National Federation of Voluntary Bodies
Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability

Annual Report 2008

EASY TO READ VERSION

Produced by Brian Donohoe, National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

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Chairperson's Statement

In October of 2008 I was selected as Chairperson for the next 2 years. At the start of 2008 it would have been hard to see how bad the economy would get during 2008. We saw funding from the National Disability Strategy being replaced by cutbacks in all areas. In the budget funding in our area was cut by 1% which was less than in other areas of the health service but still hard for our members to take as they were already dealing with debt in their services, However members are dealing with the cutbacks as well as they can & keeping frontline services going.

As part of the October Budget, Mr. John Moloney, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children, said that disability services in Ireland would be looked at to see how well the services are being provided. The National Federation will take part in this process and show that our members meet the highest standards in this area.

The work of the National Federation in 2008 was lead by the Board of Directors, and its former Chairperson Brendan Broderick. The National Federation is also lead by it's Sub-Committees and also the member organisations through the General Assembly meetings. In Oranmore, Brian O'Donnell and his team provide great support to the Chair, the Board, and the National Federation's member organisations.

While 2009 will be a difficult year, the National Federation is committed to getting the best possible results for people who use our services.

John O'Dea,
Chairperson

Chief Executive's Introduction

I am happy to present the Annual Report of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies for 2008.

The down-turn in the Irish economy during 2008 has affected the way services are provided as funding that we had since 2006 under the National Disability Strategy has run out. This funding had helped us to look at helping more people on waiting lists for our services as well as improving the service to those who already use our services. We are now just providing the services we were already providing with less money

As the Government has decided to look at the disability services sector, the Board of the National Federation decided to set up a Working Group to see how we could promote ourselves as a valuable sector. The Working Group saw that the change in health and social care is changing how services will be provided into the future. The Working Group met 4 times during 2008 and will be talking with member organisations in early 2009.

In September 2008, Mr. Brendan Broderick stepped down as Chairperson of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies after 3 years. I would like to thank Brendan for his service to the National Federation and to give my full support to John O'Dea for the future. I would also like to thank the board for their work during the year

The work listed in this report was carried out by my Secretariat staff during 2008, they have worked hard and achieved a lot and I would like to thank each one of them for their commitment, loyalty and professionalism during 2008.

Brian O'Donnell,
Chief Executive.

Section 1
Membership Support Services

Objective in 2008:	Key Achievements:
HSE Disability Group	
Meetings with HSE	• Meetings were held HSE during 2008 to talk about issues important to our members.
To look at the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.	• In 2008, the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies looked at the work of the National Federation. • The Board set up a Group to talk with member organisation about the set up of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. • Following a full day held on 30th April, 2008, the membership agreed to set up five Area Committees on a short-term basis.
National Health Repayment Scheme	
National Health Repayment Scheme.	The Long Stay Repayment Scheme is a State backed Scheme to repay those people, including people with an intellectual disability, living in institutions, who were wrongly charged public long stay charges. Applications made by some Federation members for people using services were successful bit others were turned down. During 2008, a meeting was held with the people running the scheme to look at the reasons given for turning down applications made on behalf of people with an intellectual disability.
Education	
Education of persons with an intellectual disability.	• During 2008 the Education Sub-Committee met 4 times to help the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on education

