

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability

Welcome to the National Federation Newsletter

Winter 2017



Forecasting Demand for Future Disability Services

Ms. Grainne Collins, National Disability Authority, presented a report on the ***Future Demand for Disability Services*** at our General Assembly on 6th December, 2017.

The report was prepared by Working Group 1 of Transforming Lives, upon which the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented by Brian O'Donnell and Christy Lynch.

The report is comprehensive in its reach and the findings make it quite clear that a substantial multi-annual investment programme will be required to meet the forecasting need over the coming years.

A number of findings stand out:

- The number of residential ID places required in 2020 is likely to have increased by 400-500 over its 2015 level, and by 700-800 by 2025 due to demographic changes alone.
- About 15% of people with intellectual disabilities aged 60 or over are not in supported residential care. The current living arrangements for people of this age, on this scale, many of whom are being cared for by people who themselves are growing older, will not be sustainable in the long term. There is latent demand which will manifest itself in the not too distant future.
- The proportion of under-45's accessing residential supports has fallen by 10% approximately since 2007. This deferred demand has fed into rising numbers presenting for residential care as emergency placements. A return to the 2007 residential rates would add a further 1200 residential places required.

- The related capital costs to 2020 are likely to be in the region of €55-60m and to total €95-€100m by 2025.
- The main drivers of cost are the numbers of staff required to support individuals at any one time. Complex medical needs or severe behavioural difficulties will need constant attention and support, with a small number of people requiring two to one staff on a waking night basis to meet their needs.
- A baby boom in 2008-2010 period is generating increased demand for school-age services for children with disabilities, while demand for early intervention should fall in line with more recent falls in the birth rate. Research would indicate that demand for pre-school services will fall off by about 10% between 2015 while demand for school-age services will increase by about 11%.
- Demand for disability therapy specialists is likely to double in the period up to 2025. Our National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Working Group on Adult Therapies will soon finalise a report which will outline requirements in further detail.

While there are many caveats and different scenarios presented in the report, it leaves nobody in any doubt about the scale of the challenge facing the sector. Total annual disability spend will need to increase to €240m by 2020 and by the order of €325m-€390m by 2025.

As the umbrella group of voluntary Intellectual Disability service providers, we welcome this landmark report and the clarity it brings to the future needs of people we support and their families over the coming decade. Informed planning cannot take place without evidence and this report provides strong evidence of the future needs of people with ID over the coming years.

It is vitally important that the findings of this important report are brought to Government's attention as a matter of priority. The Transforming Lives Working Group are currently considering future actions.

As the year draws to a close may I take this opportunity to thank National Federation members for their engagement in the work and activities of the Federation throughout the year, and to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Brian O'Donnell.
Chief Executive.

Farewell to Evan Canny

Evan Canny a Psychology Student in University of Limerick has been on secondment with us since July and is finishing up at Christmas to return to his studies. During his time with us Evan has been a fantastic asset taking on projects and work pieces which were beneficial to him as an undergraduate but of even more significant benefit to us and our members. In particular, Evan has been working alongside our Director of Policy, Alison Harnett, establishing a working group that explores initiatives to support health outcomes for older adults with ID. Evan also worked with the Adult Therapy Services for People With an Intellectual Disability Working Group, in which he completed the statistical analysis for the group. During this time he has become a friend to us all and his presence in the office will be missed. We wish Evan every success in his studies and for a successful and rewarding career.



Inclusive Research Network

IRN 2017: Where we are now

The Inclusive Research Network had another busy year in 2017. The Network had already decided that Health would be the topic for their new project. During the year they agreed the research method for their next project would be focus groups. They then decided on the questions and chose photos that matched the questions to help everyone understand.



In June 2017 IRN secretary Brian Donohoe & IRN member Christina Burke presented a poster on the Our Homes Project at the NUIG Centre for Disability Law & Policy Summer School at NUIG and won first prize in the poster competition.

Later in the Year a group met to work on the ethics application which was submitted in early October 2017.

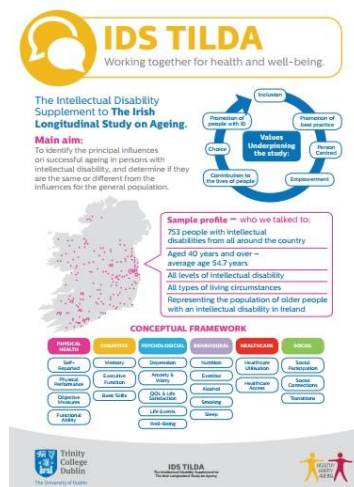
The IRN also held Focus Group Training in October and will hold more training in January 2018. In November the IRN held the first focus group for the **Doctors and Us** Research Project. It was co-led by Nancy Leddin (Chair of IRN) there were six participants.

Written by Brian Donohoe , Secretary of IRN

Policy update

New Working Group established which aims to address Health Inequalities for Older Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

As part of its service planning work for 2017, the National Federation examined the Healthy Ireland framework and ways its health outcomes can be considered for people with disabilities in the implementation of the framework. Following on from this reflection, one key area of urgency for action identified was the outcomes for older persons with Intellectual Disability. The National Federation engaged with the School of Psychology in the University of Limerick to take on a third year student, Evan Canny for a 6 month placement, and Evan led out on the preparation work for addressing this area.



