



INCLUSION IRELAND

Advocacy Plan (2010-2012)

What is the plan about?

The plan is about the commitment of Inclusion Ireland to provide and support advocacy.

What is its purpose?

To communicate Inclusion Ireland's advocacy objectives and activities for the two year period from 2010 - 2012

Why is it needed?

In 2009 Inclusion Ireland began discussing how as a national organisation it needed to communicate to others the types of advocacy it provides and supports

Is our strategic plan not enough?

Our strategic plan was written over four years ago and much has changed since then in terms of how advocacy is understood, provided and funded

How was the plan developed?

An internal process of dialogue between staff was initiated with the view to agreeing a shared understanding of advocacy. From this process, a number of documents, including this advocacy plan, were developed. These documents were reviewed by the advocacy committee of Inclusion Ireland who provided commentary and feedback. These documents provide a road map for Inclusion Ireland to achieve its advocacy aims and objectives.

Who will benefit from this plan?

This plan gives clarity to the Board and staff of Inclusion Ireland. It also provides members with a reference point to which our advocacy activities can be measured. It provides evidence to funders and potential funders about the central role of advocacy in Inclusion Ireland. It shows the people who use our services and those potential users of our services what we do and how we do it.

Inclusion Ireland's Vision for Advocacy

All people with intellectual disabilities have a right to advocacy services and supports to enable them to participate in their communities as equal citizens

Structure of this plan

The plan follows the same structure as the Inclusion Ireland Strategic Plan. There are a number of advocacy objectives. A series of actions are associated with each objective. Performance indicators show how progress in achieving each objective is measured

Resources

Many of the advocacy objectives in this plan are dependent on resources. The provision of advocacy services and supports is dependent on resources. During the lifetime of this plan, Inclusion Ireland will continue to work to secure the resources required to achieve its objectives.

Supporting Documents

There are a number of supporting documents that should be read in conjunction with this document. Amongst other things, these explain the different models of advocacy provided and supported by inclusion Ireland and the policies and guidelines followed by advocates and staff. These supporting documents are:

- Inclusion Ireland Guide to Advocacy
- Advocacy Policies and Guidelines

ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

Advocacy Objective 1

Inclusion Ireland will provide a representative advocacy service to people with an intellectual disability and their family members

Actions:

1. Inclusion Ireland will provide a quality representative advocacy service to people with an intellectual disability and their family members
2. Inclusion Ireland will provide accessible information and support to enable people to access representative advocacy services
3. Inclusion Ireland will encourage disability service providers to support representative advocacy
4. Inclusion Ireland will work in collaboration with others to develop and promote new and existing advocacy services for people with an intellectual disability
5. Persons with an intellectual disability, parents and disability service providers receive information, training and support on the role of a representative advocate

Performance Indicators:

- The number of enquiries and advocacy cases dealt with by Inclusion Ireland is recorded
- Inclusion Ireland publishes a guide to advocacy
- Inclusion Ireland engages with the CIB and other funding agencies to secure new and maintain existing representative advocacy services
- Inclusion Ireland promotes representative advocacy at National Disability Stakeholder Monitoring Group, Sectoral Plan Working Groups, Consultative Fora, relevant committees and working groups
- Inclusion Ireland will prepare a statistical analysis to show the nature and extent of representative advocacy provided
- Feedback is gathered from people who use Inclusion Ireland representative advocacy services

Advocacy Objective 2

Inclusion Ireland will actively encourage and support self advocacy

Actions:

6. Inclusion Ireland will provide information, training and support on self advocacy to people with an intellectual disability
7. Inclusion Ireland will provide independent facilitation to self advocacy groups
8. Inclusion Ireland will encourage disability service providers to support best practice in self advocacy
9. Inclusion Ireland will create new and maintain existing links with various third level programmes on self advocacy for adults with intellectual disabilities
10. Inclusion Ireland will work with self advocates in a way that decision making always rests with the self advocate
11. Inclusion Ireland will encourage disability service providers to have self advocates on their Boards and committees
12. Inclusion Ireland will bring self advocacy groups together for training, information and conferences

Performance Indicators:

