

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability

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Welcome to National Federation Newsletter

Issue 30 Spring 2010

National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Launches National Campaign to Highlight Concerns Regarding Funding Cuts:

At its meeting on 9th March, 2010, the National Federation's Board of Directors mandated its Services Development Sub Committee to prepare proposals for a National Campaign to highlight its serious concerns regarding the impact of the funding cuts on front line services in 2010.

It was decided in the first instance to write to An Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D., to express our concerns and to inform him that all the good work which had been done under the Multi-Annual Funding Programme from 2004-2008 was in serious risk of unravelling and that there is evidence of re-institutionalisation in services at a time when we are trying to achieve the opposite.

- Meetings of all five of our Area Federation Committees will be arranged and reports from each outlining the details of the funding cuts and their consequences in respect of each individual agency will be prepared by the end of April 2010.
- A meeting has been arranged for Thursday, 6th May, 2010, between Mr. John Moloney, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children, senior management from the HSE and a delegation from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Moloney and the outcomes of our Area Federation Committees will be discussed.
- The National Federation will meet with the senior management team from the National Disability Authority (NDA), on Friday, 16th April, 2010 and with the CEO, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Inclusion Ireland on Friday, 23rd April, 2010.
- Letters will be sent to all members of the Government Cabinet outlining the consequences for services and families of the funding cuts.
- A meeting of our Services Development Sub Committee will be convened on 10th May, 2010, at which progress on our national campaign will be discussed. The National Federation's PR advisor will be in attendance at this meeting to advise on a PR Strategy to highlight our concerns.
- A meeting of the General Assembly of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies will be convened on 19th May, 2010, to consider next steps in our national campaign.

Design the cover of the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee Annual Report 2009!

The Health Research Board and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies would like to invite service users to design the cover of the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee Annual Report 2009. The picture below shows the winning entry from 2008 by Lucy McGivney, who was presented with her prize by Mr. John Moloney, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children.



THE WINNER'S PRIZE:

- A trophy & digital camera or cash to buy art supplies
- Winning Entrants photograph printed in the report

ALL ENTRIES:

- Certificate of Merit

Entry Rules:

- Due to the overwhelming interest in the Art Competition in previous years (approx 600 entries received), this year we are asking each member organisation to hold their own internal Art Competition and forward their *single overall winner* to NIDD Cover Competition, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, Oranmore Business Park, Oranmore, Galway by **Friday, 28th May, 2010**.
- We do acknowledge the time and effort all entrants put into designing their entry for this competition and in this regard when forwarding your organisation's overall winner, please also forward the names of all the people in your organisation who submitted an entry to your internal competition and we will ensure that when the competition is over and when we are returning your overall winner's entry we will include a Certificate of Merit from the Health Research Board / National Federation of Voluntary Bodies acknowledging all entrants.
- Entry should be no larger than A3 and portrait in orientation
- Any media can be used (e.g. paint, pencil, crayon)
- Paper used must be no heavier than 170 gms

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

SKILL Programme - Training Places 2010/2011:

Nominations were recently accepted for the next round of the SKILL Programme training which will commence in autumn 2010. Organisations interested in taking part in the SKILL Programme for Support Service Staff or Managers made their nominations by March 31st 2010. There was a good take up of places from within National Federation member organisations. Through the programme staff can obtain a recognised FETAC qualification at Level 5 or 6.



The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, in conjunction with the Disability Federation of Ireland, held 2 briefing sessions for their respective member organisations in February 2010. Presenting at the briefing session were (left to right) Cathy McGrath, Disability Federation of Ireland, Jillian Sexton - National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and Ciaran Dolan - Drumcondra VEC.

HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS:

ROSE –Reducing Occupational Stress in Employment - Project:

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is a partner in the European ROSE Project which is being lead by Waterford Institute of Technology. The main aim of the project is to develop an on-line stress management tool for staff working in the intellectual disability and mental health sectors. Piloting of the on-line stress management programme is due to commence in May 2010. We will be piloting this with a number of member organisations – if your organisation is interested in being involved please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie .

