

Plenary 2: How to Create Community-Based Services

International Tools, Guidelines, and Experiences



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Government & philanthropy working together to create national disability service reform

'How to Create Community-Based Services'

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Background to the Genio Trust

- Established in 2008
- 2009 – 2016 Focused initially on supporting projects in disability, mental health and dementia across Ireland
- Three initial activities
 - Innovation grants –To support services to change
 - Research on effective models
 - Training – For staff in “self-direction”
- 2016 – 2023 €45m Service Reform Fund (SRF) established to implement reform in disability, mental health and homeless services nationally



First steps

- Worked in partnership with government funders to identify and prioritise areas of work in line with Government policy
- Established a Grants Committee
- Developed **criteria** for funding in line with government policies
- Issued an invitation to funding to all services providers
- Those services that wanted to change applied in for funding
- Grants committee reviewed proposals for funding
- Funding contracts issued
- Services commenced their work.....



Our Journey

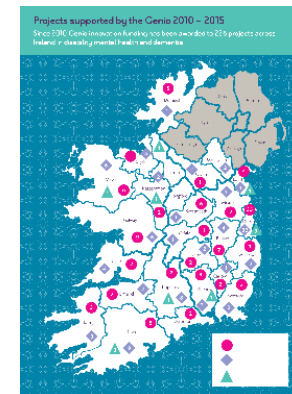
2009 – 2016 Innovation grants



- Funded a large number of smaller grants to individual services who wanted to begin / grow “person-centred” practices
- Six monthly onsite visits to services to review progress in partnership with funders (Grants Committee)
- Grants committee meet monthly to review how best to provide support services to achieve outcomes
- Commenced information learning sessions
- Developed bespoke **Supported Self Directed Living training (SSDL)** to support staff and senior management

Lessons learned 2009 - 2016

- Large services struggled to move from the traditional, outdated, expensive models of support to community-based, person centred practices
 - Services established separate teams to lead the reform work
 - Seeking out champions of change to lead and drive the work at a local level
 - Capture stories of the individuals using services
- The onsite visits from the Grants Committee was valuable to provide advice / support to services
- Ongoing training/capacity building was required (SSDL)
- Independent evaluation/research of the programme

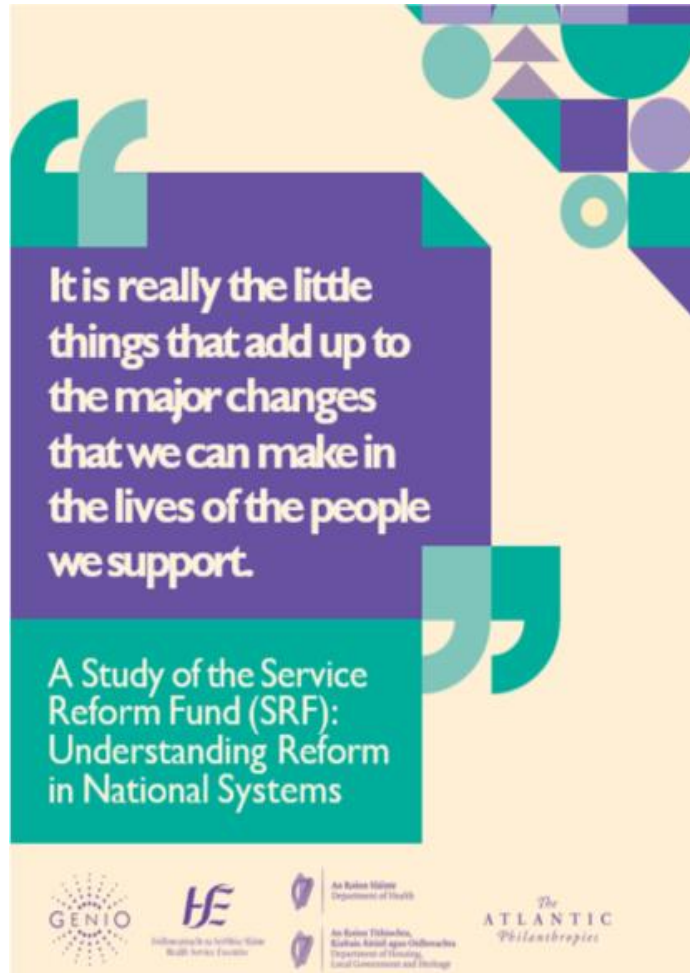


Our Journey 2016 – 2023

Scaling national programmes in disability

- Overall a budget of €45m was established to implement reform in disability, mental health and homeless services – Service Reform Fund (SRF)
- 16 grants for disability projects totalling €7.9m awarded
- Introduced Action Researchers to collect data and disseminate learnings
- Information sessions with Senior Government departments to feedback Action Research findings and to surface implementation challenges
- Training / Capacity building - Community of Practice / SSDL training
- By end of 2022, **370 people** had moved to their own homes in the community – closure of 10 large institutions

Lessons learned 2016 – 2023



- Clarity of purpose
- Changing ingrained beliefs and practices
- Adapting to overcome challenges and sharing lessons
- Putting pressure on the system to do things differently
- Fostering new ways of working
- Paving the way for staff to witness the capacities of the people they support
- Changing hearts and minds

A Study of the Service Reform Fund (SRF): Understanding Reform in National Systems full report can be found at:

www.genio.ie

Video: Making De-institutionalisation Work





Thank you

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