

## Protecting Adults with Learning Disabilities from Abuse

Issue 6

[www.cawt.com](http://www.cawt.com)

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**All good things must come to an end! (Well, lets hope that you think it was good).**

**Activities since the autumn**

Well its time for the protection project to come to an end. The past 2 years have been very busy and productive, with the project manager active across the four CAWT regions.

Approximately 1000 people (service users, staff and managers) have had face to face contact with the project via topic forums, training, conferences and direct work.

The agencies that have been involved include health and social care providers, service and professional regulators, policing and justice agencies, national Health and Social Care Departments, advocacy groups, educational agencies and freelance consultants and trainers.

Currently the project is undergoing independent evaluation, by Williamson Consultancy of Belfast, to consider how effective the activity has been in enabling the partner organisations to achieve their original objectives.

It is hoped that the work that has been completed will leave a useful and lasting legacy that will improve the ways in which adults with learning disability are supported to be safe from abuse and harm.

The project was not slack during the closing months with objectives still to be achieved. Here a calendar of activity will provide an insight into the range of work undertaken since the 2 day summer school in September:

**October** – poster campaign with service users and training for day services in Omagh

**November** – 5 training sessions for service staff in day care, residential services and supported living services

**December** – safety event for service users with PSNI 1 staff training session, consultation with supported living services re service design and the development of a service audit tool

**January** – 2 training sessions for residential and day care staff



Poster campaign participants.

**February** – 3 training sessions for day care staff, investigative and designated officers and social workers. Consultation re service design.

**March** – 3 day event for service users and emergency services in Irvinestown. 4 training sessions for investigative and designated officers, supported living and day/employment staff.

**April** – development of a guide to service governance for a supported living service catering for high risk service users. Production of a service tool-kit, to assist services after project closure. Development of a closure report for the project board members.

Farewell



Part-financed by the European Union



cooperation and working together  
for health gain and social well being in border areas



## The legacy of the project

As the project manager, I feel privileged to have worked with so many committed and enthusiastic people. Services on the island of Ireland have the capacity to continue to improve the experiences of the adults they support, simply by harnessing the energy and skill of the staff they engage.

There are many areas of good practice regarding person centred approaches, service user consultation, supporting learning disabled parents, providing sexuality education and support, involving service users in staff selection, front-line staff and management development, and the development of joint approaches to integration and safety.

What the project has aimed to do is to supplement existing good practice by examining existing practice and its support mechanisms, and then either providing new tools or making recommendations for strengthening any weaknesses.

It is essential for all service personnel to remember that they are not alone in their concerns for the safety of service users. The responsibility for this issue is multi-agency and multi-professional. Ensuring that we all network appropriately in order to engage with others who can assist in solutions to address risks is paramount.

A simple quote will help us all to remember the importance of our vigilance in this issue:

**"There are no conditions of life to which a man cannot get accustomed, especially if he sees them accepted by everyone about him."**

(Leo Tolstoy, 1828-1910, Russian novelist and philosopher)

## Project products

**Staying Safe**



**Relationships**



Report on a study of existing protection policies and procedures in the four partner organisations

'Lessons for the Learning.'

An Exploration of the Lessons to be Learnt from Service Failure Investigations Relating to Abuse

Enabling 'ordinary' lives for people with learning disabilities who are considered to be high risk.

A Service Tool-kit to Support Effective Practice

Project information bank to support knowledge and best practice. Contains information on related research, legislation and best practice.

Project board members and CAWT (**004428 7127 2100**) will continue to provide information for anything relating to the project after 1<sup>st</sup> May. This will include access to documents, project products and the information bank.

**Farewell to all those people who have been part of this work, and thank you for your personal contributions. I hope to come across you again in my continuing work in learning disability services here on the island of Ireland.**