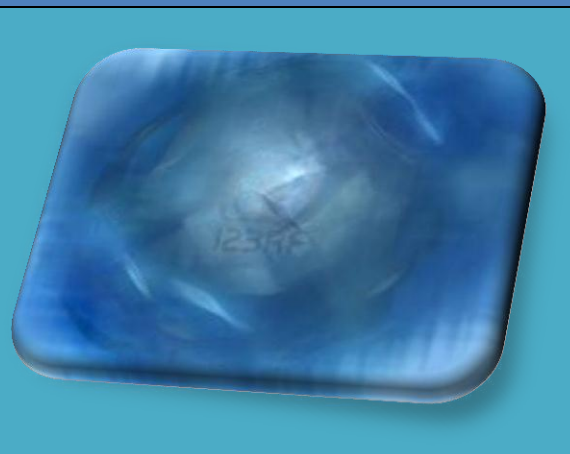




Center For Independent Living

Carmichael House



Autumn Winter Newsletter 2012



www.dublincil.org



Leader Forum update

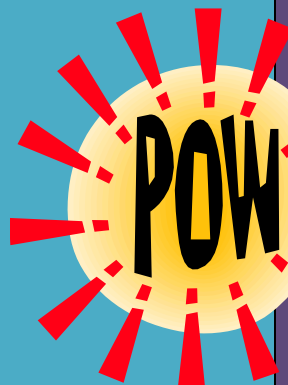
**If YOU
are
interested
in sports,
political
activism
and
lobbying,
the arts,
pampering
days,
awareness
raising or
just tea,
cake, a
chat and
meeting
new
people,
contact
Naoise at
086 77 44 991
to put you
in touch
with your
closest**

It's been a busy time for the Leader Forum groups around the country this past summer. As well as meeting locally, Leader Forum groups have now started to meet regionally to share ideas, experiences and achievements across counties. Members of Leader Fora across the country were invited to meet one another at the Film Fleadh and the Galway Fringe Festival.

This summer has been a great example of that as Leaders got together at the Galway Film Fleadh to celebrate the participation of Galway Leader Forum members featured in two films. Marian Maloney Nolan featured in a film, Love at First Sight. Losing your sight is possibly one of the most difficult things someone could have to deal with in life. For Marian Nolan, it has not stopped her from living a full happy life... with a little help from a new friend. This short film documents a taste of Marian's life and her guide dog Yaz. Marian highlights that she is many things, a woman, a mother, a sister, a friend, a dancer, a business woman, a trainer, an animal lover and her disability is just a part of her identity.

Ciara D'Eath and Eileen Gormley featured in a film 'Welcome to Our World'. They say 'In this country we value history more than we value human rights.', 'It's the able-bodied people that have the disability.' 'I would love to be able to clamp every person never mind their cars, just so they can think for a minute.' The historic city of Galway is reputed to be a fun-loving city for visitors and residents alike. But there is a darker side, encountered daily by wheelchair users. Fast-moving and funny with moments of anger, frustration, pain and courage, welcome to the world of the wheelchair user.

Leader Forum.



Not to be outdone, Rhona Coughlan of the Cork Peer Group showcased a stunning integrated dance performance with her colleagues in a group called Spoken Dance. Audience members were silenced and amazed by the movements and stories told by the group. Inspired by the performance, it is planned that some of the Leader Forum Groups will come together to try out this form of dance themselves in the next year.



See their piece, *Don't Go* at the following youtube link
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF59Vrg5Hus>

In keeping with a summer of the Arts, the Sligo Leader Forum hosted a wonderful Sligo Leader Forum meeting in the Model Sligo. Leaders participated in a guided tour of the Yeats exhibition with fantastic audio description of paintings provided by.....It wouldn't be a trip to Sligo without a taste of something from the Yeats family. Leader Forum members enjoyed a lovely lunch afterwards in the Model where they planned their next set of events. The Sligo Leader Forum are fearless and it looks like next steps may be some Extreme Paint Balling.



Ronnie Conlon's life was celebrated at the launch of Welcome to Our World.

He was involved in setting up Galway Center for Independent Living

Excerpt from the news article about this inspiring man

"Ronnie enjoyed meeting all types of people and loved the freedom of driving around Galway City in his distinctive yellow van, stopping at McCambridge's for a sandwich and coffee, or dropping in at Charlie Byrne's bookshop. Sometimes he'd park his van opposite the Galway Bay Hotel, where he'd stop to read the inscribed Seamus Heaney poem "Girls Bathing, Galway 1965", before going out onto the prom, a spot which had filled him with joy since he was a child."

