



Family Support Services

'A home from home model of Support'



An overview of Family Support Services

Family Support

This is a home based respite/short breaks and support service. The service employs Family Support workers who work on a one to one basis with the child, young person, or adult either in their own home or their local community.

Host Family Placements away from Home

This involves a child, young person or adult spending time with a host family in the community. The Host Family is recruited, assessed, trained, supervised and supported by the service.

Contract Families

Some Host Families are requested to commit to offering placements to one or more individuals in their home with high support needs such as medical, physical, or emotional needs. We ask the families to commit to a fixed no of session per month.

Shared Living

Shared Living is an arrangement in which a person with a disability lives with an individual, couple or family in the community on a full time basis.



Home Sharing Scheme

- o The Home Sharing scheme has been operating in Galway for almost 30 years
- o In 2007 it was expanded with the development of Contract Family funded by Pobal
- o In 2011 Genio funded the Home Sharing Scheme to move children from a congregated respite centre into Home Sharing & Contract Family placements.
- o Now in 2013 the scheme is being expanded further, through Genio funding, to include Shared Living



Sourcing Host Families

- Ongoing Enquiries
- Local Advertising
- Training and Family Day
- Articles in local papers
- Radio
- Within the organisation
- NHSN website
- Word of mouth in the community



To Become a Host Family

- The Training
- The Assessment
- Garda Clearance
- HSE Enquiries
- References
- Medicals
- Approvals



Finding the Right Match

- Application for a service
- Approved host Families
- Matching panel
- The process
- An Introductory phase
- Placement agreement



Supports

- Matching
- Introductions
- Placement review
- Regular ongoing contact
- Host Family Support Meetings
- Involvement in the person's service plan
- On going mandatory training
- Regular Host Family reviews




Benefits for the Individual:

- Individualised service, person is matched to a family that will best meet their needs and interests.
- Flexibility
- Living in a family environment
- Broader social network
- Part of wider community
- Person gets to lead a fuller, more integrated lifestyle.



Family Support Services Challenges for the future

- Meeting growing popularity of 'home from home' experience and increasing number of applications.
- Remaining true to integrity of matching, compatibility and remaining local with service provision.
- Establishing highest standards of care in local community settings and providing appropriate levels of professional support.
- More flexible & responsive deployment of staff to ensure a greater community focus.
- The establishment of a regional and national model of care for Family Support Services.



Cost associated with Host Family Placement

- The Individual Placement
- Reallocating funding
- Support to the individual
- Each Host Family has an appointed link social Worker
- Equipment
- Expenses
- Rent
- Rent- A-Room Scheme