

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability

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Welcome to National Federation Newsletter **Issue 32 Autumn 2010**



National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Highlights Concerns in Relation to Further Funding Reductions

During the course of October 2010, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies met with Mr. John Moloney, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Health & Children, and his officials and separately with Ms. Laverne McGuinness, National Director of Integration - Performance & Financial Management; Ms. Ann Kennelly, Interim National Care Group Lead - Disability Services and the HSE's four Regional Directors of Operations.

During the course of these discussions, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies expressed its anxieties about the impact which further substantial cuts in funding would have on frontline services in 2011. We sought assurances from the Minister that the Government would honour its commitment to protect disability services from the worst of the funding cuts. Also that in line with previous assurances any efficiency savings which services achieved would be retained in the Intellectual Disability Sector. For our part, we undertook to continue to explore every opportunity to achieve further efficiency savings through increased collaboration and sharing of resources between service providers. We presented a proposal on this matter to the Minister for his consideration and strongly advocated a project management approach to the initiative.

At our meeting with Ms. McGuinness and the HSE's Regional Directors of Operations (RDOs) we pointed to the need for consistency in approach by the HSE in its dealings with voluntary bodies. We pointed out the considerable variations in funding cuts which had occurred between the regions in 2010 and also between Section 38 and Section 39 agencies. We stressed the importance of establishing the Consultative Fora at local, regional and national levels as proposed in the HSE's own document as a matter of urgency. We also raised our concerns at developments in County Meath where a decision was unilaterally made to effectively tender for services without any prior consultation with existing service providers, families or people with disabilities at a time when all the National Federation member organisations are seeking to work collaboratively in a spirit of partnership to achieve the efficiencies which will limit the impact of the funding reduction on front line services. We set out our concerns in relation to this matter in a letter to Ms. McGuinness and a response is awaited.

Value for Money & Policy Review

The earliest date by which the Value for Money Review report will be completed is Spring 2011. A negative consequence of this is that there will not be any guidance available to the Department of Health & Children in respect of what areas of activity should be safeguarded in the context of further budgetary retrenchment.

The policy position which has been developed has now been endorsed by the Expert Reference Group and the senior management group within the Department of Health & Children. The status of the approval of this latter group is that they support the finalisation of the document with a view to circulating it to other government departments for consultation. Before it becomes official policy, it will require the approval of the Minister for Health & Children.

Indications are that the policy document will signal a radical departure of current arrangements. The emphasis is on individualised assessment of support needs and linking funding to same; transferring the power from service providers to families; the promotion of supported independent living as a more policy congruent arrangement than staffed group homes.

The questionnaire being piloted on trend data is progressing well. The project team are very heartened at both the level and quality of response. In contrast, they are unhappy with HSE's response in relation to collating and analysing Service Level Arrangement data. The timely transmission of this data has now been included within the key performance indicator set of the respective Regional Directors of Operations. There will be a further data gathering exercise in relation to non pay expenditure for 2009.

Going to College Pilot Project – Supporting Civic Engagement

An exciting new partnership pilot project has just begun with NUI Galway. The project aims to support the civic engagement of people who have an intellectual disability through access to inclusive third level education at NUI Galway. There are three partners in the project, the UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, NUI Galway, the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), NUI Galway and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.

Under the leadership of Professor Pat Dolan (UNESCO Chair and Director, Child & Family Research Centre, NUI Galway), Professor Gerard Quinn (Director, Centre for Disability Law & Policy, NUI Galway), Ms. Lorraine McIlrath (Community Knowledge Initiative Co-ordinator, NUI Galway) and Ms. Edel Tierney (Director of Research & Policy Development, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies) this pilot project will support six students to undertake third level education at NUI Galway for a two year period from September 2011.

The emergence of third level educational opportunities for people who have an intellectual disability is still quite a new, but very welcome, reality worldwide. While diverse models of programme delivery and disciplinary focus exist throughout the world, all can demonstrate student benefits relating to positive identity as a student, enhanced employment opportunities, working within an adult environment, increased self-esteem and confidence, supporting citizenship, enhancing communication skills and expanding social networks and contacts.