<http://www.tuamherald.ie/2012/08/29/ronnie-conlon-inish-annagh-park-newcastle-galway-and-formerly-of-tubberjarlath-road-and-ballinderry-tuam/>

SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2012

THE GALWAY LEADER FORUM FASHION SHOW

VENUE: the Menlo Park Hotel Galway
at 7:30pm

Starting with Mulled Wine and Finger
food!

**It is to
CELEBRATE
INTERNATIONAL
DISABILITY DAY.**

**ALL THE MODELS WILL BE
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

**OUR GOAL IS TO TURN
OUR DISABILITIES INTO
AN ABILITY AS WE ARE
HUMANS TOO!**

**"FASHION IS
WHAT YOU'RE OFFERED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.
STYLE IS
WHAT YOU PICK OUT
OF THAT FASHION...
IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE
OF IT ONCE YOU'VE LEARNED
WHAT TO ACCEPT AND IGNORE
BASED ON WHAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU."**





Balloon Launch on Accessibility Day

by Damien O'Reilly Cavan

In March 2012 I started a Community Development Course with the local VEC in Co. Cavan. One of the modules was "Understanding Community Development". The main objective of this module was to plan, undertake and evaluate a specific community development action.

Cavan Co. council in conjunction with Cavan Access Association, were hosting accessibility day during Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2012 to highlight access in Co. Cavan and showcase the many things that had been completed to improve access for people with disabilities.

I was asked by the group what could we do in conjunction with Accessibility Day, to do something positive for people with Disabilities, and create an awareness of a need that existed within the community. As I was the only person within the group with a physical disability, using a personal assistant service, through a Direct Payment system, I explained the isolation that I felt, also the lack of awareness of Independent Living (I.L.) and the great need for peer support and a "Voice". The group felt it would be a great opportunity to promote Independent Living in Co. Cavan.

We all felt it was the perfect day to promote Independent Living in Co. Cavan and create awareness on the philosophy of Independent Living and show the importance of assistants for people with disability to become part of their wider community, and make full use of the council's time, money, and efforts on access issues. After a lot of discussion it was agreed that the most positive thing we could have would be a balloon launch.

Each member of the group was given an individual task to complete. A list of tasks necessary included.

- Design and distribute Invitations.
- Organize and order balloons.
- Design and order t-shirts for each member of the group.
- Source information and design leaflets containing information on Independent Living.
- Liaise with Co. council and the Fleadh committee.

My task was to research information about independent living and get leaflets

printed, this wasn't very difficult for me because I've always lived my life in the I.L philosophy. The leaflets would be handed out on the day of the balloon launch. I approached Centre for Independent Living Carmichael House, regarding sponsorship for the leaflets.

When I discussed this with their communications officer Nina Byrne she felt this was a great idea but she had to bring it to the board for their approval first. As this was the perfect opportunity to promote Independent Living the board of C.I.L were more than happy to sponsor and assist our group in any way possible. The local access group, which I am a member of, in conjunction with the Co. Council, and the local Access Officer, felt that the leaflets should be displayed and distributed from the access information stand so as to promote Independent Living and to discuss the idea of a Centre for Independent Living in Cavan. The access information stand was based in the merchandise and information office on Main St in the town. I along with other group members had the opportunity to volunteer at the stand for a two hour period each day, and could talk to individuals about Independent Living and the necessity for a Centre for Independent Living in Co. Cavan and get their views on the subject. I had the opportunity to educate people on the philosophy of Independent Living and people who knew very little about I.L. had a better understanding on the meaning of Independent Living.

I initially felt that choosing the most effective information that would have the most impact would be difficult, because the leaflets were a key part of the launch and only a limited amount of information will fit on a leaflet, but little did I know that was the easy part. The difficult part was negotiating with sponsors regarding their logos and deciding on layout and design of the leaflets. One of the groups that sponsored the event could not decide on what logo's they wanted on the leaflets. This held up the production of leaflets and wasted a lot of time for Nina and I.

Accessibility Day was Tuesday the 14 of August. The day's events were focused on disability awareness, inclusion and accessibility. The day was officially launched by TD's Brendan Smith and Joe O'Reilly. Johnston Library was the venue for most of the day's events while the Balloon Launch was held outside the local court house, which is adjacent to the library.

