

Welcome to the National Federation Newsletter

Spring 2018



The National Federation is hosting a two-day conference entitled “*Autonomous Accountability*” – May 30th & 31st 2018

The National Federation will host a very important conference entitled “*Autonomous Accountability*” on Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st May, 2018 in the Mullingar Park Hotel. Concerns have been expressed about a continuing role for the voluntary sector in the provision of supports to people with intellectual disabilities in this state. Does the state value this role and, if so, how best do Voluntary Services Providers ensure that accountability and compliance requirements are met in a way that allows providers to stay focussed on their primary purpose?

The conference will address the following core issues:

1. Whether the State identifies as a matter of policy a continuing role for voluntary bodies in the disability sector?
2. What is the value-add / public good the State and informed commentators identify as flowing from this policy objective?
3. What governance and operational paradigms are appropriate and fit-for-purpose to promote and safeguard this value-adding contribution?
4. What is the vision for the future?

As well as seeking confirmation by the State of a continuing role for voluntary organisations providing services to people with intellectual disability the conference will aim:

- To counter the general assumption that the role of voluntary board is to be the state’s compliance checking ‘eyes and ears’ inside the organisations;

- To promote a recognition by governmental agencies that there are approaches to governance other than an exclusive focus on conformance;
- To challenge the assumption that the managerialist approach – stripping public services of moral and ethical values and replacing them with the market language of costs, efficiencies and competition – is the only available approach and a fit-for-purpose approach to leading and managing organisations.

This timely conference will include a range of national and international speakers. It will explore approaches to Governance and compliance operating in other jurisdictions including a consideration of the ‘experimental approach’ to Governance which combines clarity of objectives with flexibility and diversity of approach in the achievement of these objects.

We expect a large and diverse audience including senior management and staff of Voluntary Organisations, Chairs and Board Members of Voluntary Organisations, representatives from HSE, HIQA, Department of Health, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, leaders and senior managers from the national disability representative organisations and self-advocates.

A programme and online booking will be issued shortly.

Brian O’Donnell.
Chief Executive.

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Seminar

Event exploring finances and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, 7 March 2018

There was a full house for the National Federation’s seminar on Wednesday 7th March 2018, arranged for members to explore the implications of the Assisted Decision-Making Capacity Act for service provider organisations. The focus of this seminar was on exploring ways in which the funds belonging to users of services can, and should be accessed, and managed for the benefit of the person; and how this relates to various processes (e.g. applications for aids and appliances).



Anna Shakespeare, CEO, St. Michael’s House / Chair of the National Federation Quality & Standards Sub Committee with Ms. Mary Condell, Legal Advisor, Sage.

The seminar took place in Moore Abbey, Monasterevin and was facilitated by Ms. Mary Condell, Legal Advisor with Sage. Mary is a practicing solicitor and mediator with a particular interest in legal and other issues concerning older adults and adults with disabilities. She is also a member of the Law Society's Task Force on Mental Capacity which was established to review and make submissions on new capacity legislation and of the National Financial Abuse of Older People Working Group.

Expert presenter, engaging style, information clearly delivered. Examples provided were very useful
(Feedback from participant)

The ability to participate and hear others issues worked well. This type of seminar brings together similar organisations facing real issues.
(Feedback from participant)

Mary set out the context to understanding of capacity within the Act, and ways in which this may be interpreted in relation to supporting people to access their money in a way that is transparent and accountable, when there are difficulties with capacity.

A number of potential models for the process of managing finances on behalf and in support of the person were put forward, and it was agreed that the National Federation will engage in further work in consultation with Mary Condell and a range of key stakeholders, to explore this issue further in advance of the consideration of these issues by the newly-established Decision Support Service. As the commencement and implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act continues it is the intention of the National Federation to hold further learning events.

Inclusive Research Network

2018 Where We are

The IRN got off to a busy start in 2018 with more Focus Group Training taking place in Trinity College Dublin on 17th January. IRN Members are practicing asking the questions and running the focus groups through the use of 'role play'. We are finding it difficult to be the person

asking questions instead of answering them and so, some more time is needed with this. These focus groups will gather information from people with intellectual disability about what it is like for them to attend their doctor and will feed into our 'Doctors and Us' research project.





IRN Focus Group training

The IRN got an invitation to go to a European Conference "European research platform for inclusive community planning and service development for people with disabilities (EURECO) in Brussels on March 13th. The IRN agreed that Dr. Nancy Salmon, University of Limerick, will represent the IRN and make the presentation as the conference organisers are only funding one person to attend. Nancy Leddin, Chair and Carol Ann O' Toole are helping in preparing the presentation. IRN Secretary Brian Donohoe has written to the conference organisers about future invitations as it is important that funding is provided so that members of the IRN are supported to attend such events.

The IRN is working on an abstract for a conference in Halifax, Canada called 'Healthy Living, Health Lives'. If successful some IRN members will join via video link and make a presentation on our current research project **'Doctors and Us'**.

An article is also being written for the British Journal of Learning Disabilities about the 2015 'Our Homes' research project – Brian Donohoe, Laura Murray and Greg Singleton are co-editors with Dr. Nancy Salmon, University of Limerick. The IRN is also writing an article 'How IRN works' with Dr. Edurne Garcia, Trinity College Dublin.