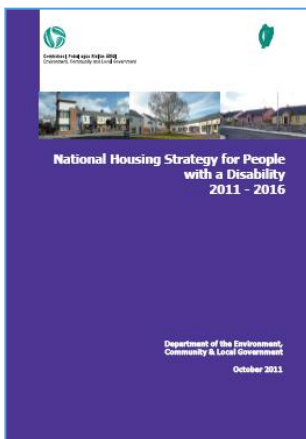
Following on from the preparation work, which included a proposal that was approved by the Board of the National Federation, the Federation has established a working group to look at ways in which health inequalities for older adults with intellectual disabilities can be addressed. The first meeting of the group took place on 4 December 2017, in Trinity College Dublin. Attending were a range of National Federation members, together with Prof. Mary McCarron and Prof. Philip McCallion, who shared evidence of areas of need from the third wave report of the IDS-Tilda research, which had been launched earlier that day. Dr. Eimear McGlinchey also shared a research evaluation of a brain training programme that was used with adults with Down Syndrome, to contribute to preventative brain health in the context of the high prevalence of dementia in this group.

A range of National Federation members from across the country have indicated their wish to take part in the work. The Working Group now will develop Terms of Reference and examine initiatives to

improve health outcomes for older adults with intellectual disabilities that are achievable in the short and medium term.

The next meeting will take place in February and all member organisations are welcome to participate in the Working Group. If your organisation is interested in being part of this group please contact Alison.harnett@fedvol.ie for further detail.

Housing for people with disabilities – revised allocations guidance issued to Local Authorities



The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has issued to all Local Authorities, a revised and updated guidance document on the allocation of social housing for people with disabilities; *“National Guidance for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision for People with a Disability”*.

It is useful for members supporting people to access social housing options to be familiar with these Guidelines as they advocate with the Local Authority on behalf of people they support. Ms. Claire Feeney Senior Executive Officer with the Housing Agency attended the Next Steps meeting on 22 November 2017, and highlighted the options that are available to people with disabilities in accessing housing, along with the plans of the local Housing and Disability Steering Groups, including the introduction of the *Offer Zone* in terms of housing from Local Authorities, and a 20% discretion that Local Authorities can apply for a person with a disability to the ceiling of payments under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The revised allocation guidance also confirms the potential for flexibility in terms of options for an extra room for equipment or a support person when a person with a disability accesses social housing supports.

Ms. Feeney will provide a presentation to members at the next General Assembly of National Federation members –please contact maria.mcmahon@fedvol.ie if you are interested in attending this presentation.

Nursing Supports for Children in Schools

A number of issues regarding governance and funding for nursing supports to children with complex medical needs attending school have been highlighted by Federation members over the past 2 years. A Working Group was established by the Department of Education in early 2017 to examine these issues. The National Federation made a submission to this Working Group outlining members’ issues and a number of members made submissions in their own right. The Working Group considered submissions from all stakeholders and held a consultation day on 23 November 2017 at which the National Federation was represented by a number of member organisations and the Secretariat.

At the consultation the Department presented a draft plan which will now form a report to Government. Mr. Jim Mulkerrins, Department of Education, has indicated that he would welcome further consultation with members on the detail of the implementation if the draft plan submitted to Government is approved. We will continue to update members as this work proceeds.

Consultation on the Future of Home Care Services

The National Federation collated and submitted a paper to the Department of Health's consultation on the Future of Home Care Services, on 2 October 2017. The paper highlighted the significant importance that home care services play and will play in the future in the context of service provision being moved to community. It also highlighted the current and emerging need for support for family carers of people with disabilities, and for home care supports that are being provided to both a person with a disability and aging family carers to be carefully tailored and coordinated to meet the needs of both. A wide range of members provided input into the submission.



Next Steps Community of Practice and Learning

The Next Steps Community of Practice and Learning was delighted to welcome Minister Finian McGrath at its meeting on 14 September 2017. The meeting was a very positive opportunity to inform the Minister about the work of our members in developing individualised and innovative supports and our ongoing shared learning in this work. The Minister indicated that the group provided very useful information from the ground and that he would like to stay connected with the group and potentially attend again in the future.



On 13 October 2017 the Next Steps community filmed the second instalment of the Voice Box Video Booth, at the Brothers of Charity National Advocacy conference in Salthill. The topic for this film was 'What I want to say about.... Work' and 48 self-advocates came and shared their experiences of working, looking for work and what work means to them. Transcription of the interviews and editing is underway. A short version of the first film 'What I want to say aboutHIQA' has been completed, signed off by the Next Steps group and will be posted online shortly. A number of member organisations have recently joined the community, bringing the number of members involved to 27. The next meeting will take place on 31 January 2017.

Conference Report

Inaugural Progressing Disabilities Services (PDS) conference in Limerick

On Friday 1st December 2017, Finian McGrath TD, Minister of State with Special Responsibility for Disabilities addressed the *Working to Support Children and Young People with a Disability and their Families* Conference, part of the HSE's *Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People* programme.

Organised by the National Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for Children and Young People Working Group, comprised of HSE and children's disability service providers, the conference took place at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The conference brought together more than 300 parents and staff to share learning and good practice in the provision of disability services for children and young people, and was an opportunity to explore innovative ideas and celebrate achievements to date. A further 550+ delegates joined the conference via Webinar.



The Progressing Disability Services Conference Planning Group with Minister Finian McGrath

The main aim of the conference was to:

- Promote achievements of Children's Disability Network Teams in place as part of *National Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People* Programme (PDS)
- Showcase/spread good work practices within Children's Disability Services

- Provide support for parents and staff of children's disability services who are currently planning their reconfiguration into Children's Disability Network Teams
- Promote HSE/Voluntary Organisations partnership working for optimal benefits of children and young people with a disability and their families
- Launch new PDS website www.hse.ie/childdisability

The delegates heard presentations from children's disability teams, schools, clinicians and parents and participated in plenary sessions and practical workshops. Diverse topics such as working with families, a parent's perspective, assessment for autism, parents' support groups and helping children to sleep better which demonstrated the concept of working in partnership and PDS in action were discussed.