The pilot project will draw on the considerable strengths and resources of NUI Galway to the best advantage of students and will be guided by UNESCO's guidelines on inclusive education. These guidelines highlight the

legal frameworks that support inclusion, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008). The pilot project will also be guided by the views and opinions of people who have an intellectual disability and parents and families. To begin this process of communication we organised ten focus groups with 64 people who have an intellectual disability and six focus groups with 32 parents and family members in December 2009 and January 2010.

People who have an intellectual disability had lots of things to say about going to college. They wanted to have the full college experience – involvement in the academic, social and cultural activities of the college. While they thought it was a good idea to go to college with all the other students in NUI Galway, they had mixed feelings about being in classes with everyone else, “difficult to know until you try it and see what works”. Many people had particular subjects/career options in mind and were also interested in learning something new and “getting skills for life”. There was a lot of discussion about the challenges involved, “needs to be at right level for each person’s ability” and the supports each of them would need to go to college. People spoke about their brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends going to college, about living independently, “have your own place and your own key”, “make more friends” and “improving your self confidence”.

We also spoke with parents and family members on their views about college. They were unanimous that the project in NUI Galway was a necessary development for their family member. They felt that up until now there were very limited options available for their son or daughter to continue in education and it was important that they would have the choice and the opportunity to explore college education, “opens up opportunities and a new world for people”. Parents and families recognise that participating in mainstream subjects could be a challenge; however, with supports and changes to subject material, they felt their son or daughter would benefit greatly from the opportunity of attending and participating in third level education with “adequate support in classrooms and in learning”. Many parents said that it was their dream for their family member to go to college - ‘we tend to underestimate our children and what they can achieve’. They also felt that the social aspects of being in College and the possibility of enhancing their lives would be a great opportunity for their family member.

The project will be co-ordinated by a part-time project co-ordinator who is working with the Community Knowledge Initiative in NUI Galway 3 days a week and will be supported by an Advisory Group.

The Going to College Pilot Project will be launched in NUI Galway in late January/early February 2011 followed by student recruitment to the pilot. The pilot project will strive to achieve equity of access for each individual with an intellectual disability who wishes to undertake third level education at NUI Galway. Students will attend classes with the other students in the college and will graduate with all the students in the college. Students will have an opportunity to achieve the full college experience i.e. engage as active citizens through work experience and volunteering roles, gain academic knowledge and get involved in clubs and societies (NUI Galway has more than 80 student societies and 40 sports clubs so there will be lots of opportunities for students to get involved in).

If you would like further information on the inclusive education pilot project, please contact Breda Casey, Project Co-Ordinator, Going to College Pilot Project, Room 116, Community Knowledge Initiative, Arts Millennium Building, NUI Galway, Tel: +353 91 493621, Email: breda.casey@nuigalway.ie

Going to College pilot project is a collaboration between the UNESCO Chair, Child & Family Research Centre, NUI Galway, the Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI Galway and the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability to support the civic engagement of persons who have an intellectual disability through access to inclusive third level education at NUI Galway.

Informing Families Cork Pilot Project Report

Informing Families Project shortlisted for HSE Achievement Award!

The National Federation's **Informing Families Project** is amongst five healthcare projects in the HSE southern region which have been shortlisted for the HSE Achievement Awards 2010, from more than 90 entries from healthcare workers across the HSE South counties of Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Cork and Kerry.

The HSE Achievement Awards 2010, were created to recognise and celebrate outstanding work by health and social care staff and ultimately reward best practice and raise standards within the health sector. A total of 328 healthcare projects and initiatives from all over the country have applied for this year's HSE Achievement Awards and five HSE South entries have been chosen to go forward to the National Event to be held in Dublin's Mansion House on November 24th next.

