evaluation of the 2018 National Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Campaign.

2.1 Quantitative research – post campaign national survey

The quantitative research was designed to provide an evaluation of the third phase of the campaign (September 2018) compared to first phase and second of the campaign (September 2016 and 2017). The research evaluated awareness levels related to the campaign objectives and how the campaign rated on a number of key advertising metrics by a nationally representative sample.

(Please note that in some of the following pages, reference is made to research findings from August 2016. This research was done before the campaign existed in order to provide baseline data to compare the September 2016 campaign research against.)

- Pre campaign research to establish baseline data August 2016
- Phase 1 post 2016 campaign quantitative research October 2016
- Phase 2 post 2017 campaign quantitative research October 2017
- Phase 3 post 2018 campaign quantitative research October 2018

2.2 Methodology - Nationally Representative Sample of Irish adults aged 18+.

- Questions were included on the Coyne Research Omnibus survey consisting of 1000 online interviews with adults aged 18+.
- The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.2%.
- Quotas were set in terms of age, gender, region and social class in order to ensure that a nationally representative online sample was achieved.
- One third of the total population either have or know someone with literacy or numeracy difficulties. Incidence of having or knowing someone with difficulties is highest amongst younger age cohorts and those living in Dublin.
- The research was done between the 24 and 28 of September 2018.



Profile of Sample - Demographics



Quotas were set on age, gender, and region to ensure the sample was representative of the national population.

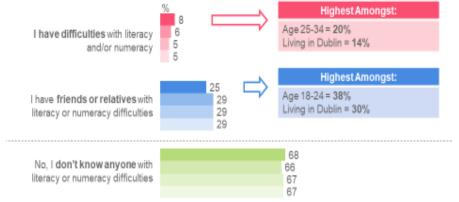


Q.A/B/C



Incidence of Having/Knowing Someone With Literacy/Numeracy Difficulties





One third of the total population either have or know someone with literacy or numeracy difficulties. Incidence of having or knowing someone with difficulties is highest amongst younger age cohorts and those living in Dublin.

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Q.S

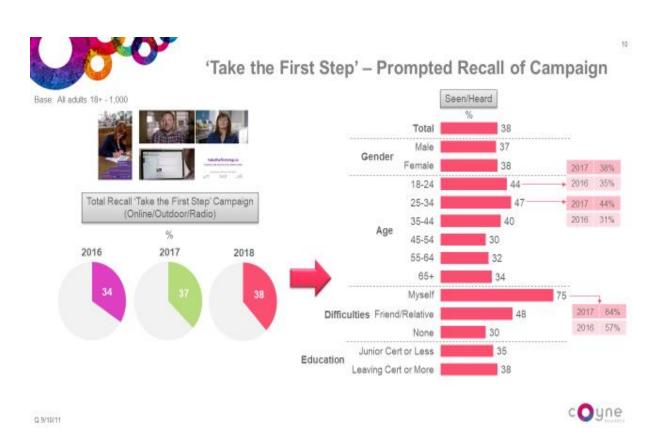
2.3 Summary findings

- The reach of the 'Take the First Step' campaign remains impressively high.
 Amongst the adult population, 38% recall some element of the campaign (radio, online or outdoor).
- Radio is still responsible for the highest proportion of recall. 28% of the adult population recall the radio campaign – in line with September 2017.
- However, recall of the online executions has increased since last year, to 21%.
- Encouragingly, recall of the campaign amongst the key cohort has grown year-on-year since the first wave in 2016. Amongst those who have difficulties with literacy or numeracy, 75% recall the campaign, compared to 64% and 57% in 2017 and 2016 respectively.
- The campaign is widely considered effective in encouraging people to seek help. Amongst those who have been exposed the campaign, 9 in 10 (89%) believe it is effective at encouraging people to consider seeking help for literacy, numeracy and basic technology problems.
- In general, awareness of VEC/ ETB Adult Education Centres appears to have increased. The proportion citing "VEC/ Educational Training Board" as the place to go for help with literacy, numeracy or technology skills has increased since last year.
- The proportion of adults aware that free courses are available in local VEC/ ETB Adult Education Centres has increased from 47% to 51%.

