

Launch of IRN Reports in the Radisson on 25/2/2010

Summary of the Day

Compiled by Brian Donohue, Orla Kelly and Mary Barrett

The day started with a few words from both the Chairman of the National Federation John O'Dea and the CEO Brian O'Donnell wishing everybody well for the day.



Then everyone was welcomed and were asked to wander around the room and introduce themselves to somebody they didn't know. Then there was a message from Steve Curtis and Patricia O'Brien to wish everybody good luck for the day. Edurne then gave an overview of the day, showed people what was in the pack and went through the consent form.

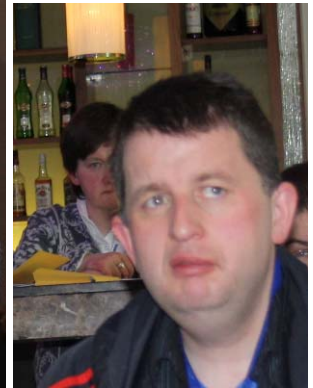


Then Edel talked about the report on the IRN. There was also an easy to read version of the IRN report and Edel thanked Brian, Edurne and Orla for the work that they had done on this report.



Then Edurne and Brian gave a presentation on the where we live report and Brian talked about being a co-researcher on the project. He said he had interviewed people with disabilities who are members of the Community Participation & Inclusion Sub Committee with him. He said that John Doyle supported him before and during the process. He also said that the people involved were happy to be interviewed because they had received the questions in advance and knew what the survey was about. Kieran Keon and Antonio Cebas talked about being supporters and Seamus Murphy who was another co-researcher talked about his experience of being a co-researcher.

There was a short break.



Then Edurne gave a presentation on the UN Convention of the Rights of persons with disabilities. During the presentation Edurne spoke to people about the Convention and asked questions to see if people understood what the UN Convention was about. People said that it was about their rights in areas like work, relationships and living independently.

Next up was the Brothers of Charity Clare group who performed a drama called "The Travel Challenge" which was about barriers they came up against when staying in a hotel such as: lack of wheelchair access, not being served at the bar because of someone's disability and how the management of the hotel responds when the person complains. There was an opportunity for people to participate and it was great fun.

Then we had a lunch break which everybody enjoyed!!



After lunch Darren talked about a human rights group and a family research group that wanted to include the family of people with disabilities in research.



Then Marie Wolfe from the Research into Action group talked a little about their DVD which was about people with disabilities interviewing for staff. Then there was the DVD presentation from the group. On the DVD it showed three members of the group interviewing two people for a job. They were both interviewed for the same job but the first person got the job because she was more person centred in her approach to the job than the second person.



Then we had a DVD presentation from Kieran Keon and people from the Brothers of Charity Roscommon about losing your job in the recession and how to get a new job.



Next there was a role play by Darren, Brian, Edel, Orla & Mary about how to run a focus group. Edurne explained what was going on to the audience. The first time they showed how a focus group shouldn't be done. Darren, who was the facilitator, didn't bother greeting anyone when they came in, when the focus group started Orla talked all the time, Mary spoke for Brian so Brian didn't speak at all and Edel who was supporting Darren as the facilitator kept interrupting him and telling him what questions to ask. Then the audience were asked what was wrong with the focus group. After that the focus group was done again properly with Darren greeting everyone and with everyone getting a chance to speak.

Then we all broke into three focus groups with different people taking turns at facilitating focus groups.

After this was done all the facilitators spoke about what it was like to facilitate a focus group and people said what they had talked about in the focus groups.



We then had a few last words from Edel before it was time to go home. Everybody was asked to fill in an evaluation form about the day and their thoughts about the workshop



What people said in the focus groups:

Question 1: What supports do people need to have a good life?

- We have a good life but can get better
- We need to have a chance to ask questions and get feedback
- You need people that will tell you the truth, not beat around the bush, that will support you.

Question 2: What do people think about having a girlfriend/boyfriend?

- People don't get romantic relationships, they don't have the opportunity and it gets swept under the carpet
- You can get upset when you break up with someone and meet up again

- People need the right support and opportunities – get the balance right!

Question 3: What makes a good friend?

- Friends are important
- Someone to talk to, not gossip
- Social activities with friends are important such as discos

What people thought about doing focus groups:

- We learned how to facilitate focus groups in the future
- We learned how to set ground rules like listen, respect, support each other
- We learned how to give everyone a chance to speak
- You will get better as you practice
- It is rewarding leading a group
- People with disabilities can do focus groups
- Questions were interesting
- It felt good being a facilitator
- It helps people to have positive attitudes
- Some (people) answer in a focus group and some don't

What people thought of the day:



EXCELLENT



GOOD



FAIR



POOR

1. How did you find the session about “the presentation of the IRN and Where we live reports”?

People said that they found this session either excellent or good.

2. How did you find the session about the “Presentations by participants”?

Most people said that this was excellent or good. One person said it was fair.

3. How did you find the presentation on the “UN Convention and Relationships”?

Most people said that it was excellent or good. Two people said that it was fair.

4. How did you find the lunch and socializing?

Most people said that it was excellent. Six people said that it was good.

5. How did you find the session “Demonstration on conducting a focus group”?

Most people said that it was excellent or good. Two people said that this part was fair.

6. How did you find the session on “Practising the focus group”?

Everybody said that it was excellent or good.

7. What did you think of the venue?

Everybody said that it was excellent or good.

8. Did you enjoy the meeting overall?

Everybody said that it was excellent or good.

9. Is there anything else you want to say about the day?

- Format of the day is very good. It keeps people interested and motivated. It's great to get people involved, they have so much to say when encouraged and supported to do so.
- It was very good then lunch was nice.
- It was very good and I enjoyed the day
- Thanks everybody
- More camera work

- Too short, group mixed very well. They have a lot of opinions to bring up.
- Edel was very good
- I was not there in the morning thank you for putting on the day, I learnt a lot.
- I found the day very enjoyable food, good food as well
- Very interesting and informative film.
- Presentation good, play excellent
- This has been a great day, we will move forward together
- It was a good day talking

10. Have you anything you would like to say about the workshops in general?

- More collaboration
- Focus group was very good
- Kieran Keon did very well
- It's good, would like to keep going, do more workshops and more training
- It was a good workshop, it gave other people with a disability a chance to talk
- Very good
- I like going to the workshops
- I found Trish good at being rude in the focus group because everyone else was getting no chance to talk
- Excellent
- Integrating training across (the) county.