

## Welcome to National Federation Newsletter Spring 2014

### Value for Money & Policy Review of Disability Services in Ireland – National Implementation Framework

The Value for Money & Policy Review of Disability Services is the most important report in terms of shaping the future direction and configuration of services and supports for people with disability in Ireland, which has been produced in over two decades. Recently the HSE developed a National Implementation Framework which outlines 7 strategic aims as follows:

- Strategic Aim 1:** Establish a national disability function, within the framework of the Social Care Division with a central directional role in funding, shaping and driving the Disability Services programme.
- Strategic Aim 2:** Achieve optimal efficiency in the delivery of the Disability Services Programme.
- Strategic Aim 3:** Re-shape certain services and models of service delivery through a collaborative process based on a commissioning and procurement framework.
- Strategic Aim 4:** Develop a national resource allocation model based on a standardised and appropriate assessment of need process, a methodology for associating standard costs and assessed needs and transparent protocols for determining the basis for allocating finite resources.
- Strategic Aim 5:** Develop and implement an information infrastructure to support the effective delivery of the Disability Services programme.



### **Winifred O'Hanrahan (RIP):**

It was with profound sadness we learnt of the untimely passing of our former Chairperson, esteemed colleague and friend Winifred O'Hanrahan. Winifred served as Chairperson of the National Federation from September 2001 to September 2003 during which time she provided excellent leadership to the Federation at a critical time in its history. As described by her close colleague, Br. Alfred Hassett, she was a perfect lady who was dedicated to her family and to the people supported by the Brothers of Charity Services and the many others whose lives she touched. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. We offer our sincere condolences to her husband Tom, her family and all her Federation colleagues, especially to our friends in the Brothers of Charity Services throughout the country.

*May she rest in peace.*



**Strategic Aim 6:** Develop a strategic framework to support the re-configuration of the Disability Services programme.

**Strategic Aim 7:** Drive migration towards a person –centred model of services and supports through the Service arrangement process by initiating and evaluating demonstration projects as proof of concept

The National Implementation Framework provides for the development of Working Groups and associated Sub Groups to support the implementation of the Reform Programme. A Project Manager and a Project Lead have been appointed to oversee the programme and it is envisaged that both will report to the National Steering Group regularly on all aspects of the programme.

The Working Groups and Sub Groups, together with objectives are outlined hereunder:

**Working Group 1:** Person-Centred Model of Services & Support – Strategic Planning

**Objective:** This Working Group will support the implementation of strategic aims, 3, 6 & 7 of the National Implementation Framework, addressing in 2014 the priority actions included in the Social Care Operational Plan – Disability Services. There are two Sub Groups to Working Group 1 as follows: Sub Group 1: Establish Base Line Data / Sub Group 2: Evaluation Process.

**Working Group 2:** Person-Centred Model of Service & Supports – Implementation, Oversight & Support

**Objective:** This Working Group will provide oversight & support to the implementation of initiatives to drive migration of the person-centred model in 2014. In doing so the working group will support the implementation of strategic aims 3, 6 & 7 of the National Implementation Framework, addressing in 2014 the priority actions included in the Social Care Operational Plan – Disability Services. There are three Sub Groups to Working Group 2 as follows: Sub Group 1: Time to move on from Congregated Settings / Sub Group 2: New Directions / Sub Group 3: Progressing Disability Services for Children for Children and Young People (0 – 18's).

**Working Group 3:** People with Disabilities & Community Involvement

**Objective:** This Working Group will support the implementation of strategic aims 3&7 of the National Implementation Framework, addressing in 2014 the priority actions included in the Social Care Operational Plan – Disability Services

**Working Group 4:** Quality & Standards

**Working Group 5:** Management & Information Systems

**Objective:** This Working Group will support the implementation of strategic aims 4 & 5 of the National Implementation Framework, addressing in 2014 the priority actions included in the Social Care Operational Plan – Disability Services.

**Working Group 6:** Governance, Efficiency & Effectiveness

**Objective:** This Working Group will support the implementation of strategic aims 1 & 2 of the National Implementation Framework, addressing in 2014 the priority actions included in the Social Care Operational Plan – Disability Services. There are five Sub Groups to Working Group 6 as follows: Sub Group 1: Governance & Service Arrangements / Sub Group 2: Implementation of Recommendations on Value for Money Efficiency & Effectiveness Tasks / Sub Group 3: Shared Service Platform / Sub Group 4: Procurement / Sub Group 5: Haddington Road.

