

NATIONAL NEWS

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Report on Efficiency & Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland 2010

Public consultation on the Efficiency & Effectiveness of Disability Services in Ireland was undertaken as part of a Value for Money & Policy Review of the Disability Services. The consultation was initiated by an invitation for submissions on 13th November 2009. The closing date for submissions was the first week in December. The Brothers of Charity Services received a consultation document and a questionnaire from the Department of Health & Children. The response to the questionnaire was coordinated by the National Office. An information day was held for the Boards and Chief Executives and agreement was obtained on the appropriate response to each of the 51 questions.

The questions were split into sections entitled.

- A. Background Information
- B. Objectives
- C. Effectiveness
- D. Efficiency
- E. Funding & Resources

This consultation process included responses from Service Providers, People who use Services, Representative bodies and Parents & Guardians of people who use services. 61% of responses were in a personal capacity and 38.8% on behalf of an organisation.

The key themes which emerged from the consultation were clustered around two strands: quality of life issues and the organisation and delivery of the Disability Services Programme.

Quality of life, was perceived as being determined by the exercise of choice and control, achieving and maintaining independence and participating in one's own community. Living a normal life and doing normal things which allow for choice, control, independence and community inclusion. These choices and control were linked to the importance of consultation, individualised funding, control over one's own money, flexible and person-centered services and access to healthcare, transport, housing, education and employment.

The Disability Services themes were wide ranging, covering areas such as policy, strategy and funding, the most effective ways to organise and manage services and the most efficient use of resources in order to support service and individual objectives.

It is worth noting that the Brothers of Charity Services were cited on page 90 of the report by family members/carers as one of the organisations which is particularly efficient in delivering services to people with disabilities.

Full copy of report can be downloaded from www.dohc.ie

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Malnutrition & the Elderly Population—Conference on Towards a Vigorous Old Age—Diet and Lifestyle Challenges 2011

The Irish times Health Supplement (Feb 22nd) covered a conference held in UCD which called for a mandatory screening programme for malnutrition in the elderly along with a national nutrition care plan. Unlike many countries Ireland has no programme for the detection of malnutrition, a serious health issue in our elderly population stated Prof. Michael J Gibney, UCG School of Food Science. With the number of people aged over 65 in Ireland forecast to double to 24% in 2050 and those over 80 expected to treble in the same period, Prof. Gibney said that cost of treating malnutrition would be an ever bigger economic drain than obesity. Prof. Gibney stated that there was scientific evidence to show that simple dietary and lifestyle interventions could delay or significantly reduce the incidence of three common age-related problems:

- Decline in cognitive function
- Age-related macular disorder
- Loss of Muscle (sarcopenia)

Prof. T Mac Donald, Dean for Research at Barts, London School of Medicine told the seminar that there was some scientific evidence that probiotics or “friendly bacteria” helped to boost the immune system in the elderly and could also help to protect against common infectious diseases, such as the winter cold.

**Do you have any articles, innovations you
might like to share with the rest of the
Brothers of Charity Services?**

Please send them to me on

ginamagliocco@galway.brothersofcharity.ie

Child Welfare & Protection—National Documents

The Roscommon Company have produced a leaflet at the request of the National Company entitled Helping Hands. It is designed for Children and is part of a number of ways to inform them about how to seek help if they are afraid or hurt. We are well aware that this is not the only way to deliver this information and the leaflet should be used as part of the overall keep safe training. This leaflet is a national leaflet ratified by the Chief Executive Forum on Thursday 24th February 2011 and will be used by all Brothers of Charity Service Companies. You can order your copies from the Roscommon Company—0906-628500 - there is a small cost for printing. Each Company has been asked to undertake a different project the result of which will be adopted Nationally and implemented in each Service Company.