The launch was scheduled to begin at 3.45pm, the audience included TD's Brendan Smith and Joe O'Reilly the V.E.C. as well as members of the public, council officials and access officer. I opened our event with a speech, which focused on what people with disability can do as opposed to what we can't do. I used the famous slogan "Is Feider Linn" "Yes We Can". This received a tremendous response from the crowd. I also acknowledged the sponsors including the V.E.C the council and the Centre for Independent Living. When I

finished addressing the crowd the balloons were launched. Speaking to people with disabilities afterwards I received a great reaction from the balloon launch. People commented on “how good it was to hear and see something so positive regarding disability”. It definitely created awareness and highlighted the need for a Centre for Independent Living in Co. Cavan.

The CIL Network

The ability to listen to our members and rapidly change to meet their needs has become the primary focus of our work throughout this year. The CIL Network is the channel through which we directly interact with our CIL members and understand the immediate needs of our Leaders. Following on from the decision to improve Network communication through regionalising CILs contact with the Network the third round of quarterly Regional Network Meetings have now taken place. By listening to the individual CIL managers at the Network table we aim to become more fluid in our approach to local CIL needs and maximise the efficiencies of providing centralised Network support. Feedback from these meetings has helped us to prioritise action items under our Operational Plan to specifically meet regional CIL requirements and will guide our Strategic Review 2013.

Susan O'Brien

Annual National CIL Network meeting in December. Contact : susanobrien@dublincil.org



Language and the Independent Living Movement

This year marks the twentieth year in the Independent Living movement in Ireland. The introduction of Independent Living to Ireland brought with it a sea change in the way society thought about disability. This sea change was called the social model of disability, and represented a new, rights based approach to thinking about disability. The implementation of the social model moved the responsibility for the creation of barriers against the integration of people with disabilities fully into society, from individuals with a disability, to wider society. For example, if a wheel chair user cannot enter a building because of steps, it is not the wheelchair users fault; it is the person who designed the building.

The aims of the social model are to integrate a positive, non-medical way of conceptualising

disability, and people with disabilities. This requires a change in thinking that can be more nuanced than first thought. One such aspect that requires some attention is the use of language when referring to people with disabilities. The Independent Living movement advocates no right or wrong approach to language, but rather a considered approach. We recognise that there are many terms still in use that are negative or medical in nature, and we promote a 'person centred' approach. For example, instead of disabled person, we would use, person with a disability, and instead of an epileptic, we would use, a person with epilepsy. The aim is to put the person first, and create a more positive frame of mind. Also, instead of wheelchair bound, we use wheelchair user. This implies a level of choice and independence and in general is accepted as being more popular.

There has also been a move away from using medical terms such as 'retarded, handicapped and spastic'. These are no longer in widespread use and represent a way of thinking that is medical in nature and focuses on the negative.

There are also some phrases that people can be unsure of, the use of the phrase do you see what I mean to a person who is blind or has a vision impairment, has resulted in red faces for even the author of this article, however open communication around the use of terms resolves even the most embarrassing of situations.

The debate of language is often contested by people who argue that it is over politically correct to advise on the use of language, but the change that has occurred since the arrival of the IL have not filtered down to influence changes in language that infer rights as opposed to illness. Again, we stress, there is no right or wrong, only the guidelines to put the person first, use positive terms and non-medical terms. We aim to increase communication and lift the lid on any grey areas that may remain from the medical model. Overall, our message is of positivity, ability and independence and we therefore promote language that functions to convey this.

janeclare@dublincil.org

The UK High Court case brought by Tony Nicklinson (Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice) earlier this year raises some very deep

questions. Mr. Nicklinson wished to commit suicide but could not do so unaided. He sought a declaration that it would not be unlawful to have someone assist him in committing suicide.

Mr. Nicklinson acquired a disability in 2007 when, following a stroke, his mobility became severely restricted. Addressing the High Court last June he said:

"My life can be summed up as dull, miserable, demeaning, undignified and intolerable"

He offered this an example of the indignity experienced:

"having to wait until 10.30 to go to the toilet...in extreme circumstances I have gone in the chair, and have sat there until

the carers arrived at the normal time.”

