

Federation

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newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of the National Federation Newsletter.

Further news and updates are available on our website www.fedvol.ie



EASPD Rome Conference 'Bringing the EU Convention Home to Europe'

Report by Edel Tierney

EASPD recently held a conference on 'Bringing the UN Convention Home to Europe' in Rome on 14th and 15th February 2008. This conference was designed to discuss the relevance of the Convention to service providers, the potential development of EU and national legal frameworks and the implementation of the Council of Europe and the European Commission Action Plans on Disability.

The conference focused on article 19 in the main which guarantees a persons right to live independently and to be included in the community. In order to achieve this it specifically adds that persons with disabilities have a right to community and other support services to support living and inclusion in the community. The conference aimed to explore the practical steps necessary to give effect to Article 19, particularly in a European context. The programme explored the kind of support systems required for people to realise this right to be included and participate fully in society.

Prof. Gerard Quinn of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy NUIG was the key note speaker and was instrumental in the development of the Convention. His key note address spoke of the Convention as representing the triumph of an idea. People are no longer seen as 'problems' but as 'people' with rights not as 'objects' but as 'subjects' of the law. The UN convention is a legally binding treaty and as such engages state responsibility. Each member state also undertakes a regulatory responsibility with regard to implementation.

Prof. Quinn concentrated in the main on 4 articles of the convention which he felt were of particular importance to service providers:

- Article 3 which explores **dignity, autonomy, non-discrimination, equal participation and inclusion and equality of opportunity.**
- Article 12 which explores **restoring personhood and supporting decision making**
- Article 16 which outlines a persons **right to protection against exploitation, violence and abuse**
- Article 19 which promotes the **persons right to live independently and be included in their community**

The UN Convention represents a matrix for change he said and will require smart reporting from member states. This will require national monitoring to protect, promote and monitor implementation at national level and active consultation with people with disabilities. National committees will also be required to monitor and report on the activities at national level to promote and monitor the convention.

In order to enhance the consultation process with people with disabilities, EASPD is currently developing an easy to read version of the convention and this will be made available to all member organisations.

Workshops were held over the 2 days to explore what legal frameworks we need in order to promote the convention in bringing about the support systems as discussed. These workshops were participative in nature and feedback was provided on each workshop in the plenary sessions. Topics discussed were: deinstitutionalisation; the involvement of people with disabilities in the governance of organisations and quality management; needs



assessment systems; mainstreaming disability; money; relationships; living supports, and daily activities.

In addition presentations on day 2 looked at current initiatives in member states organisations which facilitate best practice in: needs assessment; early intervention; rehabilitation supports; where people live; respite and short-term support. Case studies were presented which highlighted best practice models being currently developed and delivered by member organisations.

As with all EASPD events the conference dinner held on Valentines night gave delegates an opportunity to meet, share experiences in their countries, form new alliances and of course dance the night away!

For more information on the UN convention see www.un.org/disabilities. For an easy to read version see www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights

Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. has produced easy to read versions of the Convention and the Optional Protocol for the UK Department for Work and Pensions. These are available on our website at www.fedvol.ie/publications. On the left hand menu click on "Easy to Read Documents"

National Review of HSE Funded Adult Day Services

A National Working Group, representing all stakeholders, was established by the HSE in August 2007 to conduct a National Review of HSE Funded Adult Day Services within a 12 month timeframe. Mr. Pat Reen, Chief Executive, Prosper Fingal, is the National Federation's representative on the working group. The group has undertaken a number of activities:

- Completion of a full census of all HSE funded Adult Day Services
- Commissioned research to inform the development of "Progressing a Modern Person Centred Service"
- Agreed a consultation process to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are considered
- Launched a dedicated website and a newsletter to ensure that everybody with an interest in HSE Funded Adult Day Services is fully informed.

