KEEPING SAFE
OUR JOURNEY
SO FAR

Brothers of Charity
Clare
2016
PRESENTATION

- Introductions
- Some of our experiences in Safeguarding
- The importance of people being able to recognize abuse and to report
- Ways to enhance personal power through film / accessible material / familiarity with process
- Rob Hopkins introduce the work of Self Advocacy from a Community Development/Adult Education point of view – learning together from each other
- Valuing individual’s stories – look at some film clips of drama issues coming from the group
- Dramas that have helped people show their challenges
SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURES

- Designated system in place since 2001
- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Process… informing HSE and Gardai
- National Designated forum
- 2014 HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy
- 2015 Safeguarding Teams
What are Safeguards?

They are put in place to protect and promote our

- human rights
- decision making, choice and control
- safety and well being
- citizenship and our quality of life
ACTIONS INVOLVED IN SAFEGUARDING

It is important that those people who help us with safeguards

- Get to know us
- Understand who we are, where we live, our relationships, strengths, preferences & choices
- Understand how we prefer to communicate
- Understand what supports we need and what we enjoy in our lives
**When are Safeguards Required?**

- How far active safeguards need to be considered will come from understanding...
  - How vulnerable we might be
  - The risk of our human rights being affected
  - Our right, ability and opportunity to make choices
PERSONAL POWER

Means our ability to

- Stand up for our rights, opinions, decisions and choices
- Make sure our rights are respected
- Making our own decisions about our own lives
When we are supported to recognise abuse we will be able to keep ourselves safer.
WAYS TO ENHANCE PERSONAL POWER

- Understanding rights and choices – accessible information
- Strong communication
- Well developed and supported advocacy
- Supported decision making
- Financial Security and independence
- Strong sense of personal identity and self worth
- Solid network of family and friends
FILM ABOUT BULLYING

- Back ground introduction
No Longer Research About Us Without Us

THIS IS CLARE INCLUSIVE RESEARCH GROUP’S

“PERFECT FUTURE REVIEW” DRAMA
Clare Inclusive Research Group

We do research as members of the Inclusive Research Network with FedVol, Limerick University & Trinity College, Dublin. We campaign on issues we think are important. *Relationships and Supports Study* (2010) *Home and Independence Study* (2015)

We met the Law Reform Commission to ask for the Repeal of the Criminal Law Sexual Offences Act (1993). We worked as a service user focus group with Katherine Zappone’s Private Members bill 2013. That law is now being repealed.
We lobbied for personal budgets and called for planning to create individual support teams.

When we talked with people about their own plans we found out that-

1. Good individual plans are made when people are well supported and trusted to speak up about their own ideas.
2. People need good support to work with their services and their families as equal partners learning together from each other.
WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THEIR REVIEWS:

• “It’s important to know what a person wants…”
• “If families decide for us there is a danger we will rely on our families. It will be their opinions not ours”
• “What will happen when family are no longer there?”
• “Parents should support us for who we are and what we want to do in our lives and be less protective”
ON GOING INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING

- Most recently we have been training trainers with Inclusion Ireland doing drama workshops about the HIQA standards
- In 2014 we made a drama / video production based on issues people raised (People’s Choice Foundation)
- In the new year we’re running Self Advocacy training for Staff and people in services
INTRODUCING FILMS OF PEOPLE WITH COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

• Helping people speak up for themselves is most important
• We’re also thinking about people who don’t speak – like the poor people who suffer in silence behind closed doors.
• Our National Conference this year has a special section of films about people who have communication challenges
WE HAVE WORKED ON THE SAFEGUARDING FILM WITH THE DESIGNATED SOCIAL WORKER

- Written information with pictures was going over everyone’s head – people didn’t understand
- We think the drama stories can get people to know about safeguarding and speak up if they need help