

# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*

Oranmore Business Park, Oranmore, Galway, Ireland.

Phone: +353 91 792316 • Fax: +353 91 792317

Email: [info@fedvol.ie](mailto:info@fedvol.ie) • Website: [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

## **Welcome to National Federation Newsletter** **Issue 29 Winter 2009**



**Seasons Greetings**

As we approach the festive season we would like to take this opportunity to wish all National Federation members and people who avail of intellectual disability services a very happy and peaceful Christmas!! We would like to thank all of you who give your time throughout the year and contribute to the work of the National Federation through your involvement as Board, Sub-Committee, Working Group members and Volunteers and those who support the National Federation in so many other ways.

***Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh***

### **BUDGET 2010:**

As expected budget 2010 reflects the urgency identified by government to achieve overall reductions in public expenditure. While the position with regard to the funding of disability services in 2010 has yet to be fully clarified, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies notes with interest the provision of €70m to address various priority demographic needs. The details of this provision will be finalised as part of the HSE 2010 Service Plan. However, with regard to disability services it is expected that an amount of €20m will be allocated to meet emergency and school leaver requirements to include the full year effect of new services put in place in 2009.

The National Federation is also very seriously concerned at the impact which the reduction in social welfare cuts, including the disability allowance and the carer's allowance, will have on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

The National Federation will keep members updated as details in relation to Budget 2010 are clarified.

### **INTERNATIONAL INCLUSIVE EDUCATION CONFERENCE:**

The Inclusive Education Conference "Salamanca, 15 Years On – Inclusion, A School for All", took place in the Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. The event was hosted jointly by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and EASPD and was attended by 300 delegates from 25 EU member states. Conference contributors included a wide range of national and international

speakers including representatives of people with disabilities, families, Council of Europe, UNESCO, education providers, government departments and policy makers.

In June 1994, more than 300 participants, representing 92 Governments and international organisations, met in Salamanca, Spain. Organised by the Spanish Government, in co-operation with UNESCO, the purpose of that conference was to further the objective of 'Education for All' by considering the fundamental policy shifts required to promote the approach of inclusive education, namely enabling schools to serve all children, particularly those with special educational needs. The Conference adopted the Salamanca statement on Principles, Policy and Practice in Special Needs Education and a Framework for Action. These documents were informed by the principle of inclusion and by recognition of the need to work together towards "schools for all" – education schools and centres which include everyone, celebrate differences, support learning and respond to individual needs.



Left to right: Mr. Luk Zelderloo, Secretary General, EASPD; Mr. Franz Wolfmayr, President, EASPD; Mr. Batt O'Keeffe, TD, Minister for Education & Science; Ms. Maura Nash, Chief Executive, COPE Foundation; Mr. Peter Baldwin, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education & Science; Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

The Conference recognised that special needs education is an issue of equal concern to all countries and it cannot advance in isolation. It has to form part of an overall educational strategy and indeed, of new social and economic policies. It called for major reform of the ordinary school.

So 15 years on from the Salamanca Conference the Dublin Conference aimed to take stock and to reflect on the progress which had been made on the implementation of the Salamanca Declaration in EU member states and other countries. This was achieved through discussion at the parallel sessions, which resulted in the **"Manifesto on Inclusive Education: What should be done now"**.

This manifesto on Inclusive Education states that all children and adults have an equal right to high quality and appropriate education in an inclusive environment. This right requires a reorganisation of the education system and cannot be realised in the mainstream schools as they are configured today.

Franz Wolfmayr, President of EASPD, declared "we demand the development of a policy and legal framework to promote inclusive education, emphasising the importance of a strong cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary cooperation. This should be done in collaboration with all key stakeholders; furthermore, a positive approach towards inclusive education urgently needs to be developed at European level, as part of the EC and CoE strategies".

In his closing words, the chair of EASPD's Standing Committee on Education, Phil Madden, summarised: "Inclusive education is a fundamental component of a global commitment to achieving quality education for all. As a consequence, the education system reflects the society we want to live in. Inclusive education can only flourish in an inclusive society. An inclusive society needs inclusive education."