## Farewell & Good Wishes – Maria Walls, Director of Research & Policy Development



In February 2014 we said farewell to our colleague Maria Walls, Director of Research & Policy Development, after over 8 years of loyal and professional service.

During her time with us Maria had many significant achievements and made a huge contribution to the work of the National Federation and most importantly in promoting the rights of people with a disability and their families throughout the country. In her work Maria's strong values and vision sought to promote reform in how people with intellectual disability are supported in order that they might live the lives of their choosing and occupy socially valued roles in the community.

We are very happy that Maria is not lost to the sector and wish her every success in her new role with the National Advocacy Service.

## Next Steps Dissemination of Learning Event 2014

Next Steps is a project that was set up to provide leadership and practical support to our member organisations in their work to provide individualised supports to enable people to live lives of their choosing. During the lifetime of the project to date, real and exciting changes have taken place, enabling choice and further independence in people's lives. Organisations have gathered substantial learning in their journey to supporting people to achieve their chosen life and active citizenship.



*Richard Leahy and Sarah Jane McEntee using a community hub developed by the Daughters of Charity.*

One of the key aims of the Next Steps Project is to share the learning gained through the work that takes place through its community of learning. In January 2013 an event was held in Portlaoise to share the learning gained during 2012. There was a huge amount of interest in this seminar, and it was decided to run a similar event in 2014.

**On 24 March 2014, over 220 self-advocates, families, CEOs, front line staff and managers, HSE, Government Departments and Local Authorities gathered in Portlaoise to share in the learning from the Next Steps Project that had been gathered through the case study approach of the project during the previous year.** A waiting list was needed as the event was over-subscribed, demonstrating the enthusiasm and interest throughout the sector for moving to individualised supports.



*Christy Lynch - Chairperson of National Federation, Pat Healy National Director of Social Care HSE, Alison Harnett – Next Steps Project Coordinator, Brian O'Donnell - National Federation Chief Executive and John O'Dea - Chairperson of the Next Steps Project.*

The event was opened by Mr. Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, who described the context in which the Next Steps Project was begun. The Next Steps Project was delighted to welcome Mr. Pat Healy, National Director of Social Care with the HSE to speak at the conference. Mr Healy described the key challenges of the HSE in 2014; to reform service provision in order to deliver a more person-centred model of support and to sustain service provision by delivering within resources, targets and standards. Key aims of the work in 2014 include the safe implementation of transition; incremental improvement in performance year on year and the development of individualised budgeting. Mr. Healy indicated his strong support for the work of the Next Steps Project in working with the HSE towards reform and the realisation of individualised supports.



*Mary and William Seymour, West Cork*



*John O'Dea, Conor Counihane and Deirdre Scully*

Following Mr. Healy's presentation, Chairperson of the Next Steps Project Mr. John O'Dea described the vision that guides the project and Ms. Alison Harnett, Next Steps Project Coordinator, gave an update on the progress of the project to date. The day then focused on the sharing of innovative supports that are supporting individual lives and lifestyles of choice. A selection of case studies from eight of the participating organisations was presented, representing a wide range of individual approaches that includes people's occupations during the day and the places that people have chosen to live. The presentations shared a wide range of lifestyle choices and roles that people have adopted, including living as a married couple, attending mainstream college and becoming a home-owner, and the appropriate supports provided to support these decisions. A key learning point from the work to date has been that having valued roles in community builds sustainable inclusion and involvement. We heard about various models of support that work to enable and develop valued social roles in the community for the people supported, tools for managing self-directed support, and a range of approaches to living in the community for people who have come from congregated settings. Go for Life! provided us with an uplifting demonstration of their reciprocal community involvement in keeping fit to wake us up after lunch, and a range of assistive technology service providers provided an exhibition of technologies that

can be used to empower and enable independent living.



*Go for Life!  
Supported by Cheeverstown House  
demonstrating their community  
approach to exercise.*

The case studies that were shared on the day represented just a small sample of the work taking place within the organisations and of the 23 participating organisations of the Next Steps Project.

The presentations that were made at the conference can be downloaded at the following link [http://www.fedvol.ie/Next\\_Steps\\_Project/Default.1644.html](http://www.fedvol.ie/Next_Steps_Project/Default.1644.html) (scroll down the page for the Dissemination Event 2014 section). For any further information contact [Alison.harnett@fedvol.ie](mailto:Alison.harnett@fedvol.ie) .

