

Federation

If you are interested in joining our on-line Newsletter mailing list, please email us at: info@fedvol.ie

newsletter

Issue 27 - Summer 2009

www.fedvol.ie

National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Calls for End to Funding Reductions in 2009:

The National Federation has, in its submissions to Government and the HSE, been outlining its serious concerns about service providers' difficulties in maintaining front line services in the face of the 2% funding reductions in 2009. These cuts, together with the 1% reductions in 2008, are causing significant difficulties on the ground. In addition, providers are endeavouring to respond to crisis and emergency cases arising in 2009 in the absence of additional resources. The National Federation, through its membership of the Disability Stakeholders Group, wrote to An Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D., and to Professor Brendan Drumm, Chief Executive Officer, HSE, calling on them to reaffirm their commitment to the National Disability Strategy and to end the cycle of incremental funding reductions in 2009.

The National Federation welcomed the statement by Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health & Children, on 3rd April, 2009, in relation to Budget 2009 when she confirmed that any further funding reductions required to make up the shortfall in the HSE's Budget would not apply in the Disability Sector.

With regard to the implementation of the National Disability Strategy the National Federation has joined with the Disability Federation of Ireland and others in calling on Government to develop a new five year implementation plan with a specific focus on areas to be prioritised during the current difficult economic climate.

Value for Money Review

During the course of 2007 / 2008 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies carried out a strategic review with a view to identifying an appropriate structure and configuration to best meet the needs of people with intellectual disability.

The requirement of identifying and promoting the particular value add which the members of the National Federation provide to its stakeholders, including people with intellectual disability, families, funders and society generally, emerged both as an immediate and strategic priority in the context of the review.

The Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies established a Working Group to develop proposals to give effect to this strategic priority. The Working Group has prepared a draft report which will be the basis of a dedicated **Consultation Event on Wednesday, 27th May, 2009, in Moore Abbey, Monasterevin**. It is expected that following the consultation event the National Federation will prepare a comprehensive submission to the Government appointed Group to carry out a value for money and policy review of the Disability Sector.

Art Competition Entries to Launch the National Federation's New Website

Over the past few months, the National Federation has re-designed its website - www.fedvol.ie – to be clear, professional and modern, and more accessible for all its users. Our website now has WAI Accessibility Level AA and we will build on this level of accessibility in the future. The website provides you with links to all our member organisations, news, events and training, our current work activities, details of our research, human resources and skill development areas, updates on our Informing Families project, National Federation and other relevant publications, and a databank of useful resources. Details of our active engagement with people who avail of intellectual disability services are also available. The website also features more multimedia such as illustrations and photos and is designed to have a more user-friendly approach. Our re-designed website is now live and we welcome your feedback or suggestions to breda.casey@fedvol.ie.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. The header includes the organization's name and tagline, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links to Home, About Us, Human Resources, Inclusion, Research & Policy, Publications, News and Events, Resources, and Contact. The main content area features a 'Welcome' message, a grid of six topic cards (About Us, HR and Skill Development, Inclusion, Research and Policy, Publications, International Conference), and a 'News' section with three recent articles.

To celebrate the launch of the updated National Federation website, we have published a gallery of some of the stunning artwork which was submitted to this year's National Federation/Health Research Board Art competition. Each year the HRB and the National Federation invite people who avail of intellectual disability services to take part in an art competition to design the front cover of the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee Annual Report. A trophy and a digital camera are awarded to the winner of the competition and each person who enters the competition receives a certificate. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who entered the art competition this year and as usual the standard of the submitted entries was extremely high. We will announce the winner shortly, and in the meantime you can view a sample of some of the wonderful artwork that was submitted for this year's competition at www.fedvol.ie.