The full manifesto is available on [www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu) and a full conference report will be available early in 2010.



Delegates at the Inclusive Education Conference plenary session

## **Review of the Efficiency & Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland**

Notices recently appeared in the national newspapers advising that the Office of Disability & Mental Health is conducting a Review of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland in the context of the Government's Value for Money & Policy Review Initiative 2009-2011. This in-depth review of Disability Services will assess how well current services for people with disabilities meet their objectives and support the future planning and development of services. The evaluation will focus on the current provision of disability services and explore the way forward for the development of services within a value for money and policy framework. The deadline for submissions was Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 and a copy of the National Federation's submission can be obtained from [info@fedvol.ie](mailto:info@fedvol.ie).

## **National Review of HSE Funded Adult Day Services (New Directions)**

The report of the National Review of HSE Funded Adult Day Services (*New Directions*) was accepted by the HSE National Management Team in July of this year. In August, a National Project Team was established by Ms. Laverne McGuinness, HSE National Director Integrated Services, to give priority attention to a number of issues which the Department of Health & Children and HSE have agreed cannot wait the wider system reconfiguration set out in the report.

A series of 4 National Briefing Sessions were held during December to update all service providers regarding the status of the National Review of HSE Funded Adult Day Services and the contents of *New Directions*. Further briefing sessions will take place in January 2010 for Operational Managers/Staff of day service locations to prepare for the data collection process required to attend to the issues set out in the report.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS:**

### **Front Line Manager's Training Programme - 2010:**

During 2009 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has been running its training programme for Front Line Managers entitled '*Managing for the Future – Building your Skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment*' in conjunction with the University of Limerick. There are 14 participants on the programme which will conclude in December 2009. A further programme will commence in early 2010 and full details can be obtained by contacting Jillian Sexton – [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie)

### **Dignity at Work Policy - Support Contact Persons Training**

To coincide with the launch of the revised Dignity at Work Policy, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies during autumn ran a number of training sessions for those who have been appointed as Support Contact Persons. The training was very well received and further training in this area has been arranged for February 2010. Further details can be obtained by contacting Jillian Sexton – [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie)

## **HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS:**

### **IMPACT – Meeting with IMPACT Officials**

A meeting between the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and IMPACT took place on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. IMPACT had requested the meeting in order to explore ways of working together and to identify common interests in the context of the current deteriorating economic climate. In summary, it was felt that the meeting was of considerable benefit to both parties and the following was agreed:

- (a) **Quarterly Engagement:** Meeting to take place on a quarterly basis between IMPACT / National Federation of Voluntary Bodies representatives to progress issues of common concern / interest.
- (b) **Intellectual Disability Forum:** It was noted that IMPACT has an "Intellectual Disability" Forum which meets with the HSE on a bi-monthly basis to discuss decision / policy matters, which maybe taken at a national level but have implications for delivery at a local level. An invitation was extended to the National Federation to get involved in the work of this group; however, IMPACT did advise that the HSE would have to be approached with regard to this request.



## HSE - National Joint Council;

The National Joint Council is the primary forum for the development of human resource related policies and agreements and managing industrial relations within the health service. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented on the NJC by Liam Murphy, Human Resources Manager, Brothers of Charity, Cork and Maura Donovan, Chief Executive, Stewarts Hospital who were nominated to the NJC in July 2009.

## Forum - Health & Safety Personnel:

A first meeting of staff members who are involved in Health and Safety / Employee Well-being initiatives took place in Stewarts Hospital on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2009. The main aim of the forum is to provide an opportunity for health and safety personnel to network and to liaise with other staff within the sector who are working in similar roles. The next meeting of the group will be held on **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am in the offices of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies** – anyone who is working in this area is welcome to attend.

