



Newsletter Autumn 2023

HSE Strategy and Research



Caoimhe Gleeson
General Manager

It is almost four months since the commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. The HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy has continued to provide daily advice and guidance to staff and services trying to understand and comply with the requirements of the new Act. Since commencement we now have 13 codes of practice, new circuit court rules, a number of supporting regulations, new forms and documentation to parse, analyse and apply to practice. The Act has significant implications for existing documentation including policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in the HSE and HSE funded agencies. To this end we have been working in collaboration with HSE Older Persons Operations to ensure that existing documentation for the Local Placement Forums, CSARs application forms and home support are aligned with the spirit and meaning of the 2015 Act. This process

is on-going. An ADM review of the HSE National Consent Policy 2022 is nearing completion with a revised version set to be published in October 2023. A review of practices in relation to the role and recording of the term 'Next of Kin' will commence in the coming weeks. Work is on-going with the Health Service trade unions on how to manage the requirement for assessments of capacity within services.

We spent the summer months recruiting mentors and mentees to the newly launched ADM mentorship programme. Jacqueline Grogan provides an overview of what this programme entails and are what the intended outcomes for participants. The Decision Support Service under the direction of Áine Flynn have fielded thousands of queries since their doors officially opened at the end of April 2023. Áine provides an update on what has happened in this intervening time. Work continues to progress on the DNA-CPR research which is being undertaken on behalf of the HSE by Dr. John Lombard and Dr. Hope Davidson from the University of Limerick. Elaine McCaughley highlights some key activities in relation to the research. Karoline Ward from Shine shares information on the See Change Green Ribbon campaign which is a month long campaign aimed at creating awareness and challenging the myth, misconceptions and stigma on mental health. Barbara Brennan who is a mental health advocate describes the 'Elephant in the room' movement which is a mental health arts initiative which aims to confront the stigma associated with mental health. The National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy have a long standing relationship with the University of Essex Autonomy Summer School. This year was the penultimate summer school to be hosted by Professor Wayne Martin. Elaine McCaughley documents the highlights from the school which took place at the University of Essex in August 2023. Amanda Casey who is a newly appointed lead for ADM and Safeguarding for the Ireland East Hospital Group describes her new role and ambitions for the coming months.

Finally I would like to give special mention to our friend, colleague and long-standing editor of this newsletter Orlaith Branagan. Orlaith was seriously injured at the start of the summer but I am delighted to share that she continues to make a steady and very positive recovery. We wish her the very best with her continued recovery.



Caoimhe Gleeson
General Manager

Since April 26th processes and procedures continue to be developed to support the implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. An update on these developments is set out here.

Legal aid for the relevant person

If an application is being made to appoint a Decision-Making Representative for a person (known as a relevant person under the 2015 Act), the **relevant person** has a **right to legal aid** which is not subject to a means test. The person or their supporter should contact the legal aid centre in the area where they live who will be able to advise on how to make such an application: <https://www.legalaidboard.ie/en/contact-us/find-a-law-centre/>.

Applications to the Circuit Court by the HSE

If the HSE intends to make an application for a Decision-Making Representative on behalf of a relevant person, it must first make an application to the Circuit Court seeking the consent of the court. If this consent is granted, the HSE can then proceed with an application for a Decision-Making Representative. **It is important that the rights of the relevant person are safeguarded in this process and that they are facilitated to have access to legal aid from the outset of the application. The person may also benefit from having access to an independent advocate.**

Assessment of decision-making capacity under the 2015 Act

Where it is established that a person requires an assessment of their decision-making capacity under the 2015 Act, a functional assessment of capacity is required. This means that decision-making capacity must be assessed using the functional test. It is not appropriate to use the Mini Mental State Exam (MMSE) or other assessments of cognition as the means of establishing a person's decision-making capacity under the 2015 Act.

Guidance is currently being developed on the requirement for the assessment of capacity under the 2015 Act. This will be available by the end of October 2023.

Assessment of capacity for a co-decision maker

If a person wishes to put in place a co-decision-making arrangement, they must have a capacity assessment which assesses three elements. These elements include that the appointer:

- has capacity to make a decision to enter the co-decision-making agreement
- requires assistance in exercising his/her decision-making in respect of the relevant decisions
- has capacity to make decisions specified with the assistance of the co-decision maker.