- **Written By Brian Donohoe, Secretary, IRN**



IRN members Laura Murray and Carol Ann O'Toole doing role play to learn how to run a focus group



Nancy Leddin, Chairperson of IRN and Brian Donohoe, Secretary running a recent meeting

Human Resources Matters

Human Resources Sub-Committee

Membership of the National Federation's Operational Human Resources Group is open to all human resources personnel across National Federation member organisations. The Group is chaired by Ms. Olive Leonard, Director of Human Resources, Muiriosa Foundation, and its primary role is to ensure that National Federation members are supported to address key human resource issues and the human resources related provisions contained in relevant national policy documents / agreements.



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The next meeting of the Operational HR Group will take place on April 19th – for further information contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@Fedvol.ie

Social Care Workers Task Group

A National Federation Social Care Workers Task Group has now been established and its work is focused on the following:



- Registration process with CORU
- Consideration of College Programmes - syllabus;
- Clarity of role of Social Care Workers;
- Progression Routes for Social Care Workers/Leaders.

As part of the work of the Task Group a meeting has been arranged with CORU for the end of March 2018 to address the issues / concerns arising for Service Providers in relation to the upcoming registration process for Social Care Workers. It is anticipated that the meeting will provide some clarity in relation to the timeframe and process proposed for the registration of SCW's.

HSE & Disability Umbrella Groups - HR / Finance Working Group

This Group, which was established under the HSE Social Care Directorate, has now been reconvened and met on February 8th last to address the main finance and human resources related concerns arising for HSE Funded Agencies. The Group will meet on a bi-monthly basis and key items under discussion include:

- S39 Pay Restoration / Increments

- Compliance with the EWTD / Sleepovers
- Communications between CHO's and HSE Funded Agencies
- Agency – Conversion / causes of Agency Use (sick leave/staff turn-over/HIQA issues
- HIQA – Inspection/Regulation adding to costs
- HR Circulars re A/L Premiums /Injury at Work scheme/On-Call Allowances /
- Garda Vetting – Existing Employees

Quality Updates

Enhancing your Organisations Quality & Safety Measures - 1-Day Workshop on April 11th 2018

The National Federation, in conjunction with the Head of Quality & Safety Division, Social Care, HSE, is hosting a 1-day Workshop for its members which will focus on the following:



- ✚ Incident Management Framework (launched on 24th January 2018):
- ✚ Integrated Risk Management Policy (2017)
- ✚ Open Disclosure Policy (2013)
- ✚ Your Service, Your Say, The Management of Service User Feedback for Comments, Compliments and Complaints (2017)

The 1-day Workshop will consist of a series of presentations by HSE personnel in relation to the various Framework / Policy documents and will aim to create awareness and facilitate discussion in relation to how the policies can be effectively implemented by organisations to promote best practice in this area.



This workshop is now fully booked. If you would like to be on a waiting list / wish to receive the workshop presentations please email: mary.barrett@fedvol.ie

HIQA Providers Forum

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is responsible for the inspection and registration of designated centre for adults and children with disabilities and the HIQA Providers Forum was established in 2014 to facilitate communication between the Authority and representative organisations of Service Providers. Membership of the Forum includes the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, the Disability Federation of Ireland, the Not for Profit Business Association, the Irish Council for Social Housing and the Health Service Executive. In particular the work of the Forum focuses on:



- Provision of updates on the implementation of the regulatory processes, policy direction and registration programme for residential services for children and adults with disabilities.
- Presentation by Service Providers of wider queries and information items generated from membership for clarity.

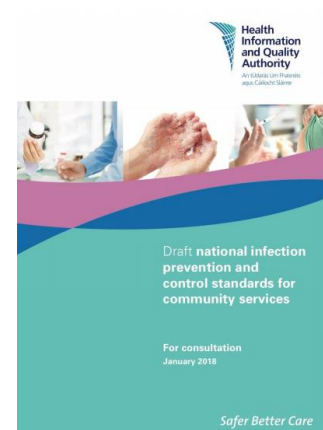
The National Federation is currently represented on the HIQA Providers Forum by Anna Shakespeare, CEO, St. Michael's House / Chairperson, Quality & Standards Sub Committee, Brian O'Donnell and Jillian Sexton, National Federation Secretariat.

The next meeting of the HIQA Providers Forum meeting will take place on April 18th and if you have any issues which you would like to raise at the meeting please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie

HIQA Draft national infection prevention and control standards for community services

HIQA has developed draft national infection prevention and control standards for community services. A public consultation on these draft standards commenced on the 31st of January and the National Federation made a submission to same. Once finalised and approved by the Minister for Health the standards will become nationally mandated which means that designated centres will be required to begin implementing these standards and working towards achieving compliance with them.

The draft standards, a background document outlining the evidence that informed the development of the draft standards are available on the HIQA website, please [click here](#).



HIQA Thematic Inspections – Restrictive Practices

In late 2018 HIQA will begin a programme of thematic inspections focusing on the use of restrictive practices in Designated Centres. HIQA is seeking to ensure that the development of this thematic inspection programme is informed by personnel who have particular expertise in this area and so

have established an expert advisory group to guide this work. HIQA circulated a 'baseline survey' to all designated centres in late 2017 which sought to gather information in relation to the type / frequency of physical and environmental restraints used within the last year. The survey also sought information in relation to organisation's policies / governance on the use of restrictive practices and the type of training provided to staff on the safe and appropriate use of restrictive practices and restraints.