Service Level Arrangements:

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, together with the Not for Profit Business Association and the Disability Federation of Ireland, has over the past year been working with the HSE in the development of new Service Level Arrangement Templates. During this time the National Federation obtained comprehensive legal advice which formed the basis of a detailed position submitted by the National Federation. We are currently in the process of finalising the first phase of the Draft Protocols with the HSE. A National Steering Committee, upon which the National Federation is represented, has been established to monitor the ongoing implementation of the Arrangements and to oversee the first annual review of the Arrangements in 2010.

A Consultation Event with member organisations of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on the Service level Arrangements has been arranged for the afternoon of Wednesday, 27th May, 2009, in Moore Abbey, Monasterevin.

HIQA Standards:

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability welcomes the launch of the National Quality Standards for Residential Services for People with Disabilities. Over the past year the National Federation, through the participation of its Chief Executive, Mr. Brian O'Donnell, on the National Standards Advisory Group, has worked closely with the Health Information & Quality Authority, the Health Service Executive, service user representatives and other stakeholders, in the development of these standards.

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is committed to continuous quality improvements in the delivery of residential services for people with intellectual disability. Under the guidance of our Quality Sub Committee over the past number of years, the member organisations of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies have invested significant time and resources in developing high quality management systems. Many have achieved international accreditation. The focus during this time has been on the development of community based services where people live and are supported to participate in the every day life of their community.

We view the launch of the National Standards as an important development. They represent a significant milestone in supporting organisations to achieve ongoing quality improvements in the delivery of residential services for people with disabilities.

Commenting on the National Standards, Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies stated that "the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies welcomes the launch of these standards and is committed to working with the Health Service Executive and the Health Information & Quality Authority in their implementation".

National Federation Secretariat team welcomes John Doyle on student placement



The Secretariat Team recently welcomed John Doyle on student placement from his Bachelors Degree in Psychology & Sociology at the University of Limerick. John is currently working on a wide variety of projects, including supporting the work of the Inclusive Research Network, the ROSE project, and the development of a comprehensive reading list

on Living Options, as part of the National Federation Research Strategy. John has already been a very welcome addition to the Federation team and we look forward to working with him for the remainder of his placement.

European and Local Elections

My Opinion My Vote

The next European elections will be held in June 2009. They are important for every European citizen. All citizens aged 18 years and older have the right to vote....regardless of their disability. M.O.TE – 'My Opinion My Vote' is a Grundtvig Multilateral Project financed by the 'Lifelong Learning Programme for European Education, Audiovisual & Culture Agency'. The project aims to empower people with learning disabilities through active citizenship and participation in political elections. The project website <http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu> contains lots of information including easy-to-read versions of the Manifestos of European Parliamentary groups.

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disability (EASPD) has prepared a manifesto for circulation to all candidates for election throughout Europe. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has circulated the manifesto to all Irish candidates. Visit www.easpd.eu for more information.

New Charities Legislation enacted

The new charities legislation was signed into law by the President on 28th February 2009. The Charities Act 2009 provides for a new Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) and a "Register of Charities" upon which any charity operating in Ireland must be entered, and which will be available to the public. Charities will provide information to the new Authority on their charitable activities, which will also be made available to the general public. Detailed information on the Charities Act 2009 is available on the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs website at:

<http://www.pobail.ie/en/CharitiesRegulation/> and on The Wheel website at www.wheel.ie

Informing Families of their Child's Disability – Implementation of Best Practice Guidelines continues at a national & local level

The National Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability were launched in December 2007 by Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney, TD. The Guidelines were the culmination of a significant research and consultation process undertaken by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies to provide improved support for families and professionals at the time of a child's diagnosis of disability.

Since then, the focus of the Informing Families Project has been to promote and disseminate the Guidelines and to develop materials that support the implementation of best practice at a national and local level. At a national level the Guidelines have been presented to a wide range of professional disciplines through national meetings, study days and conferences. These have included the Irish Association of Directors of Nursing and Midwifery Annual Conference, the Clinical Indemnity Scheme Bi-Annual Obstetrics Forum, the Psychological Society of Ireland Annual Conference, and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Faculty of Paediatrics Spring Meeting. The Guidelines also received a particularly warm welcome at last year's Inclusion Ireland AGM, where parents endorsed the importance of implementing good practice in this area.

