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ireland**

**Disability Services  
Life With No Limits**

# EnableNews

L-R: Christine McCarthy, blind Assistive Technology user, Siobhan Long, National Director, Assistive Technology Training Service Enable Ireland, Senator John Dolan, Chief Executive, Disability Federation of Ireland, Joan O'Donnell, Development Manager, Disability Federation of Ireland, Pierce Richardson, Project Officer, Disability Federation of Ireland and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland



## Enable Ireland and DFI Launch Paper on Future of AT

This November, along with the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), we launched a discussion paper on Assistive Technology (AT) for People with Disabilities and Older People. Ireland has an underdeveloped Assistive Technology infrastructure in comparison to other countries, and our paper outlines a vision where everyone with a disability and older people has access to affordable, up to date and appropriate technology that suits their needs.

In the paper, we make seven recommendations for Government, policy makers and service providers, including the introduction of an AT Passport to streamline the way in which people gain access to assistive technology – equipment, training and funding.

Ireland's Digital Ambassador, Lord David Puttnam, joined the event by video link and praised the initiative as being vitally important to improving the lives of people with disabilities. "I believe in the power of technology to enable people's lives in ways previously unimaginable.

AT user, Christina McCarthy, who features in the report, says "Not funding AT doesn't look at the big picture. I wouldn't have got the education that I did without my assistive technology. If you can't get your education, then you won't be able to get employment and then you will be dependent upon the state rather than contributing to it. That's why we need to invest in the equipment and then the training and support so that all users can get the most out of their assistive technology."



### FIND OUT MORE

Visit [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie) for further information, to download the full report or summary and to find links to coverage on Morning Ireland, RTE SixOne News, the Irish Times, Irish Examiner and more.

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L-R John O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Enable Ireland, Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO, Enable Ireland, Finian McGrath, Minister for Disabilities, Jim Bergin, CEO, Glanbia Ingredients, Theresa Compagno, Director, HR & Corporate Affairs, Enable Ireland, Noreen Dempsey, Director of Finance and IT, Enable Ireland.



## From the Chief Executive's Desk

Welcome to Issue 6 of Enable News. In the past, this newsletter had a broad audience of all Enable Ireland employees and supporters, as well as service users and families. Following some consultation earlier this year, we have refocused the content of this newsletter more specifically to families and children and adults using our services. This is your newsletter. If you have any feedback we would be very pleased to hear from you. You will find contact details for editors on the back cover.

It's been a year since the last edition and so much has happened in that time. Our cover story – the launch of our AT discussion paper with the DFI, was a certain highlight. We will continue to work with the DFI, other agencies and funders to make the vision outlined in the paper a reality and secure better funding for technology that can support people to live more independent lives. Following the re-vamp of our North Main Street shop in Cork at the end of 2015, the re-vamp of our retail charity shops continued during 2016

with a further six stores being updated to boutique standard.

Our partnership with TK Maxx continued to flourish during 2016. Our thanks goes to TK Maxx, Microsoft, Ulster Bank, Red FM and to all our corporate supporters for their help during the year.

The launch of Enable Ireland's fundraising strategy also took place in 2016. The new fundraising plan will strengthen our fundraising capacity to enable us to develop and deliver our services.

In October, we held our first National Conference for employees in ten years entitled 'From Challenge to Opportunity'. During the day, we addressed the many changes that are taking place in our sector, from Progressing Disabilities Services for Children and Young People to New Directions for adults. Our staff are at the forefront of these changes and are focused on ensuring continuity of quality services for children and their families and adults. We will continue to work with our service

users, our families, our funders, the HSE and partner agencies as we implement these new ways of delivering services. Many new families have joined our services as a result of Progressing Disabilities and I'd welcome you all.

At the conference, my own personal highlight was the fashion show that featured ten children from our services as well as staff and friends of Enable Ireland. You'll see some photographs of the day on the centrefold of this Newsletter. The atmosphere was truly magical. Thanks to our partners on the day Aviva, Milano and Print Bureau for their support, the exhibitors, speakers, poster designers, workshop presenters and organisers. We all look forward to the next one.

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to working with you all towards a Life with No Limits in 2017.

**Warmest Regards,**  
**Fionnuala O'Donovan**

### €2.2 Million Raised Since 1997

**TKmaxx**

TK Maxx continues to support us all year round with the Give Up Clothes For Good Campaign and as proud supporters of our annual No Limits Appeal in September. This year, we received €250,000 in donations and their stores collected 34,000 bags of donated stock for our shops. You can donate in-store all year round.