GENIO TRUST 2010 PROJECTS AWARDED GRANTS

GENIO is a non-profit organisation rooted in the belief that by valuing diversity both the individual and society can benefit from the unique contribution of all citizens. Their mission is to accelerate the availability of proven, cost-effective, personalised supports, enabling people with disabilities and mental health difficulties at risk of social exclusion to lead full lives. For further information on GENIO Trust Grants see www.genio.ie

In 2010 they have supported 50 projects and the Brothers of Charity Services in Clare, Galway, Roscommon and the South East were all successful in the bids for grant aid.

The Brothers of Charity Services Clare, the Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary/Muiriosa Foundation, and Cheshire Ireland jointly applied for a grant of 100,000 euro to develop a family focused project which will support fifteen families to identify and secure the services and supports that are most relevant for them to live as independently as possible in the community. This group were also granted 160,000 euro to promote and share Family Focus Practice with families nationally.

The Brothers of Charity Services Galway were granted 176,300 euro for their Contract family Scheme. This scheme will identify families in the community willing to care for children with an intellectual disability for a short period of time to enable their own parents/carers to have a break. This is a new development in respite care and re-establishes a strong connection between the community and the individual.

The Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon were granted 58,000euro to develop their Supported Living Initiative which will establish a new house and support option for nine individuals with an intellectual disability.

The Brothers of Charity Services Waterford were granted 40,000euro for their project entitled Moving into the Community. This project allows six individuals with an intellectual disability to be supported to move from campus based residential settings to live in two houses in the community. The initiative will support the individuals in building socially valued roles specific to their requests and in extending their social network.

It is worth noting that all the projects supported in this round by GENIO have an element of independent living and family circles of support. Many projects are based on micro-boards for individuals and on family support and promoting the involvement of families in the decision making process for services to individuals.

Shared Services—The review of the Public Sector 2010 proposes more extensive use of inter-agency cooperation, and points towards the provisions of the Local government Act 2001 which allow one authority to enter into an arrangement with another to provide a specific function on its behalf. The act also allows the Minister to direct authorities to enter into such agreements. Shared services can range from back office to front line service delivery however savings do not always accrue and each shared service initiative should be considered on its own merits. The Review did however advocate the use of a 'lead authority' model which would allow greater sharing of services and a uniform human resource, payroll and procurement system.

Source: IPA Vol 58 No 4 2011 Page 47

HSE National Service Plan 2011—Published 21st Dec 2010

The National Service Plan sets out the type and volume of service the HSE will provide directly, and through a range of agencies funded by them during 2011, within the funding provided by Government and within the stipulated employment levels.

The Plan sets out the HSE priorities for 2011 as follows.

- **Maintain the levels of service provided in 2010.**
- **Deliver the cost reduction and restructuring programmes to enable the maintenance of these service levels on a total reduced budget basis of 6.7%.**
- **Seek to ensure the delivery of high quality and safe services.**
- **Accelerate reform programme to reconfigure core services and in line with HSE strategy, deliver an appropriate balance between hospital and community services as well as best care models in childcare, disability, mental health and older person's services.**
- **Implement the national clinical change programmes and new service developments.**

The Service Plan goes on to say that services to people with disabilities are provided in partnership with non-statutory sector service providers and in collaboration with service users and their families. The National Disability Strategy, 2004 provides the overarching framework for policy development and the key objective is to move away from institutionalised and isolated service settings to promote full and equal engagement with the community and society. The Department of Health & Children Value for Money & Policy Review requires that HSE disability services are aligned to the policy direction of the National Disability Strategy. The Service Plan states that the VFM report will guide the allocation of resources in disability services and be critical to identifying HSE core business and opportunities for mainstreaming of non-core activity.

The HSE National Service Plan Disability priorities for 2011 are:

- **Contribute to the completion of the DoHC Value for Money & Policy Review.**
- **Comply with legislation and national quality standards, including the Disability Act 2005.**
- **Re-configure services according to developed plans.**
- **Implement the National Neuron-Rehabilitation Strategy.**
- **Development of integrated information and data system.**
- **Address demographic pressures in the provision of day, residential, respite, personal assistant and home support services utilising additional funding provided in 2011. This will be allocated based on emerging needs during the year.**

The plan also sets out details of the funding position and budget reduction framework for 2011.

