

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES**

*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*



**federation**

# newsletter

Issue 26 Winter 2008

**Welcome** to the Winter 2008  
edition of the National Federation Newsletter.

Further news and updates are available on our  
website [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

If you are interested in joining our on-  
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**Seasons Greetings!**



We are rapidly approaching the festive season and so we would like to take this opportunity to wish all National Federation members a very happy and peaceful Christmas!! We would like to thank those who gave their time throughout the year and who contributed to the work of the National Federation through involvement as Board, Sub-Committee and Working Group members and those who support the National Federation in so many other ways. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

## New Chairperson for National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

At its meeting on Friday, 12th September, 2008, the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. John O'Dea, Executive Director of Western Care Association as Chairperson of the National Federation. The appointment is for a two year term and in accepting his appointment Mr. O'Dea stated that it was a great honour for him and his organisation to be elected by the other members of the Board. He paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr. Brendan Broderick, Chief Executive, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary for his highly professional and committed stewardship of the Federation during his term of office.



**Mr. John O'Dea, Executive Director of Western Care Association**

# “SO CAN I”

Ability West launches new Intellectual Disability Awareness Programme for Second Level Schools

Ability West is pleased to announce the launch of the “SO CAN I” Programme - an intellectual disability awareness programme for second level schools in Galway City and County.

Since its launch in October of this year, over 300 students have availed of the “So Can I” programme. This Programme, funded by the AIB Better Ireland Programme, is currently available to all schools in Galway City and County. It has been specifically developed for 14-18 year olds with the purpose of raising awareness about intellectual disability and to help break down existing barriers and perceptions.

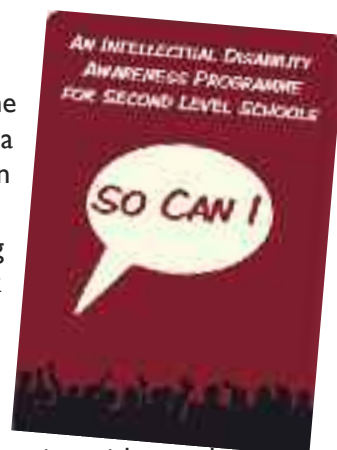
The programme contains factual information regarding intellectual disability. It enables students to understand the challenges faced by those with intellectual disability but also, focuses on their capabilities, achievements and their rightful

place within the community. The programme promotes the idea of ‘similarity rather than difference’.

The Programme is proving very successful and feedback from participants shows a greater understanding of intellectual disability and the realisation that we are all equal members of our community with equal rights, expectations, dreams and individual talents.

*For further information please contact: Deirdre Maloney, Schools Programme Development Officer, Ability West, Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway.*

*Tel: (091) 528122, Mobile: (087) 672 9061, Email: [Deirdre.Maloney@abilitywest.ie](mailto:Deirdre.Maloney@abilitywest.ie)*



## Review of Non-Statutory Disability Sector

Mr. John Maloney, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Equality, Disability and Mental Health announced his intention to establish a group to carry out a review of the non-statutory disability sector to examine the scope for further efficiencies including “*measures such as amalgamation, greater use of shared services, improved administrative efficiency and shared professional/clinical staffing structures*”.

In order to contribute constructively to the work of this group, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has established a Model of Efficiencies Task Group. The Task Group is chaired by Mr. John O’Dea and is comprised of Mr. Brendan Broderick, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary, Ms. Breda Crehan-Roche, Ability West, Mr. John Gately, St. Hilda’s, Mr. Conor Counihan, St. Joseph’s Foundation, Mr. Francis Coughlan, SOS Kilkenny, Mr. Brendan Sutton, Cheeverstown House, and Mr. Brian O’Donnell, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. The objective of the Group is to develop a set of proposals for consideration by Federation members, which will maximise the quality and quantity of services and supports provided to service users and their families within the reduced resources available for this purpose at this time. IBEC have welcomed the Federation’s initiative in this regard and have agreed to provide economic advice to the task group as required.