HSA – Five Year Plan for the Healthcare Sector 2010 – 2014:

The Health and Safety Authority recently published a five-year action plan for the healthcare sector and its overall aim is to support organisations to develop a culture of health and safety. A copy of the plan can be downloaded from the Health & Safety Authorities website – www.hsa.ie. Ms Annemarie O'Connor, of the Health & Safety Authority made a presentation at the meeting of the Health & Safety / Employee Wellbeing Working Group to provide an overview of the 5-year action plan on Thursday, April 22nd 2010 with health and safety personnel from across National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations in attendance. If you are interested in getting involved in the group's activities please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie .

Bi-annual Meeting - Corporate Employee Relations Services:

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosts bi-annual meetings with Corporate Employee Relations Services, HSE, and the latest meeting took place on Monday, April 26th 2010 in Stewarts Hospital. The meeting was open to human resource personnel from across NFVB members and commenced with presentations by the VHI and Quinn Healthcare on a proposed Employee Assistance Programme (group scheme) for Federation members. Staff from the Corporate Employee Relations Services of the HSE also provided an input at the meeting.

RESEARCH:

Informing Families Project wins Public Service Excellence Award !

We are delighted to announce that the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies' project '*Informing Families of their Child's Disability*' has been chosen as one of the winning projects in the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards 2010.

http://www.onegov.ie/eng/Taoiseach's_Awards/

The award will be presented at a ceremony in Dublin Castle by an Taoiseach, for the work undertaken to implement the *National Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability* on a pilot basis in the Cork Region. This was achieved using a uniquely integrated approach that saw parents and professionals from hospital, community and disability service settings working together to achieve outcomes that place the child and family at the centre of service provision.

In line with its strong traditional role as an advocate for people with intellectual disability and their families, the National Federation developed the *National Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of the Child's Disability* through a wide ranging consultation and research process. The guidelines were launched by Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney in 2007. Having identified the evidence-based recommendations, the most important challenge was then to ensure that the research was translated into practice and that the guidelines were implemented on the ground.

With support from the Health Services National Partnership Forum a pilot project took place to implement the guidelines across acute, community and disability service settings in the Cork Region in 2008-2009. The aim of the pilot project was to improve the experiences of families and to provide enhanced support to professionals in their disclosure practice at the time of a child's

diagnosis. Challenges were identified and solutions found in the key areas of disclosure practice below:

- Dissemination of best practice guidelines to all involved professionals (in medical, nursing and allied health disciplines)
- Training in appropriate communication skills and good practice recommendations
- Locations and privacy for communication
- Appropriate and up-to-date information provision
- Teamwork and liaison to provide continuity of care for children and families

The implementation was successfully completed and welcomed by parents and professionals in both mainstream and disability services in the Cork region. Through this project we have provided groups who wish to implement the guidelines with a roadmap from the Cork experience which can be consulted in designing and implementing local responses. Further information on each of the initiatives undertaken in the Cork pilot project can be accessed by contacting info@informingfamilies.ie. The Cork pilot project was also shortlisted in the Aramark Healthcare Innovation Awards.

National Federation Research Ethics Committees

The Research Strategy published in 2008 proposed that a National Research Ethics Committee be set up by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. A Research Ethics Committee, such as the one proposed, would facilitate multi site research and assist agencies to do research where no ethics committee existed. Four organisations agreed to set up a consortium to facilitate this proposal. The organisations are:

- SOS Kilkenny
- Daughters of Charity of Jesus & Mary
- COPE Foundation
- Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary

These organisations will dedicate one of their meetings per year to National Federation Research Business and facilitate research ethics approval for multi-site research or assist agencies where there is no such committee in place. The consortium has agreed to accept the ethical approval of their partners in this regard.

The Inclusive Research Network Report Launch Day February 25th 2010

The Inclusive Research Network had a very successful day on the 25th February 2010. Edel Tierney from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and Edurne Garcia from the National Institute for Intellectual Disability were co-organisers of the event.