Detail of what is a co-decision maker is set out in the DSS Code of Practice for Co-decision makers <https://www.decisionsupportservice.ie/resources/codes-practice/code-practice-co-decision-makers>

Online bespoke training on assessments of capacity for Co-Decision-Making arrangements will be available through the Decision Support Service in October 2023.



Admissions to Residential Care where a person lacks decision-making capacity and does not wish to be admitted

In a situation where a person lacks decision-making capacity, requires an admission to a nursing home or a residential care facility, alternative options have been explored and/or tested and the person does not agree to this admission an application must be made to the High Court under *'inherent jurisdiction'* for the authority to make such an admission. Only the High Court has the authority to make such an order.

Work is on-going in the Department of Health to develop a Protection of Liberty Safeguards Scheme to address this current gap in legislation.

Concerns about decision-making supporters

The Decision Support Service has a statutory function to supervise decision support arrangements. If you have concerns about any of the decision support arrangements, you should contact the complaints section of the Decision Support Service. It has statutory powers to investigate concerns. See here for further information: <https://www.decisionsupportservice.ie/services/complaints>.

Assisted Decision Making Leads in the HSE and HSE Funded agencies

Assisted Decision-Making leads continue to be appointed across hospital groups and CHOs. This list is published on pages 8-10 of this newsletter.

ADM Poster

A poster promoting the principles of the Act was developed in the summer and is available for services to download. See <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/national-office-human-rights-equality-policy/assisted-decision-making-capacity-act/assisted-decision-making-resources/assisted-decision-making-poster-print-final-with-print-marks.pdf>.

The National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy have a limited number of hard copies of A1 sized posters. If you are interested in getting some posters please email adm@hse.ie.

Access to the Decision Support Service register

The Decision Support Service on-line register for decision-making arrangements has not yet been activated. If you wish to make an inquiry on a specific case, you should contact the decision support service directly. HSE Guidance will issue before the end of 2023 on the process to access the Decision Support Service Register.

Advance Healthcare Directives

A template for an Advance Healthcare Directive will be available shortly on the Decision Support Service website on www.decisionsupportservice.ie.

Update from the Decision Support Service



Aine Flynn,
Director

At the beginning of August, we passed the landmark of 100 days in operation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and the six months milestone is now in sight. Although it is still very early in the lifetime of the commenced Act, it is perhaps useful to share updates and an overview of emerging trends.

Activities of the Decision Support Service

Since commencement, and the launch of the service's 'My Decision. My Rights' media campaign, the demand for information has increased significantly. Between 26 April and mid-September, the Decision Support Service managed over 9,000 telephone and email queries from the public. The DSS has continued its engagement with diverse stakeholders in healthcare, banking and financial services, disability services, carers' organisations, the Courts Service, the judiciary and the legal profession. As a priority, the DSS endeavours to be available to potential service users, our most important stakeholders, to ensure the provision of reliable and accessible information.

In all these conversations, it is often necessary to revisit the basics of the 2015 Act, and this is to be expected. We often have to repeat the core messages that the Act does not in some way mandate assessments of capacity where they were not required before, and that the existence of a new support framework does not mean that any person is now presumed to need a formal arrangement.

Direct engagement by the public with the DSS online portal has been encouraging. The legislation facilitates a 'digital first' approach so that digitally created, registered, and retained documentation is effectively treated as original. We are not 'digital only' and, to meet accessibility requirements, we will accommodate manual workarounds for ID verification and the submission of applications. As of mid-Sep, just under 2,500 fully verified online accounts have been created. The majority of applications that are currently in progress -767 out of 851 applications- are for the registration of the new form of enduring power of attorney.

Under the Act, DSS registers may be accessed and authenticated copy instruments taken up by any person who satisfies the Director of their 'legitimate interest' and by 'a body or class of persons prescribed by regulation', which includes healthcare professionals. While the functionality for direct access to the register is being developed, enquiries about the register of co-decision-making agreements, decision-making registration orders and Enduring Power of Attorneys should be sent to the DSS at registersearches@decisionsupportservice.ie.



Update from the Decision Support Service

Applications to court

The DSS is not a party to applications to the Circuit Court under Part 5 of the 2015 Act.