## Mental Capacity Bill

This Bill, to a large extent, implements the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission report - Vulnerable Adults and the Law (2006). The key recommendation from Vulnerable Adults and the Law is that the law on capacity should reflect an emphasis on capacity rather than lack of capacity and should be enabling rather than restrictive in nature, thus ensuring that it complies with relevant constitutional and human rights standards. The Bill will enable the State to meet its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed by Ireland on the 30th March 2007.

The Mental Capacity Bill provides for reform of the law

concerning mental capacity, provides for informal decision-making on behalf of adult persons who lack capacity in certain circumstances, establishes a guardianship board which may appoint personal guardians to deal with the property, financial matters and welfare of adult persons who lack capacity, confers jurisdiction on the high court in certain matters, provides for the establishment of the office of public guardian and sets out the functions and powers of the public guardian. Further information and the full text of the bill is available from

[http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Scheme\\_of\\_Mental\\_Capacity\\_Bill\\_2008](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Scheme_of_Mental_Capacity_Bill_2008).

## New President for European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

At the meeting of the EASPD General Assembly held on 17th September, 2008, Mr. Brian O’Donnell, Chief Executive, stepped down as President of EASPD upon completion of his three year term of office. During his term of office, EASPD established a full time Brussels based secretariat and the Association grew strongly to become the representative voice of 8,000 service providers throughout the 27 EU Member States. Mr. O’Donnell was succeeded by Mr. Franz Wolfmayr from Austria who will now serve a three year term of office.

# Volunteering in Intellectual Disability Services in Ireland



Back row (l to r): John O'Dea, Western Care; Jerry Mullane, Cope Foundation; Noreen McGarry, Western Care; Ann Byrne, KARE; Breda Casey, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies;  
Front row (l to r): Linda Keane, Ability West; Maura Nash, Cope Foundation; Brian O'Donnell, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies; Roisin Deery, Midway Services; Mary O'Connell, Brothers of Charity Services Limerick)

*"Supporting People to Live the Life of their own Choice in their own Community"*

Minister Pat Carey, TD, Government Chief Whip and Minister of State with special responsibility for Active Citizenship, launched the findings of a national survey on volunteering in intellectual disability services in Ireland in the Hibernian Hotel, Mallow on Monday 6th October 2008. The survey was carried out and published by the National Federation of Voluntary

Bodies and is the first national study on volunteering to be conducted within intellectual disability services in Ireland.

Minister Carey outlined that *"we all recognise that volunteering plays an important part in active citizenship and social inclusion, through strengthening our local communities, in particular enhancing the community involvement of people with intellectual disabilities and facilitating their involvement in mainstream activities. Volunteers also have a vital role to play in breaking down barriers and enabling*

*awareness, working to reduce and minimize the levels of social exclusion and isolation that might be experienced by people with intellectual disability."* The Minister also highlighted *"that as social creatures, our greatest human impulse is that instinctual desire to connect with others, either to make a connection of friendship or to help another, to want to make a difference in someone else's life. Volunteers make a very significant contribution to society by giving of their time for the benefit of others without seeking any form of payment or monetary reward."*

The findings from the Volunteering in Intellectual Disability Services in Ireland survey indicate that there are in excess of 5,000 volunteers contributing approximately 7 hours per month to the active citizenship and social inclusion of people with intellectual disability in Ireland. The main roles carried out by these volunteers are as members of boards of management, fundraisers and befrienders and buddies. 70% of volunteers are female, 30% are male and volunteers are recruited locally through newsletters, bulletins, word of mouth and through staff & family members. All the volunteers are screened through application forms, interviews, Garda vetting, reference checks etc.

