



**KEEPING SAFE  
OUR JOURNEY  
SO FAR**

**Brothers of Charity  
Clare  
2016**

# PRESENTATION

- Introductions
- Some of our experiences in Safeguarding
- The importance of people being able to recognize abuse and to report
- Ways to enhance personal power through film /accessible material / familiarity with process
- Rob Hopkins introduce the work of Self Advocacy from a Community Development/Adult Education point of view –learning together from each other
- Valuing individual's stories – look at some film clips of drama issues coming from the group
- Dramas that have helped people show their challenges



# SAFEGUARDING STRUCTURES

- Designated system in place since 2001
- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Process... informing HSE and Gardai
- National Designated forum
- 2014 HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse National Policy
- 2015 Safeguarding Teams



## WHAT ARE SAFEGUARDS ?

They are put in place to protect and promote our

- human rights
- decision making, choice and control
- safety and well being
- citizenship and our quality of life



# ACTIONS INVOLVED IN SAFEGUARDING

It is important that those people who help us with safeguards

- Get to know us
- Understand who we are, where we live, our relationships, strengths, preferences & choices
- Understand how we prefer to communicate
- Understand what supports we need and what we enjoy in our lives



## WHEN ARE SAFEGUARDS REQUIRED?

- How far active safeguards need to be considered will come from understanding...
  - How vulnerable we might be
  - The risk of our human rights being affected
  - Our right, ability and opportunity to make choices



# PERSONAL POWER

Means our ability to

- Stand up for our rights, opinions, decisions and choices
- Make sure our rights are respected
- Making our own decisions about our own lives



When we are supported to  
recognise abuse we will  
be able to keep ourselves  
safer.





## WAYS TO ENHANCE PERSONAL POWER

- Understanding rights and choices – accessible information
- Strong communication
- Well developed and supported advocacy
- Supported decision making
- Financial Security and independence
- Strong sense of personal identity and self worth
- Solid network of family and friends



# FILM ABOUT BULLYING

- Back ground introduction



No Longer Research About Us Without Us



THIS IS CLARE INCLUSIVE RESEARCH GROUP'S  
"PERFECT FUTURE REVIEW" *DRAMA*



# Clare Inclusive Research Group



WE DO RESEARCH AS MEMBERS OF THE INCLUSIVE  
RESEARCH NETWORK WITH FEDVOL, LIMERICK  
UNIVERSITY

& TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

WE CAMPAIGN ON ISSUES WE THINK ARE

IMPORTANT. *RELATIONSHIPS AND*

*SUPPORTS STUDY (2010)*

*HOME AND INDEPENDENCE STUDY (2015)*



We met the Law Reform Commission to ask for the Repeal of the Criminal Law Sexual Offences Act (1993). We worked as a service user focus group with Katherine Zappone's Private Members bill 2013. That law is now being repealed.



# WORKING INCLUSIVELY



We lobbied for personal budgets and called for planning to create individual support teams.

When we talked with people about their own plans we found out that-

1. Good individual plans are made when people are well supported and trusted to speak up about their own ideas -
2. People need good support to work with their services and their families as **equal partners** learning together from each other-

# WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THEIR REVIEWS:



- “Its important to know what a person wants...”
- “If families decide for us there is a danger we will rely on our families. It will be their opinions not ours”
- “What will happen when family are no longer there?”
- “Parents should support us for who we are and what we want to do in our lives and be less protective”

## ON GOING INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING

- Most recently we have been training trainers with Inclusion Ireland doing drama workshops about the HIQA standards
- In 2014 we made a drama / video production based on issues people raised (People's Choice Foundation)
- In the new year we're running Self Advocacy training for Staff and people in services





## INTRODUCING FILMS OF PEOPLE WITH COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

- Helping people speak up for themselves is most important
- We're also thinking about people who don't speak – like the poor people who suffer in silence behind closed doors.
- Our National Conference this year has a special section of films about people who have communication challenges





## WE HAVE WORKED ON THE SAFEGUARDING FILM WITH THE DESIGNATED SOCIAL WORKER

- Written information with pictures was going over everyone's head – people didn't understand
- We think the drama stories can get people to know about safeguarding and speak up if they need help