The PDS programme acknowledges the scale of the change plan underway and the issues faced by children with a disability and their families across the country. While there are some very good services for children with a disability and their families there are also some large gaps. The basic tenet underpinning PDS is to find a fairer way to provide services for all children with disabilities, based on a child's needs rather than on their diagnosis and where they live. PDS is changing the way services are provided across the country to make it equitable and consistent for all.

Speaking at the conference Dr Cathal Morgan, HSE Head of Operations, Social Care Division said 'Up to now our services for children with disabilities, which are delivered by non-statutory organisations as well as the HSE, have varied throughout the country resulting in inequity of access and inconsistency. By reorganising staff into Children's Disability Network Teams for every area, the *Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People* programme will mean every child will have access to services according to their needs.'

The conference programme incorporated a number of plenary sessions and breakout sessions as well as a keynote presentation by Kerry Intervention and Disability Services (KIDS) on 'Progressing Disability Services in Action'. This presentation by Julie O'Neill, Team Manager of KIDS Mid Kerry Network, Caroline O'Sullivan, Physiotherapy Manager KIDS South Kerry Network and Fionola Hogan, Senior Clinical Psychologist, KIDS Tralee Network gave a very honest account of the challenges and triumphs of the Kerry teams in working towards the Progressing Disability Services model. Honesty about the challenges whilst sharing learning and successes was the order of the day and this was evident also in the presentations by Anne Hughes-Kazibwe and Nicole Dryssen from Kildare West Wicklow and that of Anelle Marynowski and Anine Willemse from Meath.



A particular highlight was the moving and honest presentation by Silvia Segales-Angel, Early Intervention Specialist and mother of a child with Autism in 'Working with Families: from a Mother's Perspective'. Silvia had three core messages for clinicians working with families;

- (1) *Correctly identify family priorities.* Silvia noted how very often professionals base their interventions with her son Sebastian on the results of tests and checklists that may or may not be relevant to her family at that point in time and asks that instead professionals should base their intervention on the unique difficulties that a family may be facing in their day to day life.

- (2) *Develop parent's resourcefulness.* Silvia asks that professionals consider how they can do themselves out of a job by teaching parents how to teach their child. She spoke very positively about a therapist who had worked closely with her husband in their home teaching him practical ways to develop their child's communication skills and how she sees her husband still utilising these skills to this day.
- (3) *Give families actionable steps that are easy to implement.* Silvia spoke of the lengthy and often overwhelming reports that are given to parents leaving them at sea as to where to begin to help their child. She asks that instead of 4-5 pages of goals clinicians break this down into smaller more achievable bite-size goals that can be incorporated into every day family life.

In addition to the presentations there were over 30 informative poster presentations available for viewing on the day. Summaries of the posters are available at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/progressing-disability/national-conference/> along with other information relating to the conference. For those of you who were unable to attend the conference or join via webinar do not be disheartened as the webinar content was recorded and will be available online very shortly. Please keep an eye on the above link for further information.

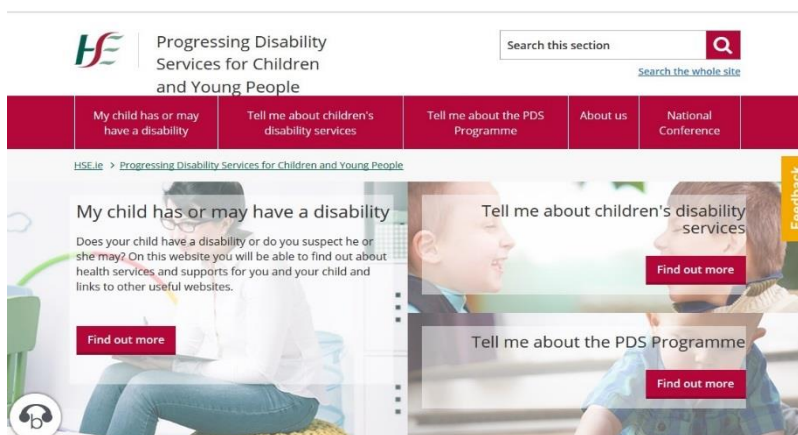
Gillian Darrer

National Federation representative to the Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People Steering Group

New web pages for children's disability services

www.hse.ie/childdisability

New web pages for children's disability services and the Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS) programme were launched by Breda Crehan Roche, CEO of Ability West, Chair of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and Chair of the National PDS Working Group, at the National PDS Conference in Limerick on December 1st.



These dedicated web pages on www.hse.ie were developed in collaboration with HSE Communications, by a subgroup of the National PDS Working Group. Under the URL www.hse.ie/childdisability this site will easily be found through a Google search.