## Volunteering supports people with intellectual disability to:

- Really connect with people in their own communities
- Be active citizens in their own communities, thereby achieving their full potential and living the life of their choice
- Have a better quality of life
- Make new friendships
- Develop new skills through their participation in activities e.g. recreation, arts, sports
- Have positive valued social roles within their own community

## Volunteers see their volunteering activities as an opportunity:

- To give something back
- To use the experience as a stepping stone to employment
- To experience personal satisfaction i.e. feel-good factor

Volunteering activities in intellectual disability services also support the recommendations of the Government Taskforce on Active Citizenship and Government's commitment to people with intellectual disability to enable them to live the life of their own choice in their own community.

Minister Pat Carey announced the members of the Government's Active Citizenship Steering Group in the Dail on 22nd October '08.

The members of the Steering Group will support the work of the Office of Active Citizenship which was set up by the Taoiseach earlier this year to implement the recommendations of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship which were published in 2007.



# Directory of National Voluntary Organisations

The 12th edition of the Directory of National Voluntary Organisations and Other Agencies is now available from the Citizens Information Board. With over 570 national and other organisations listed and over 100 new entries, the Directory is the most comprehensive listing of national voluntary organisations in the country. The State agencies relevant to this sector are also listed. The detailed descriptions of organisations include their role, remit and the resources they provide. The directory is also available as part of an online resource for the Voluntary & Community Sector. This is continually updated and provides a range of other useful information resources. A subject matter index makes it easy to locate organisations with similar areas of interest.

Copies of the Directory are available at €12 (plus p&p) and can be ordered by contacting the Citizens Information Board at 01-6059000 or by email to [info@ciboard.ie](mailto:info@ciboard.ie)

## Chairpersons Forum – Boardmatch Ireland

Boardmatch Ireland will be restyling its web site - [www.boardmatch.ie](http://www.boardmatch.ie) - in the coming months and will be adding a new section entitled Chairs' Forum, providing articles and resource signposts specifically for Chairs of not for profit organisations. It is expected that this will develop into a support network for Chairs at regional levels, with seminars and workshops geared towards the needs of Chairs. If you are a Chair of a board of a not for profit organisation Boardmatch would like to invite you to join the network and meet others who are setting the strategic direction. Contact Boardmatch CEO, Graham Whitehead, directly - email:

[graham.whitehead@boardmatchireland.ie](mailto:graham.whitehead@boardmatchireland.ie) to link into a regional network.

## SKILL Project - Graduations 2008

A number of conferring ceremonies for SKILL Project graduates took place during November 2008 in Cork, Galway and Dublin. These were the first national graduations of the SKILL participants since the inception of the SKILL Project and marked a defining moment for all the parties who have put in a tremendous effort in making the SKILL programmes a success. Learners who have attained either the

Health Service Skills FETAC Level 5 award or the Advanced Certificate in Supervisory Management Skills (FETAC Level 6) award were conferred at the ceremonies. The graduations were a huge success and provided the opportunity for learners to celebrate their achievements – well done to all the learners from across National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations that were conferred!

# TRAINING

*'Managing for the Future: Building your Skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment' – Certificate Programme commencing in January 2009*

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is now running a further Front Line Managers Training Programme. The 11-day programme will commence in January 2009 and full details in relation to the programme, along with the booking form, are available from Jillian Sexton – [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie). The programme will run in the University of Limerick who are providing the accreditation for the programme - Certificate in Management (Intellectual Disability), Level 6, National Framework of Qualifications. The programme follows on from the very successful pilot that took place during 2007.

The programme is seen as being central in building the capacity of Front Line Managers to lead the development and implementation of world class person centred services and supports to people with intellectual disability in Ireland. A central theme running through the materials that have been developed is the provision of person centred quality services and the case-studies and exercises that are presented aim to reflect the particular environment in which front line managers within the intellectual disability sector work. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is January 9th 2009.

## Members News

### St. Annes- Daughters of Charity

From September 2008 St Anne's, Roscrea will be one of the ten Service Centres of the Daughters of Charity and will be represented within the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies by the Daughters of Charity Service.