	for children & adults with intellectual disabilities
To meet with the National Council for Special Education.	• Helen Guinan from COPE Foundation who is a member of the Education Sub-Committee meets with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and tells them what is important to the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.
Conference on Inclusive Education co-hosted by the National Federation & EASPD in 2009.	• Our 2009 conference is called “***Salamanca – 15 years on – Inclusion A School for All***” This will be on 12th and 13th November, 2009 in the Grand Hotel Malahide in Dublin
To publish the ‘*Survey on Staffing Levels for Children with Intellectual Disability in the 0-6 Age Group*’.	• During 2008 the answers received from National Federation member organisations from the ‘*Survey on Staffing Levels for Children with Intellectual Disability in 0-6 Age Group*’ were put together.
National Federation Website	
To make National Federation website better – www.fedvol.ie	• In 2008 the National Federation started making the information on it clearer & more easy-to-read for people who use it. • The website is updated every week
Providing Information	
To Provide up to date information to member organisations.	• The National Federation Secretariat team sent out lots of emails and fact sheets to the Secretariat Team and to the wider Member Organisations e.g. research reports, funding opportunities, news articles, work updates etc • 4 National Federation newsletters were published in 2008.
Vocational Training & Employment	
To advise the Board of the National Federation on issues about the vocational training and employment of people with intellectual	• Supported the Vocational Training & Employment Sub-Committee in its role in advising the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on issues relating to vocational training & employment of adults with an intellectual disability. • Provided a forum where members can consult

disability.	on key issues and share information.
To complete a '*Review of Day Service Provision for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*' Questionnaire.	• A Day Service Questionnaire was given out to all members of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies. The questionnaire showed - The of ability of adults using day services in the intellectual disability sector; - The activities each category of adults are involved in; and - The types of staff employed and levels of funding within Day Services.

Section 2
Quality & Innovation

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is committed to meeting the highest possible standards in the quality of the services and supports provided to the people who access our services.

Training & Development:

The projects done during 2008 looked at supporting the on-going skill development of staff employed across National Federation of Voluntary Bodies member organisations. The actions set up during 2008 were linked to the aims of the Action Plan for People Management (APPM) and the National Federation's Training and Development Sub-Committee worked to get this action plan achieved.

The terms of reference of the National Federations Training & Development Sub-Committee are as follows:

1. To advise the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies on recommendations to meet the learning needs of staff in member organisations through education & training.
2. To plan for the education, training, development and learning needs of member organisations.
3. To influence the provision of options and resources to address the education, training, development and learning needs of member organisations.
4. To share information and resources for staff training and associated HR related matters.
5. To develop national standards in education, training, development and learning across a wide variety of priority roles.
6. To review education, training, development and learning course content to ascertain consistency with core principles and ethos of National Federation of Voluntary Bodies.
7. To ensure that the specific staff training and development interests of the non-statutory bodies are understood and included in people management planning at a corporate level in the regional health authorities.

Objectives in 2008	Key Achievements:
Training & Development Sub-Committee	
To support the work of the Training & Development Sub-Committee.	• Members of the National Federation’s Training & Development Sub-Committee met 4times during 2008 and it’s chairperson was Brendan Broderick of Sisters of Charity Jesus & Mary services
To agree a training & development programme of work for 2008.	• In early 2008, a Training & Development Activities Programme was agreed by the Training & Development Sub-Committee which guided the work of the Sub-Committee throughout the year.
To arrange a ‘Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning’ Event for March 2008.	In March 2008, the Training & Development Sub-Committee organised a very successful workshop which focused on ‘***Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning within Organisations’***. The event was facilitated by Dr. Paul Donovan, Irish Management Institute, who has developed a way to measure the ***learning transfer system*** within an organisation. There was a good attendance at the workshop with people involved in training and development activities e.g. training and development, human resources, quality, nursing, service management / development, etc. A summary report outlining the main findings and learning points coming from the event was compiled which outlines the ‘***Top 10 Tips for the Effective Transfer of Learning’***. Copies of this report can be obtained from Jillian Sexton – jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie

Patricia Doherty, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, St. Michael's House, speaking at the 'Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning' event, March 2008. The programme was organised by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies in conjunction with St. Michael's House as part of its commitment to the promotion of best practice in training and development.