The pages bring together information for families and staff about the PDS programme and about children's disability services. There are links to many other useful websites and resources. Some of the features are:

- Contact details for all the children's disability services across the country
- Links to websites about particular childhood conditions

- All the national PDS guidance documents and policies

The pages are divided into three main sections according to the needs of the visitor to the site:

1. My child has or may have a disability primarily for parents who have just heard that their child has a disability or has concerns about their child's development. This page has a highlighted link to www.informingfamilies.ie where further information can be found, and to other websites for specific information about particular childhood conditions
2. Tell me about children's disability services which has information about children's disability teams and contact details for all the children's disability services across the country
3. Tell me about PDS is for those who want to find out more about this programme or who need access to the associated reports, guidelines and policies

The web pages will be reviewed and added to on an ongoing basis and feedback is very welcome. The team want these pages to give people easy access to the information they are looking for. So please visit the site, try it out and take the opportunity provided



National Federation IT Sub Committee



Members of the National Federation IT Sub Committee

The IT Sub Committee met most recently in October 18th at the Brothers of Charity Services in Limerick. A wide range of agenda items were discussed including the use of Microsoft 365, preparation for the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations, Cyber insurance, and the development of an IT Strategy. At each meeting during the year, a

presentation has been organised. For October meeting Independent Living Ireland was invited to attend. Patrick Mulvihill presented on the range of Assistive Technologies services that Independent Living Ireland are involved in providing and sourcing for the local and wider community, and how these have been supporting people with intellectual disabilities to maximise their independence. The IT Sub Committee agreed to maintain the structure of meetings going forward and will meet on four occasions in 2018.

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. The GDPR very significantly increases the obligations and responsibilities for organisations and businesses in how they collect, use and protect personal data. At the centre of the new law is the requirement for organisations and businesses to be fully transparent about how they are using and safeguarding personal data, and to be able to demonstrate accountability for their data processing activities. The Data Protection Commissioner has set up a specific website www.gdprandyou.ie with information for individuals and organisations. It has a 12 step guide for preparing for the GDPR which may be useful for organisations.



Caroline Looney - National Federation Secretariat; Kieron Higgins - Sytorus & Brian O'Donnell-National Federation Secretariat

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies organised for a company, Sytorus, to assist our member organisations to be ready by hosting the following:

- An information session in April 2017;
- Data Protection training in May 2017;
- A 2 day Data Protection Officer Training in September 2017.

The GDPR has been widely flagged as an issue that will require substantial preparatory work by organisations in order to be ready for the May 2018 deadline. In this regard, we also invited Sytorus to present at a number of our National Federation Working Groups meetings, where they provided details on (a) Privacy Engine Tool and (b) a 2 Day Data Protection Officer Training.

In order to respond to enquiries from members in relation to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) Training, Sytorus will deliver a 2 day Data Protection Officer Training course which will take place in our offices in Oranmore, Galway on 29th & 30th January 2018. More information on this course can be obtained by emailing caroline.looney@fedvol.ie Places are limited to 12 and therefore will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

HR Updates

Social Care Workers Task Group

A Task Group has been established by the National Federation to consider the CORU registration process and other issues arising in relation to Social Care Workers, including:



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Stáinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

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

This Group will be continuing its work into 2018 and if you would like to become involved or would like further information on the work of this Group please contact Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie



‘Using Social Media as a means of Recruiting Staff’ Training:

Using social media to investigate a prospective employer is now commonplace for job seekers. Equally, organisations and HR professionals are increasingly turning to social media as a means of identifying talent. On November 7th last a 1-day training programme on the theme of ‘Using Social Media as a means of Recruiting Staff’ was organised by the National

Federation which sought to help employers in the voluntary sector get to grips with the intricacies of using social media in the recruitment process. The training, delivered by Mr. Gert Ackermann, The Wheel, focused in particular on:

- Understanding the social media landscape
- How job seekers use social media
- LinkedIn: company pages, talent search and LinkedIn for Non-profits
- Twitter: hashtags, thought-leaders and brand leadership
- Facebook: brand pages, representing your organisation’s culture and targeting through Facebook advertising
- Social media management and metrics
- Mitigating risk: social media policies and procedures
- The future of social media and HR.

Further training in this area will take place in 2018.

Quality Updates

Code of Practice for Community Dwellings

Following the signing of the Code of Practice for Community Dwellings by Minister Eoghan Murphy, the Code is now available on the Dep. of Housing Planning Community and Local Government website:

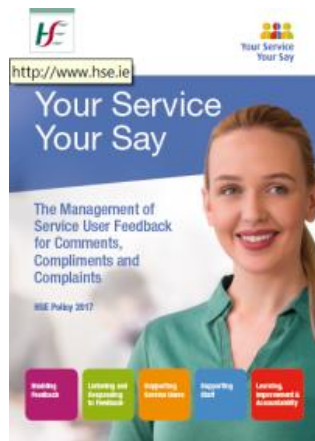
http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/code_of_practice_for_fire_safety_in_community_dwelling_houses_2017_0.pdf

The new Code of Practice will now form **The Design Brief for New and Existing Community Dwellings** going forward.

There is now a New Purpose Group of 1d that covers Community Dwellings in TGD B 2017 Fire Safety Volume 2 Dwellings Houses. The key factor in the new document is that Purpose Group 1d is exempt from the following:

1. **Fire Safety Certificate**
2. **Disability Access Certificate.**

The establishment of this Code of Practice means that new Community Dwellings can be developed from existing building stock within the Mainstream Housing Environment as per The National Housing Strategy.



Your Service Your Say – The Management of Service User Feedback for Comments, Compliments and Complaints

An updated version of this Policy was launched by the HSE in November 2017.

A copy of the document can be downloaded via the following link:

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/QAVD/Complaints/ysysguidance/ysys2017.pdf>

Review of the National Safeguarding Policy:

Work on the review of the National Safeguarding Policy is progressing. The National Federation held a Workshop for Federation members in early September to discuss issues arising for Federation members in relation to the operation of the Policy and a formal submission was made to the Review Development Group at the end of September. It is expected that the revised Policy will be finalised in early 2018.