## Sharing Innovative Learning Event on the “Assisted Decision Making Bill”

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosted a Sharing Innovative Learning Seminar (SIL) on Wednesday 29th January 2014 on the “Assisted Decision Making Bill”. The presentations at the event by Dr. Eilionoir Flynn, National University of Ireland and Maria Walls, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, outlined the current debate on revisions to the bill and the issues relevant to individuals, family members and service providers. Laura Powell, St John of God presented on the Cher Nicholson model entitled ‘The South Australian Supported Decision Making Project’ and its relevance to assisting decision making. Christine Delany and Jennifer Deacy, Prosper Fingal, presented on total communication approaches and their role in the decision making process.



*Laura Powell, St John of God, Maria Walls, National Federation, Francis Coughlan, SOS Kilkenny, Dr. Eilionoir Flynn, NUIG.*

In the afternoon during Roundtable Discussions there was an opportunity for delegates to discuss the key issues raised at the event. A lively discussion took place outlining the obstacles that exist to supported decision making and how they can be overcome. The National Federation is an active member of the Legal Capacity Coalition seeking progressive legislation in this area.



*Roundtable discussions at the event on the Assisted Decision Making Bill.*

### **Sleep-overs Issue**

Two briefing sessions - Monasterevin (Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>) and Galway (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) – were arranged for National Federation members on the sleep-overs issue with the aims of:

- (a) Ensuring Federation members were fully briefed on the issues raised by the relevant health sector trade unions i.e. IMPACT and SIPTU relating to sleep-overs and the associated legal obligations arising from the Organisation of Working Time Act.
- (b) providing an update on the national talks which have been underway since May 2013 in relation to the sleep-overs issue;

The briefing sessions were attended by Mr. John Delamere, CERS, who is leading the management team at the national talks. The Trade Unions withdrew from the LRC talks prior to Christmas due to their dissatisfaction with the progress which was being made and referred the matter to the Labour Court. A Labour Court hearing was subsequently scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 and arising from same the matter was referred back to the LRC for further discussion and finalization of talks by the end of May 2014. A series of dates for LRC conciliation sessions were subsequently arranged with a view to seeking agreement on both sides as to how to proceed given the challenges involved. Regular updates are being provided to Federation members on this the issue.

### **Draft National Policy for the Safeguarding of Adults with a Disability from Abuse**

On receipt of the draft National Policy for the Safeguarding of Adults with a Disability from Abuse (March 2014) from the HSE National Working Group a request was made to Federation members to review the document and forward feedback to the Federation Secretariat to compile a comprehensive response. The response document welcomed the development of a national standardised policy for the safeguarding of adults and highlighted the importance of such a policy in promoting the safety and wellbeing of adults whilst facilitating people to fulfil their potential and meet their life goals. While recognising the valuable contents of the draft Policy the submission outlined key additional areas which it was felt needed to be addressed. The importance of the Policy being reviewed within a relatively short timeframe was also highlighted so as its robustness and appropriateness to our sector and member organisations could be thoroughly reviewed.

Ms. Colette Daly, Head of Social Work & Family Services, Ability West, is now representing the National Federation on the National Working Group (having replaced Ms. Maria Walls who stood down from the National Working Group last year).

## Children First Legislation



The Children First Bill, 2014, which will put elements of the *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011)* on a statutory footing, was published on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 ([Children First Bill 2014](http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/Children_First_Legislation/2758.htm)) / [http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/Children\\_First\\_Legislation/2758.htm](http://www.dcy.gov.ie/docs/Children_First_Legislation/2758.htm)

The publication of the Bill follows the enactment of recent complimentary child protection legislation namely the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act, 2012 and the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. The Bill provides for a number of key child protection measures, as follows:

- A requirement on organisations providing services to children to keep children safe and to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement;
- A requirement on defined categories of persons (mandated persons) to report child protection concerns over a defined threshold to the Child and Family Agency (the Agency);
- A requirement on mandated persons to assist the Agency in the assessment of a child protection risk, if so requested to do so by the Agency;
- Putting the Children First Interdepartmental Group on a statutory footing.

The new legislation will operate in tandem with the existing *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children [2011]*.

**Purpose of the Bill:** The policy objective of the Bill is to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect; to provide for mandatory reporting by key professionals; to improve child protection arrangements in organisations providing services to children, and to provide for inter-agency working and information-sharing in relation to assessments by the Agency. The policy intent is that the legislation will operate side-by-side with the existing non-statutory obligations provided for in *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2011)*.