The working group want to ensure that the views of all people with an interest in HSE Funded Adult Day Services are sought and captured to inform the outcome of the Review of

Day Services. This will involve asking people what is working well in HSE Funded Adult Day Services, what is not working well and what changes people would like to see brought about. They are particularly anxious that the views of those who receive day services and those who require a day service are central to this consultation. To ensure that everyone's views are included, they have agreed various methods of consultation:

Formal Submissions

Any person with a disability, any service provider, carer or any other

interested party can make a formal submission to the review.

Focus Groups with Service Users

Inclusion Ireland, People with Disabilities Ireland and the Irish Mental Health Coalition are organising focus groups with service users to establish in detail their views regarding current day services and their vision for future service development.

Open Consultation Meetings

Four public consultation meetings (of 200 participants) are scheduled from 2 - 5 pm in locations around the country. These meetings are

open to all:

- 29th April – Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
- 1st May – City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath
- 6th May – Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
- 8th May – Sheraton Fota Island Hotel, Co. Cork

Further information on the work of the group and their consultation meetings is available on their website at www.dayservicereview.ie

National Federation Presentation to the Health Forum

Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive and Mr. Brendan Broderick, Chairperson, presented the National Federation perspective to the Health Forum at the Department of the Taoiseach on 25th February, 2008. Attendance at this Forum included the Secretaries-General at the Departments of the Taoiseach, Health & Children, and Finance, and representatives from ICTU and health sector trade unions. The presentation sought to place the Federation on a positive footing in respect of unfolding public policy in this general area and also counteract any perception that the Federation is/will be an obstacle to change and focused on

entrenching their provider interests.

Copies of this presentation are available by emailing Maria McMahon at secretariat@fedvol.ie

National Federation Service Plan 2008

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Service Plan for 2008 has been approved by the National Federation's Board of Directors at their meeting held on 10th March, 2008.

The National Federation is currently undergoing a strategic review and when the revised structures are finalised, agreed, and the appropriate amendments are made to our Memorandum &

Articles of Association, it is envisaged that the development of the Federation's Service Plan in future years will involve a broader consultation with all of the National Federation member organisations. Copies of the Service Plan for 2008 are available by emailing Maria McMahon at secretariat@fedvol.ie

Informing Families of Their Child's Disability – Implementation of National Best Practice Guidelines

Following on from the launch of the Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability, developed by the National Federation and launched by Minister Mary Harney on 3rd December 2007, the Guidelines are now being widely disseminated, and an implementation strategy is being put in place.

Some of the key developments taking place in Spring of 2008 include:

- The ongoing work of the Cork pilot implementation project, which is seeing the Guidelines being implemented in an integrated approach across hospital, community and disability service settings in the Cork region. The outcomes of this implementation will be measured to provide learning for further national roll-out.
- A meeting with senior management of the National Hospitals Office, HSE, will take place in April 2008, to discuss the optimum methods of dissemination of the Guidelines throughout the country.
- The Guidelines will be presented at the AGM of Inclusion Ireland in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 12 April 2008.

Further updates will be provided as the implementation of the Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability continues throughout the year. If you require any information on the Guidelines please contact Alison Harnett at alison.harnett@fedvol.ie

National Working Group on Multidisciplinary Services for 5-18 year olds

The HSE has set up a national working group on Multidisciplinary Services for 5-18yr olds to:

- Identify and clarify the obligations on HSE and HSE funded agencies under both the Disability Act and EPSEN Act in relation to children from 5-18 years of age. This will include the requirements and timeframe involved in carrying out assessments, identify service interventions, timescales required for interventions, reports, liaison with other agencies and stakeholders.
- Identify what models currently exist in delivering on the health service provider obligations and outline what is best practice and identify gaps.
- Assess the implications of the above in terms of current service delivery, costs, industrial relations issues.
- Review the compatibility of various options on delivering on the requirements of the legislation with the aims and implementation of the PCCC Transformation Programme including the establishment of Primary Care Teams, and reconfiguration of other services into health and social care networks.

