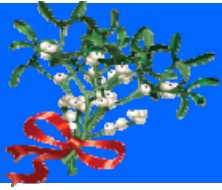


Enable Ireland



Enable Ireland North East Service Newsletter Winter 2008



As we draw another year to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders for your ongoing support throughout 2008.

It is a time to reflect on the many achievements throughout the year and acknowledge the excellent work that has taken place across the region. It is also a time to plan and consider how we will meet the challenges ahead in 2009.

I look forward to working with all of you again in 2009 to overcome these challenges in continuing to deliver quality services to all those who avail of services from Enable Ireland.

A very Happy Christmas and Wonderful New to all.

Mary Fox

Director of Services

Season's Greetings
From all at Enable Ireland



**International Day of
Person's with
Disabilities**



Getting your feedback

Enable Ireland North East are introducing a new system to gather feedback from parents and carers. This system is called MPOC.

This feedback will help us to measure the experiences of parents who have a child with a disability, in particular your perceptions of the service you have been receiving over the past year from Enable Ireland.

This information will be analysed externally and will be issued on an annual basis. It will replace our previous system whereby feedback may have been sought a few times per year for different purposes.

The feedback from this questionnaire will help us to improve our services .

Enable Ireland Meath Adult Service marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd, by gathering in partnership with other disability organizations in Meath and planting a tree. Each organization sponsored a branch to symbolise their shared goal in supporting people with disabilities in Co. Meath.

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities .



Access Questionnaire



Helping Hand

An access questionnaire has been compiled by our adult service users to evaluate suitability of venues for use by Enable Ireland North east and our service users.

Questions include access to entrances, reception area, corridors, lifts, internal door, toilets, car parking and restaurant /dining area.

Our service users will visit venues, perform an access audit and give it a star rating. Based on the evidence and observations of the person who carried out the survey and together with the star rating recommended they will state whether they are happy for Enable Ireland to use this particular venue for meetings, conferences and other events.

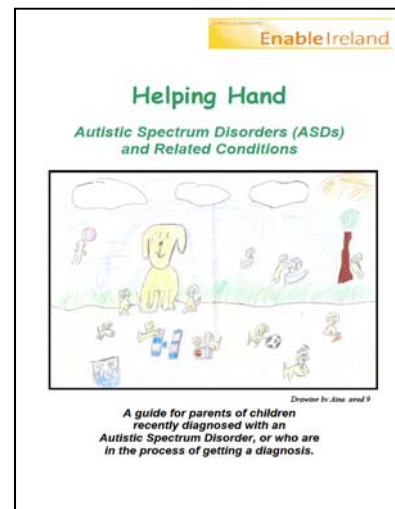
We are happy to share this information with all.



Early Services in Cavan, Meath and Monaghan have created an information booklet for parents

The booklet draws upon the work of the Early Support programme developed by the National Autistic Society and Tree House to provide information for parents who have children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Please ask at your local centre if you would like a copy of this booklet.



FAS Excellence Through People

Excellence Through People (ETP) is Ireland's national standard for the development of Human Resources. It is available to all organisations regardless of size and sector. More than 700 organisations use the Excellence through People Road Map to business improvement.

The main objectives of the standard are :

- To act as a business improvement tool and a driver for change
- To promote employee learning and development in line with the organisation's goals.

Enable Ireland North East have submitted an application and expect to be accessed early in the New Year.

For further information on any articles in this newsletter please contact the North East office

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Action Week 2008

Enable Ireland Action Week took place in September. Various events were held throughout the region such as Samba Drumming, Coffee mornings, Gold Badge appeal and an 80's night.

The theme for the week was "Access all areas". To mark this week transition year students from O'Carolan college in Nobber took part in a wheelchair challenge

The students undertook this project in order to gain a better understanding of the difficulties, prejudices and inequalities faced by those who find themselves wheelchair bound.

Two students remained in wheelchair for one week during school day and were assigned a carer. Although students were enthusiastic about taking part this quickly faded when faced with the reality of been disabled, even in the short term.

This project was a great success and highlighted the realities of the situation in a practical and real way which has made a huge impression on the students.