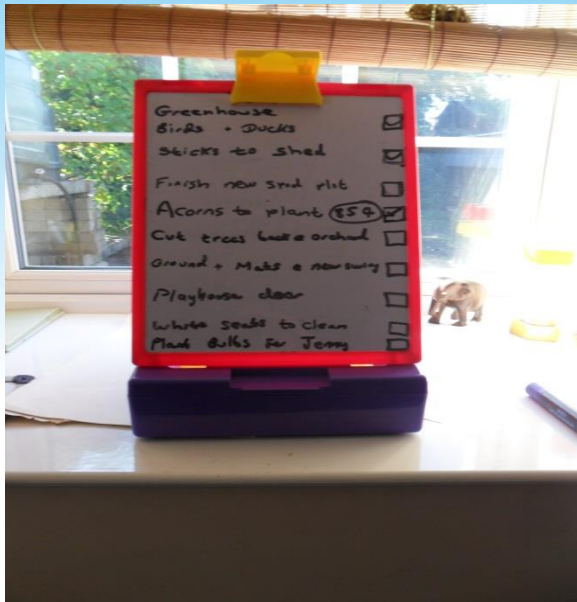


Costs of Service Delivery: The SoFAB Experience



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Report

Costs and Benefits of Social Farming



Report of the Social Farming Across Borders (SoFAB) Project

September 2014



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Compilation of the Costs / Benefits

Data collected through the combination of:

- Weekly record books (Log Books) as maintained by the farmers;
- Interviews with farmers, participants and their supporters;
- Data on costs were also collected through a survey of the pilot farmers in April 2014 which was shared with the 20 farmers in May 2014

Core Costs

Core costs =
day-to-day running
costs such as: material
costs (consumables);
utilities (light, heat etc);
insurance; light
refreshments; and other
miscellaneous one off costs

The average core costs per
service user per day for
social farming activities was:

€14.16 in Northern Ireland

€10.84 in the RoI

(range €4.14 to €24.10 per service
user per day)

Costs of Labour

- The average labour input per service user per day was 4.23 hours (range of 1.17 to 7.5 hours)
- Notional labour cost of:
€11.08/hr for NI farmers and
€15.30/hr for ROI farmers

(rates calculated based on NHS and HSE
Healthcare/ Care Assistant pay scale rates)

The average
labour cost per
service user/day
is calculated as:

€51.52 for NI

€58.27 for ROI

Cost Service Delivery

Core + Labour costs combined:

- the total cost per service user per day is calculated as:
 - €65.68 in NI and
 - €69.11 in ROI

Comparable costs?

- **National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (RoI)** - Day care services for people with intellectual disabilities - cost provided for the provision of a unit of employment support/sheltered employment = **€81/person/day**.
- The 2012 **Department of Health (RoI)** '*Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services in Ireland*' recommended cost **€57.70/person/day** (for minimum, low and moderate support).

Comparable costs?

- Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCB & PHA, 2014) indicate that the current average day care cost in Northern Ireland is **£72.67** per person/day (**€87.20**)
- The Centre for Independent Living Northern Ireland (2014) - evidence from two Trusts shows the average rate of payment for self directed supports is **£72.40**/person/day (**€86.88**)

Comparable costs?

- England - the average cost per session for unsupported clients (attending the farm without the support of a care worker) was **£48 (€57.60)** (Bragg et al., 2014).
- The average payment per client in the Netherlands was **€77** for those with their own personal budgets and **€50** per day for those with contracts through care institutions (Hassink et al., 2007)

So what does this mean?

‘SoFAB Pilot farms experience showed that social farming can be delivered on farms in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at a rate that is cost effective when compared to costs of existing day care services’