The day began with Brian O'Donnell and John O'Dea, CEO and Chairperson of National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, wishing everybody well for the day. This was followed by the launch of the three research reports 'The Inclusive Research Report'; an easy to read version of the report; and the report on the 'Where we live project'. The 'Where we live' survey was presented by Edurne Garcia from NIID and Brian Donohoe from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. Brian Donohoe had been a co-researcher on the project. There was a drama from the Brothers of Charity in Clare called "The Travel Challenge" which was based on the experiences of 4 inclusive researchers who had stayed in a hotel that wasn't as wheelchair friendly as it claimed to be.

There was also a DVD presentation from the Brothers of Charity in Roscommon about people losing their jobs because of the recession and ways to go about getting a new job.

Then there was the DVD presentation from the Research into Action Group from the Brothers of Charity Galway about people with disabilities interviewing people for a job.



Edurne Garcia gave a very informative and interactive presentation on the UN Convention of Persons with Disabilities and Darren Chadwick from NIID gave information on a national family study and the rights project being organised by Fintan Sheerin.

Focus group training was provided for all the participants in the afternoon. This began with a role play to demonstrate to the audience how not to carry out focus groups and then how to carry out focus groups correctly. Everybody who attended got a chance to

participate in a focus group afterwards and this was followed by a plenary session.

We hope to embark on another national research study for the year ahead. Watch this space for more information...

You can download the reports from our website:

[Inclusive Research Network Report](#)

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/Research/Final%20Report%20Printed%20Copy.pdf>

[Inclusive Research Network Easy to Read Report](#)

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/IRN%20Easy-to-Read%20Final.pdf>

[“Where We Live” Report](#)

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/Where%20we%20Live%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

MEMBERS NEWS:

Open Training College is awarded AONTAS Star Award:

Many congratulations to the Open Training College which was recently awarded an AONTAS Star Award. The award was presented by Minister Sean Haughey on February 22nd, 2010, during the STAR Awards ceremony which initiated the fourth annual Adult Learners' Festival, coordinated by AONTAS - the Irish National Association for Adult Education. The STAR Awards is a ceremony comprised of 13 categories, celebrating both local and national projects and initiatives within adult learning. 110 projects were nominated for a STAR award this year. The independent judging panel shortlisted and then awarded the Open Training College the STAR award within the Nationwide category. The Open Training College was recognized for its contribution to adult learning through its Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Studies (Disability) course. It is a HETAC accredited course placed at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications and offered to staff working or volunteering in frontline disability services.

The OTC currently has over 600 students from all parts of Ireland enrolled in various courses including its Applied Management courses offered to people working or seeking work in the wider non-profit/human services sector. For further information please contact Conor Murray on (01) 2988544 or cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com or you can browse the College website on www.opentrainingcollege.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EUROPE?

March 2010: Report of the seminar "Impact of EU legislation on social services"

A report detailing the results of a seminar that EASPD co-organised together with 7 other European networks of social services has been published. The seminar was an opportunity to discuss the implications of the application of EU rules on Public Procurement and State Aid for organizations providing social services across Europe. The report gives a unique insight into the application of these rules in different countries and service sectors, and provides an interesting contribution to the SSGI debate. Further information is available at <http://www.easpd.eu>.

EASPD contributes to Commission consultation on a new Disability Strategy 2010-2020

EASPD contributed a position paper to the Commission consultation stating it would support a new Disability Strategy that will facilitate the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities across Europe and that will provide for a wide framework which is clear and binding for all involved parties, creating impetus for progress across all European Commission services and European institutions. The full position paper is available at <http://www.easpd.eu>.

Pathways to Inclusion Project:

'Pathways to Inclusion' is a Comenius funded project, which is being carried out by 11 different partner organisations across 10 EU member states, including the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in Ireland. The project started on the 1st of October 2009 and will last three years. It will develop a European network and a knowledge centre on Inclusive Education. Its goal is to provide persons with disabilities and their families, school administrators, teachers, teacher unions, policy makers and service providers with specific information and practical suggestions in the field of inclusive education. More information can be found on the project website, at www.pathwaystoinclude.eu.

