‘Doing it Differently’ for People with Disabilities

The CAWT Citizenship project is enabling people with disabilities to participate more actively in all aspects of community life. To celebrate the project’s success, a cross border best practice event was held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. At the event, 7 people with disabilities from both the HSE West and the Western Trust areas shared their experiences of the project. To date, the project has assisted over 200 people with disabilities across the border region, to access daytime activity within their local communities.

Project chair, Anne Marie Ward, Manager of Training and Occupational Support Services at the HSE West said: “this was a showcase of the excellent work underway in providing new opportunities for people with disabilities. It was wonderful to hear the impact this project is having on the lives of people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities living in the border region.”

The Day Opportunities Services are providing alternatives to the traditional model of day services for people with a disability. The Community Awareness Programme is a pilot project in the Strabane and Donegal Councils, whereby local communities are being supported in making their services more accessible to people with disabilities. In addition to health service staff, 9 community & voluntary groups are providing services as part of the project. A second best practice event is being planned for 9 May in the SHSCT / HSE Dublin NE area.

Making Connections in Europe

CAWT was represented at a recent event in the EU Parliament in Brussels. The event aimed to demonstrate the key role of health technology such as e-health and tele-monitoring in improving patient outcomes as well as promoting the local economy and business. This Northern Ireland Connected Health event, hosted by MEP Diane Dodds and organised by the DHSSPS, was attended by a number of MLAs and MEPs from Northern Ireland. The key theme was the ageing population and the potential for new technologies to drive innovation in health as well as stimulate growth in the economy. CAWT is currently planning for the next round of EU INTERREG funding and is exploring the opportunities for future cross border activity in the area of e-health and technology and innovation in health and social care.

A project supported by the European Union’s INTERREG IVA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body and delivered by Co-operation and Working Together.
Eating Disorders

The CAWT Eating Disorder project is half way through its 4-year lifespan. Currently 10 out of the 12 eating disorder therapists posts are filled, with recruitment underway for the recently vacated posts in the HSE Dublin North East and Western Trust areas.

To mark National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in February a range of information events and media interviews were organised by the therapists across the border region. In particular, a successful information event was held for GPs, health professionals and members of the public in Sligo and attended by over 100 people. The ‘Nobody is Perfect,’ event was addressed by a range of professionals and service users including Dr Ed O'Mahony, Consultant Psychiatrist in Sligo and Jacinta Hastings, Chief Executive Officer of BodyWhys. At the event, service user Ruth McMonagle and her carer Jean McMonagle gave an emotional and thought provoking account of their different experiences of eating disorders and the difficulties encountered during the recovery journey.

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‘Turning the Curve’ Autism project

During the autumn of 2012, ‘Turning the Curve’ project staff were busy assisting young people with Autism to transition into the next phase of their lives. This included providing support to those moving to new schools, colleges, universities, training, work and voluntary placements. Staff also provided opportunities for the development of life skills through organised group activities. These group based activities have provided many young people with friendships, increased confidence and an element of independence for the first time. As the project nears completion, exit surveys are being conducted with both the young people and their care givers. These exit surveys are reinforcing the initial findings which indicate the positive impact the project is having on young people and their care givers. These impacts include personal development for the participants and valued respite for the family members and care givers. Project staff will continue to provide group activities and are planning some activities for the summer of 2013.

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Older People

One of the significant achievements of the CAWT Older People’s project has been the delivery of telecare / assistive technology packages to older people and their carers, in the HSE border counties areas of Inishowen, Co. Donegal, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan and the North Leitrim / West Cavan areas. These telecare / assistive technology packages became available in December 2012 and the uptake and feedback from recipients has been overwhelmingly positive. This is the first time that monitored telecare /assistive technology has been provided by the HSE and, once rolled out, will benefit at least 180 older people and carers.

The variety of social support initiatives underway as part of the CAWT Older People’s project is continuing to impact positively on hundreds of older people and their carers in local communities throughout the border region. There have been many unexpected successes and additional benefits. For example, the tea dances in Inishowen and the positive ageing activities in the Newry and Monaghan areas have been enthusiastically received. The Signposting and Information Service for older people, based in the Strabane Citizens Advice Bureau, has dealt with over 2,000 enquiries from the Strabane district and also from across the border in St. Johnston, Lifford and Castlefinn areas, since opening in March 2012.

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Social Inclusion
The CAWT Social Inclusion Project is focused on reducing health inequalities for specific groups in 3 areas. **Vulnerable Women:** To date 2,546 women have participated in a range of accessible health improvement programmes. The greatest demand has been for mental health programmes. Programme delivery will continue until the project completes in mid-June. **Travellers:** The accredited Employment and Skills Training (EST) finished in December 2012 with 11 participants gaining an OCN Level 1 and 7 participants gaining OCN Level 2. Some participants have moving into further training and others have taken up work placements. Other programmes include a 10-week self-esteem building programme for Traveller women in Strabane and a 4-week programme for Traveller men which will take place in Omagh in March. Delivered by Traveller men from the Donegal Traveller Project, this programme will link Traveller Men with local health services in their area. **Access:** Cultural awareness training sessions are currently being delivered to staff in A & E departments and mental health services within CAWT partner organisations. Four bespoke training programmes have been developed: Traveller Cultural Competency; LGB&T Awareness; Deaf and hard of hearing awareness and blind and visual impairment awareness. For further information on training sessions please contact Ciara O’Hanlon, Access Development Officer at tel: 028 37412497.

