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## Inishowen teenager features in art exhibition

**An Inishowen teenager has featured in an art exhibition in Dublin.**

Ruby McCandless, aged 13 from Gleneely, was selected to take part in 'Facing Change', an exhibition capturing the real-life changes experienced by those who have been supported by projects funded through the Government of Ireland and Genio over the past decade.

The exhibition features 10 portraits of inspiring people from the four corners of Ireland, from a variety of backgrounds and across ages and genders. They have all been supported to overcome personal challenges related to mental health, disability, homelessness and dementia and to have more control over their own lives and live in the community.

The portraits were taken by Ruth Medjber whose work has been exhibited extensively in Ireland as well as internationally.

The exhibition, which was on display in the Gallery of Photography, Dublin, will visit three regional locations

throughout the rest of 2019 - including Cork, Donegal and Westmeath.

Ruby has lived with cerebral palsy all her life and requires 24/7 support.

She attends mainstream school where she has a lot of friends but her access to activities outside of school is very restricted.

Spraoi agus Spórt, Carn-donagh, provides social and recreational facilities to local families in the Inishowen area including after school activities and summer camps.

In 2011, they established a social club for children with disabilities with support from the HSE and Genio.

Ruby's parents, Chrissy and Alan, describe how 'it changed our lives'. Ruby has a social outlet outside of school, which is helping her to thrive and gain some independence.

Spraoi agus Spórt received further funding in 2018 from the Service Reform Fund (HSE) to develop a programme for teenagers with disabilities and Ruby is one of the teenagers working with staff to identify and develop appropriate

activities.

Mairéad McLaughlin has been appointed as project manager to plan for an inclusive youth space for teenagers and to develop inclusive activities for teenagers in Spraoi agus Spórt.

Spraoi agus Spórt provide assistance for children and teenagers with physical and sensory disabilities to attend any activity or camp offered by the centre.

They are currently offering an extensive Easter program with multiactivity camps, build a teddy bear workshops, cooking/baking, science, creative writing, lego clubs and movie and games nights. Free places and discounts for families in receipt of a Department of Social Welfare payment or a medical card or GP card.

For any more information on the service, activities, discounts or to request information about support for young people with additional needs please contact Spraoi agus Spórt on 0868420203, email: info@spraoiagusport.ie or visit the website www.spraoiagusport.ie.



Pictured are Helena McColgan and Louise Grant who represented Spraoi agus Spórt with the portrait of Ruby McCandless at the 'Facing Change' exhibition.