2.4 Recall of the 'Take the first step' campaign

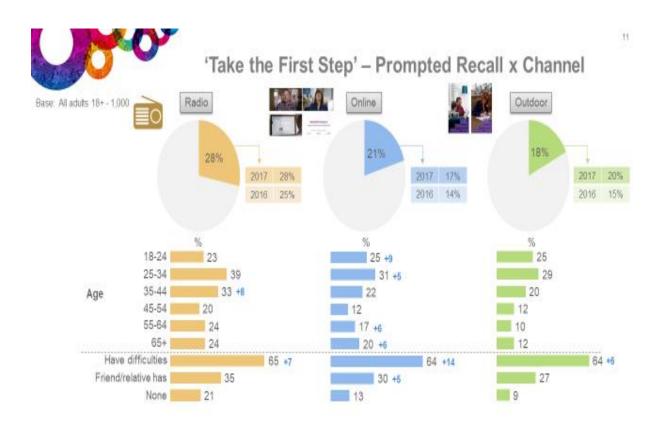
- Prompted awareness of the 'Take the First Campaign' remains in line with last year. Almost 2 in 5 (38%) Irish adults recall at least one element of the campaign

 up from 34% in 2016.
- The biggest increases in awareness since last year are amongst younger cohorts (under 35 year olds) and those experiencing literacy or numeracy difficulties.
- Amongst those experiencing literacy or numeracy difficulties, about 3 in 4 (75%)
 recall the campaign.



2.5 Recall of the campaign by channel (radio, outdoor and online)

- Across different media channels, the campaign registers the highest recall on radio (28%), followed by Online (21%) and Outdoor (18%).
- While recall of the campaign continues to be driven mainly by radio, recall of the online execution has increased significantly versus 2017 and 2016.
- Online shows a clear uplift amongst 18-34 year olds, as well as over 55 year olds.
- Recall has increased significantly across all channels amongst those who are experiencing literacy and numeracy difficulties themselves.

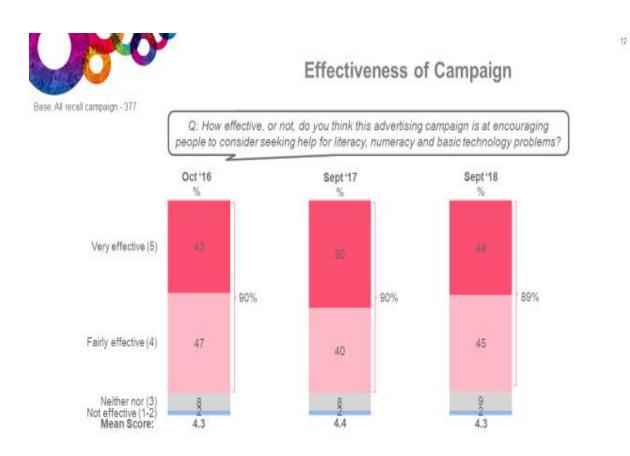


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2.6 Effectiveness of the campaign

 Of those who have been exposed to the campaign, 89% consider it effective in encouraging people to consider seeking help. This is in line with 2017 and 2016 figures. (These 'effectiveness' figures are considered high compared to advertising industry norms (COYNE)).