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Pictured Enable Ireland service users Darragh Cashman and Suzie Haye with Minister Simon Coveney at the official turning of the sod by Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Simon Coveney T.D. for Enable Ireland Cork's Children's Centre at Curraheen.

## New Cork Children's Centre

In September, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Simon Coveney T.D. officially turned the sod for our new Children's Centre at Curraheen. The event also marked the formal launch of our fundraising appeal for the €7.5 million development.

More than 640 children and young people with disabilities currently receive vital therapy and support services from the Lavanagh Centre in Ballintemple. However, the building is no longer fit to accommodate the needs of these children and their families. From the new site, together with the Health Services Executive and our partner agencies, we will continue to provide core therapy and support services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and social work services. We will also provide the following specialist services: feeding, assistive technology, spasticity and tone management, seating, an upper limb assessment clinic, Cork/Kerry orthopaedic clinic, hip and spinal surveillance, casting and GAIT analysis. This new development will help us to

further enhance the delivery of those services.

Further details on [www.enableireland.ie/corkappeal](http://www.enableireland.ie/corkappeal)



A week after the official sod turning, supporters and friends of Enable Ireland gathered at the Maryborough House Hotel to mark the start of the ambitious fundraising campaign. Pictured at the event were Olive Loughnane, Lord Mayor Cllr Des Cahill and Fionnuala O'Donovan, CEO Enable Ireland.

## Wicklow Build is on Track!

Our Wickow Services in Bray are getting a new home. Right now they are in temporary accommodation in Ballywaltrim Business Park, Boghall Rd, Bray. All the children, families and staff in Bray are very excited watching the new Bray Centre being built and are delighted to report that they are on track to be in the new centre for March 2017.

Zach O'Neill practises his skills as 'Bob the Builder' with the site manager for the new building in Bray, Pdraig Lambert.





# Interviewing Gordon D'arcy

By Brandon Warren Dowling, Owen Stubbs, Kevin Dooney, Lee Kavanagh and Jack Coffey, students at Enable Ireland Sandymount School.

We had a journalism project as part of our summer camp. We are big fans of rugby so we tracked down Gordon D'arcy in his new job at Investec Bank.

We travelled on the Dart and Luas to Gordon's office in Harcourt Street. We were not at all nervous and practiced our questions on the Dart.

Lee asked the question that everyone wants to know "do you miss the beard?" Gordon told us that he really did and told us how Jonny Sexton shaved it off. Brandon asked Gordon about his kids. Gordon told us that he has a one year old daughter and his wife is expecting another baby. He also has a 10 stone dog called Albert.

Owen asked about Gordon's favourite food which is pizza. Owen made the Investec staff laugh when he asked "Which do you prefer - playing Rugby or working for Investec?" Gordon told us he wished he could continue playing rugby until he was 100 years old.

Jack gave Gordon the presents we brought him from the Enable Ireland Garden and Gift Store - a mug with a moustache and some after shave balm. Later Gordon Tweeted "Exceptional group from @enableireland@investec today, clearly not impressed my beard is gone".

Investec staff were very welcoming to us and we had a lovely lunch there. They also gave us lovely goodie bags with a signed rugby ball each.



## Thank you Ulster Bank!

This September, Ulster Bank sent a team from their Dublin Head Office to give a good old spruce up to our Dunshaughlin centre.

A great day was had by all!  
Thanks Ulster Bank!

## Orlaith's Coffee Morning

In September, I organised and hosted a coffee morning to raise money for the charity 'Concern'. Myself and staff from Kerry Adult Services brought in cakes, buns and biscuits. Some were even homemade.

I raised €116 for Concern. I would like to thank everyone who attended and donated so generously to this very worthwhile cause. A fun morning was had by all.

**Orlaith Mangan,**  
Kerry Adult Services



## Limerick Adults Hub set for New Year Completion

The New Year will be an exciting one for a number of individuals in Limerick Adult Services as they prepare to join the Castleconnell community. Work is nearly completed on the new, long awaited hub/service location located in the heart of Castleconnell village within walking distance of a range of community services. This

new location will provide a space for approximately 10 to 15 service users to design an individual self-directed service, explore and further develop valued social roles within the service and the local community, and reflect on what they believe their "good life" should look like.

The Castleconnell location will also provide three respite places sometime in the near future.