Headspace gives a helping hand to young people

More than 40 teenagers came together to perform, for the first time, in several dramas dealing with mental health issues with the help of parents, schools and mixed community groups. Headspace is a HSE funded initiative surrounding mental health promotion and has been part of an overall plan for responding to such needs in the communities of North East Kildare and Kildare/West Wicklow.

A multi-agency Steering Group was set-up to develop, implement and review a range of Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention measures across sectors and within the community. The membership of the groups is composed of representatives from health, education, youth services and other key agencies working in the area. This week, teenagers from Kildare performed three dramas in Celbridge, exploring issues which affect them in their lives such as peer pressure, isolation, alcohol and drugs. The initiative is aimed at being a catalyst for community discussion on such topics.

What is emerging from all this work is the importance of involving local services, organisations and communities in developing local and relevant responses. Key partners in the community response are the North East Kildare Mental Health Sub Group, Kildare Youth Service and Crooked House Theatre Company who expertly guided the young people through the task to hand. CSO census figures show there are more than 17,000 children and young people aged up to 19 years representing 30 per cent of the region's population. These initiatives were undertaken in the context of the 'Reach Out' Strategy, the Irish National Strategy for Action on Suicide prevention 2005-2014,

Des O'Sullivan, manager of Kildare Youth Services said: "This is an excellent way for young people to identify their own issues in a safe way through drama. This is a novel approach to such issues and it is a form of interaction they felt comfortable with. Headspace gives the opportunity for young people to learn from this experience and provide recommendations for the future.

This initiative reflects the focus of the Kildare/ West Wicklow steering group to promote positive mental health but also recognises the level of suicide and self harm that exists within the population. A series of information sessions for parents and local communities on issues such as bullying, dealing with exam stress and internet safety, a Mental Health Promotion & Suicide Prevention Seminar, research project and a multiagency meeting with schools in the region to address areas of concern, are currently underway.

The Headspace Drama programme is underway in three locations in the North East of Kildare – Celbridge, Maynooth and Leixlip. Kildare Youth Services is a member region of Youth Work Ireland and has been supporting children, young people and their families in the county for more than 30 years.

Source:http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/newscentre/Headspace_gives_a_helping_hand_to_young_people.html 21/1/2011

2011—EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING

The European Year of Volunteering 2011 was officially launched by President Mary McAleese on Saturday, February 12th at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin. Go to <http://www.volunteeringireland.ie> for further details.

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We would love to hear from you
suggestions/ articles

NOTICE BOARD

Do you know the members of your Company Board or the National Board? Do you know what the National Strategy is? If not go on line and find out—its all there on the National Web site. Please visit the new look National Brothers of Charity Services Web-site on www.brothersofcharity.ie. Please let me have any suggestions you might wish to make for improvement.

The National Annual Report 2010 is up on the Web site—if you require a hard copy please contact the National Office on 091796623.

Keep your eyes out for further National Guidelines and Policy & Procedures.



Keep up to date on www.brothersofcharity.ie
Each Local Company is developing their own section of the National Web Site within agreed protocols. The National pages will shortly be given a new look -Let us know what you think? (Ed)

Home

*Nearly twenty years ago,
They said that this was now my home,
But for years that was a paradox,
Because at home you're not supposed to feel
alone.*

*The neighbours soon stopped calling
Even my family were absent I fear,
And if my birthday was on Christmas day,
I think I might only see them once a year.
Then some days it does not matter
Because I feel the kindness in her voice,
And when she asks me how I feel
I know she cares and is not just being nice.
She gives me my tea the way I like it,
And she is gentle when she bathes me in my bed
Her loving way makes me feel like living
Not constantly wishing I was dead.
I know is nobody's fault
That I have survived all his time
A convicted killer would be released
If the sentence was as long as mine.
But I am too old for regrets
And I am here until my dying day,
And the only hope I have
Is that kind lady is on today.*

*By Johnny B. Broderick
BoC Galway*



Love & Respect in Every Action