



## **What is Moving Ahead?**

Moving ahead is a project funded by the Health Research Board.

This project took 2 years to run.

This project looked at some of the challenges for people with disabilities living in the community.

This is the Easy to Read version of the report.

There is a lot more information in a bigger report and on the website.

## **What did the Moving Ahead Project look at?**

This Project looked at three things

1. What options are available for people with disability to live in the community?
2. What are the Government policies that effect development of community living options?
3. How is community living working in Ireland?





## **What options are available for people with disability to live in the community?**

Some people move from big care centres to smaller houses in the community.

This project found out that

- People have better lives when they live in smaller houses in the community and not in big care centres.
- People have better lives when they live in ordinary neighbourhoods rather than houses provided by service providers.
- Living in the community can cost more but the quality is better.
- People with disabilities are usually happy wherever they live.





- Families can be worried about the safety of living in the community.
- It can be hard to get support in the community if you need a lot of support.



- It can be hard for people with disabilities to make friends in the community.
- People with disabilities and their families would like more chances to use self advocacy.



- When Service Providers offer Community Living, they need to make many changes and this can take time.
- Staff need to change the way they work when people move to Community Living.

## What are the policies that effect development of community living options?



The Government and Health Service Executive (HSE) have published many reports on Disability Services.

The reports look at

- Housing
- Big care centres
- Day Services
- Value for Money



The Government says that disability services need to change.

Disability services will need to work in the community.

Disability services will need to treat people as individuals.

Some disability services will find these changes easy and some will find it more difficult.



## How is community living working in Ireland?



This project wanted to look at why some community living projects were working well and why some were not.

This project looked at 2 different parts of Ireland.

The people who ran this project spoke to lots of people

- People who use the service
- Family members
- Staff
- Managers
- People who work for the Health Service Executive (HSE)
- People who work in the disability area



The people who ran this project got their information by

- Interview
- Focus Group
- Survey





## How did people live?

- People live in different places, some in big care centres and some in the community.
- People had different levels of intellectual disability.
- People offered similar levels of support in the two regions.
- Most people had medical needs and were on medication.
- Most people had been shopping or for a meal recently. Often with a member of staff.
- People were more likely to attend a medical centre if they lived in a big care centre.
- Many people said they would like more friends.
- Most people were happy with the service.



## What did people say?



### People who use the service said

- People did not like big care centres with ten or more residents called congregated settings.
- Only people who lived in big care centres said they were good.
- Many people liked to live near the service, with staff nearby or in the community with staff support.
- Many people had never lived independently.

### Family Members said

- Some liked big care centres, some did not.
- Most liked homes near the service or in the community.
- Most families didn't think people could live independently.



### Staff said

- Staff in large services had good and bad things to say.
- Staff in smaller services had good things to say mostly.
- Staff said they were worried about people moving to independent living.
- Staff worried about money, support and their own job.





### Managers said

- There are not enough houses.
- They agree with the Government policies but some staff do not.
- It can be hard to follow the Government policies.



### People who work for the Health Service Executive (HSE) said

- The HSE needs to be improved.
- The HSE needs to help people to understand the Government policies.



### People who work in the disability area said

- Advocacy is poor in Ireland.
- People need more housing.
- Some services were afraid of change.
- The HSE needed to be a leader
- People should have a service of their choice, in the community.
- Change needed to happen more slowly.

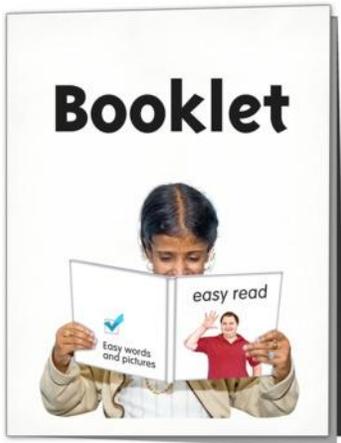
What does this report decide?



People usually prefer the services that they are used to.

Some of the things that stop people from moving to the community are

- Bad information on the Government policies.
- People being worried.
- Staff worrying about their jobs.
- People not knowing what the new services are like.



Some of the things that can help people to move to the community are

- Good information on the Government policies
- Houses that meet people's needs and in a good location.
- People getting time to plan.
- More staff and better staff training.
- More advocacy services.
- More support.





This document was read by people with intellectual disabilities who said it was easy to read and understand.



This document was put together by Inclusion Ireland.



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