- Make recommendations in relation to the preferred models of service delivery to meet the obligations of health service providers in respect of the above legislation.
- Identify what collaboration will be required with Department of Education & Science, National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and the National Educational Psychological Service Agency (NEPS) to facilitate the effective implementation of the optimal approach to health service delivery.

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented on working group by Mr. Francis Coughlan, Chief Executive, SOS Kilkenny and Ms. Breda Crehan Roche, CEO, Ability West (also Chairperson of Group).

An email has issued to National Federation member organisations following the group's first meeting seeking feedback in relation to the interaction between Health and Education, which will inform the Framework. Information is also being sought from members on the current model of service provision, including assessment and intervention.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The National Federation would like to congratulate Sunbeam House Services, Bray, Co. Wicklow, who have been awarded a four year accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). The announcement confirms that the organisation shares CQL's vision for person centred services which will enhance the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

National Federation Strategic / Structural Review

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is currently carrying out a Strategic/Structural Review with a view to:

- revisiting its mission and objectives as set out in our Memorandum & Articles of Association, and,
- identifying an appropriate structure which takes account of the HSE Transformation Programme and the Government's National Disability Strategy.

The Board established a Strategic / Structural Review Group to oversee this work and also engaged the services of Mr. Pat Harvey, Harwyn Consultants, who presented his findings on 24th January, 2008, in Moore Abbey. Following this presentation the Strategic / Structural Review Group reconvened to develop proposals in response to Mr. Harvey's proposed Action Plan. A plenary consultation forum for National Federation member organisations, where these proposals will be presented and discussed, has now been arranged and will take place on Wednesday, 7th May, 2008, in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.

For the Good of Others ...

Women have played a strong role in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities over the years and often this has been hidden work. Dorothy Atkinson, Open University and Kelley Johnson, Bristol University, are now putting together a proposal for an exciting new book which will tell the stories of these women for the first time. They are interested in finding people who may know of women who have played a significant role in establishing or maintaining services for people, in advocating with them or in supporting them. The book will be an international one and they are keen to include women from Ireland. The women may be historical figures or more contemporary ones.

If you know of someone whose story you think should be told or if you are interested in contributing to the book, please contact Kelley Johnson (+44 117 33 10974) kellyjohnson@bristol.ac.uk.

Commission for Taxi Regulation – Action Plan 2008-2009

At the end of February, the Commission for Taxi Regulation published its Action Plan for 2008 – 2009 “Always Driving Forward” which outlines its plans for the ongoing reform of the taxi, hackney and limousine industry. Measures to be taken during the course of the Action Plan include the Commission becoming responsible for the administration of dispatch operator licensing and driver licensing in addition to its current role as the single authority for vehicle licensing. The Commission will also implement a skills development programme with

immediate effect for all new applicants which will include disability awareness training. New regulations will be put in place from 1st July 2008 imposing certain new responsibilities on taxi vehicle licence holders including a requirement that all wheelchair accessible vehicle licence holders provide the Commission with contact details for booking their services which will then be published on www.taxiregulator.ie. Guidelines for the provision of accessible taxi ranks nationwide will also be published.

CERTIFICATE IN CONTEMPORARY LIVING – GRADUATION OF FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS

The first class of students of a pioneering university course for people with intellectual disability graduated at a formal awards ceremony on February 15th 2008 in Trinity College Dublin. Nineteen students were awarded with the Certificate in Contemporary Living when they graduated at the ceremony.

The two-year course is run by TCD's National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID). One of the key aims of the course is to promote lifelong learning for people with intellectual disabilities and to ensure that this third level education leads to appropriate employment opportunities. There are three aspects to the certificate – academic learning, personal growth and career development. Over the

two-year certificate, students complete modules in English and Spoken Communication, Mathematics and Financial Management.

NIID also plan to collaborate with other education partners to develop its Certificate in Contemporary Living so that the same opportunities available in Trinity College can be provided to people with intellectual disabilities throughout the country.