# Nurses – Reduction in the working week 37.5 hours

The process in relation to the implementation of a reduced working week for nursing staff to 37.5 hours is continuing. To date the Performance Verification Group has issued sanction to approximately 70 per cent of nurses (over 26,000 WTE) to commence a 37.5 hour week. A number of agencies within the intellectual disability sector employing nurses are still seeking ways in which this can be achieved within their respective organisations. The Labour Relations Commission has been meeting with both employers and unions at local level to assist where there are on-going difficulties.

## **Commission on Nursing Hours**

The Commission on Nursing Hours was established as a result of a recommendation of the National Implementation Body (NIB) to produce an independent assessment of how a 35-hour week for nurses can be achieved. The Commission, which is chaired by Professor Tom Collins, Head of the Education Department in NUI Maynooth, began its work in March, 2008 and plans to submit its final report at the end of December 2008. The terms of reference of the Commission are:

1. To examine the international experience of best practice in the activities and deployment of nurses/midwives and the type of flexibilities and change which would be necessary to achieve a 35-hour week.
2. To take account of the submissions from HSE management, based on the analysis which it is initiating, and the nursing unions who should elaborate to the Commission on the changes they believe would facilitate the 35-hour week.
3. To produce an independent assessment of how a 35-hour week for nurses/midwives can be achieved,

having regard to the issues set out in Labour Court recommendation 18763.

4. To report to the Minister for Health and Children within six months having reviewed the evidence and engaged with nurses/midwives and management at national and local level.

In June 2008 the Commission issued an invitation to interested parties to submit their views on the type of flexibilities and changes that are necessary to achieve a 35 hour week for nurses and midwives. In particular the Commission was seeking views on the following:

- Changes / innovations to the role and scope of nurses in order to achieve a 35-hour week.
- Changes required in the structure and organisation of a workplace in order to support the delivery of a 35-hour week.
- System-wide changes required to improve service delivery and optimise client care.

In August the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies arranged a workshop

for organisations employing nursing staff to discuss the issues arising in relation to a possible introduction of a 35-hour week for nursing staff. Based on the issues raised in the workshop and feedback from Federation member organisations a submission was prepared and forwarded to the Commission.

In addition to the request for written submissions the Commission also arranged a series of meetings with the various stakeholders affected by the proposal to reduce the working week of nurses to 35 hours. A delegation from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies was invited to meet with members of the Commission on October 8th 2008. The main point highlighted by members of the delegation during their meeting with the Commission was that while in principle the National Federation supports nurses in their endeavours to secure a 35-hour week this cannot be achieved by organisations on either a cost or whole-time-equivalent (WTE) neutral basis, additional resources are essential.

*For further information please contact Jillian Sexton – [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie)*

## HIQA Standards in Designated Residential Services for Persons with Disabilities

Following public consultation on the above standards HIQA now intend to produce a final draft for sign off by their National Standards Advisory Group and for approval by Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health & Children.

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented on the National Standards Advisory Group by Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive and at its meeting on 20th November, the Group was advised that Government is not

in a position to introduce the standards on a mandatory basis in the current economic climate but will be introducing them on a voluntary basis in early 2009 following sign off by the Minister.

# Research

## National Intellectual Disability Research Strategy 2008-2013

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has finalised and launched its National Intellectual Disability Research Strategy 2008-2013. This strategy sets out a vision for research activities across the 63 member organisations over the next few years. It is based on the following underlying principles:

- To undertake research which will lead to a better quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities who use our services;
- To promote and disseminate research among member organisations;
- To focus on a number of relevant and timely themes to maximise the quality and impact of research projects. These themes will be interdisciplinary and inter-organisational to maximise the strength of the National Federation;
- To encourage research collaboration with academic and other research centres where appropriate;
- To conduct research which will drive national policy and respond to current key issues;
- To benchmark research conducted against a list of key outcome measures.

