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# Foreword

I am delighted to be writing a Foreword to “A Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy by Roscommon County Council”.

We have been keen to take the Barcelona Declaration principles and practice forward in our County Council and County for quite some time now. The County Council has a growing focus on social inclusion issues which has been highlighted in our new five year Corporate Plan 2005 - 2009. The County Council’s Local Anti-Poverty Strategy (LAPS) 2005 - 2007 is another key part of our drive to make Roscommon a place where everyone can feel included.

I know there is a lot to be done in terms of making Roscommon a place where people with disabilities feel fully comfortable and at ease. Central to that work is the job of raising awareness of disability and related issues: only when we appreciate and understand what is involved here can we start to really make a difference. The new Disability legislation will help us all on that journey over the next decade but it is good that we have this Response to the Barcelona Declaration and Disability Strategy to give us an early impetus.

I would like to thank all those who helped draw this Response together. Without the effort and commitment of our in-house planning team it would not have happened. A special word of thanks must go to Mark Conway, Venture International and Marion Keegan, Disability Services Manager, the Health Service Executive. Equally important was the input obtained from those who were consulted: the knowledge and insight obtained from those people and organisations was fundamental to the overall development of this Response.

Finally, our task now is to implement the actions contained in this document. I look forward to everyone’s help in that.

Cathaoirleach  
Roscommon County Council



# Introduction

I too am pleased to “sign up” to this Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy for Roscommon County Council.

For too long disability and its consequences were largely hidden issues in Ireland. And when they did come into the open, we too often felt that all we could do in response was to offer sympathy and understanding.

This Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy is proof that the County Council and its staff intend to take our response to disability onto a new plane. From here on, we plan to design and shape our services and facilities so that they can be used by everyone in County Roscommon, no matter what their differences might be.

The job of work that faces us is not small. Nor will it be completed overnight.

That is all the more reason why we need to start now.

County Manager  
Roscommon County Council



# 1 The Barcelona Declaration: What Is It?

## Origins and Focus

The Barcelona Declaration emerged from a major conference entitled “The City and the Disabled” held in Barcelona in 1995. As a signatory to the Declaration, Ireland became committed to becoming a more “disability friendly” place. In practice that would mean working to make our built environment, our services, and our decision-making processes more accessible to people with disabilities.

Among the key points made, and accepted, at Barcelona were:

- disability is a matter for society as a whole and not just for individuals and their families
- disability is a dynamic concept resulting from the interaction between an individual and their surroundings
- the parameters of disability are ill-defined and it’s therefore society’s task to design services and structures that can be used by everyone within a diverse society, irrespective of their differences

The actual Declaration contains 17 agreements, which can be summarised under six broad headings as follows:

- 1 Promote disability awareness and ensure the rights of people with disabilities to be different and their right to receive personal attention
- 2 Develop policies and equality/disability proof decision-making processes
- 3 Develop consultative processes
- 4 Provide people with disabilities access to the social and physical environments, as well as to services
- 5 Provide training programmes dealing with equality/disability issues



- 6 Develop monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment procedures for actions, projects and policies regarding equality/disability issues.

### **The Barcelona Declaration and Roscommon**

In 2001 the government asked the National Disability Authority (NDA) to lead on the rolling out of the Barcelona Declaration across local government in Ireland. A number of local authorities then moved to adopt the Declaration. Roscommon County Council formally adopted the Declaration on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2004 and in doing so committed itself to producing a Response to the Declaration. A small planning team, broadly representative of the County Council's services, was brought together to develop the Response. The team met during late 2004/early 2005 and was made up as follows:

<b>Mary Dolan</b>	<i>Motor Tax</i>
<b>Richie Farrell</b>	<i>Library</i>
<b>Geraldine Farry</b>	<i>Corporate Services</i>
<b>Martin Finan</b>	<i>IT</i>
<b>Mary Lindsay</b>	<i>Human Resources</i>
<b>Mary Mullins</b>	<i>Community &amp; Enterprise</i>
<b>Kevin O'Boyle</b>	<i>Housing</i>
<b>John O'Rourke</b>	<i>Housing</i>

From the outset the team was clear that its focus would be on how Roscommon County Council could bring life to the Barcelona Declaration: and develop a response by the County Council to the Declaration. Within that understanding, the team agreed a number of values or principles, which would govern its work.