- A National Platform of Self Advocates is established and supported by Inclusion Ireland
- A guide to establishing self advocacy groups is produced
- Inclusion Ireland has a dedicated self advocacy section on its website
- A series of meetings with self-advocacy groups around the country are organised and supported
- An increase in the number of self-advocacy groups receiving independent facilitation
- Disability service providers are made aware of the role and value of self advocacy groups
- New links are established and existing links developed with third level institutions
- Self advocacy events and initiatives are promoted on Inclusion Ireland's website and through its social media

Advocacy Objective 3

Inclusion Ireland will encourage and support people with an intellectual disability to be effective peer advocates

Actions:

13. Inclusion Ireland will provide information, support and training to people with intellectual disability on peer advocacy
14. Inclusion Ireland will provide independent facilitation and support to peer advocates and peer advocacy groups
15. Inclusion Ireland will encourage those providing direct services to people with an intellectual disability to recognise and accept peer advocates

Performance Indicators:

- Dedicated peer advocacy section on the Inclusion Ireland website
- Training and support for peer advocacy is provided
- Information on peer advocacy included in Inclusion Ireland guide to advocacy
- Increase in the number of peer advocates and peer advocacy groups supported and facilitated by Inclusion Ireland
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, website, social networking to recognise and promote peer advocacy

Advocacy Objective 4

Inclusion Ireland will encourage and support parents to be effective advocates

Actions:

16. Inclusion Ireland will provide information, training and support to parents on how to advocate and how to support advocacy
17. Inclusion Ireland will collaborate with parents & friends associations around the country
18. Inclusion Ireland will provide support and training to parents to participate on parent speaking panels.
19. Inclusion Ireland will support parents to participate on Consultative Committees of the HSE
20. Inclusion Ireland will encourage those providing direct services to people with disabilities to have parent representation on their Boards and committees

Performance Indicators:

- A dedicated section on parent advocacy is created on the Inclusion Ireland website
- Parents are trained to deliver presentations to professionals who will work or provide services to people with disabilities
- Parents are empowered to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual disabilities
- Parents receive information, training and support on advocacy
- Inclusion Ireland receives regular updates and feedback from parent representatives
- National parent representatives of consultative fora meet with Inclusion Ireland
- Publication on parent advocacy is produced

Advocacy Objective 5

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for legislative and policy reform relevant to people with an intellectual disability

Actions:

21. Inclusion Ireland will continue to monitor implementation of the National Disability Strategy
22. Inclusion Ireland will monitor and review all policies and laws affecting people with an intellectual disability
23. Inclusion Ireland will advocate for the introduction of modern capacity legislation
24. Inclusion Ireland will continue to call for the introduction of a statutory advocacy service as outlined in the Citizens Information Act (2007)
25. Inclusion Ireland will engage in campaigns to oppose cuts to frontline services for people with an intellectual disability
26. Inclusion Ireland will respond to legislative and policy issues as they occur through press statements; meetings with government Ministers and officials and through social media
27. Inclusion Ireland will monitor Dáil debates and parliamentary questions for issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities
28. Inclusion Ireland will participate on committees and working groups in respect of disability policy and law
29. Inclusion Ireland will host press conferences with other interested agencies on certain issues

Performance Indicators:

- Inclusion Ireland uses its role on the national disability stakeholder monitoring group, sectoral plan working groups, consultative for a and other committees and working groups to advocate for legislative and policy reform
- Submissions, presentations, press statements; policy papers and campaigns in respect legislative and policy reform are instigated and delivered
- Information on relevant Dáil debates and parliamentary questions are published on Inclusion Ireland website and through social media
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to highlight issues in respect of policy and legislation

Advocacy Objective 6

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for quality standards and statutory inspections of services provided to people with an intellectual disability

Actions:

30. Inclusion Ireland will continue to advocate for the introduction of national standards and statutory inspections of disability services
31. Inclusion Ireland will respond to issues as they arise that warrant statements on standards
32. Inclusion Ireland will monitor Dáil debates and parliamentary questions in respect of disability standards

Performance Indicators:

- Inclusion Ireland uses its role on the national disability stakeholder monitoring group, sectoral plan working groups, consultative for a and other committees and working groups to advocate for legislative and policy reform for standards and inspection
- Submissions, presentations, press statements; policy papers and campaigns in respect of standards and inspection are produced and disseminated by Inclusion Ireland
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to highlight issues in respect of standards and inspections