Participants busy at work in a group session of the
'Supporting the Effective Transfer of Learning' event

Training Programmes / Initiatives 2008:	
To deliver an accredited programme for Front Line Managers - '*Managing for the Future: Building your skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment'.*	• Following the pilot of the Front Line Managers Training Programme *'Managing for the Future: Building your Skills as a Front Line Manager in a Person Centred Environment*' which took place in the University of Limerick (UL) during 2007 the programme materials were revised and updated where necessary to reflect changes in current legislation, policy, etc. • Given the positive outcomes from the pilot programme it was agreed that further programmes would be delivered and work commenced on the organisation of same. • The Steering Committee, which was established

	to oversee the development and piloting of the Programme continued to meet during 2008 and to advise on further developments in relation to the Programme.
To support the development / implementation of SKILL Programme.	During 2008 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies continued to support the implementation of the SKILL Programme within National Federation member organisations. Specific achievements during 2008 were as follows: • A total of 142 Support Service Staff and 15 Support Service Managers were nominated to participate in SKILL Training Programmes at FETAC Levels 5 and 6. • The National Federation Secretariat continued to process payments due to member organisations in respect of people involved in SKILL Project training.
To arrange a review / support session for participants who completed the Bereavement Training Programme.	• Following the successful Bereavement Training Programme that was delivered by staff from St. Michael's House in 2007, it was agreed that a follow-up / review session would be arranged for those who did the training. This review session, which took place in May 2008, was hosted by the Daughters of Charity Limerick • One of the main recommendations from this event was that a national support network be set up to support staff involved in this area of work. This will be followed up on in 2009.

Human Resources:

The Human Resources Sub-Committee is important for the sharing of information and best practice on human resources issues. Through the work of the Sub-Committee during 2008, and the regular meetings which were held with the HSE-Employers Agency, organisations were supported to link up with fellow HR professionals and develop common positions on key matters. The work of the Human Resources Sub-Committee during 2008 was guided by Maura Donovan, Stewarts Hospital, who made sure that Federation members were kept informed of employment and industrial relations developments. The work of the Sub-Committee was supported by an active and committed group of members - details of the membership are provided in Appendix 2.

The mission of the National Federation in relation to human resources is to:

a) Provide a communication, information and networking forum to Human Resource practitioners within National Federation member organisations whereby they can meet with colleagues and pursue HR objectives of common interest.
b) Gather and give out information on key issues to member organisations and to provide support in relation to human resource related developments.
c) Provide a decision making forum whereby common positions can be developed where this is beneficial.
d) Ensure that the intellectual disability sector is recognised, connected and has a voice at national level.
e) Examine and furnish reports on relevant human resource related issues and legislation and to provide advice to member organisations through National Federation structures.

Objectives in 2008	Key Achievements:
Human Resources Sub-Committee	
To support the work of the Human Resources Sub-Committee.	Members of the National Federation's Human Resources Sub-Committee met 4 times during 2008. The chairperson for 2008 was Maura Donavan from Stewarts Hospital
To make sure that Garda vetting is in place for employees & volunteers working within NFVB member organisations.	• During 2008 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies continued to meet with personnel from the Garda Central Vetting Unit to make sure that National Federation members had access to a Garda vetting process for staff members and volunteers. • In mid 2008 the Garda Central Vetting Unit advised the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies that a Working Group was being set up

	to look at the issue of International Vetting Arrangements The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies was invited to nominate a representative to join this Group. In order to inform the work of the group.
Recruitment advertising in National Federation member organisations.	• Throughout 2008 the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies met with Independent News & Media in relation to advertising arrangements for member organisations.
To provide relevant human resource related information	• During 2008 regular updates were provided to human resource personnel regarding upcoming events, funding opportunities and human resource related developments. • The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies also got information about key issues for member organisations (e.g. maternity leave arrangements, uncertified sick leave, absenteeism, etc).
National Standards in Disability Services	
In early 2008, HIQA set up an Advisory Group to advise the Authority in drawing up a set of National Standards.	Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive, was invited by HIQA to represent the National Federation on the National Standards Advisory Group. During 2008, the following action was taken to put the standards in place: The National Federation lead the way in the on the forum which was set up to agree the standards. After the National Federation had made submissions funding was given for the pilot of the Informing Families project in Cork

Section 3
Research & Policy Development

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies aims to promote best practice in services to children and adults with intellectual disabilities. To provide a quality service we need to be involved in high quality research. The National Federation is committed to supporting research that benefits the lives of people with intellectual disability.