These, and their perceived implications, were as follows:

Value/Principle	... Which Meant
... Being <i>inclusive</i>	... seeking and building in the views of a range of stakeholders
... Being <i>pragmatic</i>	... recognising that whilst dramatic overnight change might be desired, change will occur over time
... Being <i>collaborative</i>	... recognising and incorporating a number of relevant initiatives and pieces of work that are already underway
... Being <i>comprehensive</i>	... ranging across both the full spectrum of disability and the full portfolio of Council services and activities
... Being <i>effective</i>	... aiming to make meaningful differences to people's lives

### **Not Standing Alone**

The County Council does not see its Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy as a stand-alone, independent piece of work. This report instead fits into the County Council's overall planning hierarchy. It is, for instance, one practical way of energising the social inclusion imperative that lies at the heart of the County Council's overarching Corporate Plan. It also complements the Local Anti-Poverty Strategy (LAPS) that the County Council is helping take forward. In the same way this document will add value to the social inclusion focus developed within the County Development Board's Strategy "Common Vision".



The energy developed as a result of this Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy will leave the County Council better placed to meet its obligations under the National Disability Strategy of 2004 and the 2005 Disability Act.

## **Disability ... and How It Has Meaning For All Of Us**

Disability has relevance for everyone and everything in Roscommon County Council.

The 2005 Disability Act sees a disability as being “a substantial restriction in the capacity of a person to carry on a profession, business or occupation in the state, or to participate in social or cultural life by reason of an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment”.

The Act applies to local authorities and their services: services can include facilities, public places and amenities, information, schemes, and allowances/benefits.



Roscommon County Council's Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy will reflect the requirements of the Disability Strategy where relevant to the Local Authorities by:

- auditing the accessibility of its public buildings and places/facilities and identify necessary remedial action
- developing consultation and other mechanisms to ensure the input of people with disabilities into the County Council's planning, decision-making and service development
- reflecting the needs of people with disabilities in its housing strategies, programmes, and grants systems
- improving the accessibility of roads, streets and footpaths, of libraries, and of public parks, open spaces and amenities
- improving disability awareness within the Council
- ensuring it meets the target of 3% for the employment of people with disabilities.



## 2 The National Disability Strategy-What is it?

In September 2004, the Taoiseach and seven Ministers came together to launch the National Disability Strategy, which comprises:

1. The recently enacted Disability Act 2005.
2. The Comhairle (Amendment) Bill 2004 which will establish a personal advocacy service for persons with disabilities.
3. Sectoral Plans by six Government Departments (Health and Children, Social and Family Affairs, Transport; Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Enterprise, Trade and Employment) outlining measures to be taken to improve access to services, transport, the environment and employment and training.
4. A Multi-Annual Investment Programme, which will provide over Euro 1 billion from 2005 to 2009 for disability specific services.

### **1. The Disability Act 2005**

The Disability Act was signed into law in July 2005. It sets out to enable provision to be made for certain matters as follows:

- The assessment of health and education needs required by persons with disabilities because of their disabilities
- The allocation of resources for these services
- The preparation of plans by certain ministers in relation to certain services
- A system of appeals in relation to the non-provision of services specified in the Act
- Accessibility of public buildings
- The employment of persons with disabilities in the public services and generally attempts to promote equality and social inclusion.

#### *Structure of the Legislation*

The Act is in seven parts which are arranged as follows:

Part I deals with preliminary and general matters. Part II addresses assessment of need, service statements and redress. Part III relates to access to buildings and services and sectoral plans; Part IV deals with genetic testing; Part V is concerned with public service employment; Part VI makes provision for the centre for excellence in universal design and, in so doing, makes significant amendments to



the National Disability Act of 1999 while Part VII has a number of items grouped under the heading of 'Miscellaneous'. Part 1 includes a section, which provides for the review of the legislation by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

## **2. The Comhairle (Amendment) Bill 2004**

The Comhairle (Amendment) Bill 2004 outlines Comhairle's role in the provision of advocacy services. (Comhairle is the national support agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services. Comhairle provides citizens information for the general public, support for information providers and voluntary and statutory organisations and social policy and research information.)