Speaking at a special Regional Recognition Event to formally acknowledge the efforts of all the applicants, Mr. Barry O'Brien, HSE South's Director of Human Resources, said: *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all applicants in the HSE South region for giving us the opportunity to see first hand the hard work, innovation and dedication every one of you has given to the health service. The entries for this competition clearly demonstrate that innovation in our health and social care services is being led by staff who are committed to finding new and better ways of delivering improved care despite the many challenges we face. More than 90 applications were received from the HSE South region and there was a huge range of projects from the clinical services, primary care and social services, support services and management initiatives"*.

The Informing families of their child's disability project was submitted by hospital, community and voluntary disability groups in the Cork area who had piloted the guidelines over a two year period in order to gain learning for further national roll-out. The aim of the pilot project was to help improve the experience of parents, who are informed of their child's diagnosis of disability, and to improve support for professionals involved in the communication of the diagnosis, was launched in the Cork area.

The project was established to pilot the implementation of evidence-based **Best Practice Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability**. The project was co-ordinated by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and was lead by a Steering Committee, chaired by a parent of two children with disabilities. It was implemented in hospitals and the HSE South Local Health Office, including the disability services in the Cork area. Professionals from medical, nursing and allied health disciplines in a wide range of organisations participated in the project.

Five entries from each of the four HSE Regions (HSE South, HSE West, HSE Dublin Mid Leinster and HSE Dublin North East) have been short listed to go forward to the National Event in November when the overall winners of the HSE Achievement Awards 2010 will be announced. Regional Recognition Events have also being held in Dublin, Galway and Tullamore.

Further information

Download the national best practice guidelines here:

http://www.fedvol.ie/fileupload/File/Informing_Families_Guidelines.pdf

Click here to download the [Roadmap for Implementation](#) from the Cork Pilot Project.

[Click here to find out more about the tools available from the Cork Pilot Project.](#)

The work of the Informing Families Project has been kindly supported by the Health Services National Partnership Forum and the HSE Department of Social Inclusion.



The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies held its third in our Master Class series...***Risky Business? Supporting People in a Natural Way on 29th September 2010 in the Tullamore Court Hotel.*** Presentations on the day focused on how we can develop our understanding of how services respond to the potential stresses of positive risk taking and how this might influence their ability to maintain and develop long term successful positive risk taking practices. We explored the challenges inherent in supporting people naturally in their communities, the risks for organisations, but most of all the opportunities for people that can arise from taking these risks!

Programme for the day:

- Jonathan Irwin, CEO of the Jack & Jill Foundation, gave a presentation entitled '***Supporting children and their families who have life threatening illnesses - The risk of staying at home***'.
- Anne Coffey, from KARE, Joe Mason, Lorraine McNicholas & Ann Tuohy, from Walkinstown Association gave a series of presentations focusing on stories of people's real lives entitled '***From Risk to Reality: Real Needs, Real Choice, Real Live's*** and the way in which KARE and Walkinstown supported them to take risks which led to better personal outcomes for them.
- Irene O'Byrne Maguire, from the State Claims Agency gave an overview of a quality and safety risk framework '***Assuring Quality Outcomes: A Quality Safety & Risk Framework***'. This presentation included a brief questionnaire for organisations to complete to examine their positive risk taking strategies.
- Willie Walsh provided '***A Parents Perspective: Organisational Insecurities - A Risk to the Good Life***' and spoke about the need for organisations to support individuals to live normal 'messy lives'.
- Olive Moynihan & Lisa Fitzgerald, COPE Foundation, presented a paper entitled '***Positive Risk Taking for Adults with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability***'. They gave real life examples of how they have been supporting people with severe and profound intellectual disabilities to be included in their communities and the risk taking that it involved as an organisation.

All presentations are now available on our website see www.fedvol.ie for more detail.