In August 2008, the National Federation published its first Research Strategy. This plans the research of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies for six years (2008-2013). The aims of the strategy are that people with disabilities must be given the chance to live as full a life as possible. People are being supported to live with their families for as long as possible and to be included in their own communities.

The research strategy was developed by talking to our member organisations and people who use our services who help develop research in the National Federation.

In looking at the research of the National Federation during 2008, the main actions for research are listed below

Objective:	**Key Achievements in 2008:**
Research Sub-Committee	
Sub-Committee Meetings in 2008	The Research Sub-Committee met 4 times in 2008. The chairperson for 2008 was Dr. Brian McClean from Brothers of Charity Roscommon.
National Research Strategy	
Research Strategy Published	• In 2008 the Research Strategy was published. It was presented at meetings & conferences.
To publish an 'Easy to Read' Version of Research Strategy.	• An "Easy-to-read" version of the Research Strategy was also published and is on the National Federation's website

Research Priorities 2008-2013 (as identified in Research Strategy)	
1. To identify important areas for research	• Show the important areas for research that came up when talking to people who use services, management & staff
2. To make a list of experts to support & share research	• A list of experts was made to support & share research in the Irish research community
3. To find out what is good quality research	• This is an aim for 2009
4. To find out if research makes a difference.	• This is an aim for 2009
5. To find people to advise the Research Sub-Committee	• We found people who could advise the Research Sub-Committee on some issues
6.To make links with research centres	• We made links with research centres both in Ireland and abroad
7. To advise on how to get money for research in the future.	• This is an aim for 2009.
8. To make a list of people interested in Research	• We made a list of people interested in disability research.
9. To make a list of research taking place.	• We made a list of research taking place in the member organisations and put it on National Federation website.
10. To form a committee on research rules	• We are looking at the possibility of forming a National Committee to help with the rules of research and to make sure that people with disabilities benefit from it.
11.To talk to people who use services	• We continued to talk to people who use services through projects like the Inclusive Research Network.
12. To look at research strategy	• We will look at the research strategy at the end of each year to see if it's still suitable

Members of the Inclusive Research Network learn about developing listening skills from facilitator Ray Murray at NIID Dublin.

Members of the Inclusive Research Network practice their interviewing skills at a Galway workshop held in November 2008.

Factsheets	
To develop a series of Factsheets on research.	• The Research Sub-Committee wrote 4 Factsheets on different areas of research during 2008. These are on the National Federation website
To Publish the Research of the National Federation.	• The research sub-Committee published all research done including the Research Strategy, Informing Families project, work of Inclusive Research Network and this is all on the website

To support National Research Projects.	During 2008 the National Federation supported the research of some national projects. These national projects are listed below:
The Irish Long-term Study on Ageing (TILDA) - Ireland's First Long-term Study on Ageing in Persons with Intellectual Disability.	The largest study of ageing in persons with intellectual disability in Ireland was launched in Dublin on December 3rd, 2008 by the Minister for Equality, Disability and Mental Health, John Moloney, TD in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College. The occasion of the launch took place on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The study will involve 800 people with intellectual disability aged 40 years and over, recording their health as they age over a 10 year period.
Marie Curie European Union Transfer of Knowledge Project at NIID Doing Disability Research 2006 – 2010.	Dr Patricia O'Brien is running a Marie Curie European Union Transfer of Knowledge Project which involves experts from other countries in Europe. The aim of this is to put a number of projects in place including • A National Survey of people with intellectual disabilities; • A National Survey of family members; • A project to gather the life-stories of people with intellectual disabilities
Conferences	
To attend national and international conferences.	Throughout 2008 the National Federation Secretariat staff attended conferences about intellectual disability. These conferences are listed below: - Relationships and Sexuality- organised by the Daughters of Charity Dublin - Bringing the UN Convention to Europe, - Psychological Society of Ireland Learning Disability Workshop - 'From Planning for Peoples Lives to People Having Lives', organised by the Brothers of