## **3. Sectoral Plans**

Part III of the Disability Act, 2005 places a statutory obligation on six Ministers of the Government to prepare and publish a sectoral plan outlining the actions to be taken by their respective Departments and agencies under their remit in relation to the provision of services to people with disabilities. The Act requires the six Ministers of Government to consult with such persons representative of people with disabilities as he or she considers appropriate. This obligation applies to the following Ministers of Government of the following Departments: Health and Children, Social and Family Affairs, Transport, Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

At a minimum each sectoral plan should contain the following:

- Information on relevant codes of practice and regulations,
- Complaints procedure, monitoring and review procedure;
- Statement of the intervals at which reports shall be prepared (not more than 3 years from the date of publication of the plan);
- Level of access relating to the services specified in the plan, if appropriate, and any other matters, if deemed appropriate by the Minister.

The Act contains a statutory obligation on each of these six Government Ministers that each sectoral plan be laid before each House of Oireachtas not later than one year after commencement of this section (in this case not later than July 2006). However, the plan needs to be approved by each House of the Oireachtas before it can take effect.



#### **4. A Multi-Annual Investment Programme.**

This will provide over Euro 1 billion from 2005 to 2009 for disability specific services, on top of regular estimates funding. The funding will be used for the provision of disability awareness training and the preparation of accessibility audits, the adapting of information systems and equipment for people with special needs, providing and improving where needed, accessibility to public buildings, roads and pavements, parks, amenities, heritage sites and public areas for which local authorities have responsibility.



### 3 Disability in County Roscommon

#### What Do We Mean By Disability?

Increasingly in looking at disability we have moved away from a “medical” to a “social” model. The medical model focuses on people’s actual impairments and sees these as “the problem”: the social model meanwhile sees society’s response to the impairment as “the problem”: This view sees the environments within which people have to live, work, and play as being the “disabling factors”. Roscommon County Council seeks to implement its services based on the social model.

Disability in Roscommon								
(With Counties Leitrim & Westmeath for Comparison)								
Some 2002 Census Facts & Figures								
Type of Disability	Roscommon		Leitrim		Westmeath		State	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Sight / Hearing	1,344	2.5%	580	2.3%	1,591	2.2%		2.0%
Physically Limited	3,141	5.8%	1,126	5.9%	3,347	4.6%		4.5%
Learning, Remembering or Concentrating	1,737	3.2%	907	3.5%	2,182	3.0%		2.7%
Difficulty re Personal Care	1,691	3.1%	839	3.2%	1,739	2.4%		2.2%
Difficulty re Going Outside the House	2,201	4.1%	1,095	4.2%	2,338	3.3%		3.0%
Difficulty re Working	3,198	5.9%	1,651	6.4%	3,410	4.7%		4.6%
<b>TOTAL WITH A DISABILITY</b>	<b>5,315</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>6,059</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>745,833</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
People with a Disability Living Alone	1,076	25.2%	619	28.8%	1,035	22.1%		20.4%

See Appendix 1 for Explanatory Note on Census Facts and Figures

The consistent pattern is that the incidence of disability in County Roscommon is **higher** than it is in Westmeath but **lower** than it is in Leitrim and above the national average.



The **National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD)** lists 416 persons in County Roscommon as being included in their Database.

The criteria for registration on the NPSDD is as follows:

- Have an ongoing disabling condition that is physical or sensory. Sensory refers to seeing or hearing;
- May have more than one type of disabling condition but where the main condition is physical or sensory;
- Are less than 66 years of age;
- Are receiving or need a specialist service that is related to their disabling condition; **and**
- Have consented to being included on the database.

(Figures from Health Service Executive (HSE))

The **National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD)** lists 351 persons in County Roscommon as being included in their Database.

The criteria for registration on the NIDD is as follows:

- Have been clinically diagnosed as having an intellectual disability;
- Have consented to being included on the database

(Figures from HSE)

### **Census v HSE Figures**

HSE figures identify the numbers of people “registered” with the health services in the sense of being part of caseloads and/or in receipt of specific health and social care services. They tend to focus on people at the more acute end of the spectrum and won’t necessarily even include all of those. HSE figures essentially say: “Here are the people known to us and receiving help/support/services from us”. For an explanatory note on Census facts and figures, see Appendix 1.