Graduation Ceremony - 'Managing for the Future: Building your Skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment:

Pictured are a number of graduates of the Front Line Managers Training Programme which ran in the University of Limerick during 2009. The aim of the programme, which has been running annually since 2007, is to '...enhance the capacity of front line managers in intellectual disability services to effectively carry out their role and to contribute to the human resource function within their organisation in partnership with key stakeholders'.

Many congratulations to all concerned!!

The programme which is accredited by UL is now in its third cycle and a further intake is planned for Spring 2011. For further information on the programme / programme brochure please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie



Programme Graduates (left to right): Anne Keenan, CWCW (New Ross), Bob Pattinson, Management Development Unit, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick, Maria O'Reilly, KARE & Michelle O'Donnell, Brothers of Charity Southern Services.

SKILL Programme Graduations – November, 2010:

The HSE SKILL Programme would like to invite you to celebrate the graduation of SKILL Programme participants from the Health Service SKILLS (FETAC Level 5) Award and the Advanced Certificate in Supervisory Management Skills (FETAC Level 6) Award. The graduation ceremonies will take place as follows:



- November 6th – 12noon – Concert Hall, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork City
- November 20th – 12noon – The Helix, DCU, Collins Ave, Glasnevin, Dub 9
- November 27th – 1.00pm – Galway Bay Hotel, The Promenade, Salthill, Galway

Irish John F Kennedy Fellowships 2010-2012:

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is very pleased to announce that through the SKILL Programme, the following four personnel have been awarded prestigious **Irish John F Kennedy Fellowships** for the period 2010-2012:

- Mr. Eoin Buckley – Sunbeam House Services
- Ms. Katrina Byrne – Stewarts Hospital Services

- Mr. Michael Kilgallon – Western Care Association
- Ms. Patricia Seery – Brother of Charity Services, Clare

The overall goal of the Fellowship Programme is to improve the quality of services provided to individuals and families by supporting the education and development of those working at frontline level within organisations.

This Scholarship and Career Mentoring Programme created by John F. Kennedy, Jr. in 1989, was made available for the first time ever outside New York State and the United States of America to the SKILL Programme in 2006 by special arrangement with the John F. Kennedy, Jr. Institute for Worker Education, City University of New York. Kennedy Fellows will receive a stipend for up to two years of academic study and this will contribute towards tuition, books, instructional material, transportation, student fees, childcare, and other expenses associated with higher education.

Human Resources Update

It has been a busy period on the human resources front with the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies being requested to nominate personnel onto a range of Working Groups which have been established nationally to address issues arising from the implementation of the Croke Park Agreement and also to follow through on the work of the National Joint Council. The Federation nominees to the various Working Groups are outlined below and regular updates on the work of the groups will be provided to Federation members over the coming months.

Public Service Agreement 2010-2014:

The following representatives have been nominated onto the 4 Working Groups established to implement the actions outlined under the Public Service Agreement (June 2010):

Working Group	Federation Nominee
Redeployment Working Group	Maura Donovan, Stewarts Hospital
Standardisation Working Group	John Pepper, St. John of God Services
Extended Working Day	Rose Rafferty, St. Michael's House
Regularisation of Acting Arrangements	Gerry Mulholland, Stewarts Hospital

National Joint Council:

A request was made in June 2010 by Corporate Employee Relations Services (CERS), HSE, for Federation nominees to sit on a number of Working Groups being established as part of the work of the National Joint Council (NJC):

Working Group	Federation Nominee
<p>Investigation Procedure: Focus: To discuss issues arising from the operation of the investigation procedures under the Trust in Care Policy, Dignity at Work Policy & Disciplinary Procedure.</p>	<p>Pat Fitzgerald, Peamount Hospital.</p>
<p>5 National Claims - Labour Court Recommendation No. LCR19769: Focus: To discuss the implementation of the Court's recommendations in relation to the 5 national claims as outlined in Labour Court Recommendation No. LCR 19769</p>	<p>Michele Oppermann, Daughters of Charity Services.</p>
<p>Sick Leave Procedure for the HSE: Focus: To jointly review the recently issued sick leave document (while this will not apply to NFVB members it was suggested that a nominee from our sector may wish to contribute to the work of the group).</p>	<p>Olive Leonard, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary</p>