**Obligations on organisations:** Organisations providing services to children and young people will now be required to undertake an assessment of any risks to a child while the child is availing of its services, and use this as the basis for developing a Child Safeguarding Statement. The purpose of the Statement is to identify how the organisation will manage any risks identified in the risk assessment. The Safeguarding Statement will also outline how staff/volunteers will be provided with information to identify abuse which children may experience outside the organisation, and what they should do with any concerns about child safety.

**Mandated Reporters:** Mandated reporters are persons who, by virtue of their training, responsibilities and experience should have an awareness of issues relating to child protection. These professionals either work with children or young people or they are in service sectors that encounter adults or families and children where there is risk of abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters will be required to report information regarding child abuse above a defined threshold which comes to their attention in the course of their professional or employment duties. They will also be required to report any direct disclosures of abuse from a child.



**Obligations to assist the Child and Family Agency:** Under the new legislation, mandated reporters will now be required to cooperate with the Child and Family Agency, if requested, in relation to assessment of child welfare and protection concerns by the Agency.

## Operational Human Resources Group – Next Meeting

The Operational Human Resources Group is a forum for human resources personnel across Federation member organisations to meet and address issues of common concern. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 11am in Muiriosa Foundation. A presentation will be made at the meeting by Mr. Paddy Duggan, Workforce Planning, National HR Directorate, HSE, on the topic of 'Health Human Resource Planning 2014-2017'.

## Upcoming Training Events

### ***Cancer Screening & Early Detection Workshop – May 15th 2014:***

The National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS) in conjunction with the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (NFVB) is offering a training session on cancer screening and early detection to staff working with clients with intellectual disabilities. The session will focus on the national population-based cancer screening programmes in Ireland – BreastCheck, CervicalCheck, BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen. The free one-day training workshop will take place on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 and will be delivered by NCSS Staff.



The workshop is targeted at a broad range of staff and will aim to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to be able to support informed choice in relation to cancer screening within their organisation and to provide accurate information about cancer screening services to people with an intellectual disability. The intention is that individuals with intellectual disabilities will be supported to make informed choices regarding their screening needs.



Lynn Swinburne & Fiona Tracey, National Cancer Screening Service.

The workshop has been granted **Category 1 Approval** (6 CEUs) by **An Bord Altranais**. This training will be a support for organisations in meeting the **Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) standards**. The HIQA standards detail the importance of promoting the health and development of individuals being supported by services - Standard 4.1.3 states 'Each person has access to screening,

early detection and the full range of universal health and welfare services in the community including oral, optical and aural services’ and the actions outlined in the HSE’s publication ‘Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing’.

***‘Managing for the Future: Building your Skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment’: (Level 6) September 2014 – June 2015***

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has developed a comprehensive training programme for Front Line Managers in the intellectual disability sector and five very successful cycles of the programme have been run to date in the University of Limerick with very positive feedback from programme participants. The programme is seen as being central in building the capacity of Front Line Managers to lead the development and implementation of excellent person centred services and supports. The Programme will also assist organisations in meeting obligations outlined in the HIQA standards, particularly those related to the provision of accredited training for new managers of front-line staff and supervisory (theory and practice) training for managers (Theme 7 - 7.3.9 / 7.3.10).

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is now running a further Front Line Managers Training Programme which will commence in **September 2014** and run over 11-days. Full details in relation to the programme, along with the booking form, are available to download from the National Federation’s website: [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie). Completed booking forms to be returned to [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie) by **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014**.

***Learning-on-Line Working Group – Seeking New Members:***

The Learning-on-Line Working Group is seeking new members - anyone interested in joining the group or has colleagues who are interested in this area of work should contact Jillian Sexton, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. Through the work of the group the online ‘Back Care & Manual Handling (refresher) Blended Learning Course’ which was developed is now being rolled out to interested Federation member organisations – please contact Mr. Raymond Watson, Open Training College, [raymond.watson@opentrainingcollege.com](mailto:raymond.watson@opentrainingcollege.com) – for further information. Additional areas of work which the group has identified for attention include:

- Developing further on-line modules focusing on priority topics for Federation members.
- Making standard documents / policies such as Trust in Care & Dignity at Work available in an online learning format.
- Providing information on the options open to organisations in relation to computer hard ware / software / information management systems (tracking and monitoring of employees learning) / platform – hosting modules, etc.
- Developing a repository / resource library of materials f



Raymond Watson, Open Training College, & Rebecca Santos, Brothers of Charity Southern Services – Learning-on-Line Working Group

- Ensuring that organisations can access the resource materials / library & online journals which are available through HSELand.
- Developing a 'community of practitioners' across organisations where Federation members can share their experiences i.e. an online forum which would need to be facilitated / moderated.

