

IMC

DUBLIN · IRELAND



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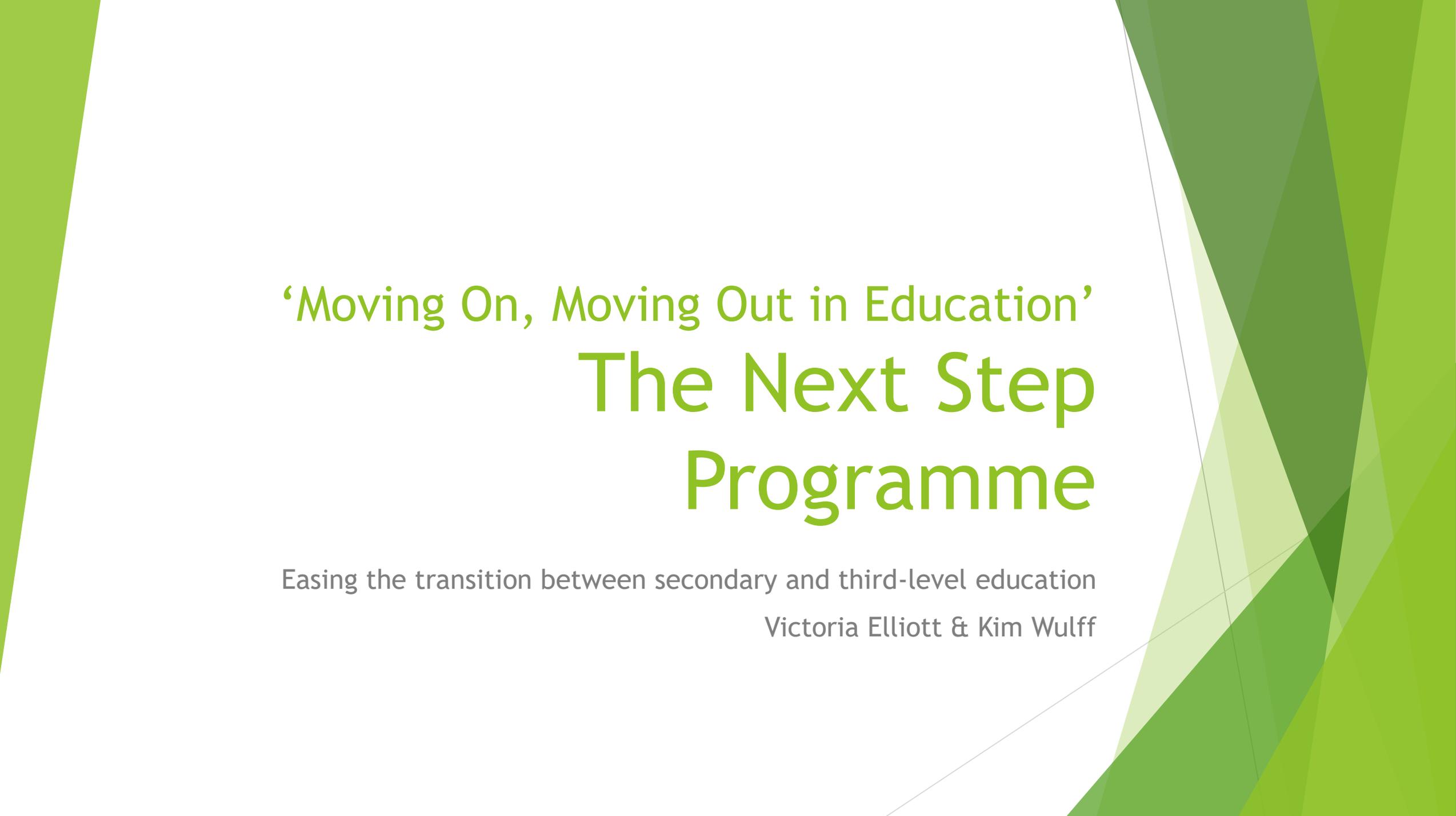
**Transitions:
Moving On, Moving Out
June 26 - 30, 2017**

Hosted by



ChildVision

National Education Centre for Blind Children



‘Moving On, Moving Out in Education’
**The Next Step
Programme**

Easing the transition between secondary and third-level education

Victoria Elliott & Kim Wulff

Introduction

- ▶ Glossary of Terms: “school”, “college”, “Leaving Certificate”
- ▶ Developed in 2010 by IGDB Team
- ▶ To address knowledge and services gap for students transitioning into third-level education
- ▶ To provide holistic insight into the college experience

What Is 'The Next Step'?