EVENTS AND DIARY DATES

Transitions to Socially Inclusive Living, 27th & 28th May 2010

Brothers of Charity Services wish to cordially invite you to our *2-day research conference 'Transitions to Socially Inclusive Living'* in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on **Thursday 27th & Friday 28th May, 2010**. The event is funded by the Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform / Administered by: Pobal.

*Please forward replies to Dolores Mc Hugh, Brothers of Charity Services, Roscommon.
Tel: 090 6628500 or email dmchugh@roscommon.brothersofcharity.ie*

Other enquires on conference content: email bmcclean@roscommon.brothersofcharity.ie

National Conference: Designing Sustainable Supports for Individuals - Taking a Lead from People with Disabilities and Families

Hosted By New Options Alliance

Thursday 13th & Friday 14th May 2010, Portlaoise Heritage Hotel, Co. Laois, Ireland

The purpose of this conference is to provide an in depth look at some innovative person centred service arrangements in Ireland for people with a range of disabilities. People with disabilities, their families, support networks and service providers will share how individual support arrangements can be created, maintained and sustained in the current economic climate in a way that supports people to live ordinary lives. For further information on the conference please contact Genevieve McNally in Cheshire Ireland on + 00 353 1 2974100 or email genevieve.mcnally@cheshire.ie

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

National Advocacy/Inclusive Research Conference November 2010

What are the challenges facing us in the wider Community?

Clare Brothers of Charity through their research project CIRG, are hosting this year's National Advocacy Conference. We want to show case the work of Advocacy and Inclusive Research Groups around the country. We want to encourage advocate/researchers to think about the community.

- What do we want to say about our experiences?
- How can we help to campaign for better, more inclusive facilities?
- How can we make a difference? How are we making a difference?

One project our own group is doing is Access Research in Shannon. We are making common cause with people with physical disabilities, a mother and toddler group and an active age group to highlight good practice access and to encourage better access awareness. We are making a film about four typical journeys around the town which highlight access challenges.

Have you got your own ideas?



We are looking for presentations

1. Created by people with a learning disability
2. Finding out about an issue or describing an experience

Further details to follow: Any questions?
Contact: robhopkins@clare.brothersofcharity.ie

EASPD Conference: 'What About Me? Including the Most Excluded' Improving the Quality of Life of People with Profound Disabilities June 3 & 4th 2010, Helsinki, Finland

Full and effective participation and inclusion in society is recognized in the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. The Convention espouses the values of self-determination, empowerment, active inclusion, equal opportunities, lifelong learning and freedom of choice and indicates that these values should also be a reality for persons with high support needs and this creates challenges for people concerned, families, service providers and local communities. The conference speakers from across Europe and beyond will explore ways of promoting these principle values and making the UN Convention a reality in the lives of persons with high support needs.

The conference will approach this through three main themes:

- Communication and interaction
- Active support
- Citizenship and inclusion

Who should attend?

- Professionals, service providers
- People with disabilities and their families
- Researchers, educators
- Politicians

Conference languages: English-French-Finnish

3rd IASSID Europe Conference Integrating Biomedical and PsychoSocial Educational Perspectives – 20th - 22nd October 2010, Rome, Italy

The submission deadline for papers for the 3rd IASSID Europe Conference was 15th 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).

15th World Congress of Inclusion International, Berlin, Germany | 16-19 June 2010

Congress Organisation Thomas Wiese GmbH, Hohenzollerndamm 125, D-14199 Berlin

Phone.: ++49 (0)30 85 99 62-29

Transforming Rights into Action. 15th World Congress of Inclusion International on 16–19 June 2010, Berlin - <http://www.inclusion-international.org/en/news/114.html>

The goal: With the motto "Inclusion: Transforming Global Rights into Action!" the Congress will gather high-level speakers, moderators and people with intellectual disabilities and their families from across the globe. It will focus on the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, addressing a wide range of important topics, such as the right to be included in society, the right to legal capacity and the fight against poverty. Our goal will be to ensure that these new rights become reality for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Social History of Learning Disability Conference 1st & 2nd July 2010

The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK

'Staff stories and stories about staff'