## Inclusive Research Network - Home & Independence Study



The Inclusive Research Network (IRN) is busy preparing for the Home & Independence Study which will be carried out over the coming months involving approximately 20 interviews with people with intellectual disability. The study is about moving from institutions and/or group homes to independent living. It will take in each person's life story and will show examples of both good and bad support in the transition between institution and independence. It will tell us what worked and what did not work during the process.

Training Days have taken place over the past number of months in UL in Limerick where IRN members were trained how to be co-researchers. At previous IRN meetings role play had taken place and a video was recorded to be used for training purposes. Everyone took part in role play of each question on the Interview Sheet. The members decided which questions they wanted to ask. At the final Training Day on 31<sup>st</sup> March there was positive feedback about having the video at the training and people found it very helpful. The handbooks have been sent to the co-researchers to begin their research.



IRN Training Day 31st March, 2014 in University of Limerick

When all the interviews are finished a Final Report will be published showing the results of the research. Some representatives of the group will then present the findings to the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and also at Conferences and Workshops.

IRN will be presenting an abstract at the IASSID conference in Vienna where we will explain about the study.

IRN are also applying for funding to set up a European Inclusive Research Network in Europe.

*Article written by Brian Donohoe, Secretary of IRN Steering Group*

## Member Organisation News:

### Brothers of Charity Services Clare in partnership with Mary Immaculate College promoting Inclusive Third Level Education

Built around R.T. funding, the Streetwise programme provides FETAC/Q.Q.I awards levels 1-4 through the National Framework for Qualifications. The pathway through the programme is defined by the learner's needs, interests and abilities. The learning outcomes are designed so they can be structured to be delivered or accessed as an individualised learning package. We have intentionally designed it this way to ensure the student guides their own learning and that the programme revolves around them as opposed to them attending a course.

This gives great flexibility in how and most importantly where the programme is delivered. The most successful example of this is our Inclusive Education Partnership model which we provide in conjunction with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick



**Owen says:** "I say it's great, the choir members are great and we sing good songs. I have two friends, both named Paul. Paul the choir director is very nice, polite and honest. The other Paul is one of the other men in the choir. There are less than five men in the choir, the rest are women. I am fine with that. I haven't done any performances with the Mary I choir yet, I haven't decided if I will but we will see how it goes. They always include me which I like and they even ring to let me know what's happening."

**Aine had this to say:** "I have never expected to get to third level like my brothers and cousins. I like the informal friendly atmosphere at college. I like the individual concern for student welfare. One to one tutoring is very helpful to all of us with disabilities. Travelling in and out from Ennis is lovely as I get a chance to chat with my friends. All my friends and family support me totally"



**Sarah says:** "College is interesting, I think I like everything about it. I like going to class, I like being in class. I really like Aisling (student mentor), she is good fun, I can talk to her; we have a lot in common."

Our three students are working their way through the academic programme which provides a series of minor awards on a major

award at level 4. The achievable minor awards are: Communications, Functional math's, Computer applications, Information technology, Workplace safety, Visual arts practice, Personal/Interpersonal skills, Personal effectiveness, Work experience, General office skills, and Team working.

It is planned that the students we are supporting will graduate alongside all other students at the graduation ceremonies in 2015.

### StepIn members add modeling to their Independent Living Skills



Members of StepIn's two networks have added a new talent to their range of independent living skills — modelling! StepIn is a new organisation enabling vulnerable people to live in the heart of their communities. It does this by forming mutually supportive networks. Consequently, members live more fulfilling, independent and participative lives.

In February it registered as a not-for-profit company after successfully establishing networks in Roscommon and Athlone. Now it plans to roll out its service to other areas — and that's where the modelling skills of StepIn's members come in. They have been helping to prepare marketing material — to create greater awareness — by posing in photographs showing the many aspects of their independent lives.



TASTY: Rachel shows her baking skills as she rolls out dough



SMILE:

Malachy and Micky, friends in the Athlone network, enjoy an outing in the country



The network members appear in an information pack which includes a DVD, brochure, case study and poster. If you would like one of the packs, please email [brian@stepin.ie](mailto:brian@stepin.ie) or phone 087 6693118, or write to StepIn Supported Living Networks, Cherry House, Comans Park, Roscommon.

