

How the Seasamh model  
enables service users to have  
their say in organisational  
decisions

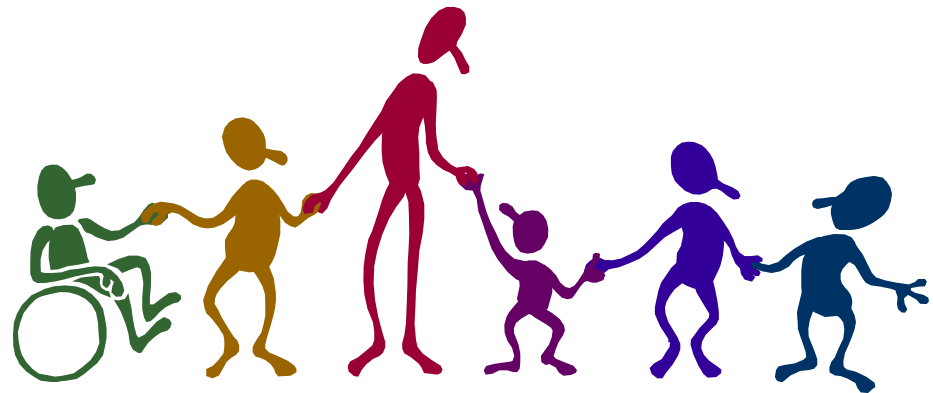
Presentation by

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Chairperson

# The Seasamh Model

- Seasamh is a forum for people with an intellectual disability, run by and for people who access disability services, with independent support.
- Seasamh recognises every degree of participation.



# The Seasmh model

- ***Nothing about without me***
- ***We want our voices to be heard***
- ***We want to make decisions about our lives***
- ***We want to be advocates for our friends who are unable to do it for themselves***
- ***We want to change the way people view us***
- ***We want ordinary lives***

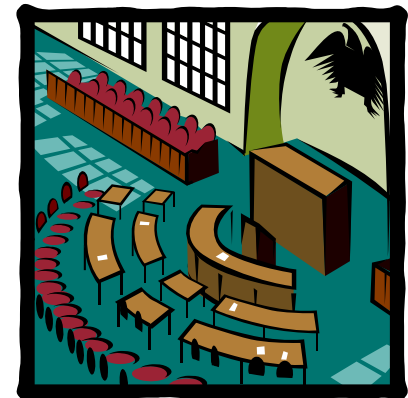




# Brief history of Seasamh

- In 2003 with the support of the HSE and the Citizen Information Board, Seasamh was set up in the south east region.
- Seasamh through forum – discussion decided to elect a parliament. This group would represent all organisations , agencies etc.
- The elected representatives of each organisation are in situ for 3 years.

They meet on a regular basis to discuss issues and concerns of our members.



# What Seasamh aims to achieve

- The model builds on existing client centeredness that facilitates co- workmanship in tandem with services.
- Seasamh seeks to progress quality of life; in area such as “choice”, “privacy”, “health” and “decision making”.
- Seasamh helps it’s members have their say in decision making within their organisation



# What Seasamh aims to achieve

- It aims to secure participation in team visits to centres as part of the accreditation process
- Seasamh aims to establish a national representative body to represent all people with a disability



# Certificate in Leadership and Advocacy

- The Seasamh model identified the need for a programme of learning that would equip us with the necessary skills we needed to acquire in leadership and advocacy.
- This allowed for the development of a third level accredited course in leadership and advocacy
- Now in its seventh year the course takes place in five third –level institutions



# Certificate in leadership and advocacy

- The programme runs from October to May in the institutes of technology around the country
- The programme of learning includes seven modules

*1. Leadership & Advocacy*

*2. Teamwork*

*3. Communication Skills*

*4. A History of Disability in Ireland*

*5. Standards Awareness*

*6. Programmes and Campaigns*

*7. Inclusiveness*





# Seasamh's current campaign

- Recently the following issues of concern were highlighted by Seasamh members.....
- The capacity bill
- Ongoing cuts in government funding to services
- Supported employment prospects



# Our current campaign

- The ongoing concern about the cuts in budgets has lead us to pursue our latest campaign
- We decided to start a petition stating our concern about the following.....
- No further cuts to the disability allowance
- Withdrawal of the Christmas bonus
- Concern over household benefits and water rates
- Cuts to services
- Equality on housing list

# Currently.....

- To date we have collected over 1500 signatures from concerned persons
- We are in the process of setting up a meeting with the minister for disability Kathleen Lynch and the minister for Social protection Joan Burton
- In our campaign against any further cuts

# How Seasamh has changed our lives

- Seasamh has given us a voice and the confidence to use that voice
- We believe by speaking out in public fora that we will be listened to now unlike in the past  
We have managed to get representation on local and regional consultative committees (HSE)

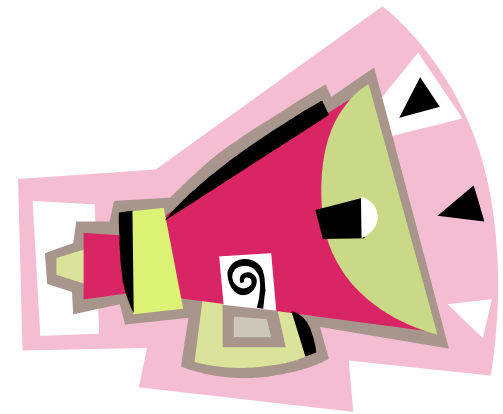
# How Seasamh has changed our lives

- It has improved our social networking opportunities
- It has given us the opportunity to discuss issues and look to solution to them through our forum meetings
- There is a greater feeling of inclusion in society .



# How Seasamh has helps influence change in our organisations

- Through the parliament and the certificate in leadership and advocacy course seasamh members have gained a new **Confidence**.
- This confidence has given us a **voice** to have our say in making important decisions in our organisations



# Recruitment of staff

- Seasmh member now have the opportunity to sit on interview panels in some of our organisations



# Planning for the future

- Seasamh encourages it's members to get involved in the planning for future services within their organisations
- Bringing about Positive change





# Inclusion

- Seasamh enables its members with support to access community based activity
- Access to Community facilities to further their education
- Access local leisure centres etc



# Seasamh and its effect on our lives

- I personally know that if it were not for my involvement with Seasamh over the past 8 years I would not be speaking with you here today.
- It has been a truly great experience of which I am most grateful



- Thank you for your time and attention and your support into the future

*Merci*