To view the RTE TV news item of the first graduation ceremony, click on: http://www.rte.ie/news/2008/0215/9news_av.html?2338090,null,230

Nominations for National Federation Working / Task Groups

In recent weeks, National Federation member organisations have been asked for nominees for the following groups:

1. Reference Group on De-institutionalisation of Congregated Settings

The HSE has recently established a National Project to examine the development of best practice alternatives for people with intellectual, physical and sensory disability who are living in large congregated settings. The project is scheduled to report by the end of 2008. Mr. Christy Lynch, KARE, has been appointed as Project Manager and Mr. Brendan Broderick, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary; Bro. Laurence Kearns, St. John of God Hospitaller Services and Ms. Winifred O'Hanrahan, Brothers of Charity Services represent

the National Federation on the HSE National Project Steering Group. The National Federation is currently looking for nominees for a reference group who will inform and support the Federation's representatives on the HSE's National Project Steering Group.

2. Working Group on Ageing and Dementia in Persons with an Intellectual Disability

Dr. Mary McCarron, Associate Professor of Nursing & Director of Research, School of Nursing & Midwifery Studies, Trinity College Dublin, & Daughters of Charity Services, represents the National Federation on the HSE Working Group on Dementia. A

National Federation working group is being established to develop the Federation's vision of services and supports required for ageing and dementia in persons with an intellectual disability and to support Dr. McCarron in her role on the HSE's Working Group. Mary presented to Federation members at the last general assembly meeting and a copy of her presentation is available by emailing secretariat@fedvol.ie

3. Task Group on Funding of Vocational Training Centres

The Department of Education & Science proposes to amend the criteria for funding Vocational Training Centres. The purpose of this Federation Working

Group will be to examine the implications of this amendment and prepare a Federation response.

4. Task Group on Department of Social & Family Affairs Review of Disability Allowance Scheme

The purpose of this Group is to prepare a Federation response on the review of the disability allowance scheme by 18th April, 2008. Ms. Winifred O'Hanrahan, National Federation's representative on the Department of Social & Family Affairs Sectoral Plan Monitoring Committee has agreed to chair this Group.

REDUCTION IN THE WORKING WEEK OF NURSES

The HSE-Employers Agency invited representatives of agencies that employ nursing staff to attend a meeting on March 20th 2008 to share information and collate experiences / information on local arrangements for the implementation of the reduced working week i.e. 1 hour 30 minute reduction by June 1st 2008. As the Performance Verification Group (PVG) is now making arrangements to discharge its function as

described in the National Implementation Body statement of May 15th 2007, agencies were required to return their reporting template to the HSE – Employers Agency by early April. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented at the management talks by Mr. John Pepper, Director of Human Resources, St. John of God Hospital Services.

The independent commission that was established to assess how a 35-hour week can be provided for nurses commenced its work in March 2008. The Commission is chaired by Prof. Tom Collins, head of the Education Department at NUI, Maynooth. The Commission is due to report to Government by autumn 2008.

GARDA VETTING

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

As the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies had received correspondence from a number of National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations expressing concern in relation to the timeframe involved in securing garda vetting through the Garda Central Vetting Unit contact was made with the Vetting Unit to discuss the matter and to outline the difficulties that this places on our member organisations. In response the Vetting Unit indicated they were in the process of appointing / training new staff members and envisaged that these would be in place by the end of February 2008 at which point they hope that the timeframe for securing clearance should decrease.

All National Federation of Voluntary Bodies members should now have arrangements in place to secure garda vetting for staff and volunteers. Organisations that have an Authorised Signatory in place should have accessed training on the role of the Signatory from the Garda Central Vetting Unit. For further information please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie

YOUR SERVICE, YOUR SAY' COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT –

Training Programme

A 1-day training event took place during March 2008 which was targeted at those who have been appointed as Complaints Officers within National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations. The training was delivered by personnel from the Consumer Affairs Corporate Office, HSE, and proved to be a very valuable session. The training focused on the core elements of the HSE policy, the stages of the complaints management procedure, role and responsibility of the Complaints Officer and issues such as confidentiality, data protection and recording / monitoring of complaints. A copy of the materials arising from the training session may be obtained by contacting Jillian Sexton - jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie The HSE is currently working on the production of a more user friendly version of the policy.