Networks can be found at [www.stepin.ie](http://www.stepin.ie)

## Brothers of Charity South East's Daniel Gubbins raises public awareness of dog fouling and littering in public places on wheelchair users on YouTube

By Daniel Gubbins

PooChew is a video launched in 2013 by Tipperary Goldstar, South Tipperary County Council, South Tipperary Development Co. and Pobal. The idea behind the video was to highlight the effect that dog fouling and littering in public places can have on wheelchair users. To make the video more accessible it was decided to add a voice over. I was asked to do the voice over. My name is Daniel Gubbins of the Brothers of Charity South East Services. Not only did my experiences in various productions on stage help me but I had a good understanding of the message that the video conveys as I am also a wheelchair user.



Under the guidance of Anne Bradshaw of Tipperary Goldstar and my mum Mags, I began rehearsing the script. As soon as I knew my lines, it was time to make the recording. On January 15<sup>th</sup> I recorded the voice over in the studios of Tipperary Mid-West radio. In just one take the job was done. The video was relaunched on March 5<sup>th</sup> with the voice over, live on Tipperary Midwest Radio.

I was interviewed by radio presenter Joe Price and I also sang Bruce Springsteen's song "The River" live on air accompanied by my friends Pat Marnane and

Stefan Grace. My family, friends, Anne Touhy Halligan, Mayor of Tipperary Town and local TD Mattie McGrath also attended the launch. When the ceremony was over we finished the day with a sing along and a party.

Although the PooChew video is fun it has a serious message. I hope it creates awareness in the general public of the harm that dog fouling and littering can have especially on wheelchair users. The voice-over gave me an opportunity to advocate for people with disabilities using public places such as parks. PooChew video can be viewed on YouTube why not check it out by clicking link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHd4H8jplPw&noredirect=1>

## Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services Socially Inclusive Artistic Dance

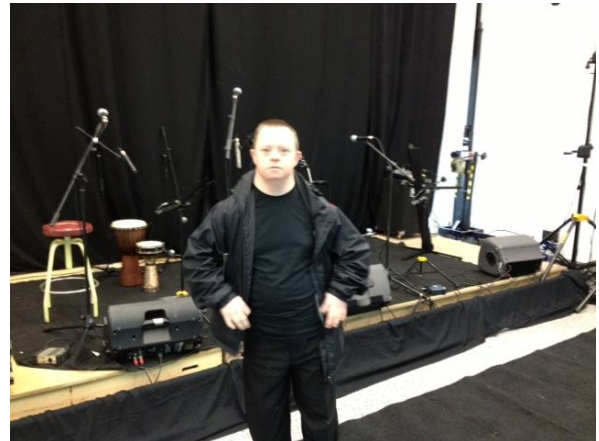
'Patterns Dance Collective' is a socially inclusive artistic dance group created by people with intellectual disabilities and supported by the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services (DOC) based in Limerick City. Patterns ethos is to celebrate people's ability and involves all who enjoy live dance. Patterns success has challenged negative attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities and highlighted the artistry of each performer. Patterns were invited to represent Ireland at an inter-celtic arts festival in Avilés Spain. Other countries involved included Scotland, Portugal and Spain. John Casey a service user with DOC Services was selected to represent Patterns. In preparation for the festival John, supported by DOC staff, rehearsed with Spanish dancer's which culminated in an evening performance to a large audience in Avilés. Bringing together artists from different countries and traditions enabled John to promote the DOC ethos and build relationships based on shared interests while simultaneously promoting the abilities of people with an intellectual disability. As part of Limerick City of Culture 2014, Patterns supported by DOC and the MWA will host an arts festival in Limerick, creating positive images of what it means to live life well as a person with intellectual disabilities.



John enjoying Aviles



John with Spanish dancers



John at rehearsals

### **Change of Name: Co Wexford Community Workshop (New Ross) Ltd is adopting the new business name of Cumas New Ross**

Please be advised that Co Wexford Community Workshop (New Ross) Ltd is adopting the new business name of Cumas New Ross: Cumas is the Irish word for ability and they have also adopted its use for their specific adult day services:

**Rehabilitative Training = Cumas Learning** (with sub-groups including Cumas IT and Cumas Media)  
**Sheltered Occupation = Cumas Design**

During 2014 they will be introducing the Cumas philosophy “Individualisation Towards A Better Life” into their day activation service, which will be renamed Cumas Activation in due course. The reconfiguration of their adult services is being managed using the principles of the New Directions and the Value for Money and Policy Review reports, i.e. national policy.