As further information is made available in relation to this thematic inspection process it will be circulated to relevant organisations.

Health, Safety & Employee Well-being

Health, Safety & Employee Well-being Working Group

The Health, Safety & Employee Well-being Working Group of the National Federation organised a 1-day workshop for members on

Thursday 8th March 2018. John Taylor, Health & Safety Advisor, HSE, gave a very informative presentation on 'The HSE National Health & Safety Function' & Anne Maria O'Connor, Senior Inspector, HSA, facilitated a Workshop entitled 'The Health and Safety Authority's Development of Strategy 2019-2021'.



The HSE's National Health & Safety Function (NHSF) provides a range of information and supports to staff and information can be accessed via the following website: www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing
The website contains a suite of resources and documentation including:

- A Helpdesk - single point of contact for requests
- Health & Safety Legislation
- Safety Statements & Risk Assessments
- Safety Audits
- Safety Alerts
- Health & Safety Related Policies
- e-Learning and training

The Health and Safety Authority has commenced work on developing a 3-year Strategy for the period 2019-2021. Anne Maria



L-R Ciara Donnelly, Carriglea Cairde Service, Anne Clinton, St. Michael's House, Therese King, Ability West, Audrey Flatley, St. Hilda's Service & Anne Maria O'Connor, Health & Safety Authority

O'Connor, Senior Inspector, HSA, facilitated a workshop which sought the views of National Federation member organisations via the Health, Safety & Employee Well-being Working Group to inform the development of the Strategy. The main objectives of the Workshop discussion were to:

- 1) Identify which HSA activities are valued most by key stakeholders;
- 2) Understand the impact the HSA is having (at both a qualitative and quantitative levels);
- 3) Seek stakeholder's views on future trends; what might impact their organisations and the HSA?
- 4) Understand how stakeholders could potentially support or promote HSA activities.



The Group very much welcomed the opportunity to feed into the development of the Authorities new strategy and to inform the future work and the Authority.

There was a large attendance at the workshop and feedback from the workshop was very positive. The workshop was also useful in identifying topics for future workshops/training / development on issues relating to Health & Safety.

Ciara Donnelly, Carriglea Cairde - Secretary, Health, Safety & Employee Working Group.

Good to meet fellow professionals and discuss issues
(Feedback from participant)

Very well organised and informative
(Feedback from participant)

Safeguarding Updates

HIQA - New standards on safeguarding adults who may be at risk

In October 2017, HIQA and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) commenced work on the development of joint national adult safeguarding standards for health and social care services. The scope of the draft national standards includes all health and social care services. HIQA and the MHC are now consulting with key stakeholders to obtain their expert opinion as to what they believe to be the priority areas for safeguarding adults. They are also seeking advice on engaging stakeholders



through identifying frontline staff and people who use services to participate in focus groups and raising awareness among colleagues of a public consultation on the draft standards, all of which will inform the development of the final standards.

A Steering Group for the project has been established, which comprises representatives from the MHC, HIQA and the National Safeguarding Committee. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies has been invited to nominate a representative to this Steering Group. A systematic literature review of published evidence in the area of safeguarding has started and will form part of the evidence-base that will inform the development of the standards.

HIQA will also be undertaking a public consultation to hear people's views on a draft set of standard later this year. If you would like to be involved or be kept informed of developments, please email: standards@higa.ie

'Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse' – Online Course

The 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse' online course aims to increase the knowledge and skills of staff/volunteers in relation to safeguarding vulnerable persons and dealing with safeguarding incidents when they arise. In particular, the online course focuses on the "*Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy & Procedures*" document published by the HSE in December 2014 and sets out the procedures to be followed when a safeguarding concern arises. A key feature of the course is the emphasis placed on organisational culture and the importance of the creation of an open culture - "*culture manifests what is important, valued and accepted in an organisation. It is not easily changed nor is it susceptible to change merely by a pronouncement, command or the declaration of a new vision. At its most basic it can be reduced to the observation the way things are done around here*".

The course seeks to ensure that staff/volunteers are clear that safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility.

Key areas covered within the online Safeguarding Course include the following:

- Defining the key terms of safeguarding vulnerable persons at risk of abuse
- Organisational Culture
- The features of a positive organisational culture
- Everyone has a role in safeguarding
- Reporting Abuse
- Do's and Don'ts of Safeguarding

The online Safeguarding Course aims to compliment the ½ day 'face-to-face' Safeguarding Awareness Training Programme developed by the National Safeguarding Office (it does not replace it) and takes approx. 90 minutes to complete. The online course will be of particular interest to

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability



'Persons in Charge' (PIC's), Designated Officers & Team Leaders and can be used in a variety of ways including:

- Induction training for new staff or volunteers,
- Provision of refresher training for staff / volunteers,
- 'Just-in-time' training (i.e. a safeguarding incident occurs),
- Team meeting discussions.

The online Safeguarding course can now be accessed via the following 2 routes:

- 1) **Free Resource:** The course is available as a free resource for all organisations via the following link: <http://yourotc.net> (scroll down) until January 2019. You can progress through the course systematically or immediately access any part of the course that contains the materials you want to review. **Note: The open access route does not monitor an individual's completion of the course.**
- 2) **Monitoring / Certification:** If you are a manager and you would like the opportunity to monitor a group of staff or an individual staff member's progress through the course, the Open Training College can assist. The Open Training College is offering tracking and certification for course completion for the purposes of CPD for staff at all levels. To discuss the process and cost involved contact: elearning@opentrainingcollege.com.