Under the Act, the court sends its decision-making representation orders to the DSS for registration and supervision. It is understood that by early September, approximately 175 applications had been initiated and that over 50 decision-making representation orders had been granted. Many of these decision-making representation orders have related to the making of applications under the Nursing Home Support Scheme. Amendments to the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act 2009 mean that it is no longer possible to apply for appointment as a care representative. It is of course important that all applications to the Circuit Court are as a last resort when other supports are insufficient, that any proposed decision-making representative understands the requirements of the role and that the voice of the relevant person is heard in proceedings.

The DSS is also not a party to applications under Part 6 for the review by the wardship court of current wards of court. It is understood that applications are underway but as yet, very few have been heard and finalised. All (approximately 2,200) adult wards are to be discharged from wardship by April 2026. Any ward or a person on their behalf may initiate an application for review and information is available from the Office of Wards of Court.

Much has been written about the major cultural shift introduced by the 2015 Act. It was to be expected that the commencement of ambitious and complex legislation that replaces a 150-year-old system and impacts across many sectors would bring challenges. Overall, the positive reception for the Act has been impressive.

The DSS has a duty to keep the operation of the 2015 Act under review and to report to Government with recommendations. The views of healthcare professionals will be important and welcome.



**My Decisions.
My Rights.**

 seirbhís tacaíochta
cinnteoireachta
decision support service

Supported by:

 **mhc**

 An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánphairíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

 **HE**

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Mentorship Programme



**National Office for Human
Rights and Equality Policy**

**Jacqueline Grogan
Project Manager**



Jacqueline Grogan
Project Manager

The HSE Assisted Decision-Making Mentorship Programme 2023-2024 was developed in response to feedback and consultations with health and social care staff who identified the need for a variety of tools to be available to staff to support them in the implementation in the changes required under the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

The mentorship programme will build the capacity of Assisted Decision-Making mentees through hands-on support from Assisted Decision-Making mentors over a 12-month timeframe.



The programme aims to:

- build confidence and competence at a local level;
- provide targeted support and resources to healthcare workers;
- help solve common issues arising in practice;
- develop a mechanism for escalation of issues which cannot be resolved at a local level;
- capture and record solutions and case studies;
- Information and data will be used for future training and to address broader systems issues arising.

Mentors and mentees have been selected with the support from each Chief Officer, each CEO of the Hospital Groups and in collaboration with the Federation of Voluntary Service Providers.

The ADM Mentorship Programme was formally launched on the 7th September 2023 in St Mary's Hospital, Dublin by Margaret Brennan, co-chair of the HSE ADM Transitional Oversight Group and Quality and Patient Safety Lead, Acute Operations, HSE, with an attendance of the mentors from across health and social care across the country. There are 46 mentors and over 500 mentees from across community and acute services. Each mentor and mentee will participate in a monthly learning set where anonymised cases can be worked through to enhance and support knowledge and practice.



Margaret Brennan (HSE)

The anonymised case studies which are the focus of the monthly mentor sets will be written up and collated into a central repository 'toolkit' to support learning across and beyond the 2023-2024 mentorship programme. These case studies will be utilised by the HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy to inform future training and support to staff and to inform responses to systemic and policy issues.



A formative evaluation process will assess the impact of the mentorship programmes for the duration of the programme and will inform future programmes. We will update you on the roll-out of the mentorship programme in future editions of the newsletter.

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Lead Role



Amanda Casey

Since June 2023 I have been working with the Ireland East Hospital Group as Principal Social Worker for Assisted Decision-Making and Adult Safeguarding. This is one of a number of new roles created to support hospitals with implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. The Act requires all health professionals to make some changes to our everyday work, to embed the guiding principles in our practice and to ensure patients and their families are supported to use the Act when needed.

My role to date has involved working with hospital staff across each of the 12 sites in Ireland East Hospital group* to prepare for both the cultural and practical changes required. I have been providing education and awareness to staff, and engagement has been great with people really keen to learn more about the Act and what it means for them. I have also been assisting teams to work through some complex cases which have challenged us all in terms of application of the legislation. Another key part of my role is to escalate issues to the HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy and/or the Decision Support Service. The newness of the legislation means that we are all learning together and there is huge value in sharing examples of things that have worked well along with the things that perhaps haven't gone so well.



