

National Platform of Self Advocates

National Meeting
30th January 2019

My name is Brian Hayes and I am Chairperson of the National Platform of Self Advocates.





Thank you for joining us this morning for our meeting on the research we are going to do.

I'd like to say thank you to Minister Finian McGrath for hosting our national meeting in the Dáil.

What is the National Platform of Self Advocates?

The Platform is an independent self-advocacy organisation. It was set up to make sure that the voices of people with intellectual disability are heard.

A core goal of the National Platform of Self Advocates is "making the lives of people with a disability better".

What has the National Platform of Self Advocates achieved?

- We did an important piece of research on Housing and Transport
- We were on the Value for Money group with the HSE
- I was on the Taskforce on Personalised Budgets, with Minister Finian McGrath
- We were in the Make Work Pay Consultation Group, Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the DEASP.

What has the National Platform of Self Advocates achieved so far?

- We have a Member on the Board of Directors of Inclusion Ireland.
- We did a direct consultation with the DEASP on their public consultation processes.
- We put an application together for the Disability Advisory Group. This will help IHREC to monitor how the government implements the CRPD. We were successful and I am one of 11 members appointed.

More of what the National Platform of Self Advocates has achieved?

- We have held regional meeting around the country.
- We have been appointed by Minister Finian McGrath as consultants to his office. We meet with him once a month. We tell him about issues our members are concerned about.

Member Meetings

We are delighted to be running this meeting today. At our last meeting we said that we wanted our members to be involved in our research and that is why we organised this meeting.

We will be running another national meeting shortly. This will be about the HSE's service plan. Minister McGrath said that he would like to talk to you about the plan.

Handover to Joe

I'd now like to hand you over to Joe who will talk to you about our experience of doing research.

Our experiences of doing research



Joseph McGrath
Vice Chair
National Platform of Self-Advocates



Why do we do research?



- Reason 1:** It's in our Strategic Plan.
- Reason 2:** We want to listen to what people have to say.
- Reason 3:** We want to tell Government about the things that are important to people with intellectual disabilities.

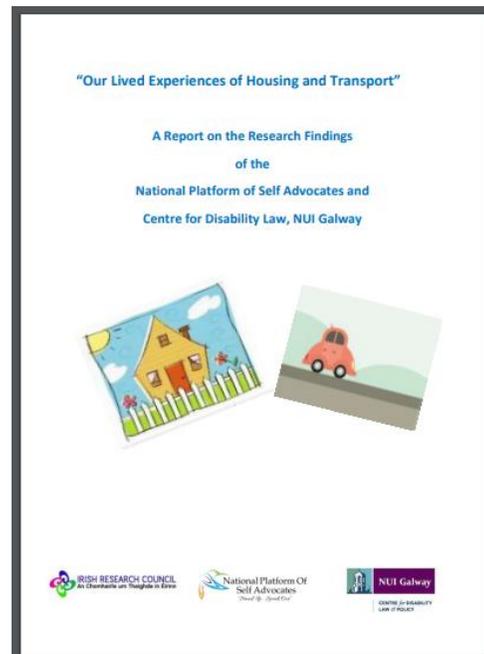




Our Research Projects



- We did research on housing and transport and on using technology to support self advocacy.





How did we do the research?

- We decided what we wanted to research.
- We worked with the Centre for Disability Law & Policy to write the application for the research.
- We got funding from the Irish Research Council
- The CDLP helped us to find a suitable researcher to work with us.



How did we do the research?



- It took us 6 months to do the work.
- We decided on the questions, we facilitated the focus groups, we gave the researcher jobs to do like interviewing and writing the report.
- We launched our report called Our Lived Experiences of Housing and Transport in 2017.





Why our research is important



- Our research is important because it is in the voice of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Other research includes parents, services and people with other disabilities and people with intellectual disabilities aren't always heard or taken seriously.





What we want



- We want action, not nice words.
- We don't want special treatment, just our rights.
- The challenges we face are the same for other people like older people, rural people and carers.
- We should all have a say in planning our public services.
- We want our voices to be heard by politicians and people who make decisions about our lives. Our research is hundreds of our voices.

Thank you for listening to me!



Our website: <http://thenationalplatform.ie>

Our email: myvoiceireland@gmail.com

I will now hand you over to David Fraughen

Using Technology to Support Self Advocacy

David Fraughen

The National Platform of Self Advocates

Using Technology to support Self Advocacy.

The National Platform of Self Advocates did some research on using an iPad to help people with reading challenges to be more independent.

I will use technology to deliver my presentation.

[Link to presentation.](#)

Research Disability and Homelessness

The National Platform talked about doing new research.

We looked at different ideas and listened to our members.

We voted on doing research on Homelessness and People with Disabilities.



Why did we decide to do this research?

We decided this for a lot of reasons.

Dermot and other members of the Platform were at a conference about disability and homelessness. This was organised by the National Advocacy Services in 2017.

The advocacy service said that they were getting more calls about people living in homeless services or at risk of becoming homeless. They said that many of these people are not supported by a disability service.

Difficulties for homeless people with disabilities.

Hostels are difficult for people with disabilities.

The hostels can't support you to take medication.

Disability services cannot provide accommodation for homeless people.



What now?

Ireland has ratified the CRPD.

State funded services are obliged to make sure that people with disabilities have their Human Rights protected.

Laws and policies have to change to make sure that people with disabilities have equality.

People with disabilities have to be prevented from becoming homeless.

Why are we doing this research?

We don't fully understand the needs of people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

We are doing this research because we might find ways to help people to keep their houses.

We might find out the causes of homelessness for some people.

What do we hope to get from this research?

We hope to write guidelines for organisations involved in the prevention of homelessness for people with disabilities.

We will make a list of some of the problems people with intellectual disabilities face.

We will give the guidelines and the list to all homeless services to help them understand the issues people with disabilities have.

Thank you.

I will now hand you over to Francis Doherty from the Peter McVerry Trust who will tell you about their work with homeless people.



Francis Doherty

The Peter McVerry Trust

Discussion Groups

We want you to split into your workgroups now.

We will have a facilitator from the steering committee in each group and a note taker too.

Focus of discussion



We want you to talk about the following:

1. Should the research focus on all disabilities or on intellectual disability only?
2. What organisations should the researchers consult with?
3. Will the Platform ask some organisation to be partners in the research?
4. Can you think of any problems the researchers might face and how could they solve them?
5. Who would like to be directly involved in the research and what skills do you have?

FEEDBACK

The Thank You's

On behalf of the Platform I would like to thank the self advocates for travelling here today.

We find it difficult sometimes to message our members, so we'd also like to thank our supporters:

The CDLP, Inclusion Ireland, and the supporters from all over the country who always make sure to spread the word on our behalf.

We are going to put a research project together and we will be in contact with anybody who said that they would like to be involved.

Minister Finian McGrath.

I would like to especially thank you Minister for inviting us here today.

You are a great supporter of the Platform and we always enjoy working with you.

As we no longer have funding we would not be able to continue as an organisation without the financial support you give us.

LUNCH