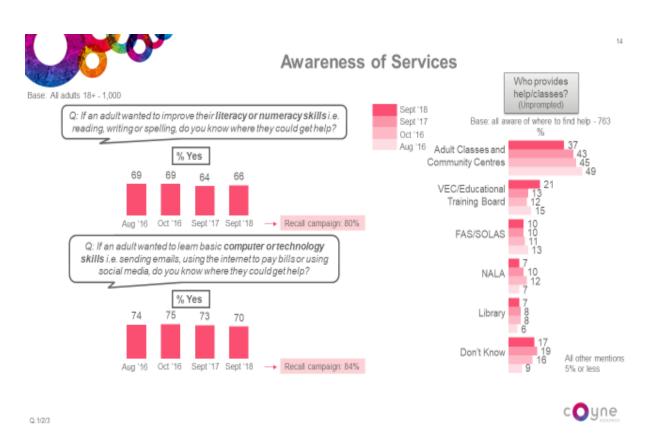


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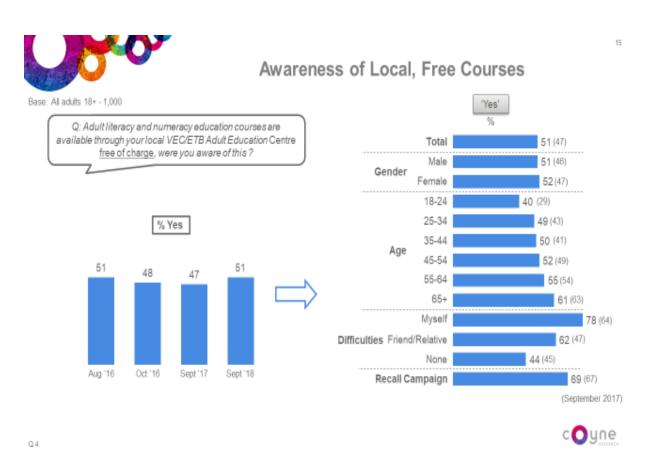
2.7 Awareness of services and where to get help

- Amongst the total population, when asked 'if an adult wanted to improve their literacy or numeracy skills, do you know where they could get help', 2 in 3 (66%) said 'Yes, they would know where to go to get help with adult literacy and numeracy skills'. This is a small increase on the previous year. Amongst those recalling the campaign those saying 'Yes' rise to 80%.
- Amongst the total population, on the issue of learning computer or technology skills, 7 in 10 (70%) say they know where help can be got. This is a small increase on the previous year. Amongst those who recalled the campaign the level of positive agreement rises to 84%.
- When asked who provides such literary, numeracy, technology classes, the
 proportion giving a generic answer of "classes/community" centres has
 decreased, while specific mentions of VECs/Educational Training Boards has
 significantly increased.



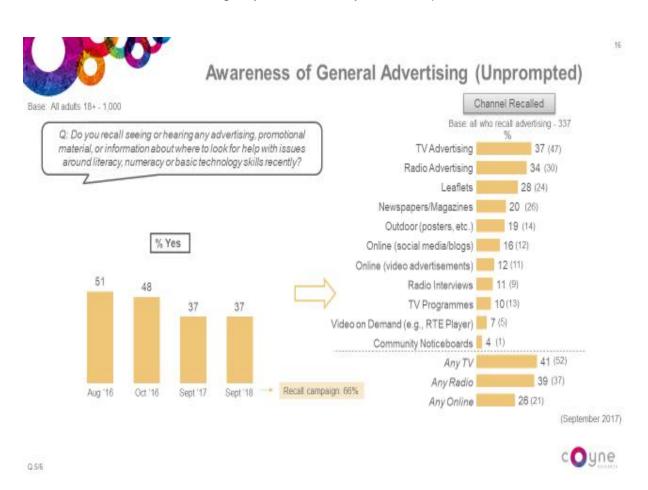
2.8 Awareness of availability of courses

- Over half of the total population (51%) are aware that courses are available locally and free of charge, rising to over 2 in 3 (69%) amongst those who had been exposed to the 'Take the First Step' campaign.
- Similar to the previous year's research, awareness in general increases with age from 40% of 18-24 year olds to 61% of 65+ year olds, highlighting the campaign's greater salience and impact with older age cohorts.
- Greatest increase in awareness is among 18-24 year olds, with an increase of 11% from the previous two years.
- 78% of people with literacy or numeracy difficulties said yes increase of 14% which is a very good improvement on last year.