The online Safeguarding Course was developed by the National Federation, St. Michael's House and the Open Training College as part of a Pobal Project funded under the Dormant Account Funds. **Completion of this course provides the information you require to support your practice until you have to complete the HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons classroom- based course. It is not a substitute for it.**

Mid-West Safeguarding Action Plan

The HSE launched its Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse Policy in late 2014 in response to concerns relating to vulnerable adults. One of the recommendations of the policy was the establishment of a Safeguarding and Protection Committee in each Community Health Care organisation. This was in recognition of the fact that safeguarding is not the sole responsibility of one agency but rather a realisation that safeguarding and the promotion of people's rights are issues of interest to all.



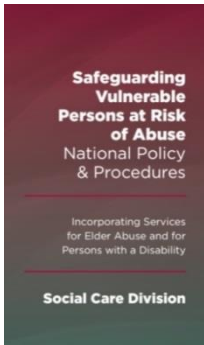
The Mid-West Interagency Safeguarding Committee was established in 2017 under the Chairmanship of Paschal Moynihan, Head of Social Care, HSE with multi agency representation from the statutory, voluntary and business sector. The purpose of the committee is to promote the rights and independence of vulnerable adults and help safeguard them from abuse. The committee

aims to do this through education, promotion, information sharing, public awareness and policy development.

On 23rd March this year the committee formally launches its 3 year Action Plan. The Plan outlines the objectives and actions of the group over the period 2018 to 2020. The plan was developed in collaboration with all the agencies and their representatives and there is commitment from all to support the plan.

“Safeguarding is Everybody’s Business”, Paschal Moynihan, Head of Social Care, CHO 3, HSE.

Adult Safeguarding Policy



The Review of the National Safeguarding Policy is continuing and is due to be completed by June, 2018.

The most recent meeting of the HSE / Disability Umbrella Groups Safeguarding Reference Group took place on March 2nd last - there remain considerable challenges for organisations in implementing the National Safeguarding Policy including the need to introduce thresholds for reporting, organisations being held responsible for investigating incidents which arise outside of the service setting, resource pressures, etc.

Children First

Key issues that organisations should be aware of in relation to ‘Children First’ and implementation of the provisions of the Children First Act, 2015 include the following:



- ✓ **Child Safeguarding Statements / Risk Assessments:** The Children First Act requires that all relevant services (Schedule 1 of the Act) should have completed child safeguarding risk assessments and published their Child Safeguarding Statement within 3 months from the commencement of the Act i.e. by 11th March 2018.
- ✓ **Mandatory Reporting:** Organisations need to ensure that staff members who fall under the mandatory reporting provision are clear in relation to their role / responsibilities;
- ✓ **Mandatory Assisting:** There are many issues / concerns arising in relation to mandatory assisting – governance issues, resource implications for organisations, etc.
- ✓ **Children First Training:** All staff members / volunteers should complete the on-line children first module on HSEland.
- ✓ **Children First Compliance:** The HSE will be requesting all Services to complete a 'compliance check-list' to ascertain their level of compliance with the CF Legislation.

There are a range of resource materials available on both the HSE and Tusla websites to support organisations in relation to children first:

<http://www.tusla.ie/children-first>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/childrenfirst/>

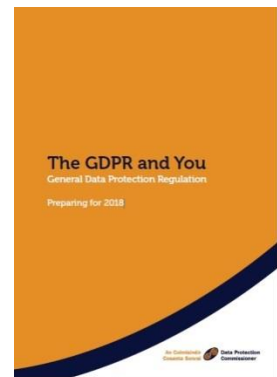
National Federation IT Sub Committee



The National Federation IT Sub Committee members held their first meeting of 2018 on February 7th in the National Federation offices in Oranmore. The committee members welcomed the new nominated Chairperson for 2018, Kevin Dunne, ICT Operations Manager, Brothers of Charity Services Galway. The meeting discussed the groups plans and agenda for the year highlighting the main areas of interest including; presentations on Office 365, TitanHQ, Cloud Wifi Control, Languardian/Darktrace, NRB NASS system (formally NIDD), IT Security Landscape, IT Team Business Communication and GDPR updates and queries. The IT Sub Committee agreed to meet 4 times in 2018 and the next scheduled meeting will take place on 7th of May in Monasterevin. The IT Sub Committee welcome all interested National Federation members to get involved and to contact Niamh.mcgauley@fedvol.ie with their expression of interest. IT Sub committee dates for 2018 are May 7th, July 4th and October 3rd.

General Data Protection Regulation

The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** will come into force on the 25th May, 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. As a regulation, it will not require transposition into Irish law, so we as organisations involved in data processing need to be aware that these regulations apply directly to us in terms of the obligations they impose. The GDPR emphasises transparency, security and accountability by data controllers and processors, while at the same time standardising and strengthening the right of European citizens to data privacy.



It will affect how we do business and we all need to be aware of the consequences of any breaches as the penalties are quite substantial. As organisations that hold substantial amounts of data on individuals and groups we will be monitored and audited by the Data Commissioner's Office and we need to be prepared to meet the standards set out in the GDPR.