The strategy was developed with the Research Subcommittee of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and was derived from a series

of consultations with the Research Subcommittee, member organisations via email questionnaire, with advocacy / self-advocacy groups, with the National Federation Secretariat and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Board of Directors.

At the heart of the strategy lies the importance of advocacy and social inclusion in research activity and the need for inclusive and participatory research methods. It also recognizes that a strong evidence base is needed to understand the health, wellness and quality of life of persons with intellectual disability and that this evidence base should drive policy and respond to issues and be used to benchmark ourselves internationally. The National Federation has the potential and scope to promote world class research and it is hoped that the research strategy should lead to a measurable increase in the quality and quantity of research conducted in Ireland. The need for people with intellectual disability to be included in any generic population studies has also been identified.

To launch the Strategy a series of presentations were made to the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the National Federation. In addition presentations on the research strategy and its action plans have been given to

a variety of professional groups. The achievements to date since the launch of the strategy include:

- The priority topics have been identified
- Designated experts have been identified and continue to update information on the Federation website
- Research collaborators have been identified and the first meeting with all parties took place in Galway in September to discuss potential areas of collaboration
- Work has begun on the exploration of the development of a register of disability stakeholders group
- The database of Intellectual Disability research continues to be updated
- Exploration of the development of a National Research Ethics Committee has begun
- Consultation with people who use services and their families underpins the strategy and there have been numerous examples of this including the ongoing work of the Inclusive Research Network (see below)

The Research Strategy (including an easy-to-read version) is available for download from [www.fedvol.ie/research](http://www.fedvol.ie/research).

**The Research Strategy comprises 12 priorities for research as set out below:**

1. Define the priority areas for research as identified through consultation with people who use services, Chief Executive Officers of organisations, management and frontline staff.
2. Identify a list of key designated experts in the Irish research community who will support the dissemination of research and assessment materials in these areas. These key experts will provide expert knowledge on these topics thus enhancing the knowledge base among members
3. Develop quality indicators for research in intellectual disability and guidelines for evidence based practices.
4. Measure performance of research activities
5. Identify key people who may be called upon to act as associate members of the National Federation Research Sub-Committee as need and circumstances arise.
6. Develop research collaborations with national and international research centres
7. Develop a capacity to advise on how research could be funded in the future.
8. Develop a register of disability stakeholders. This will consist of organisations, governments departments, statutory and non-statutory bodies, people with disabilities and family members.
9. Continue to develop a register of intellectual disability research as per National Federation of Voluntary Bodies website.
10. Develop a National Research Ethics Committee with key national representation.
11. Continue to consult with and listen to people who use the services through research initiatives such as the Inclusive Research Network and continue to develop experience and expertise in participatory research methodologies
12. Regularly review the research strategy.



# Launch of Intellectual Disability Supplement to TILDA



Pictured at the launch of the TILDA Intellectual Disability Supplement Launch are William Collins, Christine Patterson and Margaret Gahan who featured in the promotional material for the project (Fintan Walsh who also featured in the promotional material was unable to attend the launch). Also in the photograph is Professor Mary McCarron, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin.

An 'Intellectual Disability (ID) Supplement' to the 'Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)' was launched on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Wednesday, 3rd December 2008, at Trinity College Dublin.

This will be the first longitudinal study of ageing in persons with intellectual disability in Ireland and the European Union and the only study with the potential to compare the ageing of people with intellectual disabilities with other population groups.

Almost half of people with a moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability living in Ireland are aged 35 years or over; the numbers are growing and longevity is increasing. Whilst this is a great achievement, the realities of ageing also present new challenges:

- As the carers of adults with intellectual disability also age beyond their caring capacity, additional formal supervised living arrangements will need to be established
- Increased pressure for the creation

and support of residential placements is already being experienced by residential services

- There is evidence that rates of chronic illness are higher in old age and average age of death is lower for people with intellectual disability (when compared to the general ageing population) while access to services and health promotion is poorer and quality of life is often compromised.