Reading the case it seems that his wife provided care for him in addition to NHS carers who prepared him in the morning and then came back later in the day to get him ready for bed. He said he spent most of the time either preparing his case or sitting in front of the T.V. It would appear that he did not have a personal assistance service but rather had carers and that the hours provided were not adequate in that he was also dependent upon his wife.

In short he was not independent, yet the examples given by him of the indignities such as that above could have been overcome by the provision of a personal assistance service. Perhaps if he had a personal assistance service with adequate hours to allow him live independently he may have had a different attitude. Yet the debate was not around the type and amount of assistance rather it was about letting him put himself out of his ‘misery and suffering’. The media viewed this as a very unjust case where the system should have let him end his own life..

In his judgement Mr. Justice Royce said “No one could fail to be deeply moved by the terrible predicament faced by these men struck down in their prime and facing a future bereft of hope. Each case gives rise to most profound ethical, moral, religious and social issues. Some will say the Judges must step in to change the law. Some may be sorely tempted to do so”.

It certainly seems as if the disability has been seen before the person. Would the attitude have been different had someone who did not have a disability wanted to commit suicide but was too squeamish to kill themselves and instead wanted another to pull the trigger or administer the lethal injection?

Gary Lee

4th International Disability Summer School



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY By Paul Fagan

I had the privilege to attend this year's 4th International Disability Summer School on the 18th June 2012. It was held over a five days in the Centre for Disability Law & Policy at NUI Galway. The summer school was on 'The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and attracted

participants from all over the world. People attended from various parts of Africa, Asia, North America and various parts of Europe. This made my journey from Inishowen quite insignificant? Some of the key areas included in the week long programme included an insight into the convention, how the treaty maybe interpreted, .the issue of equality; certain core rights such as the right to legal capacity, the right to independent living, and the right to political participation. It dealt with multiple discrimination on grounds, e.g., of disability, gender, age, children. It also focused on the convention protecting people with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse. Another interesting area we looked at was the practical institutional changes required to give effect to the convention at a national level. As you can tell it was not a week to rest and put my feet up. The lecturers included leading human rights lawyers and accademics from all corners of the globe. One lecturer I would like to mention is Professor Theresia Degener who is a member of the German delegation in the negotiations and member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. I remember reading one of Theresia books almost twenty years ago. I found her lectures quite challenging and inspirational.

When I enrolled I initially I thought it would be like a busman's holiday. A chance to meet other like-minded people, socialise and watch the European Football competition. Little did I realise how intensive and challenging the programme would be. As mentioned the speakers were all leading experts in their field and all the attendees were equally qualified and led to stimulating discussions and debates. I was very fortunate to be accompanied by Gary Lee and we were able to discuss and share issues together.

The purpose of the convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Although Ireland is signatories to the convention they have not ratified it. This mean the government agree with the principles of the convention but so far they have decided not to incorporate it into Irish legislation.

During the week we looked at the numerous articles within the convention. These article covered lots of important areas including, women with disabilities, children with disabilities, accessibility, freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information to highlight a few.

The article I was particularly interested in was; Article 19 which covered living independently and being included in the community. Article 19 recognize the equal right of all people with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate their full and their full inclusion and participation in the community.

If the convention is ratified or should I say 'when' the convention is ratified by the Irish government it would provide people with disabilities with a legal tool to address some of the inequalities which exist within our society.

I really enjoyed the week away and the icing on the cake was Gary being recognised as the top advocate of the summer school. As an ex student of mine I was not surprised. I always knew he had talent. If you're looking for that extra challenge and am willing to think outside the box than I can strongly recommend the summer school and I hope to see you next year.

For more information on the convention please look at:

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>



"Nothing about us without us."



Black Thursday and how it lead to a National protest



Black Thursday - The Cuts announcement August 30th 2012

A big THANKYOU to all those who lent their much needed support to the Protest.

YOU made it happen. YOU made it a success.

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 31st August 2012

"The Minister for Health will make us prisoners in our own homes."

This press release is in response to the HSE announcement of 30th August that €10 million is to be wiped from the Personal Assistance Service budget.

The Center for Independent Living (CIL), a nationwide organisation run by people with disabilities

and which introduced Personal Assistance Services to Ireland 20 years ago, is horrified by the HSE announcement yesterday that it is to cut 10 million euro from the budget for personal assistance services which equates to over 430,000 hours of personal assistance.

