

NFVB Conference on 9th October 2014.

NDA Review on the Implementation of the HIQA Disability Regulations “One year on’

The Programme for Government committed to putting National Standards for Residential Services for People with Disabilities on a statutory footing, to ensure that the services could be inspected by HIQA. This commitment was fulfilled when two regulations, one relating to care and support and the second relating to registration issues, were approved and signed by the Minister for Health, with the scheme commencing on 1 November 2013.

The purpose of the regulations is to safeguard and support the delivery of person-centred care to vulnerable people of any age who are receiving residential care services and ensure that their health, well-being and quality of life is promoted and protected.

The introduction of registration and inspection represents a significant advance in terms of delivering consistent and high quality services for people with disabilities in residential services.

As we approach one year of implementation it is timely to review the current status of what is happening at statutory, service provider and service user levels.

In this respect Minister of State at the Department of Health, Kathleen Lynch TD, has invited the National Disability Authority (NDA) to conduct an independent review, one year on, to capture learning to date from the introduction of the system of regulation, standards and inspections in relation to residential disability services, and to look at the range of good practice which is in place. Phase 1 of the review will analyse the learning from the written reports published by HIQA to date and is planned to be completed by late 2014. Phase 2 of the review will undertake a series of engagements with key stakeholders in early 2015 including a consultative workshop with relevant parties in Spring 2015. It is expected that the NDA will have completed its final report by June 2015.