



Models - Laura Bermingham, Aoife Cogan, Annemarie Gannon and Blathnaid McKenna

Miss Ireland 2007 Blathnaid McKenna and Fair City Star David Mitchell



**ENABLE IRELAND NETWORK OF 19 RETAIL SHOPS ARE LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING REGIONS**

DUBLIN		
Capel Street	25 Capel St., Dublin 1	01 8733 867
Georges Street	Unit 8, Castle House, Sth Great Georges St., D.2	01 4782 763
Camden Street	28 Lower Camden St., Dublin 2	01 4780 647
Thomas Street	69 Thomas St., Dublin 8	01 4542 681
Finglas	42/43, Main St., Finglas, Dublin 11	01 8347 304
Phibsboro	Unit 10, Phibsboro SC, Dublin 7	01 8308 750
CORK		
NMS	32 North Main Street, Cork	021 427 2828
Princes Street	39 Princes St, Cork	021 427 8280
AROUND THE COUNTRY		
Drogheda	32 Shop St., Drogheda, Louth	041 983 9650
Navan	Unit 2, Kennedy Road, Navan	046 907 3466
Bray	29 Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow	01 2723 743
Galway	23/24 High Street, Galway	091 564 857
Castlebar	2 Market Square, Castlebar, Co. Mayo	094 902 4512
Sligo	Unit 2 Wine St. Car Park, Sligo	071 915 0259
Longford	1-2 Midland Court, Longford	043 41205
Ennis	1 High Street, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 682 3799
Clonmel	29 Mary St., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052 26202
Limerick	4 Upper William St., Limerick	061 314 334
Waterford	36 Michael Street, Waterford	051 841 696

Many thanks to all of you who donated unwanted clothing, books and bric-a-brac to Enable Ireland during the year.

In 2008 we invite you to continue to donate unwanted goods through our network of retail shops or textile banks nationwide.

For the address of your nearest clothing bank call freephone **1800 204 304**

**NATIONAL**

**ENABLE IRELAND IN PAN-EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT THE LANCET**

A groundbreaking research study conducted across seven European countries has shown that most children with cerebral palsy in the 8-12 years age group experience similar quality of life to their peers. Enable Ireland Disability Services is the Irish partner in the first pan-European study on quality of life in children with cerebral palsy, the results of which were published in "The Lancet" on 30th June. To view the published article, log on to [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com).

The quality of life research is part of the wider €1.3 million EU-funded SPARCLE project (Study of Participation of Children with Cerebral Palsy Living in Europe), which examined 1,000 variables in children with cerebral palsy across seven European countries. The Quality of Life research used the cutting-edge KIDSCREEN measuring technique, allowing children to self-report on 100 variables. According to the findings, most children aged 8-12 years with cerebral palsy have similar quality of life to other children.

The researchers expect that the results will be of practical benefit to the parents of children who are born with cerebral palsy; "Parents can be upset when their child is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, but they can now be reassured that most children with cerebral palsy, who provided information when 8-12 years old, experience similar Quality of Life to that of other children their age."

The Enable Ireland researcher, Vicki McManus, who co-ordinated the study in Ireland, states: "This result can be used to reassure parents at diagnosis, and should guide social and educational policy to ensure the rights of disabled children to participate fully in society. It is an example of the use of information in a way that is meaningful and helpful to families."

818 children with cerebral palsy participated in the study, led by Professor Allan Colver, Newcastle University, UK. 500 children self-reported their Quality of Life using KIDSCREEN, an instrument which assesses Quality of Life across 10 categories. This is the first time that KIDSCREEN has been used to study a population experiencing cerebral palsy. The results show remarkable consistency in the experiences of children

across all seven countries studied. A further 318 with severe intellectual impairment could not self-report and will be subject to a separate study later.

The research showed that, for these children with cerebral palsy, type and severity of impairments did not affect Quality of Life in six categories assessed using KIDSCREEN: psychological wellbeing, self-perception, social support, school environment, perception of financial resources and social acceptance. However, specific impairments were found to be associated with poorer Quality of Life in four categories. Children with poorer walking ability had poorer physical wellbeing; children with intellectual impairment had lower moods and emotions and less autonomy, and children with speech difficulty had poorer relationships with their parents. Further, the study found that pain reduced children's Quality of Life across all categories.

The authors say: "Quality of Life on most aspects of life is not associated with impairments and is therefore likely to be determined largely by social and environmental factors, although these might differ between children with cerebral palsy and those with no disability."

For many people, the finding that children with cerebral palsy view their Quality of Life as similar to children in the general population may seem surprising. However, from the child's perspective, their impairment is incorporated in their sense of self from birth, and they embrace growth, development and living with the same excitement as non-disabled children.

The study reported in "The Lancet" concludes by saying that there is widespread acceptance of the need for disabled children to be integrated fully into society. "The change now needed concerns attitudes. Pity and sorrow should not be directed to disabled children because our findings indicate they experience most of life as do non-disabled children. Therefore, maximum effort is needed to support the social and educational policies that recognise the similarity between the lives of disabled children and those of other children, and that ensure their rights as citizens.

**EASTERN REGION**

**COMMENDATION FOR COLLABORATIVE WORK**

A paper produced by TCD Masters Student Brian Madden and presented by ERPM's Clinical Engineer, John Tiernan, was awarded 'Best Free Paper' at this year's Posture and Mobility Group (PMG) National Training Event, in Warwick.

**ERPM**

**KEEPING AHEAD**



*Hyperextension of the BioRID Dummy's neck in the absence of head Support*

The addition of a head support to a wheelchair for use in transport has long been considered best practice, but without firm evidence. Collaborative research undertaken between ERPM and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) recently showed beyond doubt that the correct use of a head support can significantly reduce the potential severity of a whiplash injury.