Advocacy Objective 7

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for the transfer of people with an intellectual disability from psychiatric hospitals to appropriate accommodation

Actions:

33. Inclusion Ireland will continue to call for an end to the practice of placing people with an intellectual disability in psychiatric hospitals and nursing homes
34. Inclusion Ireland will seek a representative advocacy service for all people with intellectual disability in psychiatric hospitals
35. Inclusion Ireland will respond to issues as they arise that warrant statements on inappropriate accommodation
36. Inclusion Ireland will continue to call for the provision of an independent assessment of need for people of all ages with an intellectual disability
37. Inclusion Ireland will work with Parents & Friends Associations and others to highlight inappropriate accommodation
38. Inclusion Ireland will monitor Dáil Debates and Parliamentary Questions

Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in the number of people with an intellectual disability in designated units and psychiatric hospitals
- Inclusion Ireland uses its role on the national disability stakeholder monitoring group, sectoral plan working groups, consultative for a and other committees and working groups to advocate for the transfer of people from psychiatric hospitals and the closure of dedicated units
- Inclusion Ireland will issue submissions, press statements and develop policy papers and campaigns on this issue
- Participation on the national congregated settings working groups and other groups and committees in respect of inappropriate accommodation and housing of people with an intellectual disability
- Inclusion Ireland uses its national media, newsletter, website and social media to highlight issues in respect of inappropriate accommodation

Advocacy Objective 8

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for ratification and implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability

Actions:

39. Inclusion Ireland will campaign for the ratification of the Convention
40. Inclusion Ireland will promote the Convention as the instrument to which all policies and laws affecting people with intellectual disability should be measured against
41. Inclusion Ireland will actively support services to promote and protect the human rights of people that use their services
42. Inclusion Ireland will recognise the annual anniversary of the signing of the Convention
43. Inclusion Ireland will monitor Dáil debates and parliamentary questions in respect of human rights
44. Questions and post on Inclusion Ireland website

Performance Indicators:

- An Inclusion Ireland guide to protecting and promoting human rights is produced and disseminated
- Dedicated human rights section on the Inclusion Ireland website
- Press conference and events to recognise signing and ratification of the Convention
- Human rights training developed and delivered to key stakeholders
- Submissions, press statements; policy papers, campaigns are developed and disseminated in respect of human right
- Inclusion Ireland uses its role on the national disability stakeholder monitoring group, sectoral plan working groups, consultative for a and other committees and working groups to advocate for ratification and implementation of the Convention
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to highlight issues in respect of the Convention

Advocacy Objective 9

Inclusion Ireland will encourage disability service providers to support different types of advocacy

Actions:

45. Inclusion Ireland will provide information, training and support to disability service providers on a range of advocacy
46. Inclusion Ireland will give presentations, seminars and talks on advocacy to disability service providers and frontline staff
47. Inclusion Ireland will publish a guide to advocacy and disseminate to disability service providers
48. Inclusion Ireland will encourage disability service providers to support National Self Advocacy Platform, representative advocacy services and other Inclusion Ireland advocacy initiatives

Performance Indicators:

- Inclusion Ireland advocacy publications are disseminated to providers of direct services to people with intellectual disabilities
- Information on number and type of services supported through talks, training and other ways is recorded
- Disability services receive advocacy information, support and training
- Dedicated advocacy section on the Inclusion Ireland website
- National Self Advocacy Platform, representative advocacy services and other Inclusion Ireland advocacy initiatives are supported by disability services
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to encourage support for advocacy

Advocacy Objective 10

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for the provision of services based on the needs and requirements of people with an intellectual disability

Actions:

49. Inclusion Ireland will advocate for a person centred approach to the delivery of services to all persons with an intellectual disability
50. Inclusion Ireland will call for innovative thinking in respect of the delivery of services to people with an intellectual disability
51. Inclusion Ireland will seek full implementation of the Disability Act; Education for Persons with Special Education Needs Act ; Citizens Information Act and other relevant legislation
52. Inclusion Ireland will publicise instances of inappropriate services or cuts to services
53. Inclusion Ireland will continue to have leading role in initiates advocating for direct payments in respect of services to people with intellectual disabilities