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Jessica Keegan receives her certificate from Mary Immaculate President, Professor Michael Hayes



Mike O'Doherty receives certificate from Mary Immaculate President, Professor Michael Hayes



Deirdre Corry receiving her certificate from Mary Immaculate President, Professor Michael Hayes

# Limerick Adult Services Graduation

Last year, three people who attend Limerick Adult Services graduated from Mary Immaculate College. They graduated from the Certificate in General Learning and Personal Development (CGLPD), which is a QQI (formerly FETAC) level 4 course for people with disabilities which runs over 2 years.

The programme offers students the possibility to further their education while attending a mainstream college. The students graduated as part of the main ceremony along with all of the other students in the college. The atmosphere on the day was electric and the students from the CGLPD received a standing ovation from the academic staff and fellow students.

This is an account of the day from one of the graduates, Mike O'Doherty.

"I graduated in Mary Immaculate College last year. My course that I graduated from was in General Learning and Personal Development this was a two year programme. I was awarded a Fetac Certificate in level 4.

The ceremony took place in the Tailteann building at 10 am. I arrived there at 9 am to get photographs taken with my family and friends. Fionnuala O'Donovan, the CEO of Enable Ireland, was also there and this meant a lot to me as Enable Ireland supported us all the way through our course. At 9.30am, we were all asked to be seated. I was

getting excited and I was feeling proud. Then the Vice-President said a few words to welcome everyone and then he welcomed the college President Professor Michael Hayes and the President of the University of Limerick, Professor Don Barry.

The ceremony then got under way, all our lecturers came in to the room in a big group with their robes on, I was amazed at this. As I was waiting to be presented with my certificate I was observing other students receiving their degrees and in my mind I was thinking 'if I work hard at my studies I could be getting my degree one day.'

My dream would be to receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree in the future. When my name was called out it was amazing to be going up in my robes. I felt so proud of myself and to hear everyone cheering me on I just felt happy to be part of Mary Immaculate College. 'I have a motto in life, no matter who you are you can always follow your dreams' and this is my dream. At the very end of our graduation ceremony the national anthem was played. While it was on I had a tear in my eye because I know it's a stepping stone to what I want to achieve and that is the Bachelor of Arts Degree."

## Fast Forward

Back in 2005, a service user named Patrick Hasset featured on the front of the National Newsletter.

Then aged, 5, Patrick was pictured for the NCB Stockbrokers (now Investec) Charity Day, an event that led to a large donation for Enable Ireland. This year, Patrick returned to Investec Wealth & Investment for a week of transition year work experience.

Patrick got to work with Investec's Investment Managers and see how they manage money for their clients.



2005



2016

## My Cycle – by Hana Djimani

Hana, aged 17, is a service user of the School Age Team in Enable Ireland Sandymount. Earlier this year, she took on the challenge of the Roscrea – Tipperary Cycle.

We left the school at 6.46am and headed on the bus to Roscrea. I sat with my friend, Chloe, on the bus. My bike was taken to Roscrea on a big truck with the rest of the bikes. I had to wear my orange cycle top and pin my number on the front and my name on the back.

They put Laoise and myself at the front of the line with the leading car. Loads of people were waving and cheering and calling my name. We stopped in the Garda College and there were lots of Gardai there. They were calling my name and clapping. I cycled 30km before lunch. I was very proud. Then I had lunch with my friends and went into the hall and listened to the music. I had a little rest then on the bus. At the next stop, I got back on my bike and cycled another 14km and I was really happy. The weather was

good, so many people were watching me cycle. I waved at everyone. When we got to the finish line my Dad was cheering and calling me. I waved at my Dad. Then I saw my Mum and my brother. They were very proud of me. Then we had a dinner and I got a surprise. They gave me a Birthday cake and sang Happy Birthday. I was shocked and I felt good. Then we left on the bus, back to Dublin. I was very tired, it was 11.15pm when I got home. On the bus Laoise made an announcement and she gave me a Garda medal, Garda cap and a Garda mug, as well as two T-Shirts. I was very happy and surprised. She said that I did great. It was my favourite day of the year, I really enjoyed the cycle and being with the Garda. Ms Redmond said I can keep my bike and I am going to do cycling with my mum. I am happy about that.



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## Cycling Camp Mayo

The Mayo Services Cycling Camp was run by Enable Ireland in partnership with H.S.E., Mayo Sports Partnership and Gerard Butler, (Safer) Cycle instructor, in Castlebar.

The aims of the camp were:

- Teach each child how to ride a bicycle or tricycle to the best of his/her individual abilities, increase mobility for participating children.
- Increase levels of physical activity, confidence, independence and new skill acquisition.
- To encourage social inclusion, in particular, enabling children to participate in outdoor-based activities.