Four regional seminars are being organised in 2009 to provide information on the best practice guidelines to multi-disciplinary early services teams throughout the country. The first of these regional seminars took place on 20 February 09, kindly hosted by St. John of God Hospitaller Services, and attended by over 55 practitioners from Dublin North East and Mid Leinster National Federation member organisations and HSE early services teams.

Cork Pilot Implementation Project

With support from the Health Services National Partnership Forum a pilot implementation project has been set up in the Cork region to implement the Informing Families Guidelines across hospital, community and disability service settings, in order to inform roll-out on a national basis. The Cork Pilot Project is guided by a Steering Committee which is chaired by Ms. Katherine O'Leary, a parent of two children with disabilities.

The work of the pilot project has included the development of a training programme which has been rolled out to a range of medical and nursing students; junior hospital doctors; and a wide range of professionals in early services teams in physical, sensory and intellectual disability service providers in the region.



Paediatric Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors in Cork University Hospital, participating in the Informing Families Training Programme.

Cork Pilot Implementation Project (continued...)



Ms. Katherine O'Leary, Parent and Chair of the Informing Families Cork Implementation Project describes family experiences of childhood disability at a 'Train the Trainers' workshop, Cork 14 May 09

Recently, 30 practitioners took part in a 'Train the Trainers' workshop and will shortly provide information on the Guidelines to colleagues in their disciplines and geographical areas.

Through the pilot project and in conjunction with the HSE Social Inclusion department, a website of information for families is also being developed, which will provide appropriate, up to date and accurate information at the time of diagnosis.

The work of the Cork Implementation Project will be evaluated at the end of December 2009 and will provide valuable information to guide national roll-out.

For further information or to download the Guidelines and project materials please see www.fedvol.ie or contact alison.harnett@fedvol.ie

Human Resources Matters

New Chairperson – Human Resources Sub-Committee;

Mr. Liam Murphy, Human Resources Manager, Brothers of Charity, Cork has recently been appointed Chairperson of the National Federation's Human Resources Sub-Committee. Liam took over this role from Ms. Maura Donovan, Chief Executive, Stewarts Hospital, who had very successfully steered the work of the Committee in recent years. A presentation was made to Maura at a recent Sub-Committee meeting in acknowledgment of her hard work, support and dedication as Chairperson of the HR Sub-Committee.

Members of the Human Resources Sub-Committee are now focusing on their work plan for 2009.

The overall role of the Human Resources Sub-Committee is to:

- Provide a communication, information and networking forum to Human Resource practitioners within National Federation member organisations whereby they can meet with colleagues and pursue HR objectives of common interest.
- Gather and disseminate information in relation to key issues of relevance to member organisations and to provide support in relation to human resource related developments.
- Provide a strategic decision-making forum whereby common positions can be developed where this is considered beneficial.
- Ensure that the intellectual disability sector is recognised, connected and has a voice at national level.
- Examine and furnish reports on relevant human resource related issues and legislation and to provide advice to member organisations through National Federation structures.

If you would like further information on the work / role of the Human Resources Sub-Committee please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie

The ROSE Project

In late 2008 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies was invited to participate in an EU funded project – called the ROSE (Reducing Occupational Stress in Employment) Project. The overall aim of the Project is to develop an on-line stress management tool for staff managing or working in day services with people with an intellectual disability. Waterford Institute of Technology is the lead partner in this project. As part of the Project a number of Focus Groups were organized by the National Federation in late February for Managers and front line staff working in day services. The Focus Groups provided the opportunity for Managers and Staff to identify some of the key stressors that they are facing in their work.

The ROSE Project will run over a 2-year period and it is anticipated that the development of the combined person and work directed stress management programme will improve the long-term retention within services of staff working in this area. The ROSE project will provide an accessible and user friendly online stress management programme which will be available to services and individuals on a 24 hour basis. The project will also provide data and information to support local services and European Commission initiatives on social inclusion, workplace support, policy harmonisation and mental health.