The testing was undertaken at Thatcham Test Labs in England, under simulated rear impact conditions. As the image shows, there is significantly less translation of the head in the scenario where the head support is used. Therefore the risk of whiplash injury is significantly reduced.

The position of the head support is critical, and it is important that the head support be positioned as closely as possible to the user's head. A gap of 2" between the user's head and the head support have the same effect as no head support at all.

TCD is currently working on further development of a wheelchair-mounted head support design.

TRAINING & QUALITY

# KILKENNY HOSTS SHARE THE LEARNING EVENT



*Pictured at the 'Share the Learning Event' in June in Kilkenny were Enable Ireland representatives Gerry Harper, Head Office; Lucy Dooley, Kilkenny Services; Mary Kenny, Kilkenny Services*

The third annual national 'Share the Learning' event took place in June in Kilkenny and the theme was "Managing Information More Effectively". Kilkenny Services were the hosts for the day and feedback from the event was extremely positive. Many thanks to the presenters, attendees, the event management team, Colm Lehane - chairperson for the day, guest speaker John Welch and the team in Kilkenny for making the day the success that it was.



*Enable Ireland Staff Members Leah O'Toole and Louise Grey*

NATIONAL

# "FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD" TRANSITIONS CONFERENCE 2007

Enable Ireland hosted the "From Childhood to Adulthood" Transitions Conference in May, 2007. Taking place in Cork, the conference was attended by participants from all over Ireland and included young people, parents, and people working with children and young adults who have disabilities.

Transition is about assisting young people with disabilities to develop the life skills required and expected of them in an adult world. Enable Ireland is aware that there is a need for a seamless service from childhood to adulthood and that planning for this future transition needs to start early in childhood. In order for a smooth transition to take place, a planned approach to developing skills for growing up involving both the families and the disciplines involved with children is required. With this in mind, the conference was designed so

that participants could further develop skills and knowledge for facilitating Transition.

The conference was facilitated by a team from The Bloorview Kids Rehab Centre, Lifeskills and Wellness Institute, Toronto, Canada. Namely Helen OT(c) Director, Dolly Menna-Dack, Youth Facilitator and CJ Curran TOS. Bloorview Kids Rehab, over several years, have undertaken extensive work in the field of Transition. The Bloorview programme is recognised internationally and is designed to involve all stakeholders including young people, educators, therapists, families and community resources.

The three days included presentations on the model used in Canada, together with presentations from Irish and Canadian parents, youth and Enable Ireland staff on their experiences of working in partnership

to facilitate Transition. The feedback on the conference from all the participants was extremely positive. Enable Ireland looks forward to further developing their Transitions programmes as a result of this conference. For further information contact Elaine Neary: [eneary@enableireland.ie](mailto:eneary@enableireland.ie).



*Panel Presenters at the Transitions Conference in Cork. Pictured are from L to R: Helen Healy (Bloorview Kids Rehab), Joe Treacy (Enable Ireland Galway), Mai Byrne (Enable Ireland School, Wicklow), Denise Cooney (Enable Ireland Dublin Services), Dolly Menna-Dack (Bloorview Kids Rehab)*



## 25TH DECEMBER 2007

### Christmas Swim

Work up an appetite on Christmas morning by braving the chilly Galway Bay waters in aid of Enable Ireland. The swim which is now an annual event is great fun despite the cold and is a great way to meet up with friends and family on the prom whilst supporting a very worthy cause. If you think you've got what it takes or indeed want to challenge friends and family to take part then call Joanne on 091 526321 to order your sponsorship pack.

## 17TH – 18TH JANUARY 2008

### Adult Protection Training Seminar

An adult protection training course aimed at managers responsible for running adult services will take place on 17th and 18th January in Portlaoise. For further information on venue location and itinerary please contact Fidelma on 056 7795747 or 087 4171445.

## 20TH FEBRUARY 2008

### Night Positioning Training Course

A one-day night positioning training course provided by the ERPM will take place on the 20th February 2008 at the Enable Ireland centre in Sandymount, Dublin 4. If you wish to attend or require further information on the training course please contact Linda at 1 261 5926 or email [lwynne@enableireland.ie](mailto:lwynne@enableireland.ie)

## 15TH MARCH 2008

### Kildare Night At The Dogs

Enable Ireland Kildare will hold a 'Night

at the Dogs' at Newbridge Greyhound Track on Saturday 15th March. Contact Willie on 045 875676 or email [ecallaghan@enableireland.ie](mailto:ecallaghan@enableireland.ie) for further information.

## 15TH MAY 2008

### Kildare Golf Classic

Enable Ireland Kildare will host their annual golf classic on Saturday 15th March at Woodlands Golf Club, Naas, Co Kildare. Contact Willie on 045 875676 or email: [wcallaghan@enableireland.ie](mailto:wcallaghan@enableireland.ie) for further information.

## 2008

### Go For Gold For Enable Ireland By Running A Marathon

Get in training now for one of the many marathons taking place across the globe next year, New York, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Chicago, Dublin and the Flora Women's Mini marathon. For details on any of these contact Joanne on 091 526 321

## REGIONAL FUNDRAISING OFFICES AND CONTACT DETAILS:

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Please send your news, views, reviews, comments and photo's to the editor at the above email address by mid-February 2008.

*We Wish You A Very Happy Christmas and New Year.*

### EDITORIAL MATTERS

We are delighted to bring you the second issue of our national Newsletter for 2007.

As you are aware the newsletter aims to provide a forum for exchange of information and acts as a communication tool for staff, service users, their families and other associated bodies.

We hope the readers find the newsletter a useful source of information about what is happening in Enable Ireland.

Thanks to all who so enthusiastically contributed to this issue and we look forward to another bumper issue in Spring 2008.

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