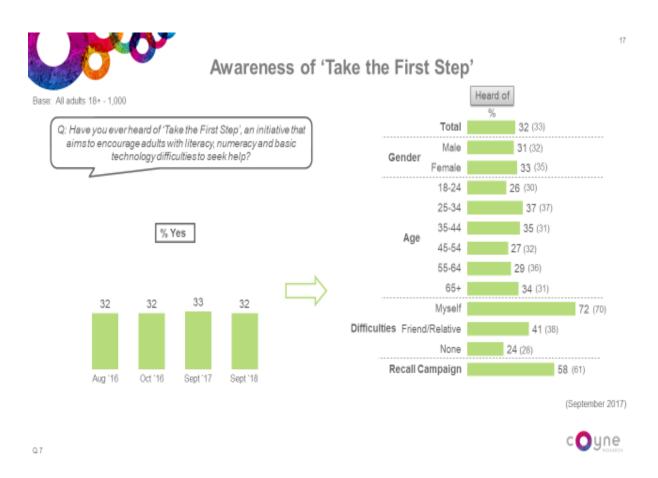
2.9 Awareness of general advertising (unprompted)

- Just over 1 in 3 (37%) of Irish adults claim to recall some sort of advertising recently; which is similar to last year when there was no TV advertising sponsored by An Post. This rises to 66% for those who recall the campaign.
- Much of the decrease in recall from 2016 is attributed to the drop in TV advertising (most probably the lack of An Post sponsored advertising)
- Approximately 34% of those recalling advertising opt for radio as the channel recalled, which is an increase of 4% on last year. Similarly there is a 2% increased recall of any radio activity on this topic at 39%.
- There is also an increase in all online activity: from 15% in 2016; 21% in 2017 and 26% in 2018 recalling any online activity on this topic.



2.10 Awareness of the name 'Take the First Step'

- Circa 1 in 3 Irish adults claim to have heard of "Take the First Step" when prompted with the name with very little change registering between all the waves of research.
- This rises to 7 in 10 (72%) amongst those with literacy or numeracy difficulties, and to circa 6 in 10 amongst those who recalled the campaign when prompted with material. This is very similar to last year.





Michael Duffy and Michelle Johnston, students at Cavan Monaghan ETB both took part in the promotional video for Take the first step in Cavan.

Chapter three

Key insights and recommendations

3. Key insights and recommendations

1. Repeat the campaign with a higher media spend

The campaign is having a positive impact in terms of awareness of services and is considered very effective by those who are exposed to it. However, the key challenge lies in reaching the 63% of the population who have not been exposed it. A recommendation would be to repeat the campaign with higher media weight, given the evidence that it is effective for those exposed to it.

2. Include TV advertising

A lower portion of people cite TV as a source of awareness compared to previous years and much of the decrease in recall is attributed to the drop in TV advertising. Consideration should be given to how this could be supported in future campaigns.

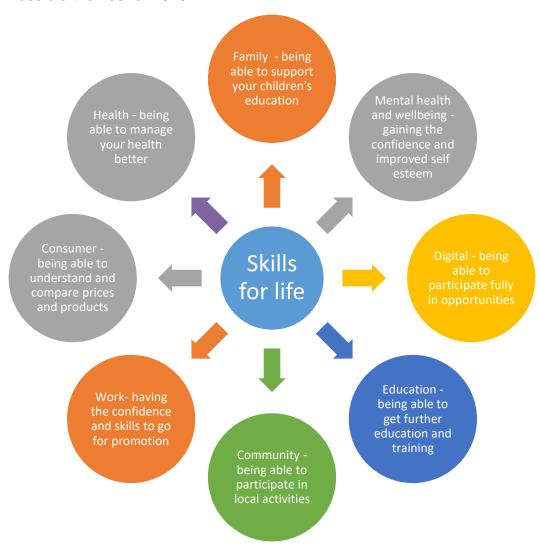
3. Continue to promote local services

Overall the response to the Literacy Awareness Campaign was positive with the majority of ETBs reporting it was a very good campaign. ETBs would like more localised awareness and promotion of literacy services and some suggested a number of regional campaigns rather than an annual campaign as September a particularly busy time of year.