The Derry Well Women ‘Three Tiered Model’ is being implemented and preparations are underway for the next Community Health Question Time event on 17th May 2013 in Monaghan.

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www.cawt.com/socialinclusion

Sexual Health / GUM clinics
The CAWT GUM project is making great progress towards achieving target client numbers. The project has exceeded its overall target of 5,000 clients, before the conclusion of the EU INTERREG IVA funding phase. As at the end of January 2013, 5,631 clients have been treated and 1,980 people trained in sexual health promotion. An additional 21 staff have been trained in the GUM clinics established as part of the project. All GUM clinics established with EU funding are operating successfully and plans are underway to open the first GUM clinic in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda from April 2013. This is the final clinic due to open as part of this EU funded project.

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‘Time IVA Change’ Border Region Alcohol project
The Strengthening Families Programme is being rolled out in the Sligo/Leitrim areas with a further programme underway in the Western Trust area. The Early Intervention Service workers continue their one to one and clinical group work in all project areas where staff are in post. A Community Mobilisation Toolkit has been developed and is based on learning from the pilots that were implemented on both sides of border.

In November the project held a successful cross border conference, at which a range of speakers from Ireland and the UK outlined the case for early intervention in order to tackle alcohol misuse. Initiatives showcased included those that support families and children, both at community level and also within health and social care services in the areas of maternity and family support. Speakers at the conference included Gordon Jeyes, National Director, Children and Family Services, HSE; Paul Cavanagh, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board and Joseph Doyle, National Planning Specialist, HSE. Contributors to the conference included National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; Drink Think project, the GAA, Derry City Council; Derry Healthy Cities, Health and Social Care Board; HSE; Western and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts; Alcohol Forum and the Public Health Agency.

**Contact:** Edel O’Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer  t: 00 44 (0) 28 71272100  e: Edel.ODoherty@westerntrust.hscni.net  w: www.cawt.com/alcohol

Pictured are (from left): Valerie Everard, Project Manager, Extern; Joan Broder, Director, Extern; Jacqueline Connolly, Traveller Development Officer, CAWT Social Inclusion Project; EST participants Linda O’Leary and Bernie Powert; Bernie Mc Croy, Chief Officer, CAWT; Edel O’Doherty, Deputy Chief Officer, CAWT; and Ita Madden, Project Coordinator, Extern.

Early Intervention Service workers for the CAWT Alcohol project (I to r): Fiona Kelly, Southern Trust; Patricia Boyle, HSE Dublin North East; Jimmy Smith, HSE West; Caitriona Mullan, Project Manager; Marie Dunne, Western Trust and Michael Millar, HSE Dublin North East.
CAWT Diabetes project: Pre-Pregnancy Care Clinics

Pre-Pregnancy Care client Emma Finnegan (centre) and her baby daughter Annabel born 5 months ago. Emma, from Newry, has diabetes and had a successful pregnancy with the support of the Southern Trust Pre-Pregnancy Care clinic staff at Craigavon Hospital. Pictured are (standing): Alison Barbour, Diabetes Specialist Dietitian and Joanne Dodds, Healthcare Assistant. Front row: Emma Meneely, Project Manager, CAWT Diabetes Project and Claire Black, Diabetes Specialist Nurse. Emma and baby Annabel have been assisting CAWT and the Southern Trust in publicising the Pre-Pregnancy Care clinics and promoting the importance of women with diabetes planning ahead for pregnancy and attending the clinics.

Cross border Patient Safety Programme

Western Health and Social Care Trust participants in the CAWT cross border Patient Safety Programme (a collaboration between the HSC Safety Forum, PHA in Northern Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland). Standing (left to right): Joe Lusby, Deputy Chief Executive; Mr Siddiqui, Consultant Anaesthetist, South West Acute Hospital; Ged Smith, Consultant, Maxillofacial Surgeon, Altnagevin Area Hospital. Seated (left to right) Linda Saudendorf, Programme Manager, CAWT Acute Hospitals project; Wesley Henderson, Project Manager, Recruit and Retain project; Rae Doherty, Implementation Lead for the ‘Productive Ward’ initiative; Daryl Connolly, Pharmacist, Altnagelvin Area Hospital and Dr Mary Ledwidge, Consultant Paediatrician, Altnagelvin Area Hospital.

Project end event: CAWT Acute project - cross border Patient Safety Programme event
Venue / date: City Hotel, Armagh - 22 March 2013
Contact details: Linda Saudendorf
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w: www.cawt.com/acute

Best Practice event: CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities best practice event
Venue / date: Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre, Newry - 9 May 2013
Contact details: Madge Toye Temple
t: 00 353 (0) 7491 89083
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w: www.cawt.com/citizenship

Awards event: CAWT Citizenship project - ‘Change a Little, Change a Lot’ Disability Awards ceremony
Venue / date: Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny - 30 May 2013
Contact details: Madge Toye Temple
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