



**INCLUSION IRELAND**

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

**Submission to the  
Department of Rural  
and Community  
Development  
on the Review of the Community  
Services Programme (CSP)**

**November 2018**

**This document is written in font 12 Verdana in line with Inclusion  
Ireland plain English guidelines**



Department of Rural and  
Community Development



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail



## The Public Sector Duty

Eliminating discrimination, promoting  
equality and protecting human rights

 Equality and Human Rights Commission  
August 2016



## Easy to read summary

The Department of Rural and Community Development are looking at the Community Services Programme.

The Community Services Programme supports community companies to help their local communities.

Inclusion Ireland is asking the department to:

- Think about the Public Sector Duty when doing the view. The public sector duty is about promoting rights and equality
- Provide information in easy to read, plain English and other accessible formats
- Use 'Planning for Effective Participation in Decision-Making' as a guide when asking people with disabilities what they think of the Community Services Programme.
- Include people with disabilities on the Steering Group for the review
- Collect information on the numbers of people with intellectual disabilities that are accessing the programmes so that we know if the programmes are accessible.

# About Inclusion Ireland

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Established in 1961, Inclusion Ireland is a national, rights based advocacy organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability.

The vision of Inclusion Ireland is that of people with an intellectual disability living and participating in the community with equal rights.

Inclusion Ireland's work is underpinned by the values of dignity, inclusion, social justice, democracy and autonomy and we use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to guide our work.

## Introduction

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Inclusion Ireland notes the intention of the Department of Rural and Community Development to conduct a review of the Community Services Programme (CSP) in 2019. Inclusion Ireland will participate in the consultation on this review when it commences.

The Department has drafted a comprehensive terms of reference for the scope of the review. At this stage of the process, Inclusion Ireland would like to make the following points on the scope.

## Scope of the review

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### **Public sector duty**

In its most recent strategy statement, the Department of Rural and Community Development notes its obligations under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act, 2014.

Although the public sector duty does not legally apply to programme beneficiaries of the CSP, any organisation that is in receipt of public money should be encouraged to progressively realise the public sector duty in their work.

## **Accessible information**

Accessible information refers to information in a variety of formats so that it can be accessed and understood by a wide range of audiences, most specifically people with disabilities.

Before any consultation begins, it is very important that information regarding the programme review, invitations to consult, flyers, information updates and so on are made available in accessible formats.

At a minimum, Inclusion Ireland recommends that all information be produced in Plain English in accordance with the National Adult Literacy Agency NALA guidelines. Specifically useful to people with intellectual disabilities is Easy to Read information which combines symbols and text for ease of understanding. Video and audio are also useful and accessible to a wide range of audiences. Braille and ISL are necessary for those who have sensory impairments.

The provision of accessible information by the Department will help towards meeting the Departments own responsibilities under the Public Sector Duty.

## **Consultation with people with disabilities**

Inclusion Ireland would like to draw the Department's attention to the recently published report of Transforming Lives, Working Group 3. This group was set up in 2015 to examine how people with disabilities and families could be more involved in making decisions about services that affect their lives. Their report, 'Effective Participation in Decision-Making: Planning for Ordinary Lives in Ordinary Places'<sup>1</sup> provides a framework for the inclusion of people with disabilities in consultative and decision-making processes.

The plan identifies the range of supports that are needed to ensure the effective participation of people with a disability and their families in decision-making processes as well as strategies to develop effective participation in decision-making.

Although the report focuses on HSE funded services, the framework it sets out is equally applicable to any process that involves consultation with people with disabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/plan-for-effective-participation-in-decision-making-plain-english.pdf>

## **Disaggregated data**

People with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Data on disability in general can sometimes mask differences in outcomes. For example, while around one third of people with disabilities are in employment, this figure falls to 17% among people with intellectual disabilities<sup>2</sup>. It is important that data on disability is disaggregated so that we can see if a programme is working for everyone.

Under strand 1 of the CSP – “Operate community halls and facilities”, the review should seek to establish the extent to which these facilities are:

- Physically accessible to people with disabilities
- Accessible to people with intellectual disabilities in terms of plain English and easy to read information about the services provided
- Regularly accessed by people with intellectual disabilities and other disabilities

Under strand 2 – “Provide services to local, regional and national geographical communities or communities of interest, especially to disadvantaged communities”, the review should seek to establish the extent to which:

- These services are accessible to people with disabilities
- People with disabilities are proactively targeted by these services
- These services are regularly accessed by people with intellectual disabilities and other disabilities

Under strand 3– “Operate social enterprises that provide employment for specific disadvantaged groups namely Travellers, people with disabilities, ex-prisoners and recovering drug mis-users”, the review should seek to establish:

- The number of people with intellectual disabilities who are employed

The review should also collect information on learning and models of good practice that have evolved from the process of proactively engaging in the recruitment of people with disabilities and people with intellectual disabilities.

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<sup>2</sup> CSO (2017). Census 2016.

# Recommendations

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- Use the framework set out in 'Effective Participation in Decision-Making: Planning for Ordinary Lives in Ordinary Places' as a guide to consulting people with disabilities in the course of the review
- The steering group for the review should include representatives of those who use the programmes, including people with disabilities, so that people are fully involved in the process
- Consider the Public Sector Duty in the course of the review
- Examine participation and outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities through the use of disaggregated data

**For further information, contact;  
Sarah Lennon, Communications & Information Manager, Inclusion  
Ireland.**

**01 855 98 91 / [sarah@inclusionireland.ie](mailto:sarah@inclusionireland.ie)**