The Dept. of Health has recently announced the development of a national safeguarding Policy for the health sector. It is envisaged that the Policy will be underpinned with appropriate legislation and a public consultation and engagement process will be undertaken in 2018.

Tusla – Child & Family Agency

On October 23rd last a meeting took place between representatives of the National Federation and Tusla at which a range of child welfare and protection issues were discussed. The meeting was a very productive one and a number of actions will be followed up on in 2018.

Children First:

Key elements of the Children First Act came into effect on December 11th last and organisations will have 3 months to reach compliance – this includes provisions in relation to:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Mandatory Assisting &
- Development of Child Safeguarding Statements (CSS) in relevant services



A range of support documents have been developed by Tusla to support organisations:

- New Children First Guidance Document (to replace 2011 version)
- Child Safeguarding Document (to replace Our Duty to Care)
- Guidance on Reporting
- Protocol on Mandatory Assisting
- TUSLA eLearning module (similar to HSE, open to everyone, Certificate available on completion of eLearning module)
- Training standards that agencies can use to develop their own training programme

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

HSELand – Children First Training:

There is a requirement on agencies to ensure that the targeted 90% of staff / volunteers have completed the HSELand Children First online learning module by year end. Organisations can access the number of staff members who have completed the module so as they can track completion rates. The contents of the online Module are due to be updated to reflect the requirements of the Children First Act due to be commenced in mid-December 2017.



Funding News

€4.5m fund to support the reform of disability services

On 24 November 2017, Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities, Finian McGrath TD, announced a €4.5m fund to support the reform of disability services. The Minister said, *“This Government’s objective is to deliver disability services that are person-centred, putting those who need supports at the centre of all our activities. The objective of this fund is to put people with disabilities at the heart of service delivery and supports, enabling them to lead self-directed lives in the community.”*

The funding is part of the Service Reform Fund (SRF) which was established by the Department of Health, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the HSE and Genio to support the implementation of reforms in disability and mental health services in Ireland. The SRF represents a total combined investment of €45m by the Department and Atlantic to re-configure existing services towards more person-centred supports which are also more transparent, accountable and cost-effective, in line with government policy. Funding will be allocated under three streams:

1. Community Living – supporting people to move from congregated settings or institutions to the community; to have improved living arrangements in the community; and to lead self-directed, meaningful lives, engaged in local and mainstream activity. This will be aimed at those who are moving from an institution or those at risk of institutionalisation.
2. Reform of day services to person-centred supports – supporting alternative ways of meeting the work, education, training and recreation needs of people with a disability within mainstream, community settings.
3. Alternative Respite – developing a range of non-institutional respite options for individuals and their families.

Regional HSE representatives (i.e. Community Healthcare Organisations) will invite consortia – including people with disabilities, family members, service providers and community groups – to work together to develop proposals for funding. Consultations will take place over the coming months with service users, families and service providers across Ireland to develop realistic, sustainable plans to reconfigure services. Funding will be awarded by the Genio Trust through a rigorous application process jointly assessed by the Genio Trust and the HSE.

“HSE acknowledges the role of the Service Reform Fund as a key enabler in creating a more modern support service for people with disabilities. Embedding change in a partnership way with service users, families, community healthcare organisations and service providers will assist in ensuring a sustainable change model with the service user central to the process. HSE is aware of the challenges that change can present and is committed to engaging with all stakeholders to ensure the available resources are utilised to best effect”, stated Mr Pat Healy, National Director of HSE Social Care. Updates will be available through the HSE Community Healthcare Organisations and www.genio.ie/srf-disability.

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS – PUBLICATION LAUNCHED

On 22nd November 2017, the initiative Community Living for Europe: Structural Funds Watch launched a Report in the European Parliament, Brussels co-hosted by Mairead McGuinness, MEP (EPP) and Vice President of the European Parliament and Iskra Mihaylova, MEP (ALDE) and Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development.

The initiative is based in the Centre for Disability Law & Policy, NUI Galway and financially supported by Lumos.

The report concerns the role of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) with respect to the transition from institutional to community-based living for children and young people, including those with disabilities, adults with disabilities and older persons in European Union Member States. It contains examples, both positive and negative, that demonstrate how the Member States have implemented the ESIF regulations, how they are currently using or are planning to use the ESIF to support the transition to community-based living, and provides concrete recommendations for the current and next funding period post 2020.

Please find [online here](#) the following report:

Neil Crowther, Gerard Quinn and Alexandra Hillen-Moore “Opening up Communities, Closing down Institutions: Harnessing the European Structural and Investment Funds” (*Community Living for Europe: Structural Funds Watch*, November 2017)

The launch event in the European Parliament was video recorded and is available to watch on [the initiative website here](#).

Please disseminate the report and video recording widely within your networks.

For more information please visit the Community Living for Europe: Structural Funds Watch website and social media channels.

For queries please contact the Initiative Coordinator, Alexandra Hillen-Moore on alexandra.hillen-moore@nuigalway.ie or +353 (0)91 494270.

For the latest updates:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#) @CleSfw

www.communitylivingforeurope.org



Closing Date for applications under the Ability Programme is Wednesday 31st January 2018



The Ability Programme is a new programme funded by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the European Social Fund.

The Ability Programme will support young people with disabilities (15-29 years of age) to improve their employability through a range of person-centred supports.

Organisations can apply for funding using Pobal's online application form. The online application form is has been available on Pobal's website since 4th December 2017. The closing date for applications is 12pm on Wednesday 31st January 2018.