Who supports people with learning difficulties? How and why do they do their job, and how has this changed over time? And what do people with learning difficulties think about the people who worked with them in the past and those who support them now?. Further information is available at http://www.open.ac.uk/hsc/lds/site/conferences_v2.html

PUBLICATIONS

Federation Reports

Take a look on our website to find some reports recently published by the National Federation:

Inclusive Research Network Report

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/Research/Final%20Report%20Printed%20Copy.pdf>

Inclusive Research Network Easy to Read Report

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/IRN%20Easy-to-Read%20Final.pdf>

“Where We Live” Report

<http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/Where%20we%20Live%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

Recent Reports From other organisations:

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

- **A Guide to Managing your Money:** a new, free online money management training programme aimed at supporting people with intellectual disabilities has been set up by St John of God Carmona Services and the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS). It involves a step-by-step guide, together with interactive games and exercises for learners. Log on to www.moneycounts.ie or contact education@mabs.ie or admin.carmona@sjog.ie.
- **Children First:** (Revised) National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, December 2009, Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs - <http://www.omc.gov.ie>
- **HSE National Service Plan 2010** – <http://www.hse.ie>
- **National Disability Survey 2006**, Volume 2, published by the CSO 27 January 2010, presents the detailed analyses of the situation of people with a disability in Ireland in the following nine areas: caring and help from other persons; attitudes of other people; transport; built environment accessibility; education; work and training; social participation; sport and exercise; and some general issues such as use of medication, health and smoking – <http://www.cso.ie>

WEBSITES:

The Wheel to launch pioneering website for charities

The Wheel has announced that it will be launching an innovative new online hub for community and voluntary organisations on Tuesday, 11 May. The new website will replace the organisation's current website (www.wheel.ie) and integrate Fundingpoint.ie, Learningpoint.ie and Ictpoint.ie. It will also introduce a number of innovative features, including:

- a new interactive space where users can exchange information and advice;
- a new searchable database of training opportunities;
- a jobs and volunteering section;
- a new interface for Fundingpoint - Ireland's most comprehensive database of funding sources;
- an online shop where you can book for events or buy publications;
- a fully searchable directory of community and voluntary organisations;
- a new year planner function to help organisations plan their national fundraising days and national events.

Further information will be available shortly on www.wheel.ie.

Autism Support Ireland

Autism Support Ireland is a new website providing support, information and advice on all Autism lifestages. It is a coordinated initiative which aims to enhance and support the whole person and family by providing access to information - <http://www.autismsupport.ie/>.

New Website for the Frontline of Learning Disability magazine

Dr. Fintan Sheerin from Trinity College Dublin recently took on the role of Webmaster for the Frontline of Learning Disability magazine and has begun to re-develop the site in order to make it a focus of information for issues of interest to people who have intellectual disabilities and to those who have an interest in intellectual disabilities. Subscribers of Frontline will also have access to previous issues through the website.

If you wish to contact The Frontline Of Learning Disability, you can do so by post to:
The Frontline of Learning Disability, Unit C2, The Steelworks, Foley Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.
or by email...

- Editor: editor@frontline-ireland.net for queries on magazine content, author guidelines and submissions of articles.
- Secretary: secretary@frontline-ireland.net for queries on subscription and administrative issues.
- Webmaster: webmaster@frontline-ireland.net for queries on/contributions to the website.

Irish Society for Disability & Oral Health



The ISDH was formally established in 2002 and serves to promote, preserve and protect the oral health of people with disabilities. The main aims of ISDH are:

- To provide links with organizations representing people with disabilities.
- To consult with groups to identify their needs and demands.
- To study barriers relating to the provision of oral healthcare.
- To encourage research and undergraduate/postgraduate training.

The committee and its membership is made up of dental professionals who work within or have an interest in the area of Special Care Dentistry. The website isdh.ie is compact and easy to use. There are a number of patient information leaflets available on the website including a leaflet entitled *Special Care Dentistry – Dental Services for people who need additional support*. This is available to download from the website and contains useful information for patients wishing to access dental care.

If you would like more information about our Society or the work we do please contact Sarah Roux - ISDH Secretary on sarah.roux@hse.ie or +353 (0)1 8467231 / 087 6824887.