This Supplement is designed to gather data to support finding answers to these challenges. The Supplement project will collect data from 800 people with intellectual disability (over age 40) on physical and psychosocial health, living situations, social networks and quality of life. Supplement findings on ageing will also be compared with the findings for the general population being collected in The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) led by Professor Rosanne Kenny.

Funded by the Health Research Board and led by Professor Mary McCarron of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin, collaborators include the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, Inclusion Ireland, the National Intellectual Disability Database, and an international advisory committee comprised of nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, physicians, family members, providers and advocates including collaborators from Northern Ireland and the U.S.

What a great day December 3rd 2008 was for people with intellectual disability in Ireland; unknown to many of them at the moment this project will represent the first national inclusive venture, which will hopefully improve/enhance their lives in the future and ensure that their ageing years are ones to remember for both themselves and their families.

# Dignity at Work Policy - Review

The Dignity at Work Policy for the Health Service, which was launched in 2004, aims to ensure a working environment which supports the dignity of all staff and to inform employees of their rights and responsibilities in terms of maintaining a working environment which is free from bullying, harassment and sexual harassment. It outlines the procedure to be followed if an employee feels they are being subjected to any form of behaviour which undermines their dignity. It was agreed that a review of the Policy would be conducted at national level, on a partnership basis, following 2-years of operation.

This review commenced in early 2007 and its purpose was to identify aspects

of the Policy which were causing concern at local / operational level, agree appropriate amendments and also to incorporate relevant legislative changes. A survey was undertaken with National Federation of Voluntary Bodies members in relation to their experiences of implementing the Dignity at Policy at local level and the responses received were fed back to the National Review Working Group.

In particular the review has focused on:

- The inclusion of a preliminary screening stage to the policy which would determine whether matters arising should be dealt with under the Dignity at Work Policy or another appropriate means.

- The further enhancement of the mediation process and the role of mediation in supporting the resolution of complaints of bullying and harassment.

The review of the Dignity at Work Policy is now nearing completion, with the Policy scheduled for relaunch in early 2009. In conjunction with this, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies will be organising training for those appointed as Support Contact Persons within organisations and will also be arranging investigators training.

## Conferences and Training Events

### **Innovation and Inclusion: An Opportunity for a Masters Award, University of Bristol**

We all believe in putting people with learning disabilities at the centre of our practice, and ensuring that we listen to their voices. Now the lives and experiences of people with learning disabilities are at the heart of a new Masters programme, 'Inclusive Theory and Practice' at the University of Bristol, which recruited for the first time in January 2008. This is a course grounded in leading national and international research, and based at the Norah Fry Research Centre.

*Those interested in finding out more about commencing in January 2009 can go to the Norah Fry website at: [www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry) or contact Val Williams, the Programme Director at [val.williams@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:val.williams@bristol.ac.uk).*

### **Person centred technology - the impact for people with learning disabilities**

Home Farm Trust (HFT) 7th Annual Conference

Venue: Cavendish Conference Centre, 22 Duchess Mews, London W1G 9DT

Date: January 27th 2009

This is a new development in using assistive technology and telecare, coupled with the development around information communications technology - redefined as person centred technology. Using these technologies in an innovative and integrated way allows for improvements and benefits to the quality of life of people with learning disabilities and enables more economic and effective use of resources. The conference, therefore, is of special interest to commissioners, policy makers, purchasers, housing and service providers, and families. For further information go to <http://www.pavpub.com/mailings/p.hftannual01.09/hftflyer.pdf>

### **Government's Proposals to Reform the Law on Mental Capacity**

Date: 5th February 2008 - 8.30 am to 1.30 pm

Venue: Dublin Castle

Early next year, the National Disability Authority and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform will host a conference on the Government's proposals to reform the law on Mental Capacity. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate discussion of some key areas surrounding the proposed legislative reforms. Minister Dermot Ahern, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform will deliver the Opening Address. Further information is available from the National Disability Authority, 25 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Tel: 01 6080400, Direct Line: 01 6080480



