



PwDI Say ..”Cut out the Cuts”

The AGM of People with Disabilities in Ireland (PWDI) was held in Galway on the 23rd and 24th September. One of the most expressed concerns of delegates attending was that the Government must avoid making any further budget cuts to the budget for people with disabilities. CEO Morgan Mc Knight in his address to the assembly of delegates from around the country pointed out.... *‘The key priorities for Government in relation to the disability sector should be to allow all people with disabilities live with as much comfort and dignity as possible. In many cases this will require additional resources and in some cases it will require more efficient use and monitoring of existing resources. Mr. McKnight went on to say “I recognise in these tough economic times there needs to be a more co-ordinated approach to spending in the area of disability. This is necessary to ensure the taxpayer gets value for money but people with disabilities must also be given the opportunity to achieve the quality of life they deserve. The Chief Executive of the biggest disability organisation representing disabled people as service users concluded “ Budgetary measures should not burden people with disabilities as they are least able to bear it.’*

The delegates also gave a warm welcome to PWDI member and guest speaker Senator Martin Conway from Clare, who in his address as an Oireachtas member and a person with disability declared *“It is my view that the resources being put into disability should be committed on the basis of individual or personal budgets. He added “There are over 600 organisations in Ireland receiving almost €1.2 billion in government funding to support people with disabilities. 220 of these organisations are service providers and the balance are involved in advocacy. I am hoping that the value for money audit which is nearing conclusion will identify how amalgamations and efficiencies can be achieved and will protect front line services into the future”*



In his address the PWDI National Chairperson James McClean said: *“ Disabled people are entitled to have a greater say in matters affecting their lives and they believe passionately in the mantra “Nothing about us without us” . Mr McLean went on to say “great progress has been achieved in recent years and I hope that any proposed changes to improving the inclusion of people with disabilities will include a robust consultation with people with disabilities. I would also urge the Irish Government to complete the full ratification on the rights of people with disabilities in the United Nations Convention ” he concluded.*

(Pictured left to right James McLean, Chair PwDI, Senator Martin Conway, Morgan McKnight CEO People with Disabilities in Ireland)

Editorial Comment : Previous Ministers for Disability Mary Wallace and John Moloney spoke of the need to make greater efficiencies in delivering services to people with disabilities. While much talking was done about improving modes of service delivery, very little happened over the years in terms of noticeable change. It is now becoming increasingly apparent that changes are indeed about to take place very soon. This deduction is based on the comprehensive review recently undertaken of the entire disability sector. We hope the Value for Money Report now nearing completion achieves the required outcomes, but it must also essentially improve services for people with disabilities in its execution. The aspiration to correct the imbalance of spending to ensure people with disabilities are the main beneficiaries is laudable. We wish the Minister and her Department well in their task and hope any changes precipitate the desired outcomes.

Best Will in the World Week



Will you make a Will ?

An exciting new initiative called “Best Will in the World” will take place from Monday 17th to Friday 21st October 2011. During this week members of the general public are asked to consider leaving a lasting legacy to Barnardos in their will which will make a huge difference to the children Barnardos works with all over Ireland. Through the Best Will in the World Week, you can get professional, impartial advice on your will for just €50, while also helping a charity that does great work with children. Leaving a will is a simple, experience and anyone can do it. For more information and to see a list of participating solicitors, please see www.mylegacy.ie

New Disability Radio Programme

"Disability Access News" will be on the air twice weekly On Life FM. The programme is focusing on disabilities, providing listeners with information, awareness, education, and other relevant events. If you have anything you would like to contribute for these programmes you can email the presenter Eric Isherwood at ericisherwood@lifefm.ie From November onwards he will do a monthly half hour slot on all Disabilities. Disability groups, Charities, people who care for people with disabilities and people with disabilities themselves have the opportunity to get their message across on Disability Access News. Tune in to Life 93.1 FM, Cork see also www.lifefm.ie



Cork Patient Support Group meeting for IRSS

The next meeting of the patient support group for Raynaud's and scleroderma will take place in the SMA Centre, Wilton, (opposite the Cork University Hospital) on Tuesday 25th October, at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome and there is no charge for the tea, coffee and “biccys” For more details please contact Michele at 086 - 3424106; or the Irish Raynaud's & Scleroderma Society (IRSS) Patient Support Network Tel: (lo call) 0818 353 999, email info@irishraynauds.com. You can also contact Mary McDaid E-mail : Mary@irishraynauds.com or see Website www.Irishraynauds.com



Newsflash

PwDI Members Meet Queen of England



Two members of the Cork Network of PwDI were guests of the Lord Mayor of Cork when he welcomed Queen Elizabeth and her husband Philip the Duke of Edinburgh to Cork City. Anthony Murphy is pictured above with the Queen of England and Lord Mayor Michael O'Connell. On the right Anthony's wife Irene is pictured in her wheelchair in front of Disability Minister Kathleen Lynch watching Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip opening a commemorative plaque in the English Market. Anthony said the Queen told him she was partial to a feed of bodice and he promised to send her the recipe for drisheen.