New Employee Assistance Programme for NFVB Members

The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provides confidential counselling services and information services to a number of member organisations of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

The EAP is provided by Vhi Corporate Solutions and a highly competitive rate has been agreed in conjunction with the NFVB for all member organisations. In June 2010, Vhi CS began making contact with all members to discuss the possible introduction of the EAP within their organisation. Joe Doddy, Senior EAP Consultant, was appointed as the dedicated consultant to new member organisations and since June has met with many members to discuss the EAP. The purpose of the EAP is to provide employees within member organisations with easy access to confidential short term counselling to assist in coping with the effect of personal or work-related issues.

What services are available?

- Well-Net – proactive well-being website
- Information
- Telephone Counselling
- Face to Face counselling - Short-term confidential counselling is available to assist in coping with personal or work-related issues. We have a nationwide network of counsellors, so you can see a counsellor within your local area.

The EAP can help you with issues relating to, but not limited to, any of the following:

Relationships – Parenting – Stress – Family Matters – Substance Abuse – Bereavement – Emotional Health – Interpersonal difficulties

How do I know the service is confidential?

Vhi Corporate Solutions, an external provider, deliver the EAP to employees following strict ethical guidelines and codes of practice and are bound by the rules of the Irish Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (IACP). This means that any contact with you remains confidential and that no information about you is available to anyone without your written consent.

For further information on the EAP service from Vhi Corporate Solutions, please contact Joe Doddy, Senior EAP Consultant, on (01) 7994120 or (085) 1100427 or you can email info@vhics.ie

European Safety Week 2010:

Healthy Workplaces – Good for you – Good for business:

Vhi Corporate Solutions

European Safety Week 2010 takes place on the week beginning 25th October 2010 and the theme is **Safe Maintenance**. To reflect this theme Vhi Corporate Solutions has developed a programme of maintenance for body and mind and this programme is available from **18th October - 5th November**:

Health Screening: A 15-minute health check for employees with immediate results including: blood pressure / height & weight / total cholesterol / body mass index (BMI)

Wellness Workshops:

- **Building Mental Resilience:** This interactive workshop helps employees develop an understanding of what stress is, helps analyse the sources of their own stress, and plan strategies that build resilience.
- **Maintaining Personal Well-being:** This interactive workshop helps employees to identify what they want from work and life and how to achieve a balance that works for them.

Free Safety Checklist: A free Safety Checklist will be sent to each company that avails of this package.

Domestic Safety: Discounted rates on safety equipment in the home (fire blankets/first aid kits) for employees.

Vhi Corporate Solutions will deliver the programme on site within organisation.

For further information and costs, please contact:

Joe Doddy on 085-1100427 or 01-7994120 / Vhi Corporate Solutions on: info@vhics.ie

***Residential Weekend
Relationships, Friendships and Supports for People with Intellectual Disability***



The Research Sub Committee of the National Federation held its second annual Residential Weekend on **Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October** in the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Secretariat Offices in Oranmore, Galway. This two-day event was held to debate the literature and discuss best practice on the topic of *Relationships & Supports for People with Intellectual Disability*. This weekend was held as part of the action agenda of the Sub Committee to explore the topic of Relationships in 2010.

A number of people from a diversity of backgrounds, researchers, policy makes, frontline staff, managers and CEOs came together and following dissemination of a comprehensive reading list in the area gave presentations on particular readings. The aim of the weekend was to identify:

- What have we learned from the literature and the presentations made?
- What are the gaps in the literature?
- What can we conclude about this topic following readings and discussions?

The weekend was chaired by Dr. Bob McCormack, CEO of DARA Residential Services.

A full report on this weekend and the review of the literature will be compiled by the end of the year so watch this space.