## RESEARCH:

### Informing Families Cork Implementation Project is completed

This month saw the completion of a very positive two year implementation project coordinated by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in the Cork region, to pilot the implementation of the *National Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability*. The project began in 2007 following the launch of the best practice guidelines, with the goal of developing a template for the roll-out. The *National Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability* were developed through comprehensive national research and consultation with parents and professionals. They provide practical recommendations and support for professionals communicating the news of a child's disability to the family, or supporting families who receive this news. The implementation project in Cork was chaired by a parent of two children with disabilities; Ms Katherine O'Leary, and had representation and participation from hospital, community and disability services and universities. Outcomes of the pilot project included the development and evaluation of a classroom-based training programme, an e-learning module, the provision of private spaces in which to communicate with families and the development of a website which will provide accurate and up-to-date information for parents at the time of diagnosis.

The project was characterised by partnership:

- **Cross sectoral partnership** – acute, community and voluntary disability organisations and the universities worked together to increase communication, share knowledge and information and enhance continuity of care for families using services in the Cork region.
- **Interdisciplinary partnership** – staff members from medical, nursing and allied health professions worked together to find solutions to issues affecting quality, parent experiences and staff supports.
- **Parent-professional partnership** – the work of the Cork Implementation Project brought parents and professionals together in a very tangible partnership by having a parent chair the project, and with parent involvement central in the development of solutions such as room design information and training provision.



*Members of the Cork Implementation Steering Committee attending the final meeting on 2 December 2009*

**! Watch out early next year for details of the launch of the pilot project report and resources from the implementation project, including the training materials and the new website [www.informingfamilies.ie](http://www.informingfamilies.ie) !**

## Attention ALL Inclusive Research Network Members



This is our new email address for the Inclusive Research Network: [irn@fedvol.ie](mailto:irn@fedvol.ie). Please use this email address if you want to get in touch with us. We will keep you up to date with events and publications as they happen. Please feel free to contact us anytime and we will try to answer you as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you all again in the next few months.

- Watch this space for the report on the Inclusive Research Network which will be published early in the New Year!
- We will also have a report of the Inclusive Research Network Study '*Where we Live*'

### 'Where We Live' - National Study

The Inclusive Research Network is looking at how people with disabilities can do research about issues that are important to them. We decided to do some research about 'Living Options' or 'Where We Live'. People with disabilities interviewed other people with disabilities (their peers) about where they lived with help from a supporter.

We asked questions about:

- Where you live?
- Who you live with?
- What you like about where you live?
- What you do not like about where you live

All of the answers were put together in a report and this will be available in January 2010. In all there were 11 co-researchers who conducted the interviews. Below is a summary of the experience of two researchers from Camphill Communities, Michael and Pauline, who were involved in the research project.

#### *Research on 'Where We Live': By Pauline O'Meara and Michael Freiberg*

We did a piece of research as part of the Inclusive Research Network. The Inclusive Research Network is looking at how people with disabilities can do research about issues that are important to them. We need to do research about where people live because it will tell us what people like and don't like about where they live, and how people can live in a place of their choice.

We interviewed some people from our community with intellectual disabilities. We explained that the research was about living options and that people's ideas are important. We would be asking questions about living situations. The answers would be kept confidential and private. People could stop at any time. When they understood this we asked them to sign a consent form. One of us asked questions about where they lived using pictures and the other one recorded the answers. At the end of the questions we asked the person if there is anything else they would like to add. Then we said 'Thank-you'!

We met with other researchers from the Inclusive Research Network in NIID at Trinity College to analyse the national survey. The results were presented at the National Disability Authority Conference on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009.



*Co-researchers on the 'Where We Live' Survey present at the NDA conference on 6th November 2009 - Michael, fourth from the left and Pauline to his right.*

## A Story to Tell

The website of the 'A Story to Tell' project, which is running in the National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID), Trinity College Dublin is now online - <http://www.tcd.ie/niid/life-stories/>. This website houses the archive of some of the stories that have been shared as part of the project that has been running in the NIID since 2007. The aim of this project is to support older people with intellectual disabilities to tell their life-stories and to develop a website to house these stories so they become a valuable social record of Irish history that is accessible to other people with intellectual disabilities, family members and supporters, and members of the wider community.