## **What Disability Means for People**

The main impact of disability is that it excludes people from participating in and enjoying social and economic life. There is now ample evidence which shows that people with disabilities:

- are less likely to be in work
- are less likely to be in education or training
- are more likely to have a low income or to be in poverty
- are more likely to rely on state benefits
- are less likely to take part in mainstream, day-to-day activities and past-times
- are more likely to need public services but, perversely, less likely to be able to access those services

## **What this means for Roscommon County Council**

Traditional public sector responses based on a “one-size-fits-all” approach can be particularly unsuitable for people with disabilities: person-centered approaches should increasingly become the norm in the way that Roscommon County Council delivers its services.

The Disability Act 2005 is now the central piece of legislation that will guide the public sector in its delivery of services. In addition to the legislation Roscommon County Council will be guided by the findings of this policy document including the data on disability in the county which highlights the following:

- one person in ten in the county has a disability.
- disability rates in the county are above the national average.

Roscommon County Council is aware of the challenges being faced in making its services and facilities “disability friendly”. It has a legacy of predominantly old buildings and offices and of historic townscapes. It is also very aware that Roscommon is a largely rural County with acute access and transport difficulties. These realities point to the need for a planned effort to address these issues and for Roscommon County Council to be the driver of this response.



## 4 What people Told Us

The views and opinions of relevant stakeholders were seen as central to the development of Roscommon County Council's Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy. A number of organisations were consulted and are listed at Appendix 2. The main points made by those consulted can be summarised as follows:

- Physical access/accessibility ... e.g. footpaths, parking, lighting, crossings, poorly-placed street furniture, access to public buildings and facilities
- Transport that caters for people with disabilities
- Housing that reflects the needs and circumstances of people with disabilities
- Lack of/confusion re enforcement, particularly of parking and of Part M of the building regulations
- Lack of accessible/alternative form of documents and information
- Low/limited awareness levels of disability and disability issues
- Limited employment for people with disability
- Recognition that disability covers a wide spectrum i.e. sight, hearing, physical, learning, etc
- For many people it's not their disability that "hinders" them ... but an unsympathetic/unfriendly world "out there"

### **What People told us: What Roscommon County Council Should Do To Improve Things**

- look at planning enforcement issues
- involve people with disability in its decision-making
- improve the disability-friendliness of town centres and its own buildings and facilities
- provide more pedestrian crossings
- repair footpaths
- disability proof street furniture (i.e. where it's placed; its colour/visibility etc)
- avoid/remove plain glass doors/barriers in County Council buildings
- "colour up" steps and stairs to make them very visible
- improve its housing for people with disabilities
- use the new Roscommon Swimming Pool as an example of good practice re disability-friendly planning and development.

This Document attempts to take forward the key points made through the consultation process.



## 5 Our Disability Action Plan

Roscommon County Council's Response to the Barcelona Declaration and Disability Strategy incorporates a Disability Action Plan and reflects the six core thrusts of the overall Barcelona Declaration. Each of these will be taken forward by the County Council as a core Theme. The Themes are dealt with in turn below. A brief outline of why each Theme is important is presented followed by an outline of what the County Council intends to do in response.

Each Theme will be developed within a clear, unambiguous County Council approach to disability. That approach will be governed by the basic belief that every person who works in, deals with, or receives a service from the County Council *has a value and the right to be treated with dignity.*



# Theme 1: Awareness Raising

## Why This Is Important

Disability tends to be an issue towards which people are sympathetic yet which they frequently fail to fully understand. Because disability covers such a broad spectrum and impacts on the lives of so many people in so many ways, it has a relevance to the work of every part of the County Council. Council staff and Councillors need to know what disability is, how it impacts on people and how they can respond to it.