The National Federation has held a number of information sessions/training days to highlight the main aspects of the GDPR and what organisations should be doing to prepare for this regulation. We

have also set up a Data Protection Network comprising of representatives from member organisations. The purpose of this Network is to support the Members of the National Federation in understanding and meeting the requirements of the Data Protection Acts and the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) prior to its implementation date in May 2018.

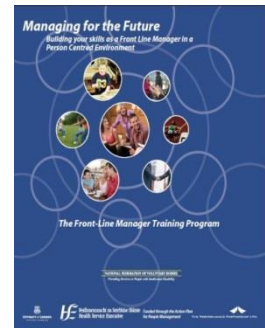
The Data Protection Commissioner has produced a useful Guide entitled: *The GDPR and You, General Data Protection Regulation - Preparing for 2018* which is available on the following link <http://gdprandyou.ie/> and also www.dataprotection.ie

Training and Education

Managing for the Future: Building your skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment

The next cycle of the front line managers training programme will commence in the University of Limerick in September 2018. The current cycle is due to conclude in May 2018.

For further information on the programme please contact mary.barrett@fedvol.ie



Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare



Programme Information: This national, multi-disciplinary, in-service course is sponsored by the Child and Family Agency and is aimed at experienced, professionally qualified personnel who carry regular responsibility for management/training/frontline delivery of child protection and welfare services under the Child Care Act 1991, the Children Act 2001 and related legislation. Course participants normally include service managers and supervisory/main grade professionals (social workers, public health nurses, psychologists, doctors, Gardaí, child care workers, speech and language therapists, teachers, lawyers, youth and project workers, etc.). A second year leading to a M.Sc. in Child Protection and Welfare is available to eligible candidates who have completed the Postgraduate Diploma with a 2.1 or better result.

Entry criteria: All Applicants must have a degree or equivalent professional qualification. In addition, a minimum of three years' professional experience working with some aspect of child protection and welfare is required. You must submit a 1500 word personal statement on why you

wish to undertake the programme and should receive the scholarship as part of your application. Applications are completed online.

Course Duration: The course runs for nine separate weeks spread over the academic year, with full attendance in college for approximately one week in four. This involves students attending classes Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm. Full attendance at College is compulsory.

Closing date for applications: 30th May, 2018

Enquiries to: Stephanie Holt, Tel: 01 8963908, Email: sholt@tcd.ie

To apply: <http://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/az/course.php?id=DPDSW-CPWE-1P09>

Candidates will be invited for selection interviews

Website: <http://www.tcd.ie/swsp/postgraduate/child-protection/index.php>

Free online course from Trinity College Dublin aims to improve health assessments for people with an intellectual disability



The Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability at Trinity College Dublin is launching a new Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) geared to healthcare professionals, care providers and others who work with people with an intellectual disability. This MOOC is partially-funded by the European Institute of Technology through their Health Knowledge and Innovation Community (EIT Health) which was established in 2008 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe.

For decades, health and health care inequalities among people with an intellectual disability have been an issue, due to inaccessible healthcare information and service provision. These challenges can increase exclusion from preventative screenings, delay regular health assessments, impact on quality of life, and further marginalise people with an intellectual disability. Trinity's free three-week online course will explore how to improve health assessments for people with an intellectual disability. Learners will explore best practice techniques for communication, assessment, and developing accessible materials for people with an intellectual disability. It is open for registration on the FutureLearn platform and starts on the 15th of January 2018. The lead educator is Dr Eilish Burke, Ussher Assistant Professor in Ageing and Intellectual Disability at Trinity College Dublin and the Associate Director of the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability.

To register for Trinity's free online course, starting on the 15th of January 2018, please visit: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/health-assessment/>

For more information please contact Sarah Bowman Director of Engagement for the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability <https://www.tcd.ie/tcaid/> bowmans@tcd.ie

UCD Master of Science in Rehabilitation & Disability Studies

Further your career with a postgraduate degree

UCD's Master of Science in Rehabilitation & Disability Studies

Our two year programme is designed for individuals currently working or planning to work in the disability sector. The MSc in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies equips our students with knowledge, analytic and practice-based skills promoting a rights-based approach to disability. Our curriculum draws on relevant theory, research and practice, with modules delivered by professionals with significant experience in the sector. Teaching approaches include lectures, small group work, practical tasks, case studies and individual projects.



For further information on course details and to make an online application, please visit:
<http://www.ucd.ie/courses/MSc-Disability-Rehabilitation-Studies>

LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- Understanding the role of legislation and policy
- Applying organisational change and core management concepts
- Developing and critiquing educational programmes using QQI frameworks
- Promoting the application of evidence-based practice

Informal enquiries should be directed to:

Associate Professor Christine Linehan

Telephone: +353-1-716 8678. Email: disabilitymasters@ucd.ie

UCD Centre
for Disability Studies



UCD School of Psychology

Member's News

Ability West

Lumos Collaboration with Ability West

In November 2016 UNESCO/NUIG approached **Ability West** requesting support for <https://wearelumos.org> with funding from Atlantic Philanthropies. Lumos was founded by Harry Potter's author, J.K. Rowling, to advance the global deinstitutionalisation of children and they were specifically seeking guidance with regard to behaviours that challenge.