[Click here for online application form.](#)
[Ability 'How to' online guide.](#)

The [Ability Information Guide \(Updated\)](#) provides full details about the programme and the application process. If you have any queries about the Ability Programme, you can contact the Pobal Helpdesk at onlinesupport@pobal.ie or call (01) 511 72 22

Research Tender

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (www.easpd.eu) has just launched a call for tender. They are looking for a **Researcher to carry out a study to compare the costs of supporting persons with disabilities in institutional versus community-based living.** The deadline for applying is the 20th December 2017. Further details about the call for tenders is also available on the EASPD website [here](#).

Member's News

Brothers of Charity

Dare To Dream Conference

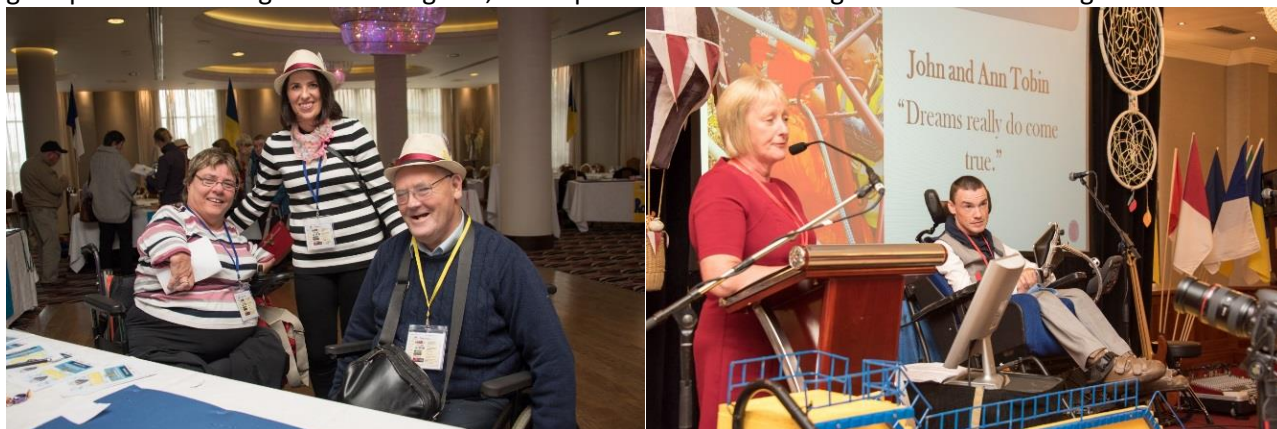
Galway Advocates of the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland hosted the 19th Annual National Advocacy Conference in the Salthill Hotel on October 12th.

It was the biggest gathering of people with ID this year with 350 delegates in attendance. The theme of the conference was Dare to Dream, the message was to grab opportunities, reach high and embrace adventure.

The key note speakers were John and Ann Tobin, who received a standing ovation after their presentation titled "Dreams really do come true", John had a dream to climb Croagh Patrick just like his friends and family, he uses a wheelchair to get around, with the help of his friends in his community they designed a "Dream Machine" which enabled them to pull John to the summit of the mountain. Not alone did John achieve his dream but he raised 4.800 euro for 5 local charities. A true legend that received an award from President Higgins for his achievement.

Leigh Gath the confidential recipient was the second key note speaker her presentation was titled "Everyone Has the Right to Dream". She told everyone in the room that they all had the right to dream and live the life they want. She told us about her dreams of travelling, finding love, having children and securing a job, "Dreams are important because they give you something to work towards", she also called for the government to ratify the UN Convention and organisations to work together to improve the lives of people living with a disability.

Throughout the day, there were regional presentations from Self-advocates from the South East, Roscommon, Clare and Limerick regions on people achieving their goals, also celebrity clips were shown on the big screen from Minister Finian McGrath, Daniel O'Donnell, Mrs Mary Robinson, John Muldoon and Sinead Kane who all gave powerful messages to all delegates, to keep focused and working hard towards their goals.



Men's Shed and the Blue Teapot among the winners of the GSK IMPACT awards

Congratulations to the Blue Teapot company and Men's Shed! At the GSK Ireland IMPACT Awards 2017, which took place on the 22nd November the Irish Men's Shed and the Blue Teapot Theatre Company were one of several charities to be awarded a prize.

The Irish Men's Shed and the Blue Teapot Theatre Company were awarded for their work and contributions for improving people's health and well-being, as well as other various positive works that the charity carry out.

The winners received €10,000 in restricted funding, and also a video and photography package for their use in promoting their work and services. A link to an independent newspaper article covering the event provided below:

[\\Nfvdcd\group\Newsletters\Winter 2017\Men's Shed and the Blue Teapot among the winners of the GSK IMPACT awards - Independent.ie.html](http://Nfvdcd\group\Newsletters\Winter 2017\Men's Shed and the Blue Teapot among the winners of the GSK IMPACT awards - Independent.ie.html)

Open Training College

They did it! The first group to achieve the QQI *Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice* Level 5 Award have graduated!



The annual Open Training College conferring ceremony in November in the RDS Dublin is always a special occasion to celebrate and acknowledge the graduates of the College. It had an extra sparkle this year as we conferred the first cohort of 74 care assistants from Daughters of Charity who achieved the QQI Level 5 Major Award 'Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice'. But if that wasn't

enough, the College also marked the event by celebrating its 25th anniversary!

Claire Hopkins, Course Director of the Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice, stated that 'the College are delighted to have worked with this group of committed practitioners. They juggled work and personal commitments with aplomb and persevered to achieve their Award. We were cognisant of the wealth of their experience and saw our role as facilitators of learning, reminding, unearthing and challenging participants to reflect upon their strengths and identify practical ways to improve as practitioners. We trust they have the confidence and knowledge to continue to grow and develop as professionals.'