A further 'Management of Complaints' training session will take place on May 21st 2008 and details in relation to this will be circulated to all National Federation member organisations.

Top Tips for the Effective Transfer of Learning

During the afternoon session participants were invited to work in small groups to identify their 'Top tips for the effective transfer of learning'. The following are the most popular tips that were identified:

- (1) Have a shared understanding amongst colleagues of what is expected – engage unit / team in determining the conditions for successful learning / transfer.
- (2) Managers should discuss and clarify with individual learners what is expected pre & post training and provide support as necessary - develop a learning contract.
- (3) Develop support plans between line managers / individuals to plan how learning transfer will be supported.
- (4) Analyse the supports and constraints to transfer of learning, that is, identify the 'conditions for successful learning within the organisation' and facilitate learning to happen.
- (5) Support managers to see themselves as a



valuable training resource to staff.

- (6) Ensure managers have a clear understanding of their role.
- (7) Ensure that training is customised to the needs of a team.
- (8) Share learning and knowledge gained with team members.
- (9) Link training to the organisations vision, goals and needs.

There is scope for considerable more research in this area and Dr. Donovan has identified possible research themes - organisations that are interested in engaging in research with the IMI should contact Paul – email: paul.donovan@imi.ie. A copy of the full report arising from the event can be obtained by contacting Ms. Jillian Sexton – email: jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie

Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning in your Organisation

A very successful event took place on January 23rd 2008 in the Red Cow Moran's Hotel, Dublin, which focused on the topic of 'Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning within Organisations'. The event was organised by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in conjunction with St. Michael's House with the aim of sharing best practice in training and development. The Irish Management Institute (IMI) has developed an inventory that measures the transfer system in an organisation i.e. the factors that help and hinder the transfer of learning from a training intervention back into the workplace. This transfer system highlights where an organisation is effective (or not) in getting the key knowledge from training applied back on the job. At the event Dr. Paul Donovan provided details of how the IMI has developed a way to link this information to return on investment outputs from training programmes and in so doing determine the factors which are most important for organisations. Using this information these factors can be manipulated for future training transfer and thus impact on and demonstrate value to the organisation.

Dr. Donovan provided an overview of the research that he has undertaken and the new transfer factors that have been identified – 12 factors in total were

discussed that can impact on the transfer of learning:

- (1) Organisational level (ability to implement / authority)
- (2) Number of employees in organisation
- (3) We believe in continuous learning in my organisation
- (4) Training has many supporters in my organisation (e.g. champions, senior management)
- (5) Training is valued in my organisation
- (6) I have a lot of freedom in the way I do my work
- (7) I have learning and growth opportunities in my work
- (8) We are focused on and loyal to our customers here in my organisation
- (9) The job I do is important
- (10) My organisation has a flat structure
- (11) The training function resides within each department in my company
- (12) My manager's expectations of this training are clear to me

Conferences / Training

WALKINSTOWN ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: "PULLING YOUR OWN STRINGS"

Dates: Thursday 24th & Friday 25th April 2008

Venue: The Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22

Inclusion, we are finding, is essentially a social and cultural issue with the very nature of families and communities at its core. People with disabilities regularly remind us that, for them, loneliness and isolation constitute the greatest disability. This Conference is designed to give participants time to learn from the experience of those who have walked the road we are travelling and space to reflect upon their own journey. The conference will be of benefit to Service Providers, Support Staff, Policy Makers, People with Intellectual Disability, Families, Advocates and State Agencies & Departments. Three themes dominate the Conference Programme:

- Self Direction and Personalised or Individualised Budgets
- Family Leadership – Putting relationships at the centre of our understanding of a Good Life
- Ordinary and Included Lives for People who've acquired very challenging reputations

For further information is available on Walkinstown Association website www.walk.ie, or from Hotel Solutions at 01 6280111, email: mary@hotel-solutions.ie.