Training

SKILL Project

A joint funding application from the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies was submitted to the SKILL Programme National Steering Committee in late 2008. The application was successful with funding being allocated to undertake work on contextualising the current SKILL Programme modules to ensure that the learning needs of staff members supporting / working with people with a disability are being met through the existing SKILL modules which are being delivered. This process will involve:

- Examination of the current content of SKILL Programme Modules and identifying outstanding gaps in the current SKILL training programme;
- Drafting of contextualisation materials;
- Piloting of new materials or modules where necessary;
- Reviewing the current SKILL Programme information packs to promote modules of relevance to the voluntary disability sector;
- Briefing sessions to be held with SKILLVEC tutors involved in the delivery of SKILL Programme Modules to learners working in the disability sector;
- Broadening the panel of SKILL trainers to include the engagement of tutors with experience of working with people with an intellectual disability from a rights based perspective.

One Day Training and Development Event on eLearning in Dublin-Wednesday, March 11th 2009

In the current economic climate organisations are being challenged to maintain their training, development and learning activities within constrained budgets and so need to be innovative and resourceful in terms of how they can ensure staff receive the training and development opportunities they require. One way of doing this is by ensuring your organisation has a focus on eLearning which can complement the other more traditional types of learning that organisations engage in.

- * Maureen Murphy, Managing Director of Aurion, provided an overview of eLearning and the various options open to organisations and the different learning methods associated with eLearning. Areas where organisations can incorporate eLearning in the future are - Organisational Policies; Induction; Links to performance reviews; Continuous Professional Development, etc.
- * Pat Kenny, HSE Learning Centre, provided an overview of the HSE Learning Centre and the resource materials available within the Centre. The resources of the Learning Centre are available to all staff working in the intellectual disability sector / organisations funded by the HSE.
- * Raymond Watson from the Open Training College spoke about how the College is using eLearning as a powerful resource for supporting learners that are undertaking accredited programmes with the College. Raymond's input highlighted how flexible eLearning is and how great an asset it can be to organisation.

How did people feel about the day? The feedback from the event was very positive and it generated some great ideas for Federation members in relation to developing eLearning.

Open Training College (OTC) introduces more flexible skills workshop attendance options for students

The OTC, informed by its many stakeholders, has made a decision to implement some new options for students attending courses in 2009/10. In light of the growing challenges facing everyone in the disability sector, the College has determined that greater flexibility of course delivery is a major support required by students and agencies this year. That is why the College has decided to further resource the Virtual Learning Environment, MyOTC, with even more student supports this year that will enable students to make an important choice.

“Some students may not need to avail of all the supports offered under the Supported Open Learning model. One such support is the skills workshop. Some students may not need to attend the workshop in order to complete an assignment that meets all the required learning outcomes for that module. In those cases, the student will most likely utilise the online support more than the workshop support in order to complete the module” explains Karen Finnerty, OTC College Director.

More information is available on www.opentrainingcollege.com or you can email your question to Conor on info.otc@smh.ie or call the College on 01-2988544

Research

New Members of the Research Sub-Committee:

The National Federation would like to welcome its new members of the Research Subcommittee who joined the committee in January 2009. The new members are:

- Dr. Barry Coughlan Brothers of Charity Limerick and University of Limerick
- Mr. Francis Coughlan SOS Kilkenny
- Mr Sean Abbott COPE Foundation
- Ms. Cliona McCormack Rehab Care
- Mr. John Doyle National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

The Research Sub-committee continues to implement the Research Strategy developed in 2008 and has the following updated terms of reference