Performance Indicators:

- Inclusion Ireland participates in projects and activities associated with the provision of innovative residential, day and respite services to people with intellectual disability and their family members
- Inclusion Ireland uses its role on the national disability stakeholder monitoring group, sectoral plan working groups, consultative for a and other committees and working groups to advocate for person centered services
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to encourage support for the provision of services based on the needs and requirements of people with an intellectual disability

Advocacy Objective 11

Inclusion Ireland will advocate for implementation of the Disability Act so that all persons with intellectual disabilities receive an assessment of need

Actions:

54. Inclusion Ireland will advocate for full implementation of the Disability Act
55. Inclusion Ireland will monitor the assessment of need arrangements already introduced and the consistency of implementation
56. Inclusion Ireland will highlight the changing needs of adults with an intellectual disability who are aged over 18 years and aging people with an intellectual disability
57. Inclusion Ireland will monitor figures in respect of assessments and highlight any deficiencies
58. Inclusion Ireland will monitor gaps between the assessment of need, statement of need and service delivery
59. Inclusion Ireland will work with independent appeals office in respect of assessment of need

Performance Indicators:

- Information on gaps that exist in the provision of assessments of need are provided to HSE, CIB and other agencies
- Inclusion Ireland engages with HSE, Department of Health and Children and other agencies in respect of implementation of the provisions of the Disability Act
- Parents provide Inclusion Ireland with feedback and experiences in respect of the provisions of the Disability Act
- Inclusion Ireland participates in reviews of the implementation of Disability Act
- Parents are provided with information on assessment of need and independent appeals office
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to call for full implementation of the Disability Act

Advocacy Objective 12

Inclusion Ireland will promote and support citizen advocacy

Actions:

60. Inclusion Ireland will research best practice in respect of citizen advocacy
61. Inclusion Ireland will explore the possibility to resource a citizen advocacy project in Inclusion Ireland
62. Inclusion Ireland will support good practice in respect of citizen advocacy

Performance Indicators:

- Research on citizen advocacy undertaken
- Proposal for funding is developed
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to acknowledge good practice

Advocacy Objective 13

Inclusion Ireland will provide quality and accessible information services and publications

Actions:

63. Inclusion Ireland will provide a quality information service to members of Inclusion Ireland and to the wider public
64. Inclusion Ireland will provide a transcribing service to Government departments and public bodies in respect of the requirements of the Disability Act
65. Inclusion Ireland will ensure its website is relevant and accessible
66. Inclusion Ireland will continue to produce information that is relevant to people with an intellectual disability in an easy to read form
67. Inclusion Ireland will continue to publish information on issues relevant to people with intellectual disability
68. Inclusion Ireland will monitor the effectiveness of Inclusion Ireland internal information systems

Performance Indicators:

- The number of public bodies using of Inclusion Ireland transcribing service increases
- The number of people using inclusion Ireland information and services increases
- Increase in visitors to Inclusion Ireland website
- The number of fans and followers on Inclusion Ireland social media networks increases
- New Inclusion Ireland publications and existing publications updated
- The work of Inclusion Ireland is promoted at every opportunity
- The effectiveness of the Inclusion Ireland internal information system is reviewed
- People with and intellectual disability have access to accessible information in all areas relevant to their live

Advocacy Objective 14

Inclusion Ireland will provide information and support on statutory and non statutory schemes for making complaints and seeking redress

Actions:

69. Inclusion Ireland will provide information on systems of complaints and redress to people with intellectual disability and their family members
70. Inclusion Ireland will encourage people with an intellectual disability and their families to see themselves as citizens with rights in relation to the services they receive
71. Inclusion Ireland will develop and implement policy and procedures to deal with cases involving redress
72. Inclusion Ireland will ensure that people who engage in complaints and redress are aware of the processes that needs to be followed
73. Inclusion Ireland will make representative advocacy services available to people in respect of making complaints and seeking redress

Performance Indicators:

- People with an intellectual disability will be empowered to make complaints or appeals where they deem this to be necessary
- Increase in the numbers of people supported to make complaints and seeks redress
- Representative advocacy is made available to people to enable them to make complaints and seek redress
- Inclusion Ireland uses media, newsletter, website and social media to highlight right of people to complain and seek redress where appropriate