## National Federation Research Strategy Update - One Year On:

The National Federation Research strategy was launched more than a year ago and a review of the strategy and the activities under each priority has been prepared. This is available from [edel.tierney@fedvol.ie](mailto:edel.tierney@fedvol.ie). Also all updates of the research strategy are posted regularly on the website - [http://www.fedvol.ie/Research\\_Policy/Default.25.html](http://www.fedvol.ie/Research_Policy/Default.25.html)



Project Iris (Inclusive Research in Irish Schools) is a three year longitudinal study which will provide an in-depth study of special and inclusive education in Ireland. Project IRIS was commissioned by The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and is the most extensive piece of research into how special educational needs are provided for in Irish schools. Irish policy on special needs and inclusion is articulated clearly within many government publications and the EPSEN Act (2004) provides the statutory support for developing highly inclusive educational environments for children with disabilities and/or SEN within Irish schools. The main focus of NCSE's work to date has been on ensuring that students with special needs have access to schools and in making sure that students receive appropriate teaching and other resources to meet their needs. To date, no detailed work has been done to examine the impact of those resources on their education.

## Research Objectives

The research will examine the way in which school policies and practices in primary, post primary, and special schools impact on the educational experiences of students with special needs. The researchers will explore how the curriculum is delivered to those with special educational needs and the way in which resources and support services are used by schools. The application and outcomes of individual education plans for the students will also be evaluated. This national overview of SEN provision in Ireland will be gathered from multiple perspectives. These include, amongst others, students with SEN from primary, post primary and special schools, their parents, school management teams, classroom and school-based practitioners, support personnel and allied professionals, SENOs, and a range of SEN/Disability groups across the country. The results will allow for informed judgements about the impact of provision and the outcomes at a number of levels including system, school and individual.

Specifically, the study will consider a number of issues critical to the development, implementation, and outcomes of effective provision for students with special educational needs. These include:

- The current resource allocation model;
- Identification and assessment issues;
- Models of within school support;
- Inter-agency working;
- Models of transition between school phases; and,
- A framework for evaluating academic, social and administrative outcomes.

To find out more about projectIRIS logon to the project website or contact the research team at the email address below:

Web: [www.projectiris.org](http://www.projectiris.org) | Email: [info@projectiris.org](mailto:info@projectiris.org)

## MEMBERS NEWS:

### When Achieving Standards Really Matters!



*Supporting people with intellectual disabilities to live self determined lives*

In October 2009, Walkinstown Association celebrated being the first whole service provider in the community and voluntary sector to be awarded the National Human Resource Management Standard, 'Excellence Through People'. This award complements Walkinstown Association's achievement earlier this year when they were awarded full accreditation under Quality Measures 2005, by the Council on Quality and Leadership. Commenting on the award Joe Mason, CEO said: *"I am very proud of the hard work and contribution by all staff members of Walkinstown Association who continuously prove that they are wholly dedicated to providing quality services for the people we support through developing and welcoming new initiatives while remaining fully aware and committed to linking the organisation's goals to their own personal goals. The success of achieving the 'Excellence Through People' Award further cements Walkinstown Association's commitment to valuing people."*

#### **Further information:**

For further information please contact Gale Gilbert, Walkinstown Association on (01) 4650388 or via email to [gale@walk.ie](mailto:gale@walk.ie).

### **And Congratulations to Walkinstown Association Garden Project on winning the Dublin City Neighbourhoods category of the Irish Times Living Dublin Awards 2009**

Formed in 2005, the Walkinstown Association Garden Project provides a free garden maintenance service to older people and people with disabilities who can no longer maintain their own gardens. The service which is committed to building relationships and working with the local community, also provides work experience and training for the long-term unemployed and for people with disabilities who want to progress into paid employment. Members of the project receive horticulture training from a VEC tutor to produce 20,000 bedding plants annually, which are sold to Dublin City Council and other community projects.