INCLUSION IRELAND SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE - MY VOICE MY CHOICE

Theme: 'My Support – Getting the Right Balance'

Date: 18th & 19th June 2008

Venue: Shearwater Plaza Hotel, Ballinalsoe, Co Galway

The theme for the conference will be around "My Support – Getting the Right Balance". If your organisation would like to set up an information stand at the conference, or if you are interested in presenting at this conference, please contact Inclusion Ireland at:

Tel: 01 8559891, fax: 01 8559904
email: info@inclusionireland.ie.

Booking forms will be available from early April at www.inclusionireland.ie.

STOP BULLYING WORKSHOP

Date: Friday 25 April 2008

Venue: National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College, 4th Floor, 3 College Green, Dublin 2

This is the 3rd workshop run by this group of self advocates. It encourages participants to recognise and confront bullying behaviour in themselves and others. Participants will learn strategies to deal with bullying behaviours

directed towards themselves as well as how to offer support to others.

The program consists of large and small group interactions in a comfortable environment. Presentations include role play, small group discussions and a question and answer forum. Morning and afternoon refreshments as well as a snack lunch are provided. There is a nominal charge of €30 per participant (including support workers) to cover costs. As participant numbers will be limited to 20 (excluding support staff),

Please email Stephen Curtis at curtistr@tcd.ie, Phone 01-896 2174, Fax 01-677 9131

The Wheel Annual Conference and AGM - New Futures: The Road Ahead

Date: Thursday, 1st May 2008

Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin 3. Time: 9.30am-4.30pm

With the new charity regulation bill being passed into law and the mid-term review of the national agreement Towards 2016 taking place in 2008, it is a big year for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. Brand new research has been published which shows how the organisations in our sector get their supports and information and so the starting point from which we can build an 'infrastructure of support' for our sector is now clear. The Wheel has structured its 2008 conference to address these big-ticket items by:

- provoking discussion on the challenges the sector will face in this new era of regulation and understanding what it is we should do in our organisations now to get ready.
- stimulating thinking on how the skills gaps and general support needs for our sector might be addressed.
- showcasing key developments that will help people managing community / voluntary / charitable organisations to achieve their mission
- hosting a debate on the role of our sector in providing services for people.

Further information is available at www.wheel.ie

LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT IN PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Date: Thursday, 12th and Friday, 13th June 2008: 9.30am – 4.00pm

Venue: Irish Hospice Foundation, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2

Presenter: Dr. John McEvoy

The literature on loss and bereavement is vast. However, it is only within the last decade or so that the significance of loss and bereavement for people

with intellectual disabilities has been acknowledged. This workshop will examine the core issue of the bereavement experiences of people with intellectual disability. Previous knowledge of or experience with bereaved intellectually disabled people is not required, though some familiarity with the field of intellectual disability will facilitate learning. Among the topics discussed are conceptual understandings of death; emotional knowledge and recognition skills; grief reaction of people with intellectual disabilities; working with bereaved people who have an intellectual disability and guidelines for intervention and support.

Further information is available from Iris Murray, Irish Hospice Foundation, on 01-6793188 or email

iris.murray@hospice-foundation.ie

EASPD 'CELEBRATING – QUALITY – ACHIEVEMENT'

Date: 15th September 2008

Venue: Vienna, Austria

The 'Quality of Life Measures' final Conference provides the ideal European forum to present and disseminate the projects innovative products and findings.

The successful culmination of 'QOL Measures' project provides an exciting opportunity for all relevant stakeholders involved in vocational, education training programmes and systems, as well as inclusive employment activities, for people with disabilities, to meet with the projects partners responsible for developing the instrument, with a view to exploring and exploiting the instruments future use within the European disability sector.