What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Publish the County Council's Response to the Barcelona Declaration and National Disability Strategy	Community & Enterprise	2005	} Council-wide awareness of the Barcelona Declaration
Send a summary of the Plan to every staff member and Councillor	Human Resources	2005	
Include disability awareness within staff and Councillor training	Human Resources	Ongoing	} Growing awareness across the Council of disability and its implications for people
Promote disability awareness via the County Council's website, news releases and relevant publications	Community & Enterprise, and I. T.	Ongoing	



## Theme 2: Disability Proofing

### Why This Is Important

It isn't enough for the County Council to know and understand what disability is and what it can mean for people. It has to then take the next step and deliberately and methodically check or test what are the implications for people with disabilities of everything it does. That means building a disability dimension into the County Council's day-to-day operations and work. Responding to the needs and aspirations of people with disabilities has to be part of "the way we do things around here".

What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Roll out Community & Enterprise's work on Equality Proofing (including disability) across the County Council	Community & Enterprise	2006	Disability issues "mainstreamed" into Council policies and business procedures
Adopt and implement a County Council Equality and Diversity Policy	Human Resources	2006	
Use SPCs to ensure a "disability input" to County Council decision-making	Senior Management Team & Community & Enterprise	Ongoing	People with disabilities and their representatives having greater influence on decision-making and policy development
Ensure Service Operational Plans within the Council have a Disability component	All sections	2006	Disability placed as a strategic issue at the heart of every Council service/department
Carry out a "disability audit" of all Council premises/facilities	Access Officer	2006	An improved understanding of the Council's "disability friendliness"



## Theme 3: Consultation

### Why This Is Important

Using published facts and figures about disability and looking at good practice from elsewhere will improve the County Council's focus on disability. But on their own they're not enough. To get the proper insight and to pick up issues and implications that the facts and figures don't uncover, it's vital that people with disabilities are directly consulted. Generic or mainstream consultation will help achieve this but the County Council wants to go further and make sure the "disability voices" are both sought out and listened to.

<b>What We'll Do To Address This</b>	<b>Who'll Lead on This?</b>	<b>When Will It Be Done?</b>	<b>What's Expected As A Result</b>
Broaden our consultation processes to include people with disabilities in so far as practicable and appropriate.	All Sections	Ongoing	Direct, unambiguous input from people with disabilities
Where feasible, provide alternative communication systems at County Council events	All Sections	Ongoing	People with disabilities able to participate and be involved



## Theme 4: Improved Inclusion/Accessibility

### Why This Is Important

In theory there is much that's now available to people with disabilities, across Ireland and in County Roscommon. In practice the reality can be very different, simply because of access and accessibility issues. Often these issues are very basic and obvious ... for example offices that are up flights of stairs. Even more often they can be less obvious but just as restrictive ... for example a lack of appropriate transport to get to the office in the first place and unclear, incomprehensible signs and documents when people actually do get there. In the same way something that's fresh and attractive for some people – for example new, dispersed street furniture and cobbled paving – can be very difficult for others to negotiate.

What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Constantly promote the County Council's core principles of Customer Focus and Social Inclusion/Equality	All Sections	Ongoing	The disability agenda placed naturally and comfortably at the County Council's strategic core
Adopt and work to the NDA's "Building for Everyone" guidelines re new Council projects	All Sections	Ongoing	An increasingly "disability-friendly" physical environment across County Roscommon
Monitor the implementation of Part M of the Building Regulations	Building Control/Housing	Ongoing	



What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Continue to use electronic means/approaches to reduce physical accessibility issues	All Sections	Ongoing	Services made more accessible to people with a disability
Develop the mobile library service	Library	Ongoing	
Provide, as far as practicable, communications to people with hearing/or sight impairments in accessible formats	All Sections	Ongoing	
Continue to recruit, train and develop people with disabilities as County Council staff, meeting the 3% employment target	Human Resources	Ongoing	The Council seen and acting as employer of choice for people with disabilities
Continue to promote and deliver the Council's Disabled Person's Grants Scheme	Housing	Ongoing	Improved living circumstances for people with disabilities
Use all social housing options to provide social housing for people with disabilities including Part V.	Planning/Housing	Ongoing	
To provide adequate numbers of parking spaces in accordance with the standard set out in the NDA's "Building for Everyone" guidelines in new public facilities.	Roads	Ongoing	Facilities and services more accessible to people with disabilities
Support developments in rural/community transport	Community & Enterprise	Ongoing	People with disabilities better able to participate in social and economic life



## Theme 5: Training

### Why This Is Important

Whilst there is a cross-over between this Theme and that of Awareness Raising, the focus here is on equipping Council staff in particular with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively address various disability agendas. Awareness raising on its own is not enough. Staff need to improve their understanding of disability-related needs and solutions.