4. Include more demographics and themes in advertising assets

Most of the campaign assets feature individuals over 35s. The most recent videos largely featured white Irish men over 40. There is an opportunity to promote a wider range of people and different scenarios so as to appeal to a greater cohort of the public. This should include an equal ratio of male and female profiles, different ages and ethnicities, as well as workplace, family and community settings.

Possible themes for 2019

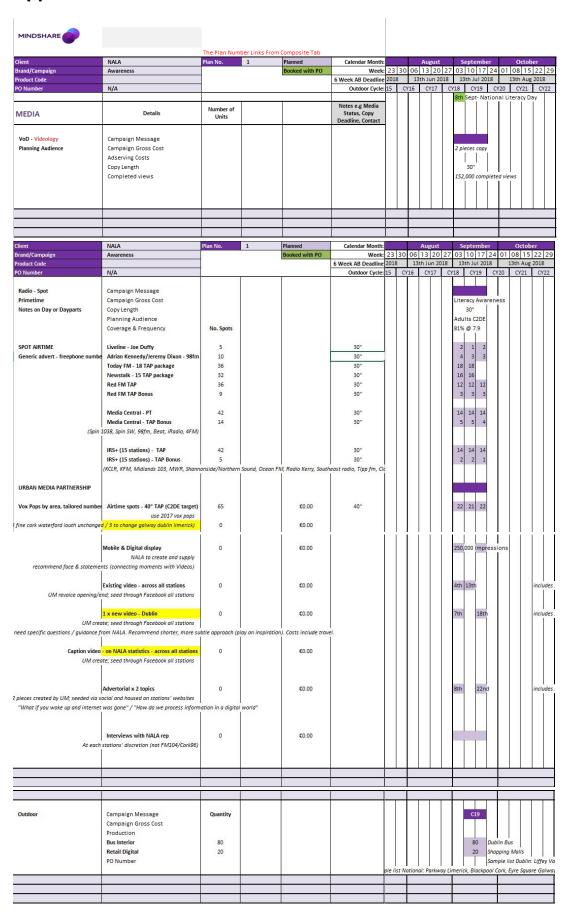


Appendices

Appendix A – Media schedule

Appendix B – PR impact data

Appendix A - Media schedule



Appendix B – PR impact data

Take the First Step 2018										
BROADCAST		Date	Headline	Minutes on air	Number of 30 second slots	Per 30 second slot	DAV	PR VALUE (DAV x3)	Listenership / Viewership	
The Last Word with Matt			The Last Word - Matt Cooper talks to Charlie Bird about							
Cooper	National	07.09.18	his literacy struggles and how he overcame them	12:13:0	0 24.	€756.00	€18,522.00	€55,566.00	141,000	
RTE News at Six	National	07.09.18	Interview with Dr. Inez Bailey and Eamon Delaney on Take the First Step campaign	02:02:0	0 4	€5,100.00	€20,400.00	€61,200.00	430,000	
RTE News at Six (+1)	National	07.09.18	Interview with Dr. Inez Bailey and Eamon Delaney on Take the First Step campaign	02:02:0	0 4	€5,100.00	€20,400.00	€61,200.00	430,000	
Weekend AM	National	09.09.18	Interview with Sinead Moriarty and Michael Duffy on literacy issues in Ireland	08:33:0	0 9	€505.33	€505.33	€1,515.99	37,800	
Weekend AM (+1)	National	09.09.18	Interview with Sinead Moriarty and Michael Duffy on literacy issues in Ireland	08:33:0	0 9	€505.33	€505.33	€1,515.99	37,800	
KCLR FM	Regional	10.09.18	KCLR Live - Brian O'Donnell and his tutor Tara Kelly discuss his experience since returning to education	15:45:0	0 35.	€58.08	€2,061.84	€6,185.52	9,428	
WLR FM	Regional	10.09.18	Not available online - estimate	05:00:0	0 10	€65.00	€650.00	€1,950.00	43,000	
Q102	Regional	11.09.18	Not available online - estimate	05:00:0	0 10	€140.00	€1,400.00	€4,200.00	84,000	
Galway Bay FM	Regional	12.09.18	Keith Finnegan Show - Student Mary and tutor Kevin Kelly	09:32:0	0 19	€84.00	€1,596.00	€4,788.00	139,000	
Shannonside Northern Sound	Regional	17.09.18	Joe Finnegan Show - Michael Duffy and tutor Regina Clarke discuss take the first step campaign and Michael's story	14:34:0	0 29	€125.40	€3,636.60	€10,909.80	65,000	
RTE Ryan Tubridy Show	National	26.09.18	Brian O'Donnell, student at Carlow Kilkenny ETB, talks about his experience since returning to education and working with NALA	14:48:2	4 29.	€1,649.00	€48,645.50	€145,936.50	304,000	