Further information will be available at: <http://www.easpd.eu/ActivitiesConferences/tabid/3526/Default.aspx>

"TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY"

Dates: 5th - 7th November 2008

Venue: School of Nursing and Midwifery, The Gas Building, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2

The 9th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Conference of the School of Nursing & Midwifery will be held in Dublin on 5th, 6th and 7th November 2008. Abstracts of original research, systematic reviews or innovations in research methodology or education are invited for concurrent papers, workshops or poster presentations. Submissions are welcome from those working in all areas of healthcare and related fields. Abstracts should be submitted for selection by: Friday 25th April 2008

Further information is available from: Jeni Ryan, Administrative Officer – Events, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, Tel: 01

896 3860, Fax: 01 896 3001, Email: ryanjen@tcd.ie, Website: <http://www.nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/events/>

DOWN SYNDROME IRELAND INTERNET & E-MAIL COURSE

Website: <http://www.downsyndrome.ie/elearning.html>

Commissioned by Down syndrome Ireland and developed by Multimedia Instructional Design, this series of interactive lessons is designed specifically for teenagers with Down Syndrome to help them learn about and use the Internet easily and safely.

The Internet & E-mail course is broken down into lessons - or modules - providing short and exciting learning content. Using cutting-edge technology and teaching methodologies each interactive module contains a mix of explanatory audio-visual animations as well as practical exercises. To access the modules log on to <http://www.downsyndrome.ie/elearning.html>

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES - OPEN TRAINING COLLEGE

Details of two of the courses on offer from The Open Training College commencing in September 2008:

B.A. (Ordinary) in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

This Bachelor of Arts Programme is a HETAC accredited course at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). It is a 3-year course consisting of 15 modules. It aims to provide students with cutting edge thinking and skills to assist them in providing excellent person-centred services. This qualification will enable students to apply for posts carrying the Social Care Professional salary scale, as it is one of the approved courses arising from the Joint Committee Report. Deadline for receipt of applications is June 30th, 2008.

B.A. (Honours) in Applied Social Studies (Disability)

This Honours Bachelor of Arts Programme is a HETAC-accredited course at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). It is a 5-module add-on programme for eligible applicants. This qualification will enable students to apply for posts with management responsibilities, including the Social Care Leader salary scale. The deadline for receipt of applications for this course is May 30th, 2008.

For more information about these and other courses on offer, please give the College a call on (01) 2988544 or check details online at www.opentrainingcollege.com. You can always email the college using info.otc@smh.ie

Publications Corner

Recent publications of interest:

- "Charting Your Course", A Handbook for Guidance Counsellors and Information Officers Working with Disability in Adult Education" (2008) is a collaborative project between the Association for Higher Access & Disability (AHEAD) and the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) and is designed to provide all the relevant information to professional guidance staff in dealing with people with disabilities.
- Department of Health & Children Sectoral Plan – Year 1 Review: This review which was published in December 2007, summarises the achievements to date and also includes new targets to be achieved over the next year. This is the first in the series of three reviews. Copies can be downloaded from Department of Health & Children website at: http://www.dohc.ie/publications/sectoral_plan_review.html
- Draft Report on the role of volunteering in contribution to economic and social cohesion (2008) (2007/2149(INI)) Committee on Regional Development Rapporteur: Marian Harkin
- Helping Out: A national survey of volunteering and charitable giving (2007) UK. National Centre for Social Research and the Institute for Volunteering Research
- Injustice in residential care (2008): A joint report by the Local Government Ombudsman and the Health Service Ombudsman for England. The report examined the care needs of 'Frank' (not his real name) and identified a number of significant failings in the level of care he received and in complaint handling.
- People with a learning disability who offend: forgiven but forgotten? (2007) The Irish College of Psychiatrists - Occasional Paper OP63
- UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008) - www.fedvol.ie/publications/ - Easy to Read Documents