# Conferences and Training Events *(Continued...)*

## Irish Hospice Foundation 2009 Workshops on Loss and Bereavement (Dublin)

Title: Loss and Bereavement in People with Intellectual Disabilities:

Venue: Irish Hospice Foundation Education and Bereavement Resource Centre, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2

Dates: 25th & 26th June 2009

A series of introductory workshops organised by the Irish Hospice Foundation, targeted at professionals and volunteers who may wish to learn more about loss and bereavement and for those working with people who have suffered a major loss. The workshops have Post Registration Category I approval by An Bord Altranais.

*Please note as places are limited early booking is advised. For more information please ring Iris on 01 6793188, or email: [iris.murray@hospice-foundation.ie](mailto:iris.murray@hospice-foundation.ie)*

### 10<sup>th</sup> World Down Syndrome Congress

Title: Lifelong Living and Learning

Date: August 19th – 22nd 2009

Venue: Dublin

Down Syndrome Ireland will host the 10th World Down Syndrome Congress in Dublin. The theme for the Congress is "Lifelong Living and Learning". To celebrate the 10th WDSC the first "Synod of People with Down Syndrome" will be held. This will be a ground breaking event where the agenda and programme will be developed by and for people with Down syndrome. Down Syndrome Ireland plans a dynamic and exciting programme that will cater for all professionals including health, educational, and research practitioners. There will be a parallel participative programme for parents, siblings, children and adults with Down syndrome. Further information is available on [www.wdsc2009.com](http://www.wdsc2009.com).

### International Conference on Education for People with Disabilities

Title: Salamanca - 15 Years On:

Inclusion – A School For All

Venue: Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin, Ireland,

Dates: 12th & 13th November 2009

This conference will be organised by EASPD with support from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in Ireland and other stakeholders.

2009 will be the 15th anniversary of the Salamanca Statement which calls for the inclusion of all children in education. The conference will explore ways to improve inclusion and accessibility for everyone. Further information on the conference will be available at [www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu).

### 7<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Mental Health in Intellectual Disability

Title: Promoting Mental Health for People with Intellectual Disability

Venue: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dates: 3, 4 and 5 September 2009

This Congress will be held on 3, 4 and 5 September 2009 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. During this congress you will be able to share scientific results, practical experience and reflect on the progress of professional knowledge and competences. Visit the official congress website at [www.amsterdamcongress2009.org](http://www.amsterdamcongress2009.org).

For questions please contact Congresso, P.O. Box 2015, 3440 DA Woerden, the Netherlands, telephone +31 (0)348 425415, e-mail [info@congresso.nl](mailto:info@congresso.nl).

The call for papers is now on the website and the deadline is 1st April 2009.

## Inclusive Research Network

To date the Inclusive Research Network has held 2 in a series of 3 workshops. These workshops focus on developing skills for doing inclusive research and are open to anyone who would like to develop their research skills in this area.

The workshops take place in Dublin and Galway and thus far participants have expressed their enthusiasm about participating in these events. For more information on the work of the Inclusive Research Network and upcoming events contact: [incres@tcd.ie](mailto:incres@tcd.ie) or log on to <http://www.tcd.ie/niid/research/irn/>.

## Research on Young Carers in the Irish Population

The Child and Family Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway is currently conducting research with children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years who look after other members of their family at home. They may help a parent who has a disability or health problems or provide support to a brother or sister. If you know of any such children or young people who would be willing to participate in the study, please get in touch with David Cairns: phone 091 495731 or email [david.cairns@nuigalway.ie](mailto:david.cairns@nuigalway.ie).