St Columille's Hospital, Loughlinstown ADM Implementation Group

In terms of challenges, I think with any new approach there can a fear of change and new demands of already busy staff. Staff also worry about getting things wrong so it's really important that we create an environment where people feel safe to share experiences and learn from others. Our fortnightly implementation group has been a great source of support and reassurance for hospital staff. One of the ongoing issues with ADM in acute hospitals is that the environment isn't always conducive to maximising capacity and supporting decision making. Both the physical environment and the demands of unscheduled care can make it hard for staff and patients to create the time and space to support decision making. However, despite these challenges, I have found that staff are committed to supporting patients to have a voice in their health and welfare decisions and have engaged positively with me in my new role. I am available to all Ireland East Hospital Group staff across the 12 sites (see page 6) and my email is acasey@iehg.ie.

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Leads Contact Lists



National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy

Maria Fleming



Assisted Decision-Making Leads are available in all Hospital Groups and CHOs. Their role is to support staff on the ground relating to Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act issues.

Hospital Groups		
Location	ADM Lead	Contact details
Ireland East Hospitals Group	Amanda Casey	087 347 8774 acasey@iehg.ie
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital · St Vincent's University Hospital · Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar · St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny · Wexford General Hospital · National Maternity Hospital · Our Lady's Hospital, Navan · St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown · St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire · Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital · Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.		
RCSI Hospitals Group	Geraldine Farren	geraldinefarren@rcsihospitals.ie 087 289 6246
Beaumont Hospital · Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda · Connolly Hospital · Cavan General Hospital · Rotunda Hospital · Louth County Hospital · Monaghan Hospital.		
Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group	Claire O'Regan	claire.oregan@hse.ie
St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network	Martina Rosser	Martina.Rosser@slh.ie
Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore	Catriona McDonald *temp	Gm.mrht@hse.ie
Naas General Hospital	Deirdre Twomey	Deirdre.twomey6@hse.ie
Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise	Dr Asad Khan	asad.khan@hse.ie
Tallaght University Hospital	Prof Wall	Catherine.wall@tuh.ie
St. James's Hospital	Alison Enright	AEnright@stjames.ie
The Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital	Prof. O'Connell	master@coombe.ie
UL Hospitals Group University Hospital Limerick University Maternity Hospital Limerick Ennis Hospital Nenagh Hospital Croom Orthopaedic Hospital St. John's Hospital	Niamh Hogan UHL Paula Cussen- Murphy UHL	Tel: 061-485 259 Email: Niamh.Hogan@hse.ie Tel: 061-588 494 Email: PaulaJ.Cussen@hse.ie
South/South West Hospitals Group Cork University Hospital/CUMH University Hospital Waterford Kerry General Hospital Mercy University Hospital South Tipperary General Hospital South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital Bantry General Hospital Mallow General Hospital Lourdes Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilcreene	Dearbhla Ní Ríordain Caroline Gould Waterford Maura Grogan South Tipperary Emma Moloney Tipperary & Waterford	Tel: 087 188 0657 Dearbhla.niriordain@hse.ie Tel: 087 453 2251 Email: Caroline.Gould1@hse.ie Email: Maura.Grogan@hse.ie Email: emma.moloney@hse.ie
Saolta University Health Care Group	John McElhinney Dr. Ramona McLoughlin	John.McElhinney@hse.ie Ramona.McLoughlin@hse.ie
University Hospital Galway · Merlin Park University Hospital · Sligo University Hospital · Letterkenny University Hospital · Mayo University Hospital · Portiuncula University Hospital · Roscommon University Hospital		

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Leads Contact Lists



**National Office for Human
Rights and Equality Policy**

Maria Fleming

Community Health Organisations

Location	ADM Lead	Contact details
CHO Area 1 Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Cavan/Monaghan Donegal	Tina Gardiner Brendan Timon Gerry Clerkin	Tel: 087 132 3234 Email: tina.gardiner@hse.ie Tel: 071-9155136 Email: Brendan.Timon@hse.ie Email: Gerry.Clerkin@hse.ie
CHO Area 2 Galway Roscommon Mayo	Karl Brogan	Email: qssi.cho2@hse.ie
CHO Area 3 Clare Limerick North Tipperary/East Limerick	Mary O'Dwyer	Email: Mary.ODwyer1@hse.ie
CHO Area 4 Kerry Cork	Annette Logan	Tel: 087 6548911 Email: annette.logan@hse.ie
CHO Area 5 South Tipperary Carlow/Kilkenny Waterford Wexford	Stephanie Lynch	Email: Stephanie.Lynch@hse.ie
CHO Area 6 Wicklow Dun Laoghaire Dublin South East	Rachel Glennane	Tel: 087 099 4902 Email: rachel.glennane@hse.ie
CHO Area 7 Kildare/West Wicklow Dublin West Dublin South City Dublin South West	Mairead Holland Dr Sinead Reynolds	Email: Mairead.Holland1@hse.ie Email: sinead.reynolds@hse.ie
CHO Area 8 Laois/Offaly Longford/Westmeath Louth/Meath	Niamh McGoldrick	Tel: 086 171 0123 Email: Niamhm.mcgoldrick@hse.ie
CHO Area 9 Dublin North City and County	Ciara Palmer/ Aoife Lenihan	Tel: 087 721 5051 Ciara.palmer@hse.ie adm.dncc@hse.ie