### CWCW Enniscorthy St Patricks’ Day Project

Our group consists of 5 creative young, vibrant, diverse individuals. We have been working together for 6 months now. Our course is strongly based and directed by each individual’s goals, needs and aspirations. This new direction in training and care has proven to be quite the adventure as we have moved out into the community and submersed ourselves into what's on offer. Being largely community based we have made many new connections and friends. We have also begun working with new organisations and groups.



One of these groups is F.D.Y.S. (Ferns diocese youth services). This is a local voluntary service working with young people and adults throughout County Wexford. They take a holistic personal centred approach to each individual. We began working with F.D.Y.S as a brief temporary class, with a volunteer and this has blossomed into a favourite part of the week for a lot of the trainees. We initially decided to make a practical project and slowly developed the construction of the bike and after mixing with the other youth groups in the centre we also decided to take part in the Alice in wonder land St. Patrick’s Day parade entry. The community inclusion aspect of the project is amazing, literary mixing and working in the heart of the young community in Enniscorthy.





## First Registration of HIQA Completed by St. Hilda's

St. Hilda's Services are pleased to have completed the process of registration as a provider with HIQA in April 2014. The organisation put itself forward for early inspection in 2013 as part of its overall strategy to be a high quality provider of supports and services. "This process also gives assurance to families that our services are open to independent Inspectors and this is important to ensure continuous improvement and safe care", Sheila Buckley Byrne, Provider Lead stated.

"This has been a challenging learning process for us and while we welcome the many areas of good practice highlighted by HIQA we are committed to addressing each area of non-compliance set out by the Inspectors. We have set out very clear and specific Action Plans for each location which will achieve compliance in the short term and improve practice in the long term", Sheila Buckley Byrne said.

"As the first provider in the Disability field to achieve registration under HIQA nationally St. Hilda's will continue to create effective and sustainable supports for every person using our services. In doing so we will continue to share experiences and practice with other providers and our families to learn and grow in the years ahead. Our management and staff are committed to the care, welfare and supports for those who use our services. They have been exceptional in recent months in the way they have responded to the new statutory requirements which HIQA are inspecting. I congratulate them on their achievement", Sheila continued.



## Other News

### The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway - Appointments



The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway congratulates Dr. Eilionóir Flynn on her recent appointment to Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of the Centre, and is pleased to announce three new appointments to its research team for 2014.

In December 2013, **Dr. Eilionóir Flynn** was appointed Deputy Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and Senior Lecturer at the School of Law, NUI Galway.



Eilionóir joined the Centre in 2009 as Research Associate and has been Senior Research Fellow since 2011. She will continue to lead the Centre's research programme and build on its strong track record in attracting research funding whilst augmenting the public policy strengths of the Law School. [For a more detailed profile see here.](#)

**Piers Gooding** joins the Centre in March as Research Associate. Piers has submitted his doctoral thesis to the Centre for the Advancement of Law and Mental Health, School of Law, Monash University, Australia, and also recently served as Research Officer for the Australian Mental Health Commission. Piers' work will focus on current and prospective legal capacity reform projects.

**Jenni Kline** has been appointed as Research Assistant to provide empirical research for projects including the EU-funded "DISCIT" and "Access to Justice". Jenni has recently passed the New York Bar, holds a Juris Doctorate from the Northeastern University School of Law, USA, and previously worked for several organisations internationally on disability rights.

**Niamh Lally** joins the team as Research Assistant focusing on the preparation of amicus briefs, legislative submissions, briefings documents and working papers, as well as the Centre's extensive programme of research and education events. Niamh is former Research and Development Officer for the National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin, and is currently completing her doctoral studies at its School of Social Work and Social Policy

## Upcoming Events

**The M.Sc. In Disability Studies, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, presents the seminar**

**Somebody to love: Sexuality and Disability in Ireland**

**Date: Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> / Time: 10 am – 1 pm / Venue: Long Room Hub**

This seminar explores issues of sexuality, decision making capacity, and current legislation in the context of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The recently released documentary "Somebody to Love" will open the seminar by presenting the stories of Irish people with disabilities around sexuality and relationships. The documentary director, Anna Rodgers, and four of the documentary participants, Mandy Finlay (TCD graduate) and her mother Frieda Finlay, Sarah Fitzgerald (TCD graduate) and her partner JP Fitzgerald will discuss their experiences on these issues. A presentation by Dr. Rosarie McCarthy, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Adviser at the National Disability Authority (NDA), will follow on the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 and the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences Act) 1993. Darren McCausland will close the seminar with the findings from the Intellectual Disability Supplement (IDS) to the TILDA study on older people with intellectual disabilities' relationships. All are welcome.