Mayo Services are planning on growing and expanding this camp into a travelling service, so watch out for the 2017 announcement!

Contact Mayo Services for more information [www.enableireland.ie/mayo](http://www.enableireland.ie/mayo).

# Music Therapy in Mayo

As part of the Mayo Services Summer Programme, Music Therapy sessions were held. The sessions are designed to get children and their parents to actively enjoy music, under the guidance of Music Therapist Will Sexton.

## We are all Musicians

Music used therapeutically is something used by us all throughout our lives.

The power of music is immense and something that comes naturally to us all. Like the way our bodies are primarily made up of water, we too have an internal rhythm coupled with a cacophony of noise, a symphony of sounds swirling from our souls. We use music from the youngest age to soothe and reassure, gentle lullabies to settle coupled with a rhythmic rocking, angst-ridden teens, seeking to find a path in life sitting in front rooms or bedrooms listening to tapes and vinyl (showing age), hanging on lyrics of multi-millionaire twenty somethings who “understand them”. The heartbreak of unrequited love is given voice while brought to song to ease pain. Joy of unity with fella man as goosebumps and back of neck hair stand to attention for moments of national pride for anthems at sporting events. Reminiscing during grief for missed loved brought back to life by the distinct chords of ‘your song’.

Indeed music therapy is something that is an ever constant through all of our journeys through life. We all sing, whistle, tap, clap, bang, hum throughout our days. A life without music is like the most barren of deserts. We are all musicians.

by Will Sexton, Music Therapist



With the support of Music Therapist, Will Sexton, Ann Bellamy, Enable Ireland Therapy Assistant and Joan Fitzgerald, Enable Ireland volunteers, all children and parents had a wonderful time.



# Community Design Challenge Winners 2016 – EyeBowl

This year’s Community Design Challenge Competition saw the involvement of seven Expert AT Users, who partnered with students from Dublin Institute of Technology’s Product Design Course and Engineering students from Indiana’s Purdue University. In total, almost 60 participants took part in the CDC.

Students were asked to imagine how to adapt, improve, integrate or augment products to make them fun for the user, and as a consequence help remove the stigma of disability.

The EyeBowl will be exhibited from December 2016 to March 2017 at the

National Museum of Art and Design, Collins Barracks Dublin. See [www.enableireland.ie/events](http://www.enableireland.ie/events) for more.

We thank all participants for their commitment and participation in this year’s Community Design Challenge. The entries offered potential solutions to real life challenges which were both creative and practical. We look forward to building on this year’s competition and to the potential development of some of the produce concepts to prototype stage, with the support of Dublin Institute of Technology and Purdue University in the US.



Community Design Challenge Winner 2016. CSC is in partnership with DIT, sponsored by Lecky and supported by Microsoft.



Selfie Station at the National Conference, Jim Bergin, Noreen Dempsey and John O'Sullivan

# The Enable Ireland National Conference 2016

## 'From Challenge to Opportunity'

Over 200 Enable Ireland employees from 14 counties across Ireland gathered in the Aviva Stadium in October for their internal employee conference to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the disability sector in Ireland.

In his welcoming address, Finian McGrath, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection, Justice & Equality and Health with special responsibility for Disabilities said, "As Minister for Disabilities, I will do my best to empower people with disabilities to lead self-directed lives."

Addressing the conference, Enable Ireland CEO Fionnuala O'Donovan said, "The sector that we work in is going through a period of immense change. Our staff are at the forefront of these changes as they strive to deliver high quality services to our service users and their families. The way we work may change but our purpose remains the same – to ensure children and adults with disabilities can live a Life with No Limits."

### Enable Ireland employees and exhibitors at the conference



During the day, delegates also heard from Jim Bergin, Director and CEO Glanbia Ireland, Gerry Farrell, Director of Lyceum Counselling & Training and Joe Ryan, Action Head of System Reform Group, HSE. Delegates also attended workshops on a variety of topics related to resilience training, team building, Assistive Technology and heard a parent's perspective on Progressing Services for Children with Disabilities. Gerard Mulvihill, journalist and former Enable Ireland service user, also addressed the conference in a motivational speech entitled 'Play The Cards You're Dealt', also the title of his recently published book.

Delegates were treated to a Fashion Show, organised by Enable Ireland's Commercial Manager, Oonagh O'Connor and her team featuring high quality fashion from Enable Ireland's 21 retail charity shops. Ten children from Enable Ireland Children's Services in Dublin took part in the Winter Wonderland themed show.