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act Leads Contact Lists



**National Office for Human
Rights and Equality Policy**

Maria Fleming

Other Organisations		
Location	ADM Lead	Contact details
National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI)	Maggie Richardson	Tel: 083 028 0137 Email: Maggie.Richardson@ncbi.ie
Saint John of Gods North East Service	Nicola McCabe	Tel: 087 738 0944 Email: nicola.mccabe@sjog.ie
Saint John of Gods Cork-Kerry Service	Michelle Angland	Tel: 087 234 1595 Email: michelle.angland@sjog.ie
National Screening Service	Roisin O'Hara Kathryn Meade Lynn Swinburne	Tel: 01 865-9300 Email: NSS.ADMAdvice@screeningservice.ie
National Ambulance Service	Ciaran Mccullagh	Email: ciarán.mccullagh@hse.ie
St Michael's House	Caroline Howorth	Tel: 01-884 0200 Email: caroline.howorth@smh.ie

DNACPR Survey



National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy

**Elaine McCaughley
Programme Lead**



The HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy and researchers from the University of Limerick are currently undertaking on Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) practice and policy.

We are interested in capturing the experiences and opinions of those using services through a questionnaire to inform future policy development. Over the past few weeks we ran a survey for persons using services, their families and carers. We also consulted a wide range of advocacy groups.

Elaine McCaughley
Programme Lead
Consent & DNACPR

A separate survey to capture the experiences of healthcare workers and service providers in relation to DNACPR policy and practice will be circulated in the coming weeks. A link to the survey will be circulated via our mailing list and other channels.

We plan to use this current DNACPR research to inform a new standalone HSE policy on DNACPR. We are working closely with our HSE colleagues across a range of services and programmes and external stakeholders on this piece of work, including the Irish Hospice Foundation, The National Ambulance Service, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council, ICGP, Nursing Homes Ireland, Dublin Fire Brigade, Office of the Ombudsman, Irish Heart Foundation, HIQA, Safeguarding Ireland, National Advocacy Service, and SAGE Advocacy.

Further information on the DNACPR research project is available by emailing elaine.mccaughley@hse.ie.



Dr John Lombard,
School of Law
University of Limerick.



Dr Hope Davidson,
Schools of Law and Medicine,
University of Limerick

Summer School 2023 Essex Autonomy Project



**National Office for Human
Rights and Equality Policy**

**Elaine McCaughley
Programme Lead**



Wayne Martin (Univ of Essex) & Supported Decision-Making Japan



Patricia Rickard Clarke (SAGE) & Aine Flynn (Decision Support Service)



Colin McKay (Edinburgh Napier) & Elaine McCaughley (HSE)

Some of the team had the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Autonomy Summer School in July in the University of Essex. The theme was: *The Theory, Practice and Politics of Supported Decision-Making: International and Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. This event was co-sponsored by the Essex Autonomy Project, the Canadian Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (ISIS) and Supported Decision-Making Japan. Questions for discussion included:

How are laws in the UK and around the world being reformed to achieve greater inclusion for persons living with disabilities?

How can concrete practices of care be modified to ensure respect for the human rights of care recipients?

What does it mean to respect for the rights, will and preferences of persons in care settings?

How should practices of supported decision-making and advance choices be regulated?

What is the state-of-the-art in research on interpretative support for the exercise of legal capacity?