	Charity Clare - COBRA Conference on Research Ethics - NDA Conference on Mental Health - NDA Seminar on Research Ethics - NDA Conference on Capacity Law - HIQA Conference
To develop an on-line library with all books & newsletters in National Federation office.	• In 2008 the National Federation set up an on-line library to record all books and newsletters that are in the National Federation office.

Informing Families Project:

One important area of research done by the National Federation is the Informing Families Project, which is a partnership project that began in 2004, and has developed best practice guidelines to support doctors when informing families of their child's disability.

The *Guidelines for Informing Families of their Child's Disability* were developed through a research process and were launched on 3rd December 2007, by Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney.

The work of the project at both a national and a local level in the Cork region in 2008 is set out in the following section.

Informing Families – National Project	
Objective:	**Key Achievements in 2008:**
Informing Families *Best Practice Guidelines*, *Consultation & Research Report* and *Words You Never Forget* DVD.	2,227 printed copies of the Guidelines and 210 Consultation & Research Reports were given out nationally and internationally in 2008. A DVD called *Words You Never Forget, which* tells the stories of two families and the opinions of professionals who deal with families, was produced and presented at the launch of the best practice guidelines in December 2007.
To inform staff about *Informing Families Guidelines*.	Presentations were made at conferences of doctors, nurses & other health care staff

To record Publications**.**	Articles Articles about the Informing Families research and guidelines were written in many publications in 2008:
To provide input on the Guidelines in Postgraduate Medical Training.	Training in the Informing Families Guidelines was given to post-graduate medical students in the University of Limerick in April 2008, including a talk by Katherine O'Leary, Chair of the Informing Families Project – Cork Region.

Informing Families Cork Project

Following the launch of the national project, a local project was put in place on a pilot basis in the Cork region, and this will be looked at to help the national roll out of the Guidelines.

Through a Steering Committee and a series of smaller Working Groups, each with a particular focus, a lot of things have been done & others are planned for 2009. The Steering Committee of the pilot project is chaired by Katherine O'Leary, who is a parent of two children with disabilities; one with a physical disability and one with an intellectual disability. Katherine's involvement helps to promote the family centred approach which is so important at every level of the project.

Working Groups:	Key Achievements in 2008:
PR, Information Working Group	The central aims of this group are to ensure that all professionals who are involved in the disclosure process in the Cork region are aware of and have access to the Informing Families Guidelines and to make sure that after the pilot project they could still be used
Training Working Group	Research from the national Informing Families Project showed that staff members should be trained specifically in good practice for informing families of their child's disability, with key elements such as parental input, communication skills & disability awareness. During 2008 training materials were developed and piloted with various groups. The following pilot training took place:

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>• 4th year medical students in University College Cork (11 Dec 08)
• Trainee Paediatricians - Cork University Hospital (11 Dec 08)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">
Katherine O'Leary, Chairperson of the Informing Families Project in Cork speaks about her experiences as a parent of two children with disabilities, as part of training delivered for the Pilot Implementation Project

Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors from the Neonatal and Paediatric departments in Cork University Hospital and Cork University Maternity Hospital take part in training</td></tr>
<tr><td>Information Working Group</td><td>The main work of the Information Working Group is to develop an accessible, up-to-date, website that professionals can use to give information to parents at the time of diagnosis.
During 2008 the Information Working Group gathered information already available on the following:
• General disability support information for supply to parents at the time of their child's diagnosis</td></tr>
</table>