PRINT	National, Regional, Trade	Date	Headline				Advertising	DAV (Euro)	PR Value (DAV x3)	Circulation/Reach
							Rate			
Irish Examiner	National	08.09.18	AG urges lawyers to use plain English 'whenever possible'	4	7	21	€43.50	€1,218.00	€3,654.00	26,085
Irish Sun	National	08.09.18	Literacy boost bid	7	1	1 1	7 €56.50	€395.50	€1,186.50	56,107
Weekly Observer	Regional	12.09.18	Campaign uses real-life stories to encourage people to return to education	12	2	2 24	4 €5.20	€124.80	€374.40	7,500
Waterford Today	Regional	12.09.18	Education Feature	8	4	3:	€23.00	€736.00	€2,208.00	20,000
Mallow Star	Regional	13.09.18	Campaign uses real-life stories to encourage people to return to education	7	3	2:	€5.20	€109.20	€327.60	8,000
Vale Star	Regional	13.09.18	Campaign uses real-life stories to encourage people to return to education	12	2	2 24	€5.20	€124.80	€374. <mark>4</mark> 0	8,000
Kilkenny People	Regional	13.09.18	Local man fronts literacy campaign	8	4	3	€15.90	€508.80	€1,526.40	10,591
The Meath Chronicle	Regional	15.09.18	Take the first step' to literacy	14	2	2.	€16.98	€475.44	€1,426.32	10,373
Irish Independent	National	17.09.18	Free reading and writing tuition	8	1		€77.40	€619.20	€1,857.60	87,673
Irish Examiner	National	21.09.18	Never too late to learn	30	3	90	€52.20	€4,698.00	€14,094.00	26,089
ONLINE		Date	Headline							Reach
kilkennypeople.ie		07.09.18	Kilkenny man Brian fronts national campaign to improve literacy					S		790
galwaybayfm.ie		08.09.18	One young man is changing his life for the better and it's incredibly inspiring							4,764
longfordleader.ie		10.09.18	Campaign uses real-life stories to encourage people to return to education							2,260
irishlegal.com		10.09.18	Attorney General encourages lawyers to use plain English							100
Irishexaminer.com	,	21.09.18	It's never too late: Programme helps adults with literacy and numeracy problems		, ,					31,753
Total								€136,342,08	€409,026.24	2,321,190

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- Michael Duffy, CMETB
- Brian O'Donnell, KCETB
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- Rosaleen Rice, John Williams, Kenneth Kenellan and Marion Higgins, GRETB
- Tanya Byrne and Lee Mitchell, WWETB
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- Catherine Devlin, DETB
- Chris Carthy, MSLETB

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- Fionnuala Carter, CDETB
- Kevin Kelly and Alison Jones, GRETB
- Lorraine Markham and Mary Dunne, LCETB

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Members of the Literacy and Numeracy Awareness Raising Campaign Steering Committee.

The National Advisory Committee and Adult Literacy Forum.

Staff in SOLAS, ETBI and NALA.



The Take the first step campaign Freephone and Freetext number.

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