Presenters included Michael Bach (IRIS), Jill Craigie (Kings College London), Colin McKay (Edinburgh Napier University), Margaret Flynn (National Mental Capacity Forum), Lucy Series (University of Bristol), Alex Ruck Keene (39 Essex Street) Toshihiko Mizushima (SDM - Japan). Caoimhe Gleeson (HSE) and Aine Flynn (DSS) presented on co-decision-making agreements under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act.

The Summer School was an ideal opportunity for us to seek input from a wide range of international experts on our work in relation to supported decision-making, the HSE National Consent Policy, and research and policy work on Do Not Attempt Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions, and to share our experiences in Ireland. We are very grateful to Wayne Martin for such a stimulating and informative event, and for his generosity in supporting our work on DNACPR.



Toshihiko Mizushima (SDM-J) & Elaine McCaughley (HSE)

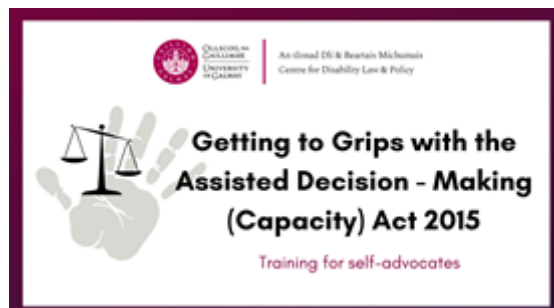


Training for Self-Advocates



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Centre for Disability Law and Policy
National University of Ireland, Galway



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE ASSISTED DECISION MAKING (CAPACITY) ACT 2015 Training for self-advocates

Learn about Ireland's new capacity law & what it means for you. Sign up [here](#)

The Centre for Disability Law & Policy is pleased to announce our next round of training for self-advocates on the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015.

What is this training about?

This training session is for self-advocates on Ireland's new capacity law. This law is about who can make decisions and what supports they can use.

Who should apply for this training?

We designed this training specifically for people with intellectual disabilities, but other disabled people might also benefit from the accessible way we deliver this training. This includes:

- people with experience of mental health services,
- people with dementia,
- people with acquired brain injury,
- autistic and neurodiverse people.

Please note This training is not designed for staff or family members. The Centre for Disability Law and Policy offers separate training courses for staff and family members. For more information on this, email us at cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie

When is the training taking place?

The training will take place over 3 sessions on Tuesday 7th, Thursday 9th, and Tuesday 14th November 2023.

You will need to attend all 3 sessions. You can choose a morning (10am - 12pm) or afternoon (1pm - 3pm) session. You will be in the same morning or afternoon session on all days. There will be a maximum of 10 people in each session.

Where? Online via Zoom.

How much does it cost? No cost.

How do I apply for this training? You can apply to take part in the training using this [link](#).

Spaces are limited on this course so no more than 2 bookings are allowed. Your application will be reviewed, and we will respond within 3 working days if we can offer you a place on the training.

Find out more information at this link <https://cdlp.clr.events/event/134137> or contact us by email at cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie

Irish Sign Language (ISL) HEALTH Research Project



Dr Gill Harold
University College Cork



International evidence indicates that sign language users experience inequalities and disparities when accessing public health systems, as compared against their hearing peers. Barriers to access include inconsistent provision of sign language interpretation, lack of deaf awareness among hearing healthcare professionals and communication systems which privilege hearing service users. These factors have clear implications for the experiences of deaf people using public healthcare systems and for associated health outcomes.

Dr Gill Harold
UCC

A research project entitled *ISL HEALTH* was recently completed by a team of researchers from University College Cork, Cork Deaf Association and CommunityK (formerly Kerry Deaf Resource Centre), in collaboration with the HSE's National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy as a consultative partner. Funded by the Irish Research Council, the project's aim was to support the effective implementation of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017, in which is enshrined the public sector duty of healthcare settings.

One of the goals of the *ISL HEALTH* project was to ascertain the levels of awareness of deaf access issues among the Access Officer cohort. This is important because, as the HSE acknowledges, there are gaps in its service provision and 'Access Officers will help us systematically work to address these gaps and ensure that future services and facilities [...] are fully accessible to everyone'. These *ISL HEALTH* survey findings demonstrate that Access Officers need to be supported to develop better awareness and understanding of deaf access provision, in order to competently fulfil their role. Among the key findings from the survey of access officers are:

63% of respondents indicated they are aware of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017

79% of respondents indicated that they had not completed any Deaf Awareness Training

53% of respondents were not aware of the existence of the Register of Irish Sign Language



