PARTICIPATING IN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH

• How it began
• Who is involved
• How it works
• What the benefits are
• And our recommendation
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Founded March 2008
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3 WORKSHOPS TO GET YOUR INCLUSIVE RESEARCH HAPPENING
12 SEPTEMBER 2008 – 14 NOVEMBER 2008 - 6 FEBRUARY 2009
Learn the skills you need to research something of importance to you!
- and also useful life skills!
✓ Share your ideas with other researchers.
✓ Plan your own research.
✓ Have an ‘expert research buddy’
✓ Get the support you need.

The start of the Inclusive Research Network

This is the original Poster advertising The Inclusive Research Network Training programme
Who is involved?

- The Inclusive Research Network is a group of people with intellectual disabilities, from different groups around Ireland, like our own Clare Inclusive Research Group plus their supporters and academic researchers.

- We did training with the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and the National Institute for Intellectual Disability at Trinity College.
We practiced Research Skills like...

- Taking turns in talking and listening and asking questions
- Thinking up questions to ask in a study
- Learning about different ways to do research like focus groups, interviews, life stories, doing a survey and using drama in presenting research
- These have all been ways of deciding together about gathering our research data, what it means and how we can tell people about it
Leaving Home ... a participation research drama
“All We Want To Say 2009” was the first national inclusive research project conducted in Ireland.

We used the findings to challenge the way people have been treated. We asked for **Choice, Control and Support** in key areas of our lives: Employment, Relationships, Money Management, Home Ownership or Renting and Communication Skills.
People said that they wanted to become paid employees.

_They said they liked:_
- Getting well paid
- Getting support to get real jobs
- Friendly staff
- Getting to know the customers
- Making friends

_They said they didn’t like:_
- The low of pay
- Going for lots of interviews and never getting a job
- Feeling that employers don’t want disabled people
BECOMING A GOOD COMMUNICATOR

People said they wanted to...
- Understand and Explain what disability is
- They wanted to be good listeners
- Have good communication skills
- And support to explain things
This research led to two further studies—

- “Where we Live” and
- “The Relationships and Supports Study”
Where we Live Survey
The Where we Live Survey found out

In many cases people do not choose

- Where they live or
- Who they live with

Also...

- More people would like the chance to live independently
- The attitude of some family members needs to be challenged to encourage people to live more independently
The Relationships and Supports Study also talked about attitudes to people with a learning disability.

One reason people found it hard to have relationships was they felt they were being treated like children.

“Maybe people have different attitudes to other people that have a disability. ... You’re kind of looked down on. You’re kind of treated like children”.
We were invited to consult with the Law Reform Commission in March this year to explain about our research and put forward our objections. We were delighted to learn this week the Commissioner is recommending that this law should now be repealed.
Doing research has made us aware of the Rights of People with a Disability.

What does the Convention say about people participating in decision making?

Article 4.3 says “...States Parties shall closely consult with, and actively involve, persons with disabilities including Children... through their representative organizations”

In Ireland we do not have any representative organisations
We believe there is an urgent need to set up an Independent, research-backed National Advocacy Forum.

Through doing research with our Clare group and with the Network we have shown we can challenge and change things.

Ger: Doing research has given me the chance to communicate what people who have learning disabilities want from their lives.

Joe: And I have realised I can actively change the environment where I live and make a real difference.
Thanks for listening
Slán Go Foil