

21st November 2012

Dear HIQA,

While welcoming the idea of standards, the Inclusive Research Network (IRN) are extremely concerned at the limited consultation time on this process. It has meant that we have only been able to meet once to discuss the current draft of the standards. For something that is to have a profound impact on the lives of people supported we consider this disrespectful. We also require additional information and examples of how the standards will work in practice and would have preferred to discuss this directly with you. We would also like to know how much discussion had taken place with people supported by organisations to develop the standards?

The IRN Members had particular difficulties in understanding the term "*residential centre*" and what did this mean, did it mean community house, group home and if so this was not clear to them. They did not like this term and what it means. They expressed concern at an approach that was based on a centre rather than an individual's life. They felt that many aspects of the standards could related to other areas of their life and not a house. We propose that the standards should be about how people want to be supported in their life in living the lives that they choose.

Overall people felt it was good to have a system that checked to see that was meant to be happening was happening. But it needed to be checking the right things.

However some people expressed a concern that if their community house closed down they would have nowhere to live. They were therefore unsure what say they would have in this process and it caused them to question if the standards were a good thing if they were happy living where they were, for example what happened with some of the nursing homes. IRN members were also concerned about making sure that money was available to improve a community group home rather than close it

Do the standards really understand the importance of the support staff relationship with the person? We are concerned that this may be missing and

wish to highlight the complexity involved. The IRN propose that the person chooses the type of working relationship they have with support staff. The relationship with the support staff is very important for people and when they have staff leave for another job that there should be support for the person to manage the change of staff. It's a Trust issue.

The IRN members are concerned at Children's and Adults Standards being together. We think the Children's Standards should be part of the General Children's Standards. People supported need to have more power over their lives. This is what the standards need to measure.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick

Patrick Santry.

IRN Chairperson

On behalf Inclusive Research Network