Irish Sign Language (ISL) HEALTH Research Project



Dr Gill Harold

The recommendations of the *ISL HEALTH* project are as follows:

- * Promoting awareness of the Irish Sign Language Act 2017
- * Improving deaf-friendly communication channels
- * Recognising and understanding the value and necessity of sign language interpretation
- * Providing appropriate and adequate resources for Access Officers to support them to fulfil their role
- * Recognising and replicating existing good practice across the HSE
- * Committing to accountability

In respect of all of these recommendations, collaboration is essential between the HSE and organisations representing the interests of deaf sign language users at local and national level. It is hoped that these recommendations can support the HSE in its work to prevent discrimination of deaf sign language users in public healthcare settings and to ensure their equitable treatment.

A copy of the full *ISL HEALTH* report is available to download here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/iss21/ISLHEALTHResearchReport.pdf>

Readers may also be interested in this *Guidance for Public Bodies on Providing Access for Deaf Irish Sign Language Users* which is available to download here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/iss21/GuidanceforPublicBodiesonAccessProvisionforDeafISLUsers.pdf>

All queries about the *ISL HEALTH* project are welcome. Please email Dr Gill Harold: g.harold@ucc.ie

Finally, the *ISL HEALTH* project team gratefully acknowledges the co-operation of Ms. Jacqueline Grogan, Project Manager at the HSE's National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy.



Willie White
CommunityK



Susan O'Callaghan
Cork Deaf Association



Dr Noel O'Connell
University College Cork

Green Ribbon Launch 2023



Karolyn Ward

Communications and Fundraising Lead

“In recent years, there has been more discussion than ever around mental health and strong promotion of mental wellness. However, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Language shapes our perceptions and attitudes. Using euphemisms like ‘mental health challenges’ or avoiding directly addressing the term ‘mental illness’ inadvertently perpetuates the stigma surrounding it. We should be embracing language around mental illness so we can challenge stigma, foster a deeper understanding of the issue, and create a more inclusive and supportive environment for those affected. That is what the [See Change](#) Green Ribbon Campaign is all about.

Celebrating its 11th year, the [Green Ribbon Campaign](#) is month-long initiative aimed at creating awareness and challenging the [stigma](#), myths and misconceptions around mental health. Over the month of September, the Green Ribbon Campaign will feature engaging events, inspiring social media campaigns and support for workplaces, organisations and people across Ireland to start having open and honest conversations about mental health.

The campaign uses the symbol of a green ribbon to represent hope and solidarity for those affected by mental health challenges. The campaign invites everyone to wear a Green Ribbon throughout September, signalling an open and embracing attitude towards discussing mental health. People can pick up a FREE Green Ribbon at participating Boots Pharmacies, AIB Bank branches, Iarnród Éireann stations, and Eir stores or by contacting See Change.

We work with the Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention, HSE, Department of Health, National Office for Suicide Prevention and many other organisations throughout the month of September to raise awareness and highlight the voice of lived experience.

The theme of this year’s campaign is “judgement”. People with mental illness can be unfairly judged or labelled based on their experiences or hold the belief that they are subjected to such judgements, which can lead to discrimination, isolation, and exclusion. This judgement might come from lack of understanding, fear, or societal misconceptions about mental illness. The Green Ribbon Campaign will look at where it shows up across society, how judgement impacts people with mental health difficulties, and what we call all do to help end the unfair judgement of ourselves and others.”

You can get involved by wearing your green ribbon proudly, join in on some of the many events taking place across the country, share your support on social media, engage in conversations and help spread the word by telling your colleagues, friends and families about the campaign. To download your supporters pack visit <https://seechange.ie/download-our-supporters-pack/>.