Conference Organisers, Michelle White, Renee O'Donovan, Oonagh O'Connor, Aghna Harte, Frankie Barrett and Claire McKenna.

Theresa Compagno, Director, HR & Corporate Affairs, Enable Ireland



# Our Fashion Show stars

Hailey Byrne and Fionnuala O'Donovan

Jack

Pat Fitzpatrick and Ray O'Meara

Lucy Lou

Max and Mum

Joan

Donal Kitt, Stephen Cahill, Gerry Harpur, Colin Fisher

Jodie

Trevor

Annemaire

Niamh

Enda

Rachael

Cathal

Isabelle and Mum

Rachael



# Book Corner

## Santa's Book List from Little Pals Pre-School, Sandymount

### We love books with repeated lines such as:

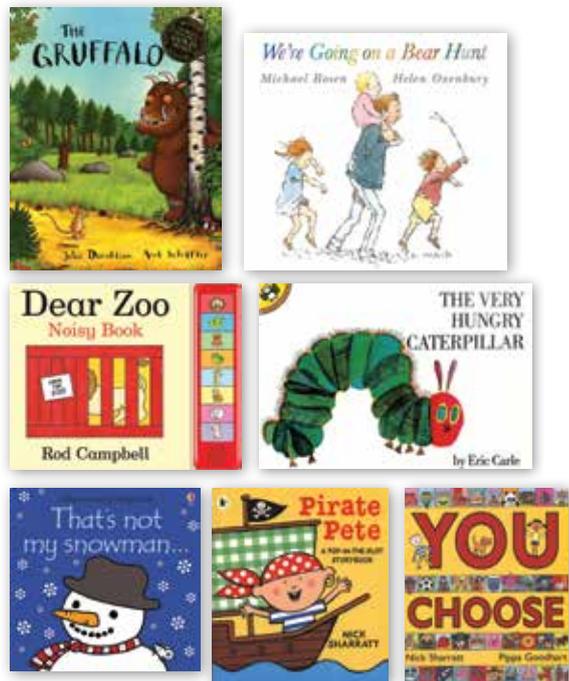
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- We're going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

### We love interactive books such as:

- Bath books
- Noisy books: Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- Lift the flap books: Where's spot by Eric Hill
- Touch and feel books: 'That's not my...' by Usbourne Children's books

### We love choice making books:

- You Choose by Nick Sharratt
- A change the story book: Pirate Pete by Nick Sharratt
- A change the story book: Once Upon a Time by Nick Sharratt



### What do books help us learn?

Books are brilliant for encouraging listening and language. Book reading is a special time for you and your child, when you both enjoy a feeling of closeness. The earlier you begin to read and tell stories to your child, the sooner reading will become an important and enjoyable part of his life. Your child can talk about adventures and imagine new places through reading books.



## Sports Day

Early this year, Dun Laoghaire Adult Services had a fun sports morning as part of the Employee Well Being Day with the theme of 'Being Active & Healthy'

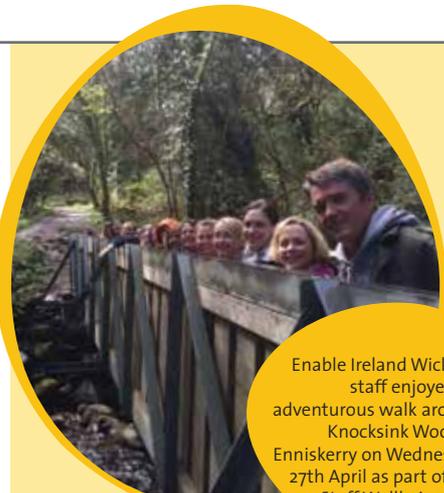
Emma McGrane tries her hardest to hit the centre spot and earn 50 points for her team

Three teams of service users and staff competed in circuit races, throwing balls, Connect Four and more.

## Sensational Kids

This year, a group from Meath Early Services took a stand at the Sensational Kids Expo.

Annelle Maryowski, Early Services Manager, Meath at the Enable Ireland stand at Sensational Kids



Enable Ireland Wicklow staff enjoyed an adventurous walk around Knocksink Wood in Enniskerry on Wednesday 27th April as part of the Staff Wellbeing Day

## Wellbeing Day

Each April, Enable Ireland employees take part in Wellness Day – challenged to come up with a cost free way of building resilience and wellbeing amongst staff.