According to Michael McCabe Chairperson of CIL, who is himself a personal assistant service user, these cuts make "no moral or economic sense. It will increase pressure on frontline services while simultaneously depriving many of basic human rights. If Minister Reilly stands over this he will be making us prisoners in our own homes. The Irish disability community will not roll over and let this happen."

ENDS:

From:Nina

Sent: 04 September 2012 12:54 To All CILs

Subject: News from the front

News from the front,

The protest has started – all the phone calls I have gotten so far have people singing in the background "we shall overcome"

There is an unbelievable turnout – all the media is there – it will be on the news.

The protesters are going to stay there all night and tomorrow we are all meeting up outside the Dail at 2pm.

This is huge, bigger than anyone could of forecasted and we are all in it together.

Please come up and support the fight tomorrow – bring your banners fly the flag !

Nina

From:Nina

Sent: 04 September 2012 17:43 To All CILs

Subject: News from the front part 2

News from the front :

We made Sandwiches for 40 people, got bottles of water in Tesco's and went down to the campaign – to show our support, I was given the "honk your horn to show your support" sign to hold – and I did –

I figure if the politicians are hiding in the building and won't come out - the honking horns would annoy them !

There is a fantastic atmosphere – weather here in Dublin is amazing (kids must be back in school ha ha) Great day for a protest.

Everyone was full of energy and really fighting the good fight – I had the feeling that anything is possible.

They will and are on the news – so come tomorrow and be part of this once in a lifetime event.

From:Nina

Sent: 04 September 2012 22:45

Subject:

Dear All,

Tomorrow's gathering at 2pm outside the Dail is still on!!

Whilst huge progress has been made the Government still has not ring fenced PAS. Please see our attached press release.

See you all tomorrow.

Press Notice

4th September 2012

Protest Against Proposed Disability Cuts To Continue
Center for Independent Living, Carmichael House

The Center for Independent Living (CIL) welcomes the news that changes to funding of Personal Assistance Services (PAS) will now not take place; however, it is also concerned about the new changes that are planned.

CIL's main concern lies with the ring fencing of the PAS budget within the wider disability services budget. It is essential that this funding remains intact, and is used solely for the purposes of PAS. There is much uncertainty remaining about potential cuts, and the ring fencing of PAS budgets is essential to ensure that services remain intact.

CIL is concerned about the maintenance of PAS levels and assurances must be given that services are maintained at their current level and that no service user will have a decrease in hours as a result of cuts to the HSE. While this evening's Press Release from the Department of Health states that they will continue to 'provide services to people in receipt of personal assistant services in accordance with their needs.' CIL CMH do not feel that this represents enough of a guarantee, and we await a statement from the HSE confirming that no PAS hours will be cut.

CIL Chairperson Michael McCabe commented: 'It is essential that all PAS hours are maintained, and while this represents a success for the campaign, it will continue until we are satisfied that the threat to independent living has been removed.'

The gathering scheduled at 2pm on the 5th of September at Government Buildings will go ahead as originally planned until these concerns are assuaged by the HSE.

Executive Director Gary Lee also stated, 'the promise given by the Department of Health to row back on intended budget cuts must be acted upon by the HSE, and clarity around the security of the PAS budget is needed to relieve the concerns of people with disabilities who at the moment face an uncertain future.'

ENDS

Press Notice

5th September 2012

DISABILITY PROTEST TO MOVE TO THE DAIL AT 2pm TODAY

The Center for Independent Living (CIL) Chairman, Michael McCabe has said "until we have it in writing that the budget for Personal Assistance Services (PAS) is not going to be reduced and will be ring fenced we will continue our campaign".

Mr. McCabe went on to say that “our main concern lies with the ring fencing of the PAS budget within the wider disability services budget. It is essential that this funding remains intact, and is used solely for the purposes of PAS. There is much uncertainty remaining about potential cuts, and the ring fencing of PAS budgets is essential to ensure that services remain intact.”

CIL is also concerned about the maintenance of PAS levels and assurances must be given that services are maintained at their current level and that no service user will have a decrease in hours as a result of cuts to the HSE. While yesterday evening’s Press Release from the Department of Health states that they will continue to ‘provide services to people in receipt of personal assistant services in accordance with their needs.’ CIL does not feel that this represents enough of a guarantee, and we await a statement from the HSE confirming that no PAS hours will be cut.

