

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LIMERICK TO EMPHASISE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION TO SUCCESSFULLY TREAT ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER.**

The Mid-West Attention Deficit Disorder Support Group was first established in 1997. Since then it has campaigned incessantly to create awareness amongst parents and health and educational professionals of the condition and the implications for those who suffer from it.

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Group will host an international conference in Limerick to highlight the importance of “early intervention” to ensure that those suffer from the disorder are able to achieve their full potential. For this reason they have invited internationally acclaimed experts from the United States of America and the United Kingdom to relate how their respective countries have made huge strides in the identification of the condition and successfully treating it particularly through early intervention.

The conference will be chaired by Mr. John Lonergan, the Governor of Mountjoy Prison. The three keynote speakers will be:-

Dr. Geoff Kewley, Consultant Paediatrician, The Learning & Neurocare Centre(UK).

Ms. Wendy Richardson MA MFT CAS, ADD & Addiction Expert, California (USA).

Dr. David Carey J. Carey, Consultant Psychologist(USA) now practising in Dublin.

Commenting on their ground-breaking initiative, Chairperson of the ADD Mid West Support Group, Mrs Katrina Allen said,

**“Our Group has been to the forefront of highlighting awareness of ADD throughout Ireland. We have held numerous public meetings on the subject. We have engaged in formal discussions with policy makers and health and education professionals who work in this area. Our campaigning work led to the production of a universally praised Oireachtas Report on the problems of ADD in 1999.**

**Despite the publication of this major Report nothing has changed in the last 10 years. We are particularly frustrated by the total lack of progress in successfully treating this neurological condition especially by means of early intervention. In the Mid West region, a family will have to wait for at least a year before their child will be seen by a Child Psychiatrist. Even worse, the waiting time for an educational assessment can be as long as five years.**

**We have invited internationally respected experts from the United States and the United Kingdom to share their experiences with us so that we can convince Irish policymakers and the professionals who shape and implement policy in this area that there are tried and tested means of successfully tackling this problem.**

**We believe that the use of resources in this way would prove to be cost effective and prevent greater expenditure in the longer term. We would hope that this message will have a special resonance at a time when our national leaders are overhauling our national expenditure policies.”**

**Ends.**

*(The Conference will be held in the Carlton Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick).*