	(e.g. signposts to Entitlements and Benefits, emotional support, advice on searching the Internet, informing siblings, etc.) • Diagnosis-specific information, (gathered by relevant clinicians and from specialist support groups for individual disabilities) • Information for professionals (e.g. Informing Families Guidelines, HSE Health Strategy, protocols, checklists etc) During 2009 this info will be made available online & will be translated into other languages. The design work for the online information was also completed and signed off by the Steering Committee in 2008.
Evaluation Working Group	The role of the Evaluation Working Group is to look at how the project is put in place & to learn what needs to be learnt. During 2008 the pilot training was delivered to groups from academic and in-service settings & was analysed by the Evaluation Working Group using a set of research tools developed in the US and used in over 30 Paediatric training courses across the US.

European Association of Service Provides for Persons with Disabilities

EASPD is an organisation for service providers in Europe. It now represents over 8,000 service providers providing services to 35 million people with disabilities in the 25 member states of the European Union. The main objective of EASPD is to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective high quality services. Its headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium

Objective:	Key Achievements in 2008:
To develop policy for Disability issues at European level.	• The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies was involved in two European Projects (a) people with intellectual disability moving from sheltered work to supported work and (b)

	employee welfare in social care settings. - The National Federation took part in two EASPD Working Groups about Employment of people with disabilities. The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies took part in all EASPD policy submissions and statements and to its Action Plan for 2008. - Brian O'Donnell, Chief Executive, continued act as President of EASPD until September 2008.

Social Inclusion Best Practice & Volunteering Supports:

The National Federation helps member organisations to support the independence, choice & rights of people with disabilities in their own communities & in the services provided by our members.

Objective:	Key Achievements in 2008:
Social Inclusion Best Practice	
Guidelines for Accessible Information	
National Easy-to-read information Working Group.	- The National Easy-to-read Information Working Group started work on a document with guidelines to make information easy to read for people with disabilities. - They will publish the document in 2009. .
Community Participation & Inclusion	
Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee	- The Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee met 4 times in 2008. - Yvonne Bohane stepped down as chair in May 2008. - Richard Collins took over as chair in June 2008. - Claire Maher co-chaired one meeting at the end of 2008. - Mary Gavin has written an article called "The Things I'd Like to Change" and this article will be published in 2009. Congratulations to Mary on writing the first article. - Over 900 copies of People Connecting have now been sent out.

	- Most of the documents used at the meetings are in easy-to-read format
How we run our meetings	The group has a set of principles for their Sub-Committee meetings: - Only one person speaks at a time. - The group listens to the person who is speaking. - People cannot talk for too long. - Mobile phones must be turned off. - People in the group should respect each other
Things we talked about	The group talked about many issues during the year, including: - Capacity and consent - Inclusive research (people with disabilities involved in research) - Transport (in rural areas) - Life stories - People managing their own money - Community Food Project. This is a project with the HSE and the Dept of Agriculture & Food to set up community gardens around the country. - Claire Maher told the group about the work of the Gold Star Task Group in Cashel, Co Tipperary. Claire is a member of this group. This group is looking at issues like, access, awareness, transport etc for people with disabilities. It’s a very good example of a group that involves everyone in decisions that affect their local area.
Training and presentations and workshops.	- The Community Participation & Inclusion Sub-Committee made a presentation to the Research Sub-Committee on things they would like them to do research on from the “People Connecting” document. This presentation was part of the Research Sub-Committee talking & listening to people who access services to see what research is important to them. - Sub-Committee members gave training on working with Consultation Groups to the Inclusive Research Network workshops.

