

Enable Ireland

Enable Ireland North East Service Newsletter Summer 2008



Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of our Regional newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are halfway through another year.

One of the highlights for us in the first quarter was being a National finalist in the HSE Achievements Awards 2008 in the category "Better Place to Work". We will continue to maintain our profile as a better place to work.

We have embraced and worked with the Disability legislation for children under

five years of age, and are continuing to work with our colleagues in HSE in this regard.

Having expanded our early services across Meath in 2007, we have now well established teams at four locations in the county and are acquiring appropriate accommodation to work from.

Throughout the first half of this year some of our staff have been working with colleagues across the country in developing a new national strategy for the organisation.

We have been actively working on many improvements and initiatives to the service based on the

feedback received from our external assessment in 2007.

We welcome the links we have established with Orlagh Murray who is a member of the Board of Directors representing parents in the North east area.

I look forward to continuing to work with colleagues and all stakeholders throughout the remainder of 2008.

Mary Fox
Director of Services

AIB BETTER IRELAND PROGRAMME

Enable Ireland North East submitted an application under the 'AIB Better Ireland Programme' to purchase sensory integration equipment for the Sensory room in the new Meath Early Services Building in Navan.

We were successful in being short listed as one of three finalists in the Navan area.

Although we were not successful at this time monies from the text votes will be forwarded to us by AIB.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who texted in their vote for us and congratulate the winner in our area - Meath Response Project—and wish them every success with their Project.



HSE NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

BETTER PLACE TO WORK

Enable Ireland North East were one of four national finalists under the category "Better Place to Work" in the HSE Achievement Awards 2008. Early this year we won the regional final for Dublin and the North East.

We were delighted to be a national finalist and to be recognised for some of the initiatives which are in place in the North East. These include:

- Team Based Structure for Service Delivery.
- Personal Development Planning (PDP).
- Team Development Planning (TDP).
- Quality improvement teams across the service.
- Training & Development opportunity aligned to PDP & TDP.
- Staff innovation awards (Annual).

- Regional staff days to share information and good practice (Bi Annual).
- Annual staff survey.
- Feeling valued initiative since 2004.
- Implementation of work positive initiative since 2005.



We congratulate the national winner, UCG Hospital Galway HR Dept.

WHAT OUR STAFF SAID

COMMUNICATION

"We work well as a team because we all have clearly defined roles, and there are strong lines of communication between management and staff; its clear who we

can approach if we have a problem or query".



**Aravind Sudhaharan,
Cavan/
Monaghan
Service**

QUALITY

"There is a culture of continuous Quality Improvement and we are all encouraged to review and improve what we do and learn from our mistakes"



**Marie Vaughan,
Meath Adults**

HEALTH & SAFETY INITIATIVE

"We have very robust Health & Safety and Risk assessment procedures, and with the introduction of "Work positive" this has helped to further improve staff safety and well being"



**Amanda Kelly,
Meath
Service**

ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP

Enable Ireland Meath Adult Service partnered with Midway, Jobmatters and Navan Citizen's Information Centre in order to secure funding for an Independent Advocacy Officer to work with people with disabilities in Co. Meath. The Citizen's Information Board provide the funding and support for the project and Midway with the largest service user group, is the lead agency.

Funding was secured to employ the Advocacy Officer for a three year period. Recruitment took place in February and we would like to welcome

Ann Saurin who has accepted the position of Advocacy Officer.

A steering group is in place made up of representatives from the three respective services and a service user from both Midway and Enable Ireland. There is also representation from Schizophrenia Ireland, Brainwave and the Peter Bradley Foundation.

The committee meet every second month, and we will keep you updated as the service develops.

Recent Events

Play and Imagination

In June Enable Ireland North East hosted a two day clinical training seminar on Play and Imagination on the Autism Spectrum.

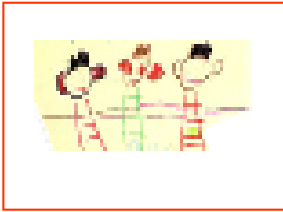
The Seminar was organised by Early Services Meath, and was held in Trim. It was attended by fifty-six people from various backgrounds including therapists, child and family support workers, parents, teachers, and special needs assistants.

The Seminar was presented by Dr. Pamela Wolfberg, of San Francisco State University. Dr. Wolfberg is Associated Professor of Special Education and



Director of the Autism Spectrum Graduate Programme (Project Mosaic) at San Francisco State University. While teaching children with autism in the San Francisco public schools, she originated the Integrated Play Groups model which formed the basis of our two day training.

The Seminar addressed the unique and complex challenges that children on the autism spectrum encounter in peer relations and play. Participants on the course were given the opportunity to learn how to access, design and implement play environments.



Participants became familiar with the principles and practices comprising the Integrated Play Groups model which is designed to support children on the autism spectrum in mutually enjoyed play experiences with typical peers/siblings within home, school, community and therapy settings. Verbal feedback from the seminar has been extremely positive.

Assessment of Need

It is now one year on from the implementation of Part two of the Disability Act. Enable Ireland North East have been working in partnership with HSE to ensure we are compliant with the legislation.

Due to the volume of requests and the adoption of the Assessment of Need as a single point of entry to the services, this has had a huge impact on services in the area.

To date Enable Ireland have received 136 requests for assessments in Meath, and 85 requests in Cavan /Monaghan. We struggled to meet the statutory timeframes initially in Meath and have now put plans in place to deal with this.

We are continuing to work with the HSE and families who access our services to ensure the ongoing improvement of our ways of working in line with the legislation while ensuring that we continue to deliver quality services.

Parent Representative to the Enable Ireland Board of Directors

My association with Enable Ireland began late in 2004 when my son was referred for Early Services in the North East which at the time was based in Trim. In 2007 I was asked to allow my name go forward to represent parents from the North East on the Board of Enable Ireland. I was accepted as a member of the Board of Directors and attended my first meeting in September 2007. It is a time of great change in the North East with new Early Services in Navan and Dunshaughlin, the expansion of the existing early services in in Cavan/Monaghan and in adult services throughout the region.

Although daunting at first it has proved a most enjoyable and enlightening year. It has taken a little time to familiarise myself with the working of the board but as I start into my second year I hope to represent the service users of the North East to the best of my ability at this time of change in the North East.

Orlagh Murray

Strategic Plan 2009 –2011

What is the Strategic Plan 2009 –2011?

The Enable Ireland National Strategic Plan 2009-2011 is a follow on from previous Strategic Plan of 2006–2008 and is a continuation of Enable Ireland's vision for the future.

In preparation for this a questionnaire has been sent to all staff and service users seeking their

views. Some staff from the North East are on the national sub-groups who are currently drafting the Strategic Plan.

A plan is in place to hold focus groups with representatives from staff and service users in the Autumn.

Meath Early Services - Move

We have moved!

North Meath Early Services have moved from their previous location in Canon Row to Mullaghboy Industrial Estate. This will provide a much needed base for services. We wish you all the best of luck in your new home.

The new address is Unit 13, Mullaghboy Industrial Estate, Navan, Co.Meath.



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Enable Ireland North East Service

Summer 2008

Your Comments

If you have any comments or suggestions/contributions to our newsletter please contact either your local service or the North East office directly.

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