Brian Mc Donald, Positive Behaviour Support Manager, travelled to Bulgaria for a week in March 2017 to visit services, meet with representatives (from Georgia, Moldova, Czech Republic, Bulgaria) to discuss strategy and to deliver training with regard to behaviours that challenge.

Subsequently, in November 2017, Lumos requested that Ability West facilitate a study visit. On 19th and 20th December, seven delegates (Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Moldova) were hosted. Lumos were very appreciative of this study visit and stated: "The study visit was appreciated by all the participants, but especially the Bulgarian delegation, for whom the chance to see the practices of Ability West was very timely, as they are preparing guidelines for people working with children with special needs. They were enthused by the work of Ability West, and this will influence the work across Bulgaria. The delegations from Czech Republic and Moldova were also excited about the services they viewed, and will share these with their teams; the topic of 'Home Sharing' was particularly inspirational."



Delegates in Sofia from Bulgaria, Georgia, Czech Republic and Moldova



Study Visit delegates with Breda Crehan Roche and Brian McDonald, Ability West

This collaboration highlighted the quality of the work that is done by Ability West even in these straightened times. Sincere appreciation to our Chief Executive, Breda Crehan-Roche, for supporting the collaboration and equally so to those that engaged with the delegates who were amazed at the positive, person-

centred and respectful way that all our staff spoke about individuals who may present with complex care issues. We did a good thing in helping them!

Brian Mc Donald,
Positive Behaviour Support Manager

Ability West honours the Presentation Sisters for their Donation

Nine members of the Presentation Sisters visited Ability West in Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway, on 19th February for the unveiling of a plaque in recognition of their generosity in donating the building to the organisation in 1999.

Ability West (formerly Galway County Association) has been providing services and supports to children and adults with intellectual disability in Galway City and County for over 55 years. The organisation was first granted use of Blackrock House in 1979. For a number of years it was used to provide adult residential and day services, as well as respite on weekends. Today, the building is occupied by Ability West's administrative headquarters, and the ground floor is used as a day service for adults. Ability West now has 58 centres in 13 geographical locations, and supports over 540 people with intellectual disability and autism.

The Presentation Sisters are closely linked with the history of Blackrock House. They first tried to set up a school there in May 1833, but it closed after a year due to a shortage of students. The house was later owned by the Hynes family, and was ultimately left to the Presentation Sisters by Sister Joseph, who was born Kathleen Hynes and was left the house by the Hynes Family.



Presentation Sisters pictured with staff members of Ability West in Blackrock House, Salthill. (Front row) Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Executive of Ability West, Sr Pauline Morris, Ray Kelly, Chairman of Ability West, Sr Mairéad Rabbittie (2nd row), Sr Kathleen Fahy, John McHugo, Director of Finance at Ability West (3rd Row) Sr Margaret Curry, Mary O'Mahony, (4th Row) Sr Regina Walsh, Sr Margaret O'Brien, (Back row) Sr Anne Fox, Sr Kathleen McDonagh, Sr Riona McHugh.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Executive of Ability West and Ray Kelly, Chairman, were keen to formally acknowledge the generosity of the sisters in bequeathing such a significant, historic building to the organisation and emphasised the great value it will continue to reap for the

community. *“Ability West thanks and recognises the Presentation Sisters for their generosity,”* said Ray Kelly, Chairman. *“Ability West commenced providing services in Blackrock House in 1979 and since 2000, Blackrock House provides an adult day service Monday to Friday and serves as the headquarters of Ability West. We are indebted to the Presentation Sisters for donating this magnificent building to Ability West,”* said Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Executive. On behalf of the order, Sister Riona McHugh unveiled a commemorative plaque and thanked Ability West for their kind welcome.

St. Michael's House

‘Happiness is Homemade’ - Our Cara Unit phrase.

The **St. Michael's House Cara Unit** providing services and supports to our Aging Adults has experienced a St. Michael's House 'room to improve'. The Cara staff team, in consultation with families and service users, made great creative use of unit space. The 10 bed unit, mainly caters for adults with Dementia, is a busy, productive space. Staff followed best practice for Dementia and Alzheimer's and developed the space into a mini community world within the unit. There is a coffee shop set up for service users to enjoy with visiting families and friends. The creative teams designed a cinema room so everyone can enjoy the cinema experience and a third room which gives a 'salon experience' equipped with nail bar and hair salon layout. These areas give the residents a community feel while at the same time being part of a safe and secure environment.



Congratulations to Cara Unit Manager Fidelma McManus and her team for making the Unit an enjoyable environment for all in what can be challenging and emotional circumstances.

10th Celebrations of Bring a book, Buy a book

St. Michael's House celebrated their National 10th *Bring a book, Buy a book* this year. People are asked to bring books from their home to their school, club or home and Buy those from their colleagues for €2. Our campaign ran 1st - 8th March in conjunction with World Book Day on March 1st. Our Pop Up shops were delayed with Storm Emma until March 5th. Late Late Show presenter Ryan Tubridy launched our first campaign in 2008 and we invited the children back to re-enact the images with Ryan ten years on.

Our campaign featured in local print and national radio stations this year. We have 202 locations throughout Ireland that are swapping books to raise money for our Summer Supports Children's Programme 2018. We hope to invite Ryan back for our 20th Anniversary!