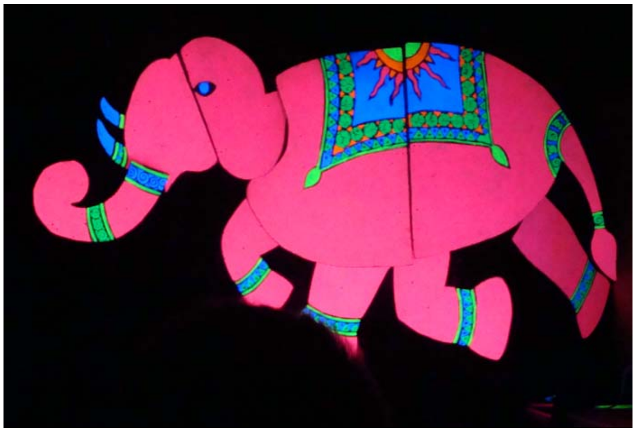
	• Two students from the National Institute of Intellectual Disability (NIID) who were training with the NIID ran focus group training in Dublin and Clare. The training involved how to run a focus group. • A number of Sub-Committee members attended the following workshops / conferences: - “A Sense of Belonging” – by David Pitonyak who talked about the need for all of us to feel we belong somewhere - Taking Control conference – a conference on people having their own funding. - A Social Inclusion Workshop organised by Nurture Development, Dublin - A workshop entitled “What is a Home?” by Darcy Elks from the US.
Volunteering Supports	

Minister Pat Carey, Minister for State with responsibility for Active Citizenship, launched the report of the survey on Volunteering in Intellectual Disability Services in Ireland in Mallow on Monday 6th October 2008. The survey was published by the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and is the first national study on Volunteering in Ireland

Pictured at the launch were: John O’Dea, Western Care, Jerry Mullane COPE, Noreen McGarry, Western Care, Anne Byrne KARE, Breda Casey National Federation, Linda Keane, Ability West, Maura Nash COPE, Brian O’Donnell National Federation Roisin Deery Midway Services, Mary O’Connell Brothers of Charity Limerick

Some of the who took part in the launch were:

- Philip Crosbie who lives on his own in Tramore and is supported by Brothers of Charity in Waterford. Philip spoke about the support of a volunteer and about volunteering in his own community.
- The Kaleidoscope Drama Group – a group of people with intellectual disability from Cork whose drama group is supported by volunteers



Members of the Kaleidoscope Drama Group create a colourful on-stage collage during their drama performance at the launch of the national study on volunteering

- A DVD from Western Care Association in Mayo about volunteering by people with an intellectual disability, families, and staff.

Findings from the Survey

The findings from the volunteering survey show that in 33 National Federation member organisations, over 3,000 volunteers are giving 7 hours per month to people who access intellectual disability services.

The best ways to get volunteers are word of mouth or local newsletters/ bulletins. Members of Boards of management, Best buddies / Friends are the main roles of volunteers. The volunteer is matched with the person with the disability. Most organisations do not have a volunteering policy but some are working on this now.

Volunteering supports people with intellectual disability to connect with people in their own communities, to have a better quality of life and make new friends. It also supports them to be active citizens in their own communities and to live the life of their choice. Volunteering also supports people with intellectual disability to develop new skills by taking part in activities e.g. arts, sports and to be part of their own community.

Volunteers see their volunteering activities as a chance to give something back to their community, to use the experience as a stepping stone to employment and to experience personal satisfaction i.e. feel-good factor.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brendan Broderick, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary (Chairperson until September 2008)
Tony Darmody, Kerry Parents & Friends Association
Maura Donovan, Stewarts Hospital
Wally Freyne, Daughters of Charity Services
Mary Kealy, Brothers of Charity Services Clare
Bro Laurence Kearns, St. John of God Hospitaller Services
Edith Kennedy, MIDWAY
Christy Lynch, KARE
Paul Ledwidge, St. Michael's House
Patricia Lee, Sisters of La Sagesse
Vincent Millet, Irish Sisters of Charity
Maura Nash, COPE Foundation
Michael Noone, Sunbeam House Services
John O’Dea, Western Care Association (Chairperson from September 2008)
Winifred O'Hanrahan, Brothers of Charity Services