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# Enable Ireland Sandyford Celebrate Summer in Style

In July, Enable Ireland Adult Services Sandyford hosted a summer celebration on a grand scale. The band, Uptown Slaves, very kindly gave up their time and energy to entertain the troops! The band has just released their debut album “Hit ‘em early, Hit ‘em hard” and have also contributed two songs to the acclaimed feature Movie “Monged”, which was released earlier this year.

Over 100 people joined together for a day of fun, food and music! Friends and colleagues from Enable Crumlin and Enable Dun Laoghaire attended in fine numbers. The guys from Enable Assistive Technology also lent their much appreciated support.

Guests who munched and mingled included Family Members, Carers, Old-Friends and even ex service users. These blasts from the past were most welcome indeed!

More friends, acquaintances and even strangers began to filter in, including familiar faces from Dunnes Stores, Ballymoss House and even Microsoft. The local Gardaí turned up but luckily no one was apprehended! They were politely responding to their invite. All the fun was captured by Irish Film Director, Brian Quinn, and his great team. Sandyford’s very own service user, Martin Keegan, officially photographed the event and The Dundrum Gazette also ran a feature.

**Padhraic Dormer, Sandyford Adult Services**

## ‘If you can’t stand up, Stand Out!’

‘If you can’t stand up, stand out!’ is the tagline behind Izzy Wheels — a new wheelchair style designed by Ailbhe Keane and inspired by her sister, Isabel Keane, who has attended Enable Ireland Galway Services since she was a baby.

After undertaking a college brief asking her to empower the lives of people living with long-term lifestyle related health conditions, Ailbhe immediately thought of her younger sister, Isabel.

Born with spina bifida, Isabel is paralysed from her waist down, and uses a wheelchair. Growing up, it frustrated Isabel how few options were available to her to customise her wheelchair so, when the opportunity arose through the form of a college

assignment, her sister, Ailbhe, set about designing a range of customisable spoke-guards for Isabel’s wheelchair.

According to Isabel, the snazzy wheels have made her feel “100% more confident”.

There are approximately 40,000 wheelchair users in Ireland and Isabel says her aim with her wheelchair has always been to portray it as a “positive thing rather than a negative thing” and “give it the element of respect it deserves”.

She believes the customised wheels have helped her achieve that. Ailbhe says she never anticipated her business would take off the way it has. “I saw the impact it had on Isabel



and what it did for her confidence and I thought I’d really like to make something like this available for other wheelchair users like her.”

To read more about Izzy Wheels and to view the collection visit [www.izzywheels.com](http://www.izzywheels.com).

# Trip to Share!

In November, a group of teenagers and staff from Enable Ireland Tallaght headed off on their annual weekend trip to the Share Activity Centre in Fermanagh. While there, the group enjoyed a weekend full of activities including arts and crafts as well as sport. This was a great opportunity for the teenagers to get together and make new friends, and in some cases, meet up with old friends as far back as their pre-school years! It also gave them the chance to try new challenges that they never thought they would be able to do. The most challenging of these for most of us (including staff) was the wall-climbing. Thankfully, the skilled staff at the Share Centre took great care of us and passed on their knowledge and advice with each new skill we were taught. Other activities we tried were archery, swimming, mud-rock modelling, balloon modelling as well as trying our hand at circus skills! As it was winter time, there was no light in the evening to play football, we took the opportunity to play a few games of Boccia.



When we arrived on the Friday night, the teenagers expressed their horror that there was no WiFi anywhere in the centre. "How are we going to survive the weekend?" was uttered. By Saturday evening, there was a sense of relief on the realisation that life without WiFi wasn't so bad at all, especially as it was only for a couple of days. On Saturday night, we all got together to play board games, sit around and chat about everything from school, their likes and dislikes, their families, pets and life in general...all while enjoying some toasted marshmallows cooked over our very own camp fire, manned by the staff in the Share Centre.

On Sunday afternoon, as we said good-bye to our instructors and the centre, the teenagers discussed what activities they would like to try on our return with a fond "see you next year!". We drove back to Dublin with a bus of very tired teenagers. Although they weren't too tired to befriend each other on Facebook and swap contact numbers. They are all looking forward to meeting up again soon.

## UDLNet

Enable Ireland is a partner in an EU funded network entitled Universal Design for Learning. This is a three year project that is in its final year.

In its work, the UDLnet project uses the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework for addressing learner variability. Universal Design for Learning is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone-- not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customised and adjusted for individual needs. Individuals bring a huge variety of skills, needs, and interests to learning.