Working with serious mental health issues. A Therapists guide.

This workshop will take place in Bru Columbanus Cardinal way, Wilton, Cork, on Wednesday October 19th from 10.30am - 3.30pm. To secure a place please contact Damien Lillis 0860401657 for further information. Damien Lillis has worked with SHINE for Seven years as a Counsellor/therapist, working with diagnoses such as Schizophrenia, Bi-polar and serious depression. SHINE counselling service also works with family members or individuals impacted by mental ill health. As numbers to the workshop are limited you are asked to book a place before October 14th.



Cork City Council get a "thumbs up"

Michelle Murphy from Rehab Care in Cork contacted the "Cork Shout" to highlight something which has made life a little easier for some of their service users. She said that In the midst of the recession and cuts to services they wanted to pay tribute to Cork City Council for assisting them with a problem. Service users of Rehab Care on Bachelors Quay that were using wheelchairs were having a problem negotiating footpaths in the immediate area. Michelle phoned the roads department in Cork City Council and explained the predicament for wheelchair users. Michelle was surprised to be contacted within a fortnight regarding her request. The footpath outside Rehab Care premises was "dished" immediately to facilitate wheelchair access. Michelle asked us to so a big thank you to Pascal Clancy and his crew from Cork City Council who have made life a whole lot easier for William O'Donovan and Brian Brosnan pictured above outside Rehabcare offices on Bachelors Quay. Take a bow Cork City Council it seems.

Employer Awareness Initiative launched in Cork

FAS recently launched its Employer Awareness Initiative at the Silversprings Hotel, Cork, in order to raise the profile of Supported Employment within the local Business Community. This inaugural event - organised by Employability Service Cork and sponsored by McCarthy Insurance Group - set out the range of financial supports and services available to employers. The event also provided a forum for exploring best practice in the inclusion of people with diverse needs in the workplace. The event was attended by approximately 150 people from across the business sector as well as a number of support organizations. Clare Power of FAS outlined the extensive supports that have been put in place in order to facilitate companies employing people with a disability. Donal Kerr, the Regional Director of FAS spoke about how the national Supported Employment Programme provided excellent value for money. Rose Leahy, coordinator of Employability Service Cork, exploded a number of myths surrounding the idea of employing a person with disability. While Keynote speaker for the evening Kathleen Lynch, Minister of State for Disability, Equality & Mental Health argued that an inclusive labour market was key to Ireland's economic recovery. She went on to pay tribute to the efforts of all those who are working so hard to achieve the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. The Cork Network of People with Disabilities in Ireland (PwDI) were also in attendance and had a staff member present distributing membership application forms from one of the many stands that were there on the evening. (Pictured above left to right Tim Meagher Coordinator Local Employment Services, Minister Kathleen Lynch and Ben McCauliffe, Employability, Cork)





Using Medication in Mental Health Care

A Two-Day Conference is being organised by the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery, the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork and the Critical Voices Network Ireland. It will take place on Wednesday 16 November and Thursday 17 November in the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, University College Cork. The conference will address (1) the use of medication as the dominant response to distress in mental health care, (2) medication withdrawal concerns, strategies and solutions (3) creative and enabling non-medicated ways of working.

This is a free two-day conference which will provide people from diverse backgrounds (self-experience, survivors, professionals, academics, carers) an opportunity to discuss and debate critical and creative perspectives on and beyond the dominant bio-medical approach. Register by emailing h.gijbels@ucc.ie Please make sure you give your name, and indicate the day you wish to attend (either Wednesday 16 November, Thursday 17 November, or both days).

The Autism Jigsaw



This seminar will bring parents, teachers, carers, professionals, service providers and autism organisations together under one roof for the Autism Jigsaw. The Shine Centre recognises the need to bring people living, working and studying in the area of autism together to gather new information, exchange ideas and enhance their knowledge and expertise of the ASD condition. The objective is to create better outcomes for children and adults living with autism. The Quinn-healthcare sponsored Autism Jigsaw will present an opportunity to put these pieces together and make a real difference in the lives of children and adults with autism.

The seminar element of the event will involve a presentation and question & answer session with each of the speakers. The Seminar will run from 9.45 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the Exhibitor / Information Area remaining open until 5.30 p.m. The format & content will be the same each and the speakers will be making the same presentation on both the 18th and 19th of October. For this reason the organisers do not recommend that a person attends the event on both days. For tickets to attend this Conference contact Shine, The Autism Charity on 021 – 4377062 or mobile 087 – 1192623.



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