CIL Chairperson Michael McCabe further commented: ‘It is essential that all PAS hours are maintained, and while this represents a success for the campaign, it will continue until we are satisfied that the threat to independent living has been removed.’

WE will proceed to the Dail as scheduled at 2pm today the 5th of September at Government Buildings until these concerns are met.

Executive Director Gary Lee also stated, ‘the promise given by the Department of Health to row back on intended budget cuts must be acted upon by the HSE, and clarity around the security of the PAS budget is needed to relieve the concerns of people with disabilities who at the moment face an uncertain future.’

ENDS

Press Notice

5th September 2012

Center for Independent Living, Carmichael House

The Center for Independent Living Carmichael House, (CIL CMH) welcomes the new commitments by the HSE with regard to the funding of Personal Assistance Services and that planned cuts to PAS will now not take place; however, it is also concerned about the new changes that are planned. We also welcome the inclusion of people with disabilities into the planning process.

Our main concern lies with the lack of ring fencing of the PAS budget within the wider disability services budget. It is essential that this funding remains intact, and used solely for the purposes of PAS. We demand that a commitment to maintain this budget only for PAS and that it will not be touched.

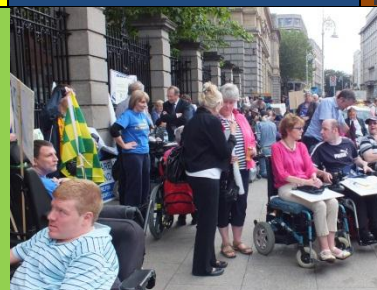
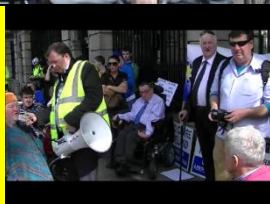
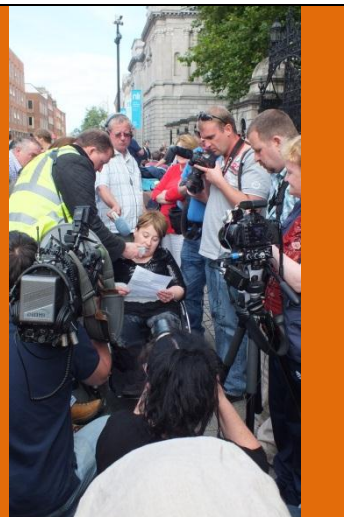
CIL CMH are also concerned about the lack of commitment to sustain PAS and about the lack of detail supplied within the letter. We are gravely concerned that whilst PAS cuts may be off the agenda for the moment, they may resurface later in the year.

CIL CMH are concerned about the maintenance of PAS levels and would like to ensure that services are maintained at their current level and that no service user will have a decrease in hours as a result of cuts to the HSE. While the Department of Health have assured us that they will continue to, ‘provide services to people in receipt of personal assistant services in accordance with their needs.’ CIL CMH do not feel that this represents enough of a guarantee, and we await a statement from the HSE that ensures no PAS hours will be cut.

Chairperson Michael McCabe states: ‘It is essential that all PAS hours are maintained, and while this represents a success for the campaign, it will continue until we are satisfied that the threat to independent living has been removed.’

Executive Director Gary Lee also stated, ‘the promise given by the Department of Health to row back on intended budget cuts must be acted upon by the HSE, and clarity around the security of the PAS budget is needed to relieve the concerns of people with disabilities who at the moment face an uncertain future.’

A group of people are gathered outside a building. In the foreground, a man in a wheelchair holds a white sign that reads "PERSONAL ASSISTANCE = HUMAN RIGHT" with a small circular logo below the text. To his left, a person in a high-visibility yellow vest is partially visible. Behind him, a woman in a blue blazer and black skirt stands. To the right, a woman in a green top and blue jeans stands with her arms crossed. In the background, another woman is seated in a wheelchair. A flag with horizontal stripes of blue, white, and red is visible on the left.





