



Press release 13.09.2022

Cill Dara le Gaeilge are delighted to announce the appointment of Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin to the role of Executive Officer. Caoimhe joined *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* on the 1st September and is the organisation's second full-time employee. *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to promote the Irish language in Kildare.

Caoimhe spent the last 13 years working in the Directorate-General of Translation in the European Commission in Brussels, first as a translator and then as an acting Head of Unit. Previous to that, she worked with the Placenames Branch in Dublin. Caoimhe has a Masters in Folklore from Memorial University in Newfoundland, and a Masters in Translation from the National University of Ireland Galway.

While in Brussels, Caoimhe was heavily involved with the Irish-language world. She was an active member of the *Seachtain na Gaeilge* committee and was one of the founding members of the *Leabhra Feabhra* campaign and also the group *Na Gaeil i gCéin*, who were awarded the *Global Gaeilge* award from *Glór na nGael* in 2016.

Caoimhe was a member of Belgium GAA for many years, as well as being the Irish-language and cultural officer for the European County Board for a one-year term.

Caoimhe is employed under Foras na Gaeilge's *Scéim Forbartha Líonraí Gaeilge 2022-2024* (Irish Language Networks Development Scheme) and she will be based primarily in the Sallins/Naas area (where the first *líonra* or Irish language network in Kildare will be established). As part of her work, Caoimhe will be working with community groups in that area to plan and run community events through Irish. She will have a central role to play in the planning and implementation of *Cill Dara le Gaeilge's* language plan, and she will provide support for other groups who are involved with the planning process. Caoimhe will also support our *Gnó Chill Dara* project, working with the business sector to promote the use of the Irish language in communication and as a marketing tool in the provision of services.

Announcing the appointment, Daithí de Faoite, Cathaoirleach of *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* said:

"Cill Dara le Gaeilge is delighted to confirm the appointment of Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin to the role of executive officer on our growing team. We're very excited about the energy, focus and experience that Caoimhe will bring to the role. Cill Dara le Gaeilge has made great progress in recent years especially since we took on our first employee just over one year ago. Caoimhe will play a key role in the next phase of our development especially in securing *líonra* status for the Sallins and Naas area, the first such *líonra* in Co. Kildare. We wish Caoimhe every success and look forward to an exciting couple of years ahead."

Caoimhe Ní Shúilleabháin:

“I am really looking forward to working with *Cill Dara le Gaeilge*. I returned to Ireland at the start of this year after spending 13 years aboard working in the Irish-language department in the translation services of the European Commission. I’m very proud of all that Irish translators have achieved in the institutions of the European Union. since Irish was awarded status as an official language of the European Union in 2007, and now I’m eagerly anticipating this new opportunity and challenge to work with and support the Irish-language community at home. I believe that *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* is an innovative and creative organisation, which is clear from the excellent work they have done in creating a comprehensive, ambitious, far-sighted language plan for the county. *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* is already very active in promoting the Irish language in the county, in providing support to those who wish to raise their children through Irish, and in encouraging the use of Irish in the business sector in the county. I hope I will be able to continue the good work that is being done, and I am delighted to be a part of it.”

In February 2019, *Cill Dara le Gaeilge* and *Sult na Sollán* published a five-year plan (2019-2023) for the Irish Language in county Kildare. The plan can be accessed at www.cilldaralegaelge.ie

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