- 1) To advise the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on research issues;
- 2) To identify key areas of research for the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and to explore potential of developing a cohesive plan of research actions;
- 3) To assist the National Federation in developing research proposals for funded and non-funded research;
- 4) To provide support for National Federation research projects through participation in project advisory committees;
- 5) To assist researchers in a variety of ways at every stage of the research process
- 6) To disseminate the research undertaken by the National Federation and the member organisations, and to highlight the benefits for service users and their families (using Federation website, newsletters, conferences, etc.)
- 7) To encourage informal networking and to facilitate interagency cooperation on research projects among the member organisations.
- 8) To highlight the research activities of the National Federation and its members with EASPD, IASSID and the NDA and to encourage closer cooperation where appropriate.
- 9) To debate best practice and develop guidelines in intellectual disability research
- 10) To disseminate national and international research findings.
- 11) To assist people with intellectual disabilities to conduct research

If you would like further information about the Research Sub-Committee please contact Edel Tierney Director of Research and Policy Development edel.tierney@fedvol.ie

The Research Sub-Committee focus for 2009; 'Living Options.'

This year the National Federation has chosen the topic of **Living Options** as its Research Topic for 2009. This topic was one of 11 priority topics identified through consultations for the Research strategy with member organisations, people with disability and staff members. The Research Subcommittee has developed an action agenda for the year and this can be downloaded at www.fedvol.ie

As part of this action plan the Research Subcommittee will organise a residential weekend to debate the current issues surrounding the topic of where people live and the costs and quality of life outcomes associated with various settings.

A comprehensive reading list has been developed on the topic of Living Options and will be available soon on the Research & Development section of www.fedvol.ie. Throughout the year a series of presentations and examples of best practice will be delivered and explored.

The Inclusive Research Network (IRN) is currently working on a piece of research called **Where we live**. This project is the result of a series of training workshops which was attended by people with disabilities and staff members, family members, support workers who are interested in inclusive research and developing research skills. The topic of where we live was identified in the workshops as worthy of a research project.



IRN members at Workshop One in Galway, Sep 2008



IRN members in Dublin at Workshop One, Sep 2008

Participants will conduct peer-to-peer interviews about where people live what they like and don't like and their experiences of their current living situations.

Development of a Disability Stakeholders Register.

Would you like to give us your views? Would you like to become involved in consultations on topics of interest to people with intellectual disability and services? We want to hear from you. Join our disability stakeholders register by emailing edel.tierney@fedvol.ie - include disability stakeholders register in the subject line.

Conferences/Training

INCLUSION – A SCHOOL FOR ALL Salamanca - 15 years on Dublin, Ireland

Dates: November 12th – 13th 2009

Venue: Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin

This conference is being organised by EASPD and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in Ireland and other important stakeholders. The Salamanca Statement is the outcome of the UNESCO Conference on Special Needs Education in 1994 and is an important manifesto for inclusion as a way of achieving high quality education for all.

After all these years, much has been achieved to move the educational policy and practice in a more inclusive direction. Nevertheless, we have a long way to go before reaching a society where equal opportunities are guaranteed for all. High quality education is not yet accessible for everyone. The conference will, therefore, explore ways to improve inclusion.

Conference Target Groups:

- Persons with special educational needs using the education system.
- Politicians and decision makers in the field of education.
- Administrators, principals and staff from mainstream as well as special schools.
- Teachers and staff from the universities.
- Parent and teacher organisations.
- Organisations representing persons with special educational needs.
- Student organisations.
- Social and educational service providers.

Conference goals:

- To create a new European Network of all those committed to inclusive education, providing functioning examples of good practice.
- To offer guidance and active help to all parties interested in transforming mainstream schools into schools for all.
- To agree on a Dublin Statement and Action Plan.

Preliminary Conference Programme:

Key speeches will focus on the following topics:

- Models of good practice on how inclusive education can work.
- A family's view on Inclusion and a pupil story.
- The role of education to succeed in life as a person with a disability.
- The Salamanca Declaration of 1994 – a challenge with tremendous consequences.
- UNESCO's work on the road to Inclusion.
- The Council of Europe and the European Union: their view on Fundamental Rights.
- Workshops and Panel-discussions covering the challenges and solutions for the future.