To Host a Book Campaign anytime fundraising@smh.ie Information; www.bringabookbuyabook.ie

Text BOOK to 50300 to donate €2.00 to our campaign.



Late Late Show presenter Ryan Tubridy was joined by St. Michael's House service users, Isaac Findley (age 15) from Swords, Co. Dublin, and Katie McRory-Lyons (age 14) from Santry, Co. Dublin.

1916 Commemorations Awards Young Adults



The short term training centre received an award from Dublin City Council in January 2018 for participation in the 1916 Celebrations.

Glenn Brady recorded and directed this video with the young adults attending Mask road training centre in 2016. Glenn Brady is a singer/songwriter and a St. Michael's House staff member. The young adults wrote and produced this original song in their music classes with Glenn and recorded the song in a professional recording studio.

This song recording was funded by Dublin City Council to participate in 1916 commemorations. The singers were delighted to take part and were awarded with a certificate of participation. Mask Road is a training centre within St. Michael's House that offers training and support to young adults with an intellectual disability. The service offers a 3 year transitional programme for young adult school leavers from the ages of 18-21. The focus of the centre is to support and assist students to gain experience, live as independently as possible and to live lifestyles similar to their peers without a disability.

Video link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AysBMSew6k&feature=youtu.be>

WALK

Make Work Pay Consultation Launched at Richmond Barracks



Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection Regina Doherty, and Minister of State for People with Disabilities Finian McGrath, met with WALK Real Life Trainee Fiadhnaít Canning (pictured) at the launch of the Make Work Pay for People with Disabilities public consultation in Richmond Barracks, Dublin on Wednesday 7th March.



Fiadhnaít is on a work experience placement in the Green Kitchen Café at Richmond Barracks and explained to the Ministers that she is exploring her career ambitions, experiencing different types of work, and evaluating her career options.

“Make Work Pay” is one of the strategic priorities of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities and meeting Fiadhnaít, while visiting the Green Kitchen Café, was an opportunity for both Ministers to emphasise how

important the consultation process is in terms of the Make Work Pay report recommendations on how the disability allowance should be reconfigured for new entrants over 18, with a focus on education, training, and employment.

The Green Kitchen Café is a “work inclusion” Social Enterprise, developed by WALK to provide employment, training, and work experience opportunities for people with disabilities in Dublin.

Upcoming Events

Procurement

In recognition of the fact that Procurement has become an increasingly important compliance requirement National Federation of Voluntary Organisations have organised a dedicated half day workshop on the topic.

Mr. Brendan White, Head of Procurement, HSE, will facilitate the workshop which will cover all HSE Procurement Policies and Procedures. All relevant procurement regulations will be explained and the focus of the workshop will be achieving best value for service providers.

Dates: Wednesday 21st March, 2018
Venue: Muiriosa Foundation, Moore Abbey,
Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
Time: 10.30am – 1pm
Booking now closed

An Introduction to Social Role Valorization (SRV)

Social Role Valorization (SRV) is described as the pursuit of the good things of life, with people who are vulnerable or at heightened risk of being devalued, by developing and maintaining valued social roles.

This is an intensive four day workshop which presents the idea of assisting people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups, to have positive social roles as a productive and helpful response to wounding life experiences. People wishing to understand the life experiences of people they support, the implications of those life experiences, and are committed to the work of making life

better for them are encouraged to attend. This foundational material is essential to those wishing to serve others in meaningful ways, and who are impassioned to make a difference in the lives of others. Many participants experience the learning within this event as the most helpful, inspiring, and clarifying body of knowledge they have been exposed to in their professional development, and it assists in long-term understanding and focus on being of service to others in ways that matter.

Date: 9th – 12th April 2018

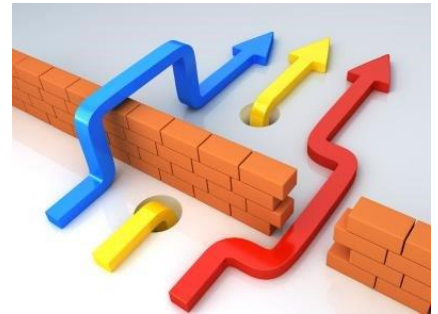
Venue: The Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, Co. Galway

[You can register here](#)

‘Next Steps -Tech Steps’

An event has been organised to explore ways that Assistive Technology can support people with ID to maximise their independence and live lives of their choosing. The event is being organised in collaboration with the National Federation's 'Next Steps' community of practice to share information with staff, people who themselves would like to make use of assistive technologies in their lives, and family members.

The event will be interactive with an opportunity for those attending to try out the assistive technologies that will be shared by the speakers.



Booking for this event will open shortly, see the National Federation's website www.fedvol.ie and our Twitter account @NatFedVolBodies for further details.

