SoFAB Launch

September 12th 2012.
SFCoP

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SFCOP Representation over the years

- Academic – and Leadership UCD
- Farmers Groups, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association.
- Interested / Pilot Individual Farmers
- Depts. Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht; Agriculture Food and Marine
- Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority)
- HSE (Statutory Health and Social Care Commissioning)
- Leader Programme / Local Partnership Bodies
- Voluntary Sector - Care Providers Agencies (Circa 80% of ‘Provision’) representing people who use support services

(SoFAB – A great opportunity to learn and evolve directly with those choosing and availing of supports)
Policy and Practice Context

• People's preferred choice is to live ‘ordinary lives’ and avail of supports in the familiar settings of community life
• How do we know this?
• National and International consultative processes in evolving new policy tell us this.
• Practice reflective of this direction is what people are choosing more of in all facets of ‘ordinary community’.
• S.F. is a natural fit as an opportunity of choice to offer people in ‘ordinary rural communities’
• New in terms of with whom and where supports happen
• Means new partners and relationships into the future
• Progress being made in area of Capacity Legislation which will support personal empowerment and choice.
New Thinking and Models in Agriculture and Food?

- Times of Change – Times of Opportunity
- (Our Citizens with ‘disability’ need new opportunity.)
- Went to learn more about Co-Operatives in terms of structure, governance, operation
A Congruence of Values and Thoughts!

• “Agriculture of the Middle”
• A Sustainable model to keep farming in ‘Farm Families’; ‘youthful’; and providing what the consumer is looking for.
• Farming and new innovative food products are about “Values” not just value.
• Consumers looking to connect what they eat and use to it’s origins of People, Place and its unique identity / characteristics ‘Ring of Kerry Lamb’
What are these “Values” leading AoTM in the U.S.A.?

• People Identity – “The Farm Family”
• Place Identity- e.g. Armagh Brambleys
• Farming and Agriculture are about Relationships!
• New Product Valorisation
• “Any farm can produce a commodity; it takes a Community to produce a New AoTM Product”
The key values in our Social Care sector

• Are about the Person
• Are about Choice
• Are about Relationships
• Are about Independence and Interdependence.
• Are about Community
• Are about “Social Role Valorisation” (Wolfensberger 1983)- Valid, Valued, Rewarded.
The most important question is not the How but the What:

• Is What we are doing right, is it what people want! If it is we can always figure out the How. (Jerr Boschee Dublin 2010 Winsent Interreg, Institute Of Social Entrepreneurship U.S.)

• People are pretty clear in telling us what they want more of. We are learning in figuring out the how to support in ordinary settings.

• Strong synergies in thought on working from values in where Social Care and Aotm is going
Leading the Change on *How to*

- Muirlosa Foundation. Working with HSE to move people from Congregate to Community. *A values based recruitment campaign!*
- Next step to recruit 20 Families as new partners in day, respite, residential support
- Genio Trust. June 2012 innovation round for new school leavers. Innovations must be ‘of community’ and within a Consortia.
Others Partners Actively Engaged

- Camphill – Both parts of Island
- Brothers of Charity, Roscommon – Waterford
- St. Raphaels Kildare SJOG
- CCDP- Carlow County Development Partnership
- A cohort of interested Farmers/Farm Families

Inspirational Change Leaders: All the Par-Olympians 2012
Pat Mc’

- An early Pioneer
- Made his choices
- Led his change
- Choose the level of support he wanted
- Become a true member of the farming community of North Co. Dublin
- A story to be gathered and shared
- Died Spring 2012. (R.I.P.)