**To book a place contact Sheila Mc Groarty (01) 896 3885 / Email [niid@tcd.ie](mailto:niid@tcd.ie)**

# Please Diary these Dates!

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies  
will host two 2-day Seminars in June 2014 with Keynote Speaker

- David Pitonyak

**Workshop 1: Beyond Behaviours** - Tuesday & Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

This workshop examines ways we can help the person served to achieve a sense of confidence, competence, and a sense of well-being. This **2 day workshop** examines strategies for supporting not only an individual who experiences disabilities but also the needs of their caregivers.

**Workshop 2: The Importance of Belonging** - Thursday & Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Being connected to the people we love is critical to our emotional and physical well-being. Many people experiencing our services are sick from loneliness. This **2 day workshop** is about ideas for moving beyond interventions and coverage to a system that supports enduring, freely chosen relationships and involves problem-solving with teams.

**Venue:** The Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**Who should attend the Workshop(s):**

CEOs, front-line staff & managers, caregivers, people who avail of services & their families.

**Cost per Workshop:**

Each workshop costs €150 per person **per 2-day workshop**. However there is a reduced rate of €100 **per 2-day workshop** for people with disabilities or their family member.

**ONLINE BOOKING will be available shortly.**

David Pitonyak was one of six international presenters at the Immersion Event, which took place in Killarney in April 2013. In the feedback from this event people expressed an interest in hearing more about his work. In this regard the National Federation have invited him to Ireland to facilitate two workshops on two separate topics.

### 3 people rewarded for making a real difference in human services!

The Student of the Year awards were announced at the Open Training College Conferring of Awards Ceremony held at the RDS Dublin, on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The awards are based on the best academic record achieved by a graduate upon successful completion of their course of study with the Open Training College.

This year's recipient of the award in the Social Care category is Michelle Coe. Michelle was presented with the 'Social Care Ireland Award for Academic Excellence'. Michelle is Head of Unit with St. Christopher's Service, Longford. "I am speechless. To graduate with a Social Studies degree is so important and now to win the award for academic achievement is just the icing on the cake. It has been such a worthwhile and rewarding journey for me both professionally and



personally. The course has certainly helped me to make a bigger difference in the lives of people with disabilities. I am over the moon", remarked Michelle upon receiving the award.

This year's recipient of the award in the Management category is Aoife Moran. Aoife is a Senior Clinical Psychologist at St Michaels House, Ballymun, Dublin. She was presented with "The Wheel Management Award for Academic Excellence'. Aoife stated, "I am so delighted to have received the award. I certainly didn't expect it. Everyone on the course operates to a very high standard. To be able to put into practice each day the valuable theory we learned on the management course, that has been the immediate reward for me so far. Now I have another fabulous reason to look back on my management degree achievement with such joy. My thanks also to The Wheel for sponsoring it.'

A special category award was also delivered at this years ceremony. Hannah Devine, a Social Care Worker with the Brothers of Charity, Co. Limerick, was the recipient of The Gerry Clarke Award. This inaugural award, for best Reflective Practitionership by a final year student, was presented in honour of the Open Training College tutor, Gerry Clarke, who passed away in June of this year. Hannah explained that, "To be the first recipient is very special indeed. Gerry was my tutor during Year 2 of the Social Studies (Disability) degree course and he had a huge influence on my studies and on my practice in the workplace. He will be sadly missed. I am very proud to hold this award.'

Congratulations to all this year's very worthy winners, and to all the graduates of the Open Training College, who continue to make a difference in the lives of people accessing human services in Ireland.

For additional information, contact Conor Murray (01) 2988544 or [cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com](mailto:cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com)

**6<sup>th</sup> International Summer School**  
**The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Access to Justice and Political Participation**

**June 16th – 20th 2014**

**Centre for Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway, Republic of Ireland**

School Directors: Professor Gerard Quinn & Dr. Eilionóir Flynn (NUI Galway, Ireland)

We are delighted to announce the Centre for Disability Law & Policy's 6th International Disability Law Summer School, which will take place from the 16th – 20th of June, 2014 in Áras Moyola, at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The popular Summer School will again bring together leading international activists, policy-influences and others connected with the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The theme this year will be Access to Justice and Political Participation. No prior legal knowledge is required. Registration is now open! You can register here:

<http://conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=364>

*Registration is now open:* <http://conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=364>

*Further Info:* [http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/Summer\\_School\\_2014/summer\\_school\\_2014\\_info.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/Summer_School_2014/summer_school_2014_info.html)

*Queries:* [disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie](mailto:disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie)