The network caters for the delivery of accessible educational resources through various means along with the application of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework in real inclusive educational practices.

To date, workshops have taken place at various locations nationally. Four more workshops are due to take place, one in Cork and three in Galway. Recently, Enable Ireland participated in a workshop that took place in Leeuwarden, Germany. Seven partner countries attended in total. A final conference for the project took place in Athens, Greece. If you have any questions related to the project please contact Stephanie Cloonan, project partner & Enable Ireland representative [scloonan@enableireland.ie](mailto:scloonan@enableireland.ie).



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Caroline Cantan (centre) pictured with fellow EI Social Workers Monica Coll (L) and Erica Calder (R) on presentation of her award

## HMI Health Awards Commendation

Congratulations to Margaret McGrath and Eimear Quinlan, both Occupational Therapists based in Sandymount, for their recent commendation at the Health Management Institute (HMI) Leaders Awards for their project 'Within Our Reach: Supporting the Functional Hand Use of Children with Cerebral Palsy'.

The project demonstrated how the Occupational Therapy Department in Sandymount established a structure and support system for the OT's to provide an equitable, accountable and quality service to develop and maintain the functional hand use of those identified with impairments in their upper limbs.

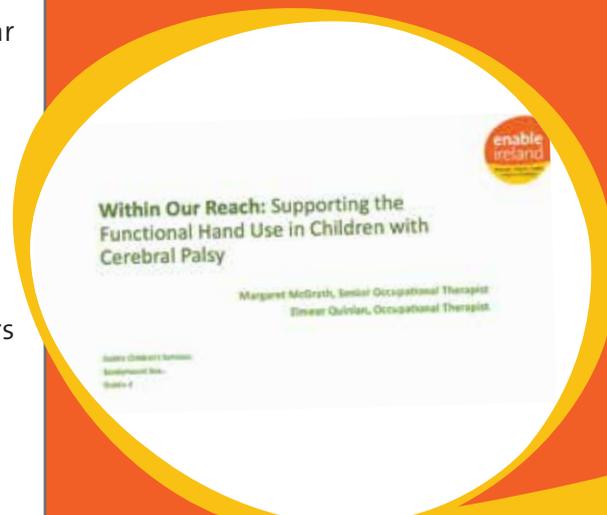
The full report is available from [www.enableireland.ie/publications](http://www.enableireland.ie/publications)

## Social Worker of the Year!

The Enable Ireland Dublin South West team is absolutely delighted that Caroline Cantan's passion and commitment to children with physical disabilities and their families has been recognised when she was awarded the Social Worker of the Year at the Irish Association of the Year Awards Ceremony in Croke Park.

The award recognises that, throughout her career she has been an ardent advocate for children with disabilities and their right to an equitable service, particularly with the planning and roll out of the Progressing Disability Services. Her compassionate approach to relationship building and her strategic thinking and leadership skills were endorsed through testimonials from work colleagues and managers within Enable Ireland, the HSE and stakeholders. It is very fitting that Caroline received this award just before she retired from her post as Clinical Co-ordinator.

She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best into the future.



# Tara Towers Hotel Dublin,

## A Review by George Dineen, Kerry

Recently, I went for a night away in the Tara Towers hotel in Dublin. When I got to the hotel, the hotel was not exactly electric wheelchair friendly.

I booked into the hotel and went to the entrance to my room to find there were three steps to enter the room. I then went down to reception to tell the receptionist that the room was inaccessible for me.

The receptionist gave me another room. When I got to this room, I got into the room, but the door was very narrow and tight. I had a manual hoist with me and it was very hard to get the hoist from my wheelchair to the bed because there was carpet

on the floor and it is very hard to push a hoist on a carpet floor.

In the morning, when I was getting up, the bed had to be moved to make room for the hoist to turn in the room. I could not access the toilet because the bathroom was too small for my hoist to turn inside.

The lift to go upstairs was too small for an electric wheelchair. When I was going into the lift, my dad had to physically turn the wheelchair around by lifting it to make room for the wheelchair. Overall, the staff in the hotel were very nice and polite but the hotel was only wheelchair accessible for a manual wheelchair.



**Response from Tara Towers:**  
We are aware that the hotel is not fully wheelchair accessible. The hotel was built in the 70's and since has not seen a major refurbishment. We are currently in the planning process of a major refurbishment that will see the hotel become much more accessible for all our guests, we will of course take this review into account when looking at the plans. We hope that our schedule of works will start mid 2017.