#### **Cork City Special Olympics Football Club**

Special Olympics Ireland's mission is "to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with an intellectual disability". Unfortunately, despite the huge interest in soccer in Cork, Ireland's second city is not represented in the eleven-a-side men's National League. Special Olympics Ireland, The FAI, Cork City and Cork County Sports Partnerships, COPE Foundation and Cork City FC are all committed to making eleven-a-side soccer a possibility for all men with an intellectual disability in Cork City and County.

For further information please contact Terence McSweeney, Telephone; 021-4643189 or 086-8136930, email; [mcsweeney@cope-foundation.ie](mailto:mcsweeney@cope-foundation.ie)

## VOLUNTEERING MATTERS!

### **European Year of Volunteering 2011**

The European Commission announced on 3 June 2009 that 2011 will be the European Year of Volunteering. 2011 will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UN International Year of Volunteers (IYV). The objectives for European Year of Volunteering 2011 as proposed by the European Commission are to:



- Work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU
- Empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering
- Reward and recognise volunteering activities
- Raise awareness about the value and importance of volunteering

For further information visit <http://www.eyv2011.eu/>.

### **World Volunteering Conference 2012**

Volunteering Ireland has successfully bid to host an international volunteer conference to Dublin in 2012. Elaine Bradley, Chief Executive of Volunteering Ireland, said: "This conference represents an important opportunity to reflect on the kind of society we want, the kind of world we want, our contribution in worldwide terms and the values that underpin our relationship with each other and the rest of the world." For further information visit [www.volunteeringireland.ie](http://www.volunteeringireland.ie).

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EUROPEAN LEVEL?**

### **Public consultation on the preparation of a new EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020**

Approximately 50 million EU citizens with disabilities are one of the largest groups of citizens experiencing disadvantage. To improve this situation, the European Commission is preparing a new EU Disability Strategy for 2010 to 2020. Opinions are being sought on the challenges for people with a disability and ways of overcoming these. The results of this public consultation will feed into the development of the new Disability Strategy. Interested parties are invited to complete an online survey at <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=disabilitystrategy3>

### **EASPD News**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the EU Council of Ministers approved a decision for the EU to accede to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is the first time a regional organisation has acceded to a UN human rights convention. The Convention will provide a clear framework for improving protection and realising the rights of people with disabilities in the EU. Today's decision is an important step forward for EU human rights policy and a sign of the importance the EU assigns to the rights of people with disabilities.

The Convention was signed by the EU in March 2007 and is the first UN human rights convention that allows the possibility for regional organisations to accede. Today's Council decision means that the EU will present its formal accession instrument as soon as agreement has been reached in the EU on the institutional arrangements. Further information on EASPD social policy, conferences/workshops is available at <http://www.easpd.eu/>

## **EVENTS AND DIARY DATES**



### **International Short Break Association Conference A Path to Inclusion – Whose Needs? Whose Rights? What Choices?**



The 7th International Short Break Conference will take place at the National University of Ireland, Galway from 9 – 11 June 2010. This biennial conference will explore all aspects of Short Breaks for people of every age with a disability. Two internationally acclaimed keynote speakers have confirmed their participation in the conference:

- *Professor Roy McConkey, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland*
- *Professor Robyn Munford, Massey University, New Zealand*

The conference will draw on the United Nations Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community as a framework for addressing inclusivity. The conference will address the effectiveness and appropriateness of short breaks and respite measures in facilitating all persons with a disability to full enjoyment, inclusion, choice and participation in the service they receive. For information on the International Short Break Association, please visit the ISBA website at [www.isba2010.com](http://www.isba2010.com)

### **Global Ph.D/Post-Doctoral and Post Graduate Researchers - Colloquium on Disability Law and Policy**

A consortium of three leading national and international academic centres will host an inaugural colloquium for PhD candidates and post-doctoral/post-graduate researchers on disability law and policy. The three centres involved are:

- The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (National University of Ireland, Galway)
- The Burton Blatt Institute (Syracuse University)
- The Richard Crossman Chair of Social Welfare & Social Planning, University of Haifa (Israel).