Relationships, Friendships & Supports Study – 21st September 2010

I facilitated a focus group on the 21st September 2010. It was part of the Inclusive Research Network (IRN) Relationships & Supports Study. I had sent emails out to all the members of the Community Participation & Inclusion Sub Committee inviting those members who have an intellectual disability to take part. The response was good as 8 people in total expressed an interest in taking part. I then sent them extra information on the focus group in the form of handbooks which included the consent forms and background information on the study. On the day six people took part as two others were not able to make the journey due to unforeseen events.

I welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. I went through the information on the study and got consent from everyone. I also got consent to record the focus group on tape. The people taking part then introduced themselves and the focus group started from that point.

There is a transcript of this focus group so there is no need to go through all that happened only to say that a lot of good information on Friendships & Relationships was shared. I feel that the focus group went well even though it was my first time to facilitate a focus group. I did feel nervous beforehand but the preparation I had done with Orla and the other staff in the Federation was beneficial but it can never fully prepare someone for facilitating a real focus group. I feel that some of the paper work at the beginning was time consuming but I accept that it is important to get consent. It is easier to go through the consent process for a focus group as you can go through it once with everyone.



I was worried about people being shy about discussing relationships which can be a sensitive topic for a lot of people but that the people taking part did not feel shy about discussing it at all and talked openly. My supporter Orla Kelly was a great help at all stages of the process especially the preparation and also taking notes on the day.

I am happy that the focus group has been done and that we can move on to the next stage of the process.

By Brian Donohoe
National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

Stewarts Hospital Wins Prestigious Award

At its meeting held on 8th September, 2010, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies' Board of Directors congratulated Stewarts Hospital on its significant achievement in winning a prestigious award in the category of Best European Energy Service Project in the Public Sector by the awarding body, the European Energy Service Initiative, which is a support / research group funded by the European Union, who act as a liaison between energy agencies throughout Europe.

Are you interested in service improvement and change?

Would you like to support a team from your service to attend a module in Dublin City University? - **NS4013 Service Improvement with Cooperative Learning**

The module is about teams working together to make a difference in services for people with intellectual disability. It is recognising that people with intellectual disability, their families and service/support staff have acquired significant informal learning through life and work experience. This experience can benefit individuals and services through leadership activities and change initiatives while offering inclusive involvement in education.

The team will consist of three people with the common link being the service they are associated with as a family member/carer, a service user and a staff member. Each team requires the support of a service based mentor.

This module aspires to give the students an opportunity to reflect and appreciate their individual contribution

that this learning can give to effect change within services. It is about supporting people to recognise that their unique experience has a value and that their contribution is essential to affect improvement and change within supports and services. As one person reflected, "*as I have lived in residential care for a long time, I should know a lot about it*".

For service providers the specific capacities are wide ranging. Through the commitment expected they have the opportunity to meet like minded providers on a steering group who are also seeking ways to involve people who use services in the way their particular service is developing and changing. On a practical level the involvement of a service based mentor also allows the service provider to build capacity within senior staff to begin to understand the change process and the significance of true service user involvement. Experiences so far have indicated that this level of engagement has contributed to changing attitudes to the strategies providers need to adopt when deciding on how services should be shaped in future. Mentors are encouraged to facilitate and support rather than taking a directive approach leading to bottom up service change guided by what the teams feel is needed rather than an overall service strategy.

If you would like to hear more about this initiative and would like to send a team on the next module due to commence in October 2010 please feel free to call Deirdre Corby on 01 7008524 or email deirdre.corby@dcu.ie

Irish Society for Disability and Oral Health



The Irish Society for Disability & Oral Health (ISDH) is a voluntary group established in 2002. The group is made up of professionals who aim to promote, preserve and protect the oral health of people with disabilities. Further information about the Society can be accessed through their website www.isdh.ie.

One of the areas of development of the Society is to promote formal links with organizations representing people with disabilities. The ISDH would welcome the opportunity to do this through the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and its associated organisations.