What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Provide disability sensitivity training for all staff who deal directly with customers and citizens	Human Resources	Ongoing	} Council staff skilled and knowledgeable re particular technical and policy issues related to disability
Provide access to relevant training for key staff members such as Access Officers, Disability Liaison Officers, Personnel Officers, and Building Control Officers	Human Resources/ All Services	Ongoing	
Ensure Council members of interview panels are aware of their obligations under the Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000	Human Resources	Ongoing	The Council seen and acting as an employer of choice for people with disabilities



## Theme 6: Needs Assessment & Evaluation

### Why This Is Important

The Barcelona Declaration and the Disability Action Plan is not just about producing a Plan. It is instead more about a process, about developing and maintaining ways of doing things that will improve the Council's contribution to the wellbeing of people in the County with disabilities. The County Council therefore wants to do more than just "produce a Plan". It wants that Plan to be managed, reported on, and reviewed/updated on a regular basis. As County Roscommon's disability needs change, so too must the Council's Barcelona Declaration Plan.

What We'll Do To Address This	Who'll Lead on This?	When Will It Be Done?	What's Expected As A Result
Retain the Disability Action Team to oversee the Council's work in these areas	Senior Management Team	2005	The Barcelona Declaration Plan being seen and treated as a live, developing part of the County Council's business
Review the Disability Action Plan on an annual basis and feed into the Council's annual Operational Plans	DA* Team	2006	
Report on progress against the Plan in the County Council's Annual Report	All Sections DA Team	2006	

\* Disability Action. This Disability Action Team will remain in place for the lifetime of this Plan to oversee its implementation.



## 6 Making It Happen

The County Council recognises that implementation of the Disability Action Plan is central to delivery on its commitments.

As outlined under Theme 6 above, to make sure the Barcelona Declaration and Disability legislation becomes an integral part of Roscommon County Council's services, each department will be required to reflect the thrusts of this Plan in their own annual operational plans. In that same spirit, progress against the Response to the Barcelona Declaration and Disability Strategy will be reported on yearly in the Council's published Annual Report.

Finally, the Barcelona Declaration Plan Team that came together to draft this Plan will remain in place as the Disability Action Team to oversee the Council's work in these areas.



# *Appendix 1: Explanatory Note on Census Facts and Figures*

Volume 10 of the 2002 Census Report covers Disability and Carers. The relevant information comes from the answers to Questions 14, 15 (both Disability-related) and 23 (Carers) on the Census form/questionnaire. These were filled in by the person filling in the form ... **and that person therefore made the call, using their own judgement, as to how to answer the Questions.**

Question 14 was a two-part question, which asked of persons of all ages about the existence of the following long lasting conditions:

- (a) blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment
- (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.

Question 15 was a four-part question that asked whether an individual had a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities. The four activity categories were:

⇒ *for persons aged 5 years and over:*

- (a) learning, remembering or concentrating
- (b) dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home

⇒ *for persons aged 15 years and over:*

- (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office
- (d) working at a job or business.

**Individuals were classified as having a disability if they ticked "yes" in response to any of the categories in questions 14 and 15.**



## *Appendix 2: Those Consulted*

The following organisations provided an input to this Plan:

Brothers of Charity Services, Roscommon

Centre for Independent Living, Derrane, Co Roscommon

Health Services Executive, Western Region

Irish Wheelchair Association, Galway

MS Ireland, Galway

National Association for Deaf People, Galway

National Council for the Blind of Ireland, Galway

National Disability Authority

People with Disabilities in Ireland, Derrane, Co Roscommon

Roscommon Partnership Company Ltd

Roscommon Support Group

**We acknowledge and appreciate the thoughts shared with us and the suggestions made.**