For further conference and hotel details find out more on www.fedvol.ie and www.easpd.eu. Information on the Salamanca Statement is available on www.easpd.eu. Book your place at the conference on www.fedvol.ie in the coming weeks.

Irish Performing Arts Festival

The Irish Performing Arts Festival is a new national festival established by COPE Foundation to provide people with an intellectual disability, opportunities to display their artistic talents at a national level. The festival will be held in Cork on 17th and 18th June 2009. The festival is open to all organisations that work with people with an intellectual disability in Ireland. The festival includes the categories of Song, Instrumental Performance, Dance, and Drama. The winner of the song category will be eligible to go forward and apply for audition to the European Song Festival. For more information log on to <http://www.irishperformingarts.ie/>.



Conferences/Training (Continued...)

International Short Break Association

ADVANCE NOTICE

Conference: 7th International Short Break Conference

Date: 9th – 11th June, 2010 Venue: National University of Ireland, Galway, Galway, Ireland

Topic: Short Breaks: A Path to Inclusion – Whose Needs? Whose Rights? What Choices?

This important biennial 3 day Conference is the only international forum for the sharing of innovation, best practice and policy development in the field of short breaks/respite care for people with disabilities. This is your opportunity to learn about what is new and exciting in this area and by your participation, influence policy into the future.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Professor Roy McConkey, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland
Professor Robyn Munford, Massey University, New Zealand

The Conference will address the following themes: Inclusion, Families versus Individual Needs, Equality of access, Respite across populations, Short Breaks as a Right, Cost benefits of short breaks, Building Social Capital, Choices, Innovative and Creative provision, Coping as an outcome.

See www.isba2010.com for further details on this conference.

New Realities - New Opportunities: The Wheel's Annual Conference

Date: Tuesday, 19 May 2009

Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre

This year's conference will focus on the challenges facing Ireland's charities, particularly in the context of the deteriorating economic climate, and will feature contributions from a host of local and international experts on community and voluntary activity. The conference will be followed by The Wheel's 10th anniversary celebration.

Email: anthony@wheel.ie

Website: www.wheel.ie

Europe in Action 2009 - My life! - Full Participation and Equality

Dates: 24-27 June 2009

Venue: Tampere, Finland

The shadow of institutional living has been with us for too long. Everybody has the right to be included in society. Everybody has the right to have a home that suits one's needs.

There are exciting innovations in the field of accessible housing. We invite you to Finland to discuss, share, and learn from each other about practical solutions in having your own home and taking charge of your life.

The conference languages are English, Finnish and Swedish. Interpretation will be provided in all plenary sessions.

Further information is available at <http://www.kvtl.fi/mylife/en/welcome>

Inclusion International's XV World Congress 2010 - Inclusion for All!

15th World Congress of Inclusion International

Dates: 16 – 19 June 2010

Venue: Berlin, Germany

The United Nations has adopted a Convention for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. A Convention is an international law. Many countries of the world have already signed up to it. Now we have to make sure that it becomes reality for people with intellectual disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities of all ages and degrees of disability and their families are at the core of the programme. The topics cover all aspects of life from childhood to old age. The Congress offers an interesting programme with simultaneous interpretation in four languages: English, German, French and Spanish.

Further information is available at www.inclusion2010.de

Publications

National Federation Service Plan 2009

is now available on our website at:
www.fedvol.ie/publications/serviceplan

National Federation Annual Report 2008

Is now available on our website at:
www.fedvol.ie/publications/annualreport

Employees with Disabilities: An Employer's Guide to Implementing Inclusive Health and Safety Practices for Employees with Disabilities

This guide has been produced by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) using guidance and expertise from the National Disability Authority (NDA). It aims to assist employers to provide a healthy and safe workplace for employees with disabilities -
http://www.hsa.ie/eng/employees_with_disabilities.pdf