# BUDGET 2009

In the build up to Budget 2009, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies expressed its concerns regarding the impact on front line services provision which reductions in funding allocations would have. The Federation joined with Inclusion Ireland, the National Parents & Siblings Alliance and Down Syndrome Ireland in organising a national press conference which was held on Wednesday, 8th October, 2008. The press conference was attended by all the national media and representatives from all political parties. The National

Federation of Voluntary Bodies welcomed the provision in the Budget announcement on 14th October, 2008 of an additional €20 million for health and education services for children with special educational needs. However we expressed our serious concerns with the decision by Government to reduce funding allocations to non-statutory disability agencies by 1% in 2009 coming as it does on the back of a similar cut in 2008 and in previous years. We have since engaged with the HSE to discuss

with them the impact which these cuts will have on the ground. At a meeting with the HSE on 18th November, 2008 it was agreed to establish a National Working Group chaired by the HSE with representatives from the three National Disability Umbrella Organisations-DFI, Not-for-Profit and The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. The role of the working group will be to oversee implementation of the Government decision and to develop proposals to address emergency/crisis situations arising in 2009.

## Funding News

### The Artist in the Community Scheme - Create

Twice yearly, the Arts Council offers grants to enable artists and communities to work together on projects through this scheme, managed by Create. Phase 1 is open to artists; Phase 2 (project realisation) is open to communities. For information, or to book an advisory session, phone 01 473 6600, email [support@create-ireland.ie](mailto:support@create-ireland.ie) or check [www.create-ireland.ie](http://www.create-ireland.ie). Deadline - 01 February 2009.

### Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP)

The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme is a series of measures designed to counter disadvantage and to promote equality and social and economic inclusion. This

Programme is managed by Pobal (Formerly known as Area Development Management (ADM) Ltd.) on behalf of the Department. The programme is delivered at local level by:

38 Area Partnerships

31 Community Partnerships

2 Employment Pacts

Each of these groups prepares a strategic plan setting out objectives, actions and targets across three sub-measures – Services for the Unemployed, Community Development and Community Based Youth Initiatives, designed to address poverty and social inclusion in their areas. Further details of each of these groups is available at

<http://www.pobal.ie/en/CommunityLocalDevelopmentProgrammes/>

## Publications Corner

### Latest National Federation Publications -

<http://www.fedvol.ie/publications/>

Annual Report 2007, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

### Research Strategy 2008 - 2013, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

Volunteering in Intellectual Disability Services in Ireland, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

### Other Recent Publications

#### Making Decisions About Money (2008)

An Easy to Read Guide about Money and managing your money – Inclusion Ireland - <http://www.inclusionireland.ie/>

#### Making Medical Decisions (2008)

an information booklet for parents and families of children with intellectual disabilities – Inclusion Ireland - <http://www.inclusionireland.ie/>

#### Making a Will - An Easy to Read Guide to Making a Will (2008)

An Easy to Read Guide of the

issues involved with making a will or leaving inheritance to a person with intellectual disability – Inclusion Ireland - <http://www.inclusionireland.ie/>

#### National Disability Survey 2006 – first results – Central Statistics Office Ireland

<http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/nationaldisabilitysurvey06first.htm>

#### National Report for Ireland on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion - 2008-2010

Office for Social Inclusion <http://www.socialinclusion.ie/publications/documents/NSSPIFinal.pdf>

#### People with a Learning Disability who Offend: Forgiven but Forgotten?

... OP63. Occasional paper, Irish College of Psychiatrists - [www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/collegereports/op/op63.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/collegereports/op/op63.aspx)

#### Trends in demand for services among children aged 0-5 years with an intellectual disability 2003-2007.

HRB trends series 3 - <http://www.hrb.ie/publications/hrb-publication/publications//407/>

#### Frontline Magazine, Issue No. 72, 2008

*We hope you find this newsletter useful and we would welcome your comments or suggestions to [secretariat@fedvol.ie](mailto:secretariat@fedvol.ie). Further news and information updates are available on our website at [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie).*

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES**

*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*

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