Of current concern is the perceived inability of patients with disabilities to access dental care through the Medical Card Scheme. As an organisation we would like to advocate on behalf of patients with disabilities and would therefore like to know if people are able to access care satisfactorily, or indeed, if they have experienced problems since the recent changes to the Medical Card Scheme for dental patients.

We would welcome any information relevant to this although the ISDH is not in a position to respond to individual enquiries from patients. Any information can be sent via email to:

Dr. K. F. Finn, Senior Dentist Special Care, Co. Roscommon - Email: keith.finn@hse.ie

Clare Inclusive Research Network Conference – call for contributions

INCLUSION – ARE YOU INCLUDED?



CLARE NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE
BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES CLARE
Tuesday November 16th 2010
CLARE INN HOTEL, DROMOLAND, CO. CLARE



Please help us to make a Research Installation in
the Hotel Entrance Foyer
We are calling it “INCLUSION : What It Means To Me”



Think how you are *included or excluded* in your home, your work or day time activity,
your social life, your local community or how the money you bring to the service is
spent.

Choose something that would help us to understand how you feel about this.



It might be a photo, a picture or an object

Now, please send whatever you come up with and we will attach it to our display
board with a Velcro's sticker.

There will be three prizes for the best offerings judged by the main conference



speakers.

It must not take up more space on the display board than an A4 sheet of copy paper.

It may be three dimensional, but not so heavy that the Velcro cannot support it.

Contributions to arrive not later than November 1st to be sent to
Louise Skerritt, Installation Co-ordinator, Banner House, Clare Rd., Ennis, Co. Clare.

Thanks and Happy Thinking!



CLARE INCLUSIVE

RESEARCH GROUP

Events and Dates for your Diary:

Master Class 4



Taking the Next Steps: Supporting People with Intellectual Disability across the Life Cycle
Wednesday 17th November 2010
Dublin 10am – 4pm

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies invites you to the fourth in our Master Class series....***Next Steps – Supporting People with intellectual disabilities across the lifecycle.*** This is the fourth in a series of Master Classes which aims to assist organisations in the transformation and reconfiguration of services to support the inclusion of and participation in communities by persons with an intellectual disability.

Master Class 4, ***Next Steps – Supporting People with intellectual disabilities across the lifecycle*** will look at different points in the lives of people with intellectual disability and their families; such as the time of a child’s diagnosis with a disability; moving out of home; times of bereavement; moving into older age and others. These critical times in a person’s life invite us to question how we can best support people with intellectual disabilities; their families and the staff members working with them at important times in the life-cycle. This Master Class will present research findings and innovative practices from across different life stages.

This Master Class is aimed at front line staff, managers, researchers, and anyone who is supporting people with intellectual disabilities during critical times in their lives. An emphasis will be placed on practical guidelines and best practice in supporting people and their families.

To book your place use this link - <http://cbs.harvardinnovations.com>



‘Choice Based Lettings and Community Based Lettings-Exploring the Implications’
Tuesday, November 16th 2010
The Maldon Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Under the Governments new Social Housing Leasing Initiative, providers are being encouraged to use a “Choice-based Lettings” model for the allocation of housing units. Choice-based Lettings are designed to offer greater choice to potential tenants and involve them in the selection of their accommodation. The model has been used throughout the UK and in the Netherlands and is a variation on the traditional way of allocating houses which is largely based on a needs system. This 1-day seminar organised by Respond! Housing Association aims to explain the core areas of Choice-based Lettings and discuss the implications and challenges for social housing providers. Speakers will include the Department of the Environment, the Irish Council for Social Housing, South Dublin County Council and Respond! Housing Association.