The group pictured outside the Titanic Museum, Belfast

## A Trip to Belfast

In June, a group of 11 teenagers from the School Age Team and Enable Ireland Sandymount school went on a trip to Belfast to see the world's largest Titanic visitor experience.

The group travelled by train and a great day was had by all and the group have kept in touch and formed new friendships.

A big thank you to all in Irish Rail for their assistance.

## Celebration Time in Dun Laoghaire

It's not always hard work in Dun Laoghaire and there's plenty of time to celebrate - especially birthdays. In August, they had two birthdays on the same day!



Jane Connor and Alan Koppenhofer

**enable  
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Disability Services  
Life With No Limits



### Sonia O'Sullivan

Thank you Sonia O Sullivan for taking time to meet the Enable Ireland Castlebar shop Staff who were getting ready to run and walk in the Western People west of Ireland ladies Mini Marathon 2016 during the summer.



### The Strypes Donations

The Strypes have been giving big this year. The donated previously loved clothes to the TK Maxx Give Up Cloth for Good Campaign and also eight portraits. Donations were auctioned for over €1,400.



### Thank you!

Thank you to Trim Athletic Club for their donation of €620.00 raised from a Club Mini League (picture Linda Keogh and Sheila).



### Limerick Ambassador

Pictured with Eoghan Clifford are Tony Murphy Director of services Limerick and Mikey O Doherty. The Para Olympian athlete who won both Bronze and Gold in the cycling event in Rio and will act as Enable Ireland Limerick's Ambassador for 2017.

### Thanks Aoife!

Aoife Cummins presenting a donation of her Communion Money, €100, to Mary Leigh Enable Ireland Clare Adult Services; Aoife's cousin James attends Enable Ireland. The funds went towards sensory equipment for the Clare Adult's Centre.



### Mark Kelliher

This year alone he has raised over €3,500 for Enable Ireland. Enable Ireland is close to Mark's heart as he is the uncle of a child who uses our services in Cork and Kerry.



### Mick Flannery

In September, Mick Flannery played a benefit gig for Enable Ireland to a sell out crowd at Crane Lane Theatre, Cork. But first, we visited a group at Cork Adult Services.



### Run with Red

Enable Ireland, Cork Services was delighted to be nominated as one of the charities to benefit from the proceeds of RedFM's 'RunWithRed' campaign in relation to participating in Cork City Marathon in June. Noel and Susan Beecher and their daughter Scarlett got to visit RedFM's studios in Curraheen. Thanks to them for representing us there!





## Events 2017

Hannah, 9, enjoys festivities at the launch of the fundraising campaign for the New Cork Children's Centre.

### DECEMBER 2016 – JUNE 2017

DIT/Enable Ireland Universal Design Exhibition National Museum of Art and Design, Collins Barracks Dublin

### FEBRUARY 2017

Give Up Clothes for Good

### APRIL 2017

London Marathon

### MAY 2017

New Your City Marathon

Belfast City Marathon

Up to date information on events is available at [www.enableireland.ie/events](http://www.enableireland.ie/events)

If you want to organise your own event, please download our Fundraising Pack or get in touch with your local fundraising office [www.enableireland.ie/get-involved](http://www.enableireland.ie/get-involved)

### JUNE 2017

VHI Women's Mini Marathon

### JULY 2017

Tough Mudder

### SEPTEMBER 2017

No Limits

Berlin Marathon

### NOVEMBER 2017

Cork Ladies Lunch



## Forever in our thoughts - Remembering Patricia and Ronan

Enable Ireland Clare Adult Services sadly lost two service users in recent months.

Patricia Kelly passed away on June 28th 2016. RIP. We will always remember Patricia for her sense of humour and her willingness to help others. Staff and service users are working on developing a patio garden at our Centre, which will feature a bench dedicated to Patricia and will be planted with flowers in Patricia's favourite purple colours.

Ronan Kildea left us unexpectedly on Sept 7th 2016. RIP. Ronan, with his mother Ann was one of the founding members of CPI in Clare, now Enable Ireland. Ronan's wit, determination and appetite for life saw him achieve so much. Ronan had a huge interest in sports and thanks to donations on Ronan's behalf to Enable Ireland, Clare Adult Services will organise an annual sporting event in summer 2017 in Ronan's honour with a perpetual trophy being awarded to the winning team. Our aim is to build this up to a national event over the coming years.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a n-anamnacha  
From all in Enable Ireland Clare Adult Services

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