



Enable Ireland Annual Report 2006



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Annual Report
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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

“The launch of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008 with An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in February 2006 was a significant contribution by Enable Ireland to direct the future of disability services in Ireland. The plan charts the way forward for Enable Ireland for the next three years and reinforces the need for inclusion in society for all people with disabilities. 2006 brought many developments and changes in the wider disability sector to the fore in Irish society.”

Enable Ireland continued to work closely with statutory partners securing contracts locally to provide specific services in many areas in 2006. Throughout the year, work continued on the implementation of the Disability Act 2005. Enable Ireland played an active role in supporting Government bodies, through close consultation on the development of the six State sectoral plans. These plans were published in July 2006 with the aim of ensuring that the needs of people with disabilities are considered in policy planning across Government Departments. Enable Ireland hopes that the implementation of these plans will achieve the intended improvements in the lives of people with disabilities.

Towards the end of 2006, the Government announced an additional €75m to be allocated for services for people with disabilities. While this additional funding was welcomed by Enable Ireland, under commitments made by Government through the Social Partnership Agreement, Towards 2016, Enable Ireland looks forward to funding levels being improved in future budgets to make an even more significant impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

The Board undertook two major reviews in 2006; a comprehensive review of the patronage of Enable Ireland special schools in Bray and Sandymount, and the Enable Ireland ‘Living Options’ report. The patronage review considered different types of patronage forms, policies and protocols. The ‘Living Options’

research initiative was undertaken to ascertain the residential needs of adult service users. At the end of 2006, plans were in place to meet with the Health Service Executive (HSE) to ascertain its vision and plans for this essential national service requirement. The Board is due to decide on implementation of both reports early in 2007.

Capital development projects continued to be the driving force for the generosity and goodwill that we receive from local communities and the corporate sector. The Board of Enable Ireland recognises the important difference that regular donors and volunteers have made through community, corporate and retail fundraising.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Chief Executive, management and staff for their great strides in making independence, choice and inclusion a reality for 3,300 people with disabilities and their families in 2006.

Finally, I would like to commend the achievements of all the people who use our services and their families for working in close partnership with Enable Ireland to ensure that, together, we continue to deliver the highest quality services.



Donal Cashman, Chairman



CEO'S INTRODUCTION

“The 2006 Enable Ireland Annual Report presents an opportunity to highlight and reflect on the many and varied activities undertaken by Enable Ireland throughout the year. The ethos underpinning our work is a strong engagement with people with disabilities and their families. This partnership enables us to deliver services that focus on all aspects of an individual’s life from the home environment to the community and into society. Enable Ireland looks forward to continuing to respond to the changing needs of people with disabilities at a time of considerable statutory and social change”.

As reflected by our Chairman, Enable Ireland had a momentous start to 2006 with the launch of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008. In January 2006, a series of launches took place around the country, culminating in a national launch with An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. on 13th February, in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. We were delighted with the attendance at launches by our stakeholders, donors, volunteers, staff, local TD’s, Mayors and representatives from local councils and the HSE.

Following the launch of the Strategic Plan 2006–2008, an Implementation and Monitoring group was set up in February to assist with the validation of the Strategic Plan results. In the coming pages, a brief report summarises the results for the year to 31 December 2006, the first year of the three-year strategic plan. Over time, this information will produce trend data and shape the future direction of the organisation. This will strengthen Enable Ireland’s position as a national service provider.

The second Enable Ireland ‘Share the Learning’ event took place in Limerick on 1st June. This year’s theme was ‘Communication’ and the day consisted of a series of presentations followed by four afternoon discussion fora. Congratulations to the conference team and to all the staff who took part in this wonderful event.

Our capital development programme progressed with planning permission obtained for developments in Bray, Co. Wicklow, Naas, Co. Kildare and a

hydrotherapy facility in Galway. Adult and Assistive Technology services in Crumlin expanded to incorporate new training and meeting facilities. In the North East, the Cavan team moved to new interim accommodation while work continued on the provision of accommodation for the service. In Wicklow, renovation work, including a Sensory Garden at the Silverpines Respite House, was completed. Work commenced on a new facility for Adult Services in Little Island and the construction of the Ladysbridge respite centre in Cork. A premises upgrading project commenced at Adult Services at Quinns Cross in Limerick.

A national access audit of all Enable Ireland premises was completed in 2006 with a view to the adaptation of facilities to ensure accessibility for all. The architects who designed the audit presented their findings and recommendations to the Board of Enable Ireland. Each area of the organisation now has information on the way forward to adapt facilities to ensure accessibility to all.

Action Week on Disability was held in September with the launch of the Gold Badge Appeal at Government Buildings with An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. and campaign leader, Ken Doherty, snooker champion. A wide variety of fundraising events took place throughout the country. Thank you all our committed volunteers and supporters for making the week a success.

A new IT strategic partnership with BT Ireland was formed in 2006. This partnership has provided the organisation with improved communication networks to better deliver our services and to continue on our journey of excellence.

A National Services Forum (NSF) was set up in September 2006. The membership of the Forum is made up of senior managers from all disciplines throughout the organisation. The Forum ensures that the core values of the organisation are consistently reflected in all of the work that Enable Ireland carries out. The Forum provides an opportunity for national discussion on the direction and development of the Enable Ireland Strategic Plan 2006–2008. Emerging trends and external influences including legislation, statutory re-organisation, strategic trends and evidence-based practice developments can also be debated in this forum.

Our Services, Retail, Fundraising and Head Office staff continued to roll out the EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) process of working. By the end of 2006, there were 55 teams operating throughout the country. It was my great pleasure to attend CEO reviews with each team, which I found to be highly informative and constructive. It was very clear to me the great strides that teams are making throughout the organisation to make independence, inclusion and choice a reality for people with disabilities.

An important event in November was the first national staff induction training course. Modules included national overview, person centredness, inclusion and advocacy, key policies and quality management procedures, and EFQM. New colleagues were introduced to the core values which underpin these policies.

As Christmas approached, I was delighted to meet the hundreds of volunteers from our 19 retail shops at the three "Thank You for Your Time" Christmas lunches. It was a most enjoyable experience and I was inspired by the commitment of the people who have worked tirelessly to raise funds for us over the past 20 years.

Striving towards our mission to enable those who use our services to achieve maximum independence, choice and inclusion in their communities is no small challenge. As an organisation, our journey towards achieving this mission is supported by a diverse group of people, from our Chairperson and Board of Directors to the incredibly hard work of staff and volunteers. I would like to express heartfelt gratitude for all the wonderful work being carried out throughout the country.

I also pay tribute to service users and their families for their contribution and influence in the work. We look forward to continuing working with you to achieve positive changes for people with disabilities in Ireland.



Fionnuala O'Donovan, Chief Executive