Congratulations go to all the recent graduates of the Open Training College who attended the event. Special mention goes to Roisin O'Neill (The Gerry Clarke Award) (left photo), Joanne Begley (Social Care Ireland Award for Academic Excellence), and James Beecher (The Wheel Management Award for Academic Excellence) for achieving their respective 'Student of the Year' awards on the day. The awards were presented by Evelyn Clarke and by Dr Karen Finnerty, College Director.

Linda Tierney, who graduated with a BA in Applied Social Studies (Disability) commented that 'the course was such a valuable learning experience for me that I am now seeing so many benefits in our own service provision that I wouldn't hesitate in recommending it to others. It was such a positive experience that I have even started hinting at my husband to return to third level education!'

238 Graduates received accredited awards (QQI) on the day.

Continuing with the 25th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the OTC by St. Michael's House, Mr. Martin Lyes, Chairperson of St. Michael's House, spoke of the important contribution that the OTC is continuing to make in the upskilling of staff and managers working in the sector.

The College was also honoured to have Dr Bob McCormack, one of the founding members of the OTC, deliver this year's Conferring address to the graduates.

The special day ended with lots of party celebrations where all the guests enjoyed some 25th anniversary cake, face painting for the children, and a raffle draw with spot prizes which were donated by long time supporters of the College. Huge congratulations to the College on its 25th birthday and to all of the graduates of 2017!

Delta Centre Carlow

Congratulations to Delta Centre in Carlow, for an award received in the 'Housing for People with Disability' category in the Irish Council for Social Housing Allinanz Community Housing Awards.



Donal McManus, ICSH CEO; Cllr Stephen Keary, Mayor of Limerick;
Eileen Brophy, Tinteán Housing; Turlough O'Brien, Tinteán Houing;
Frank Comerford, Tinteán Housing

Delta and Tinteán Housing were delighted to receive this award, particularly since the residents were consulted from the beginning with the Architect and the design of the house arose from this collaborative work. The award category included independent living accommodation for people with intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities, and the housing 'Tinteán Willow' is the first group home for people with disabilities, designed and constructed to Passive House standards.

The ICSH award noted that the housing provided incorporates excellent standards of air tightness, thermal performance of the building fabric, photovoltaic panels and an air-to-water heat pump. Other sustainable measures include the use of a mechanical ventilation heat recovery system and rainwater harvesting on site. The low primary energy requirement of Tinteán Willow provides protection to the tenants and service provider against future price increases, while addressing the need for increased heating requirements, as many residents may have an inactive or sedentary lifestyle. In order to cater for tenants with different types of dementia, special requirements were taken into consideration at design stage with regard to awareness and orientation, safety and security and the provision of visual and acoustic stimulation.

The house is a good example of successful collaboration between Tinteán Housing and partners – Delta Centre, Carlow County Council, Department of Housing, Planning, Local Government, the HSE and HIQA. The judging panel highlighted the scheme as one that demonstrates a *“landmark achievement by a Housing Association, delivering a top-class facility for the residents, ensuring their independence and specialised needs are met.”*



WALK

We are delighted that the WALKways Tallaght Hospital programme was announced as the joint winners of the Health Management Institute Leaders Award 2017. This programme is a partnership between Tallaght Hospital, WALK and the Dublin and Dunlaoighre Education and Training Board. This is an amazing outcome for all partners. It is fantastic to have this achievement recognised at a national level through this award.

This is a one year programme where job seekers with intellectual disabilities can gain relevant and meaningful work experience, be accredited for their practical learning and ultimately, move on to access paid employment in the open labour market. Each trainee will complete three by four month work rotations and will be able to choose from a number of roles across 11 hospital departments.



(L-R) Lucy Nugent DCEO , Des Henry WALK, Catherine Kelly WALK, Aedin O'Toole DDLETB, Loretta McGonnell HSE, Vicki Hogan WALK, Mick Teehan WALK, Marie McCarthy HR, Sharon Larkin HR , Elaine Birkett HR HSE, Sandra McCarthy CLD

Upcoming Events



Unlocking Freedom through Adult Education: The role of adult education in supporting the de-institutionalisation of people with disabilities in the community 2016 – 2018

Led by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), partners include two universities and four EASPDs members and disability service providers from across Ireland, France, Bulgaria and Finland.

Aims:

- To reduce disparities in learning outcomes for learners with intellectual disabilities by supporting people to participate in non-formal high quality educational opportunities that are built around their personal educational needs using innovative methodologies.
- To develop the competences of adult educators staff from the institutions or disability service providers and the adult and community educators themselves.

Results include:

- Training Needs Assessment Methodologies.
- Manual of Independent Living Skills.
- Training for people with disabilities and training designing and delivered by people with disabilities with established tutors.
- Transition Training Manual.
- Curriculum on supporting successful transition of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Methodology and Practices of Nutritional Support.
- Project report.
- Research De-Institutionalisation inside institutions.
- Multiplier events, learning teacher training activities, seminars and conferences designed to disseminate the learnings of the project.

Date of conference confirmed for Monday, 25th June 2017.