Transforming Public Services: Citizen Centred – Performance Focused

Report of the Taskforce on the Public Service, November 2008

This taskforce was set up to develop a plan to respond to the findings and recommendations contained in the OECD's Report on the Irish Public Services which was published in April 2008. The Transforming Public Services report recommends a range of initiatives e.g. deepening citizen engagement, sharing services, strengthening governance, motivating performance etc. It sets out a three year framework which the Government has agreed to implement, outlining specific actions over set timescales. Both the OECD report and the Transforming Public Services reports are available on <http://www.bettergov.ie/>

Women and Men in Ireland, 2008

The social partnership agreement 2003-2005 requested the CSO to support a move towards more evidence based policy-making. Responding to this request, the National Statistics Board (NSB) asked the CSO to prepare a social indicator report covering all aspects of social statistics. The NSB placed considerable emphasis on the value of disaggregating the social indicators by key characteristics such as the nine equality grounds named in equality legislation. The CSO agreed with the Board a strategy of producing a series of key thematic social indicator reports that would be structured around the nine equality grounds. The CSO produced an initial gender report in December 2004. Further reports were produced in December 2005, 2006 and 2007. This report is the fifth in the series - www.cso.ie.

Inclusion or Illusion: Educational Provision for Primary School Children with Mild General Learning Disabilities

Product code: ISBN: 978-1-84218-168-3

Author: Dr. Paul Stevens, Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa, Castletownbere, Co Cork and Professor Mona O'Moore, Associate Professor of Education at Trinity College Dublin

Publication Date: April 2009.

Available from:

<http://www.blackhallpublishing.com/products/index.php?productID=369>

The aim of this book is to provide readers with an understanding of educational provision in our primary schools for children with Mild General Learning Disabilities (MGLD) (over half the school-going special needs population). It is a book for teachers, student teachers, policy makers and educational and support professionals. Based on teachers' own experiences in national and special schools, the book assesses the progress that has been made in this area so far, what the barriers are to progress, and what can be done to overcome these.

HRB Trends Series 5 – Trends in demand for services in those aged 50 years and over with an intellectual disability, 2003 – 2007. Caraiosa Kelly, Fionnola Kelly and Sarah Craig.

This paper outlines key trends in specialised health service use and need by those aged 50 years and over who are registered on the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD). The data for the paper were obtained from the NIDD datasets for the years 2003-2007. The paper includes data on demographics, service use and future need. Census data were used to compare life expectancy and morbidity in older age groups in the general population with those of people aged 50 years and over registered on the NIDD. This report is available from the Health Research Board (www.hrb.ie)

Off We Go! Series of books for children, by Avril Webster

There are currently six books in the Off We Go! series, written by Avril Webster, a parent of a child with an intellectual disability. Each Off We Go! book tells the story of a particular event or everyday activity in a sequence of twelve steps. The stories are written to help prepare a child to cope better with that new activity or event. These books are of particular benefit to children with intellectual disabilities or autism, preschool children, and for children where English is a second language. The books cover everyday events such as going to the doctor, going to the hairdresser and going to the supermarket. The Off We Go! books are available from www.offwego.ie.

Funding News

HRB Grants and Fellowships – Cochrane Fellowships 2009

Opening Date: 3 March 2009 Closing Date: 29 May 2009

Who Should Apply?

This scheme is open to individuals 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.

Details:

The Cochrane Collaboration is a not-for-profit and independent organisation dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of healthcare interventions readily available world-wide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions in over fifty topic areas and makes them available as The Cochrane Library (www.thecochranelibrary.com).

In 2002, Ireland became the first country in the world to provide free national access to the Cochrane Library, an initiative co-funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and the Research and Development Office in Northern Ireland.

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 2009 (dependent on volume and quality of applications).

For further details and to apply contact Margaret Devitt at the HRB (mdevitt@hrb.ie) and visit <http://egrantsproduction.imaxan.ie/>

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

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability

National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Oranmore Business Park, Oranmore, Galway.
Phone: 091-792316
Fax: 091-792317
Email: info@fedvol.ie
Web: www.fedvol.ie