Children's Laughter

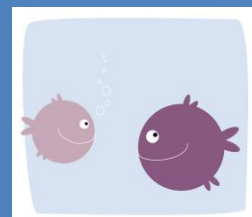
I hear the distant sound of laughter
It sounds so infectious and sweet
The sound of children so innocent
Running and jumping in the street

I wonder what their laughing at
Then again, on second thoughts
Maybe I don't want to know
But my attention it has caught

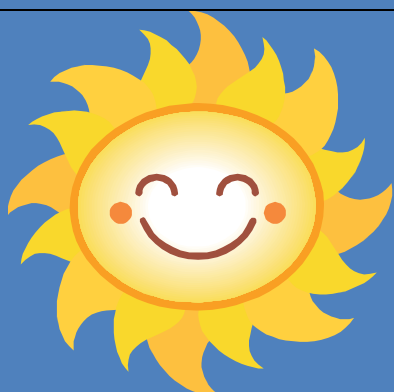
It doesn't matter why they laugh
At least they're having fun
It's so important to smile and laugh
For each and everyone

So here's a little advice for you
Stand up and join the kids
Laughing will make you all feel good
And you'll be glad you did

Eileen Gormley



**A picture
paints a
thousand
words**



Coffee Morning at Sligo CIL

We are delighted to announce that Sligo CIL have recently secured Charity Status. This will enable us to organise all kinds of fundraising events and help us, for example, supplement existing funds.

We have already held our first event, which was a Coffee Morning on the 20th July 2012. We are happy to say it was an overall success. On the 20th July, our versatile office staff morphed into lovely elegant coffee servers!! The table was set up outside the office (luckily the rain stayed away!) with balloons, flowers, and good music. Of course, a coffee morning wouldn't be a coffee morning without an array of cakes and goodies on hand. We were so lucky to have many cakes donated from local cafés and restaurants. We would like to express our gratitude to our generous donors: O'Hehirs, Sligo Source, Café de Paris, Costa, Gourmet Parlour, Kate's Kitchen, and Koko Late. We also received homemade cakes from generous Service Users and staff members, and also from lovely people who donated cakes out



of the goodness of their hearts. The table was covered with delicious cakes, coffee, tea and even hot chocolate which was a hit with the little ones. We've started in the morning and our cute Sligo CIL café stayed open till the last piece was demolished. The weather was great; sun was shining so the ice tea was perfect for the hot day. The Board Directors: Christy Gallagher, Tom Cunningham and Arthur Gibbons came to support the event and they also enjoyed few sweet bites.

We would like to express our gratitude to the local radio station Ocean Fm for promoting Sligo CIL's Coffee Morning and a massive thank you to everyone who attended and made a 'Sweet Donation' at the day. The day was brilliant; everyone had had a great time and what's important we also raised much needed funds. On behalf of all at Sligo CIL I would like to thank again everyone who contributed in any way to help us make this day even more special. We are hoping to see you all next year as everyone is welcome.
Alicja Zastawna

Independent Life Skills Program

December 2011, BCIL was awarded a grant by GENIO to carry out an Independent life skills project for one year; Two Support Workers were employed to work with the 11 individuals who were identified as either living in the family home or congregated settings.

The Support Workers, work one to one with each participants in their own home or family home. The model of support is person centered, and the focus is on practical training and mentoring in real life situations. The participants are assisted with Personal Hygiene, Household Duties, Health and Safety, Budgeting, Banking, Shopping, Travel Assistance and Housing Applications etc. There was some Social outings as well during the program which included an evening Bowling and a trip to Bray, it was a fun way of meeting others on the program.

Four participants took part in this years Job Shadow Initiative and were allocated a Day's work placement in The Central Statistics Office, Department of Education, Hope Autism care center and one person shadowed Sean Gallagher, who is the Patron of the IASE.

Over the last ten months three clients have moved into their own home. The project also supported clients in linking in with services in the Community, we also assisted clients in returning to Adult Education, Volunteering with different organisations, securing work experience, taking part in healthy eating cookery classes and typing classes. As we approach the last two months of the project we now have 19 participants taking part and we are still receiving ongoing referrals.

Blanchardstown Center for Independent Living are actively seeking funding to continue this project.



GLITZ AND GLAM FASHION SHOW

to promote ability

Menlo Park Hotel
December 3rd 7pm 2012
International Day of Disabilities

Tickets €20
can be purchased in
advance at the hotel
or on the door
contact 0879288651

KISS
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SUGAR PINK
BEVERLY HILLS
CHANGE
NESTORS
JUDY GREENE
MARTIN FEENEY'S
DESIGN HOUSE
TUAM OUTLET
ANDREA TIGHE
MILLINER
CRAFT STANDS



Contributions for the Spring newsletter are very welcome: ninabyrne@dublincil.org For the most up to date news and events please check : <http://www.dublincil.org/latest-news-events.asp>



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