

NEW DIRECTIONS

**REVIEW OF HSE DAY SERVICES AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2012 – 2016**

**PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ADULTS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**HSE
Working Group Report
February 2012**

Context

- “Traditionally, day services for adults with disabilities have been specialist services in segregated settings and locations as opposed to mainstream services.
- In recent years, supported by legislation, the social model of disability and evolving ideas and practices, the main thrust of service provision has been to assist and support adults with disabilities to:
 - engage in and be part of their community;
 - participate as equal and full citizens in all aspects of social living; and
 - make maximum use of mainstream services, in accordance with their wishes, aspirations and needs”.

What is a day service?

- The report concluded that there is no “nationally agreed or clear definition about what constitutes a day service”
- Traditional day services owe their origins to the institutional movement of the 1800s

What do people want?

1,500+ people consulted

- They don't want:
 - Absence of choice
 - Time spent doing nothing or doing repetitive activities of little use or value to themselves

What do people want?

1,500+ people consulted

■ They want:

- To do ordinary things in ordinary places and to be part of the community.

Therefore support services will have to be tailored to each persons individual need.

Conclusion

- Service locations should be decided with a view to enabling people with disabilities to be an integral part of their community rather than segregated or removed from the community. As far as possible, buildings where services are provided should be located in integrated settings. Any new physical developments should take the form of a 'hub' from which people with disabilities can be supported to access local services.

National Disability Strategy

- The ambitious change envisaged in ***New Directions*** is strongly linked to the implementation of the policy of mainstreaming that is a core part of the National Disability Strategy.
- Treating people as people and not as units of service consumption “challenges organisations to move away from segregated service practices that limit people’s social roles. It places a premium on community inclusion, on supporting people to build their capacities and competencies, and on helping people to discover and make use of their unique abilities so that they can make a valued contribution to their community” page 15

UN Convention

- The United Nations Convention on Individuals with Disabilities adds a further strong support to the direction of the supports programme contained in ***New Directions***, with its focus on community participation, creativity, and opportunities for independence, learning and having the chance to take up valued social roles.

Risk

- “Finally, the research draws attention to the need for new thinking about the concept of risk in relation to service provision. Traditionally, risk for individuals is assessed by professionals who then take responsibility for decisions. These professionals may prevent the adult with a disability from taking a risk, if there are potential consequences for the organisation. The research argues for a person-centred approach to risk that both enables the person to have control over his or her life and encourages citizenship.”