Cathy McGrath on cathymcgrath@disability-federation.ie / 00 353 (0) 86 3847440.

www.unlockingfreedom.wordpress.com

Nursing and Healthcare

Leadership and Organisational Performance Conference - Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th June 2018 Call for Abstracts

This conference is jointly presented by Trinity College Dublin School of Nursing and Midwifery & School of Psychology

Abstracts are invited for this conference under the following themes and categories

Theme 1: Transforming leadership in nursing and healthcare

- Distributed leadership
- Grassroots leadership matters - operationalising leadership in practice
- Leadership, well-being and resilience in nursing/healthcare
- Leadership development: the role of trust

Theme 2: Leadership for enhancing organisational performance

- Leadership for effective change in organisations
- Leadership and accountability
- Distributed leadership and the challenges of application
- Engaging and motivating employees

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Prof Ruth Northway OBE, Professor of Learning Disability Nursing, University of South Wales
- Prof Martin Beirne, Professor of Management and Organisational Behaviour, University of Glasgow

Submission guidelines / abstract template are available - abstracts should be submitted as a Word document. Queries regarding the conference and abstract submission process should be forwarded to leadnetwork@tcd.ie

Abstract submission deadline: Wednesday 31 January 2018 (11pm GMT)

Jeni Ryan, Administrative Officer – Events,
Trinity College School of Nursing and Midwifery

Leadership Network Group

c/o School of Nursing & Midwifery
Trinity College Dublin
24 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2

Scoil an Altranais agus an Chnáimhseachais
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
24 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Email / R-phost: leadnetwork@tcd.ie

Web / Gréasán: nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/events-conferences/leadership-in-healthcare/

Training and Education

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Data Protection Officer Training

With regard to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25th May 2018, the Data Protection Commissioner has set up a specific website www.gdprandyou.ie with information for individuals and organisations. It has a 12 step guide for preparing for the GDPR which may be useful for organisations.

The GDPR has been widely flagged as an issue that will require substantial preparatory work by organisations in order to be ready for the May 2018 deadline. In this regard, the National Federation invited a company, Sytorus, to deliver a 2 Day Data Protection Officer Training. This training will take place in the National Federation Office in Oranmore Business Park, Oranmore, Galway on Monday, 29th & Tuesday, 30th January, 2018. If you are interested in this training or would like more information, please email caroline.looney@fedvol.ie Places are limited to 12 and therefore will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Open Training College: Accredited, best practice courses in Social Care and Management starting Spring '18

Celebrating our 25th year anniversary delivering 3rd level education to the sector, the Open Training College is currently accepting applications for places on the following courses:

- **Certificate in Focus on the Individual - Person Centred Planning (10 weeks, level 6)**
- **Certificate in Applied Management - Nonprofit/Human Services (9 months, level 6)**
- **Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice (12 months, level 5)**

For those wishing to kick start their social care education in Spring 2017, the OTC is offering a gateway module on **Person Centred Planning** that leads to 15 credits on the BA in Professional Social Care (Disability) which will commence in Autumn 2018. More information [HERE](#)

For those who work as a supervisor/team leader/PIC in the social care or the community/nonprofit /voluntary sector, or who are seeking to improve their professional practice or promotion prospects, the **Certificate in Applied Management** is the popular choice. Apply now, start in January and graduate in November! More information [HERE](#)

For those working as care assistants and needing a level 5 qualification, which is also focussed specifically on disability services, the 8-module, **Certificate in Intellectual Disability Practice** is a very practical course where successful graduates will make a positive impact on disability service provision. More information [HERE](#)

If you need more information or require any assistance with the online Application Centre please do not hesitate to contact Conor at:

Email: cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com

Tel: 01-2990580

Looking forward to hearing from you!

http://www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp/projects/community_living.html



Community Living for Europe
Structural Funds Watch



NUI Galway

CENTRE for DISABILITY
LAW & POLICY

Supported Decision Making Facilitator Training with Cher Nicholson

Following on from the successful Cher Nicholson Supported Decision making training held by the CDLP in NUI Galway in June we will be hosting 3 more Training Workshops.

REGISTER NOW

The workshops will take place in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the Centre For Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland Galway

- Six day Intensive Supported Decision Making Facilitator Training with Cher Nicholson

29th, 30th, 31st January 2018 and 5th, 6th, 7th February 2018. Cost €1200

(Accommodation not included)

- One Day Supported Decision Making for Family Members

2nd February 2018. Cost €20

- One Day Supported Decision Making Coaching and Mentoring Training

9th February 2018. Cost €200

[REGISTER HERE](#)

<http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=545>

Sharon Hegarty

Centre For Disability Law & Policy

National University of Ireland Galway

Tel: 091 494018

Email: sharon.hegarty@nuigalway.ie



Looking to enhance your professional skills in the disability field?



REGISTRATION
OPENS
**JANUARY
2018**

IRELAND'S ONLY MSc
IN REHABILITATION &
DISABILITY STUDIES

Master of Science in Rehabilitation & Disability Studies

This two-year part-time postgraduate programme is designed for individuals working or interested in working in the Irish disability sector. A key outcome for graduates is detailed and specialised knowledge of issues which are at the forefront of the Rehabilitation and Disability fields in Ireland and internationally. The MSc in Rehabilitation & Disability Studies 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.

INDICATIVE MODULES INCLUDE:

- Introduction to Rehabilitation • Applied Research Methods
- Advanced Rehabilitation Practice • Systems Management: Health & Disability

Informal enquiries should be directed to:

Associate Professor Christine Linehan

Ph: 353 1 716 8678 email: christine.linehan@ucd.ie



UCD Centre
for Disability Studies

UCD School of Psychology

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

*The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Secretariat
would like to wish all our
Friends & Colleagues*

A Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year!



*Our office will close for Christmas at 5pm on Friday 22 December 2017 and will
reopen on Wednesday 3rd January 2018*