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI, Galway, will host the initial colloquium from 26-27 April 2010. It will rotate to the other centres thereafter.

Research on disability law and policy reform has never been more urgent given the imperative of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This two-day event will play a significant part in bringing together an emerging community of scholars in the disability field whose ideas will shape the reform agenda for years to come.

The consortium accordingly invites submissions for consideration from PhD candidates and post-doctoral/post-graduate researchers (including JDs) from around the world for papers for the two-day colloquium. The focus will be on law and public policy challenges and opportunities in implementing the new UN convention. It is likely selected papers will be published in an edited volume or special journal issue. Deadline for submission of abstracts is **31 January 2010**.

For further information, please contact: Event Office, Centre for Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway, Tel: +353 091 49401, Fax: +353 091 495569, SMS/Text Message: +353 087 666063, Email: [disabilitycolloquium@nuigalway.ie](mailto:disabilitycolloquium@nuigalway.ie); Website: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/events.html>

### **3<sup>rd</sup> IASSID Europe Conference - Integrating Biomedical and PsychoSocial Educational Perspectives – 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010, Rome, Italy**

The submission deadline for papers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> IASSID Europe Conference is **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**. All presenters and symposium moderators must register for the Conference by 31st May, 2010 in order for their abstracts to be included in the programme and published in the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*. Interested parties can register online - click on the link for the IASSID-Europe 2010 conference on the IASSID website ([www.iassid.org](http://www.iassid.org)).

## PUBLICATIONS

### Supporting Rights through Research: Development of a National Research Strategy for Intellectual Disability, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Research Strategy 2008–2013

Edel Tierney, Director of Research and Policy Development, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Email: [edel.tierney@fedvol.ie](mailto:edel.tierney@fedvol.ie)). Published in the British Journal of Learning Disabilities, 37, 257-264.

Accessible summary:

- The UN Declaration on Rights for persons with Disabilities says that people with disabilities should be included in things that concern them.
- The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in Ireland has been planning what research it will carry out in the future.
- We involved people with intellectual disabilities, service providers and families in helping us to make our plans.
- Our plan says that it is important to include people with intellectual disabilities in doing research about them.

*Keywords: Inclusion, people with intellectual disabilities, policy, research.*

### Convention of Hope – Communicating Positive, Realistic Messages to Families at the Time of a Child’s Diagnosis with Disabilities

Alison Harnett and Edel Tierney, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Email: [alison.harnett@fedvol.ie](mailto:alison.harnett@fedvol.ie)) and Suzanne Guerin, School of Psychology, University College Dublin. Published in the British Journal of Learning Disabilities, 37: 257-264

Accessible summary:

- This study is about the way that parents are told that their child has a disability. The researchers talked to families and professionals to find out if parents are given positive messages about their child.
- The study found that parents and professionals agreed that there should be positive, realistic messages and hope given to parents about their child.
- Many parents said that they did not get positive messages. The study found that professionals should give realistic and hopeful messages to parents, and provide practical recommendations and suggestions to help professionals to do this.
- Giving realistic, positive and hopeful messages to parents about their child is the start of providing good support to people with disabilities throughout their lives. Providing good support throughout people’s whole lives is one of the aims of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### Recent Reports:

The following reports which have recently been published may be of interest:

- **NESF** - Draft Report on Community Participation in the Delivery of Public Services
- **OECD** - Economic Surveys: Ireland, 2009
- **Mental Health Commission** - Code of Practice: Guidance for Persons working in Mental Health Services with People with Intellectual Disabilities. An Easy Read Guide to the Code of Practice is also available on their website at [www.mhcirl.ie](http://www.mhcirl.ie).
- **HIQA** - National Children in Care Inspection Report 2008