When: Wednesday, 18th April 2018

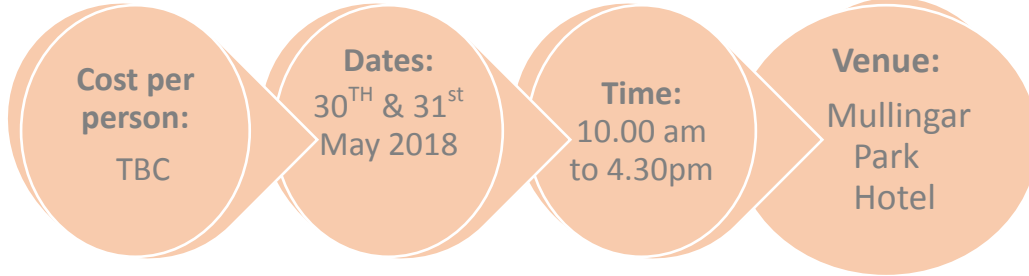
Location: Tullamore Court Hotel

Time: 9.30-4.00pm

- **Key Speakers-** FreedomTech: DFI and Enable Ireland; Independent Living Ireland; Rehab Group; St. John of God Services and Advocacy groups; DOCTRID ASSITD Fellows; Trinity College Dublin and University of Limerick
- **Interactive-Practical Workshop session** -Assistive Technologies available, Apps, Mobility, Installations, Gadgets, Devices and Systems
- **Next Steps Community of Learning shared lived experiences and stories in how technology has supported people to live more independent lives**

“Autonomous Accountability’ – May 30th & 31st 2018

A two-day conference is being organised by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies



More information and ONLINE booking will be available shortly

10th International Disability Law Summer School

The 10th International Disability Law Summer School, hosted by NUI Galway’s Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP), will take place from the **18-22 June 2018** in Galway, Ireland. Registration is now open for the biggest disability law Summer School in the world, with a focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The core focus this year will be on **Intersectionality in the areas of women, older persons and children with disabilities.**

Registration now open

Further information [at this link](#) or by contacting Sharon disabilitysummerscho@nuigalway.ie.

Other News

The OTC is shortlisted in the upcoming Education Awards 2018



The Open Training College is excited to celebrate yet another milestone in the history of the College. The OTC is honoured to be shortlisted in not one, but three categories of the upcoming Education Awards 2018! The Education Awards recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in the third level education sector on the island of Ireland from both State and privately funded institutions. The independent judging committee has shortlisted the OTC in the following categories:

- Best Further Education Provider
- Best Online Learning Experience
- Best Student Engagement and Communications

Full details of the shortlisted finalists can be viewed on educationawards.ie. The awards ceremony will take place on April 19th when the winners of each category will be announced.

Raymond Watson, Head of eLearning at the Open Training College, states '*The OTC eLearning team continues to develop our online educational supports to cater for the need for more accessible and flexible, educational opportunities for students and agencies; and I think individuals and organisations are seeing the benefits in their practice and service provision because of it. To be shortlisted is very exciting and to win an award will be another indicator that we are progressing in the right direction, for both students and industry.*'

More information about the Open Training College can be found on opentrainingcollege.com

National Ability Supports System (NASS)

The National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) have been merged into one system – National Ability Supports System (NASS). The purpose of NASS is to capture information about the use and need for disability services in order to aid the planning, development and organisation of these services. Those in receipt of or requiring a disability-funded service and who have a physical, sensory, neurological, behavioural/learning (including autism), speech/language and/or an intellectual disability should be registered on NASS.



Why merge?

Licence and hosting issues had arisen with the two existing systems which needed to be addressed and this was an opportune time to merge. It also provided the opportunity to reflect changes in service provision arising from New Directions, Time to Move On and other initiatives designed to provide for individualised supports and services and allows for inclusion of service users with autism and those with physical and sensory disabilities aged 65+ years. Third party data upload will be available for disability service providers.

All service providers and data managers will require training on completing the new form accurately, as well as how to use NASS software, this will be delivered by the Health Research Board (HRB).

NASS is managed by the National Health Information Systems Unit of the HRB. If you would like further information, please contact the team at the HRB: disability@hrb.ie



New Irish Research about Communication and Lámh Signing

Lámh signs are used by children and adults with intellectual disability and communication needs in Ireland.

The inaugural Lámh Research Seminar was held recently in Dublin. Key presentations at the Lámh Research Seminar were by Lámh Scholars who received small grants from Lámh: (1) *'Lámh: The Parents' Experience'* was presented by St. Angela's College, Sligo and (2) *'Staff Attitudes about Lámh signing - a whole organisation review'* was delivered by a team from COPE Foundation, Cork.

Over the past 2 years, Lámh had made a small grant available in order to promote research about Lámh and to explore how Lámh users, their families and other communication partners can be best supported. More information about upcoming support for research on Lámh will be available on our website in the coming months.

Other presentations at the Research Seminar included experts by experience who spoke about how Lámh sign users, peers and families are involved in awareness raising, training and research, and peer attitudes towards the use of key word signing by children with Down syndrome in mainstream schools.

Presentations from the Seminar can be accessed at <http://www.lamh.org/communication/research-and-articles-interest> .

Mary Cullen
info@lamh.org

Free admission for Visitors with Disabilities and Carers at OPW Heritage sites - Minister Kevin “Boxer” Moran



Kevin “Boxer” Moran T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Flood Relief has announced free admission for visitors with disabilities and their carers into OPW Heritage Sites from the 1st of May, 2018. The announcement comes at the start of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and Minister Moran indicated that he sees this initiative as a direct contribution to the celebration of Heritage. “The theme of the European Year of Cultural Heritage is ‘Make a Connection’”. This theme aims to deepen the connection between people and heritage and build a legacy of increased public engagement over time. This will mean more people will be able to visit some of Ireland’s wonderful heritage sites and get huge enjoyment from the experience.”