Funding Opportunities

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IRELAND – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Since its establishment in March 2005 Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) has provided funding and support in excess of €2 million to 78 of those thoughtful, committed citizens or social entrepreneurs who have had an idea about how they could make our society a little bit better and were determined to do something about it. SEI supports projects in a wide range of areas including education and learning, children and young people, older people, mental health, people with disabilities, the environment, community development and new communities. Social Entrepreneurs Ireland is now inviting applications for the next round of funding in 2008. For further information log on to <http://www.socialentrepreneurs.ie/>

ST STEPHEN'S GREEN TRUST GRANTS SCHEME 2008

St Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT) grants scheme has 4 Grant Focus areas:

- Specific areas of disability (Autistic Spectrum; Hearing Impairment)
- Development and Integration (Older people in isolation; New Communities; Travellers)
- Breaking the Link (Homelessness; Offenders)
- Christian Values and Social Change

SSGT will accept applications from voluntary or community organisations, with a CHY or XR number. Applicants are encouraged to contact SSGT before completing the application form to ensure the project meets the Trust's criteria. Please contact Orla O'Neill, Grants & Development Director, email info@sstg.ie, Tel/Fax: 045 480666, Website: www.sstg.ie, postal address: St Stephen's Green Trust, PO Box 950, Naas, Co Kildare

Friday, 2nd May 2008

Friday, 5th September 2008

Multimedia...

Leisure Buddies Project

The Leisure Buddies project was set up by St. Christopher's Services Longford and St. Hilda's Service Athlone, with funding from Pobal. The project aims to enable service users to be more actively involved in leisure activities outside of the working environment with volunteers in the community, promoting friendship with their peers in the community and enhancing integration. A DVD has been produced to help in the recruitment of volunteers and also to aid in promoting the project to other organisations. Further information on this project and copies of the DVD are available from Ms. Michelle Reilly, Leisure Buddies Co-ordinator, Tel: 086-4074988, Email: info@leisurebuddies.ie, website: www.leisurebuddies.ie

My Data - Your Business? - Complying with the Data Protection Acts

This video is a brief dramatised introduction to the eight principles of data protection. It is intended for use as part of a staff training and awareness programme, which will assist

organisations in meeting their compliance requirements with the Data Protection Acts. The video is approx. 17 minutes long and is available as a DVD or CD-Rom. A copy can be obtained directly from the Data Protection office, there is no charge and you should specify whether you require the video as a DVD or CD-Rom. You can also view the video directly from the website – www.dataprotection.ie - click on Publications and Forms and Training Video. A short guide for facilitators using this video in a training setting accompanies the video.

NORM

SOS Kilkenny has produced a thought-provoking DVD "Norm", telling the story of Norm who is 18 years of age and like most young people his age, he wants to get a place of his own, a job and maybe a girlfriend. But there is a problem Norm is Normal

If you would like to get a copy of this DVD please contact Liam Quinn in SOS Kilkenny at 056-7764000,

email: lquinn@soskilkenny.com

COCHRANE FELLOWSHIPS 2008

The aim of the Cochrane Fellowship scheme is to build capacity in conducting systematic reviews in the health and social care field in Ireland by freeing up protected time for applicants to conduct a Cochrane systematic review in any topic of their choice. The Fellowship provides the Fellow with protected time of up to two days per week for up to two years to conduct their review. The award covers systematic review training costs, salary-related costs and research expenses. It is envisaged that at least four Fellowships will be awarded on the island of Ireland in 2008

This scheme is open to individual's resident on the island of Ireland working as health practitioners, researchers or policy makers. As intensive and continuous training will be provided as part of the Fellowship, applications are invited from those with no prior experience or training in conducting systematic reviews.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 30 May 2008**. Further information is available on the Health Research Board website at www.hrb.ie.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and we would welcome your comments or suggestions to secretariat@fedvol.ie. Further news and information updates are available on our website at www.fedvol.ie.