- ▶ One week residential training programme at our Headquarters in Cork
- ▶ Modules for 3rd-level and PLC readiness, including:



Orientation & Mobility

- ▶ To upskill students with little experience or no access to public transport
- ▶ A Bus Eireann Training Inspector leads our practical workshop
- ▶ Exposure to all features of the inside and outside of several buses and coaches
- ▶ Emphasis on accessibility and safety, and protocol for boarding and disembarking
- ▶ Journey into Cork City for Practice



Independent Living Skills

- ▶ Two Kitchen Skills sessions, and conversations around how/where to take more initiative around the home
- ▶ Preparing basic student-friendly meals
- ▶ Practical sessions in household tasks
- ▶ What to consider when sharing student accommodation



Interviewing / CV-Writing / Employment Skills

- ▶ IGDB's HR Officer provides practical advice on Interview Skills and CV writing
- ▶ Information about each of the steps of applying for a job, making a good first impression, how to present yourself
- ▶ How to communicate additional needs and advocate for accommodations when attending for interview

Budgeting & Banking

- ▶ Many students didn't have bank accounts or could not access them
- ▶ Some had never used an ATM or electronic pin pad
- ▶ Some challenges that our students face: The switch to touch screen ATMs, head phone jacks but no audible description at present
- ▶ A local bank hosts us for a practical session



Personal Safety & Self-Defence

- ▶ To prepare students for travelling alone in the community and to give them planned strategies to increase their personal safety in a range of different situations at college
- ▶ This workshop is delivered by our local Community Garda (Policeman)

Advocating for Technology in College

- ▶ Technology is of great importance in third-level
- ▶ Students are required to assume more responsibility for their needs
- ▶ The students have a session with the college Technology Officer
- ▶ A separate technology session with the NCBI Adaptive Technology Advisor demonstrates different accessibility functions and apps that his service users are benefiting from for mobility and independent living

CIT Campus Visit

- ▶ Whole day session
- ▶ Provides a glimpse into a day in the life of a college student
- ▶ Facilitated by the Access Team, who outline Disability Supports available across ROI
- ▶ Encourages thinking about becoming more aware of own limitations and the need to be self-directed
- ▶ Meeting with reps from different clubs
- ▶ A tour of student accommodation and the responsibilities that come along with this



Student Mentors

- ▶ Preparing lunch for themselves and a student mentor
- ▶ An informal question and answer session with a student who has started college; their experience and knowledge of college life
- ▶ Discussions about the J1 visa

GD Experience

- ▶ Introduction to Guide Dog mobility options
- ▶ Meeting with a GDMI, information on the benefits and requirements to training with a Guide Dog.
- ▶ Practical demonstration
- ▶ How to decide if GD mobility is a realistic prospect



How we develop/design the programme

- ▶ Local contacts and organisations were approached as part of the initial project
- ▶ The diversity of presenters has increased over time
- ▶ Every speaker donates their time and services for free
- ▶ The course has evolved based on student feedback
- ▶ We reflect and modify year on year

Challenges

- ▶ First time staying away from home
 - ▶ Being sensitive and proactive with issues around homesickness
- ▶ Time and sleep management
 - ▶ Reinforcing the importance of balancing work and play
- ▶ Dynamics
- ▶ Passive approaches to learning

Benefits

- ▶ Social and peer networking
 - ▶ Students have made true friendships
- ▶ Small group learning promotes idea sharing amongst peers
 - ▶ Some students have felt encouraged to learn new skills after being positively influenced by peers in the group
- ▶ Opportunity to stay away from home, which can boost confidence
- ▶ Public education in the community

Future Directions

- ▶ 3 different agencies delivering new interactive workshops in the area of Wellness

Conclusion

Thank you for listening 😊

Q & A