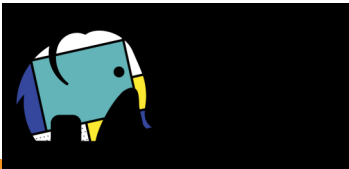
Minister Mary Rabbitte & Nicola Byrne (Shine)



Daniela Ferro (See Change Ambassador), Nicola Byrne (Shine), Elaine McCaughley (HSE) & Will Burgess (HBSC)

Elephant in the Room Movement: Challenging Mental Health Stigma through Art

Barbara Brennan



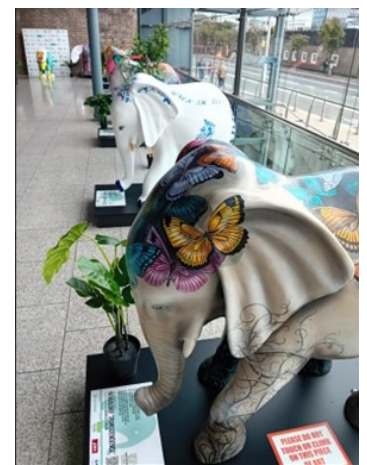
Eoin Byrne, Dave Southern,
Barbara Brennan, Brent Pope

A powerful and transformative movement is taking shape in Ireland, led by the visionary Brent Pope, a former professional rugby player, coach, analyst, and prominent media personality. The Elephant in the Room Movement, an Irish mental health arts initiative, is on a mission to revolutionise how we perceive and support the mental well-being of our nation. It's time to confront the elephant in the room - the stigma surrounding mental health.

Ireland has one of the highest suicide rates in Europe. Lives are being lost every day. The Elephant in the Room Movement has risen to challenge this devastating statistic. Our goal is crystal clear - to work together, as a united society, to eradicate suicide and ensure that no one else is lost to this silent battle.

My connection to this movement is deeply personal. I survived being on life support after a serious suicide attempt in 2008 and subsequently dedicated 14 years to the national stigma reduction programme, with 5 of those years employed as the National Team Lead. Through my work, I have seen the profound impact of stigma and discrimination on those who live with mental health difficulties.

This movement is not just about raising awareness; it's about reshaping our society's attitudes towards mental health. We believe that by normalising discussions around mental health, we can save lives and build a healthier, more supportive society for all. At the core of our movement is a captivating idea: a herd of elephant sculptures, each a unique masterpiece painted by talented artists, is making its way across Ireland. These magnificent creatures serve as powerful symbols, representing the 'elephant in the room' - the unspoken issues that weigh on our minds. Through art, we aim to make these conversations normal, encouraging individuals to seek help sooner rather than later.



Some of the Elephants at
CHQ Dublin launch

The Elephant in the Room Movement is not merely a creative endeavour; it is a revolution. Now, we invite people from all walks of life to join us in this vital mission. Attend our events and exhibitions, be a part of the discussions around mental health, and help us raise funds for smaller mental health charities. Despite the progress made over the last decade, the need to destigmatise mental health remains. Together, we can confront the elephant in the room and ensure that no one suffers in silence. To get involved, donate, or become a partner or sponsor, please visit our website at

www.elephantintheroom.ie or contact us directly at dave@elephantintheroom.ie or barbara@elephantintheroom.ie



Sarah O'Toole (Samaritans), Brent Pope,
Charlie Bird

Further updates and resources

*For further updates, join our mailing list,
please email: adm@hse.ie*

Useful resources available on the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015, please see below latest updates:

- [HSE Assisted Decision-Making website](#)
- [HSE Explainer video on the Act](#)
- [Webinar on Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015: Update since commencement from the 14th June 2023](#)
- Decision Support Service statutory [Codes of Practice](#) on the 2015 Act including codes relating to:
 - [Healthcare Professionals](#)
 - [Advance Healthcare Directives for Healthcare Professionals,](#)
 - [Supporting Decision-Making and Assessing Capacity.](#)
- **NHSS:** For updates to the fair deal scheme application process and changes following the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) 2015 Act - <https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/fair-deal-scheme/>
- [Webinar on Getting ready for commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015](#)
- [Webinar on Getting ready for Advance Healthcare Directives under the Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015](#)
- [ELearning Programme on Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act \(2015\) – Guidance for Healthcare workers on HSeLanD](#)
- [Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015](#)
- [Transition from Wardship to the Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015: Guidance for Staff webinar recording from the 1st December 2022 and other related documentation](#)
- [Launch of the Easy-to-read webinar on the HSE National Consent Policy on 5th December 2022](#)
- [Decision Support Service](#)
- [Courts Service - Office of Wards of Court](#)
- [Decision Support Service Explainer Video](#)
- [Sage Advocacy Decision-Making and Capacity](#)
- [Inclusion Ireland Assisted Decision-Making](#)
- [Inclusion Ireland Easy to Read Assisted Decision-Making \(Capacity\) Act 2015](#)
- [Decision Support Services guides and video presentations](#)