Key topics covered:

- Work through what Choice-based Lettings actually is, its objectives and how it works

- Explore how the scheme of letting priorities and the allocations of social housing currently operates in Ireland
- Consider work that has been undertaken internationally on Choice-based Lettings
- Consider the implications of Choice-based Lettings, particularly for vulnerable people
- Offer Community Based lettings as a framework from within which Choice-based Lettings needs to operate from

Date: 16th November 2010 from 10am – 4pm
Fee: €100 (including lunch)

For further information/bookings please contact caroline.nolan@respond.ie or phone Caroline on 01-8087760 www.respond.ie

Office of the Disability Appeals Officer



Office of the Disability Appeals Officer
Oifig an Oifigh Achomhairc um Míchumas

- Do you have a child with a disability or are you involved in providing services for children with disabilities?
- Is your child, or the children you provide services for under 5 years of age or was he/she under 5 years of age on the 1st June 2007?
- Has your child had, or have the children you provide services for had an Assessment of Need under the Disability Act or are they currently going through the Assessment process?

If so you may be interested in attending an information evening to learn about the **redress service** provided by the Disability Appeals Officer. The Disability Appeals Officer, Teresa Dykes, is an independent officer appointed by the Minister for Health and Children to provide an appeal service under Section 16 of the Disability Act 2005. She will be holding information evenings at various venues around the country to explain the services provided by her office. Please see list of venues below - all are welcome to attend.

For further information please go to the Appeals Officer’s website www.odo.ie

ODAO Information Evenings

Date and Time	Venue
November 9th 2010 8:00 - 10:00 pm	Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath Contact: Denise Dunning
November 23rd 2010 8:00 - 10:00 pm	Osprey Hotel, Naas, Co Kildare Contact: Sharon Deegan Email: sdeegan@osprey.ie / Tel: (045) 881111

National Council for Special Education

**2010 Research Seminar – National Council for Special Education
Wednesday 24th November 2010**

The Hogan Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre, Jone's Road, Dublin (9.00am – 4.30pm)

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) was formally established under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004 in 2005 to improve the delivery of education services to persons with special educational needs, with particular emphasis on children. Conducting, commissioning and publishing research, to provide an evidence base to support this work, are core functions of the NCSE. This seminar features presentations on key research reports that have been completed recently. The research seminar will also feature an address from Professor Richard Rose, University of Northampton, on the value and limitations of research; and a paper from NCSE Special Education Advisor, Mary Byrne, on the NCSE experience of developing policy advice from research findings.

Please click [here](#) for the Seminar Agenda.

To book a place at the seminar please click [here](#) to complete and submit the online booking form. Places are available on a first come, first served basis.

Booking forms must be submitted to NCSE by 5pm Friday November 5th 2010. If you have any queries about the seminar, please e-mail researchseminar@ncse.ie

Fifth Adult Learners' Festival

The fifth Adult Learners' Festival takes place from the **21 – 25 February 2011**. Whether you are part of a large national organisation or a small adult learning initiative, your participation will make the festival a nationwide success. For further information go to www.adultlearnersfestival.com

UN International Year of Volunteers - 2011



2011 will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UN International Year of Volunteers. The European Year of Volunteering 2011 now has a new web portal for volunteer-involving organisations and volunteers throughout Europe to share and inform on issues relating to EYV 2011 - www.eyv2011.eu. Developed and managed by the EYV 2011 Alliance Secretariat this website will complement the soon to be activated EYV 2011 webpage on the Europa Portal managed by the European Commission www.europa.eu/volunteering. You can find out more information about the EYV 2011 Alliance in the dedicated section on this site - www.eyv2011.eu.

Cross-Border Links, in association with Down Syndrome Ireland
are holding a free Seminar on Special Educational Needs

In Association with
HSE - Learning Disability Service

**In The Landmark Hotel, Carrick On Shannon
On Thursday November 11th 2010**

This free seminar aimed at: Teaching staff and SNA's, Healthcare professionals,
National Council for Special Needs, Parents, Guardians & Carers.

Places are limited - Early booking recommended

For more information please contact:

Special Educational Needs Seminar,
Carrick on Shannon Education Centre

Marymount

Carrick On Shannon,

Co. Leitrim

071 - 9620383

Please see [link](#) to programme and booking form



