



# **REGIONAL DISABILITY SEMINAR**

**DONEGAL, SLIGO & LEITRIM  
NOVEMBER 2014**

**DONEGAL PHYSICAL & SENSORY  
DISABILITY SERVICES, HSE NORTH WEST**

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION - ABHAILE

- This project provided meaningful respite care for an adolescent boy with significant physical disabilities and mental health difficulties, both in his own home and his local community

## PROJECT AIMS

- To provide a respite service tailored to meet individual needs
- Open up opportunities to explore local community without parental supervision
- Give much needed respite to the parents who care for their son 24hrs daily with no breaks
- Adopting this progressive model in the future to provide changes in respite services offered to other individuals with complex needs

## HOW THE PROJECT AIMS WERE ACHIEVED

- Worked in partnership with the young person and his parents to put together a training plan which targeted the skills and knowledge required
- Training plan devised in relation to recruitment and retention of employees and sourcing trainers to deliver and monitor progress
- Implementation of the respite plan and subsequent reviews

# BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE

## ○ **INDIVIDUAL**

- Regular community based respite using universal facilities
- Empowerment and ownership
- Exposure to positive new experiences
- Improved mental health
- Core team of 3 personal assistants who are all confident and competent to support individual
- Commencement of adult learning course

## ○ **SERVICE**

- Focus on person centred planning
- Adoption of progressive model involving direct funding
- Change in service delivery
- Staff profiling and up-skilling

## BENEFITS BEYOND THE LIFE OF FUNDING

- Young person's yearly respite grant will be utilised solely for respite provision
- Independence in money management
- Increased self esteem
- Participation in community based projects
- Up-skilled staff pool
- Change in the way services are provided by adopting the model which matches staff to an individual

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION – MOVING ON

- This project supported young people with physical and sensory disabilities to learn how to guide their Personal Assistants to support them in achieving their goals and with their day to day activities
- It equipped them with the necessary skills to become active citizens within their own communities

# PROJECT AIMS

- Educate and support young people to utilize a personal assistant in preparation for adult life
- Equip young people with the necessary skills to become active citizens within their own communities
- Enhance the young persons capacity to be actively involved in service planning and delivery of their services



# HOW THE PROJECT AIMS WERE ACHIEVED

- Through a series of full-day workshops the young people were given the forum to voice what was important to them
- They produced a DVD showcasing a number of short films, cartoons, and documentaries devised and produced by themselves
- Through the magic medium of film, these future Spielberg's were able to have their say about everything from using their strengths, refusing to let barriers stand in their way, and dealing with every day challenges that face young people

# BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE

- Empowerment of young people to become involved in decision making and assert their rights
- Enhancement of skills such as team work, negotiating, problem solving and influencing
- Young people were exposed to situations where they will be asked to make decisions for themselves
- Insight into how adult services work and highlighted the differences between how child and adult services are managed

# BENEFITS BEYOND THE LIFE OF FUNDING

- Two participants had the opportunity to reside in Dublin and gain work experience in the office of the Ombudsman for Children
- Young people continue to participate in various groups/projects in their local communities and have the confidence to have their voice heard
- Disability awareness film continues to be used in both educational and health setting to promote diversity and difference

- A group of young people were invited to attend the President's Garden Party in Áras an Uachtaráin
- Young person made representation in Dail Eireann
- Young peoples respite services have significantly changed, based on typical teenage experience















































































































































































































