

1.1 Easy to read

Summary of NAS Annual Report 2018



What is NAS?

NAS is the National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities. It is called NAS for short.

NAS works to protect the rights and choices of people with disabilities.

NAS supports people who communicate in different ways like Lámh. NAS also supports people who find it hard to be part of their community.

The people who work for NAS are called Advocates. Advocates work with people who do not have a lot of other support.



2018 for Disability Policy

2018 was an important year for disability in Ireland. Ireland signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

The UN CRPD is an international law.

It means that Ireland has to do more to protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

NAS will do what it can to make sure that Ireland follows the UN CRPD.



What Advocates do

Advocates work with people with disabilities to make their own decisions.

People with disabilities might need supports and services. Advocates try to help people to get them.

Advocates help people with disabilities to tell other people what they want.

Advocates make sure other people like family and staff listen.



How Advocates work




Advocates work alongside people with disabilities. They work out together what the person wants.

We all have different ways of showing what we want. Sometimes we use words and sometimes we do not. Advocates watch and learn the ways people communicate.

Advocates also talk to friends, family and staff to find out more about what the person wants.



	<p>Who Supports NAS?</p> <p>The government gives money to the Citizens Information Board and then the Citizens Information Board gives this money to NAS.</p> <p>NAS uses this money for its work and to pay the Advocates.</p>
	<p>NAS Work in 2018</p> <p>Advocates helped people speak up, write letters, make phone calls, attend meetings and think about important decisions.</p> <p>Advocates helped 916 people with disabilities in 2018 with advocacy.</p>
	<p>NAS gave information to 3,025 people in 2018.</p> <p>NAS has a telephone number people can call. Many people called this telephone number for help.</p>
	<p>NAS dealt with a lot of important issues for people with disabilities in 2018. These included housing, health, family and legal issues.</p> <p>NAS helped people with disabilities to work on these issues to try and make things better.</p>

	<p>NAS wrote papers to the government and other groups like the HSE. NAS told them about the problems Advocates worked on with people with disabilities. These papers are called Policy Submissions.</p> <p>NAS wrote 14 Policy Submissions in 2018 on things like on PA Services.</p>
	<p>NAS also took part in a lot of meetings to discuss disability issues.</p> <p>NAS met with groups like the HSE, HIQA and the Department of Health.</p> <p>NAS also met Minister for Disability, Finian McGrath to tell him how advocacy can help people with disabilities.</p>
	<p>In 2018 NAS held over 200 events to talk about the work of their Advocates.</p> <p>Some of these events were in disability services and others were public events, like the Ploughing Championships.</p>



Advocates attended courses to learn more about disability issues.

This helps NAS provide a better service to people with disabilities.



A New Plan for NAS

In 2018 NAS made a new plan for its work. This new plan is called the NAS Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021.

NAS will follow this plan for the next three years.

The plan is about making sure that all the work of NAS meets 5 values. The 5 values of NAS are independence, autonomy, respect, equality/ citizenship and empowerment.

In December 2018 NAS celebrated the new plan at an event in Croke Park.

Regina Doherty, who is the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, talked at the event.





New Patient Advocacy Service

NAS will provide a new service in 2019 for patients in Irish hospitals.

The new service will be called the Patient Advocacy Service.



NAS thanks all of its staff for all their hard work in 2018.

NAS also thanks the Citizens Information Board for their support in 2018.

Case Example 1: Paul

My name is Paul and I am in my 20s. I live in a residential service. It is a group home. I have an intellectual disability and problems with my eyesight. I also communicate in a different way. There were no activities that I could enjoy in my home. A person I know told NAS about me. An Advocate came to see me. The Advocate spent time with me and talked to people who knew me to learn about my life. The Advocate saw that I had to do things I did not like and talked to the manager of my house about this. The manager agreed to plan new things that I would enjoy. I am happier now.

Case Example 2: Yvonne

My name is Yvonne and I am in my 50s. I used to live in a large residential centre until I moved into a house in the community. I had a stroke and had to go to the hospital. When I was ready to go home, the manager of my house said that they could not support me there and I would have to go to a nursing home. My family told NAS about my problem. I met my Advocate and we went to meetings together. There were meetings with the hospital, my family and the house manager. My Advocate supported me to tell everyone what my wishes were. I did not want to live in a nursing home. I wanted to move to a new house in the community. I am now living in my new home and I am very happy.

Case Example 3: Jane

My name is Jane and I lived in a home supported by staff. I contacted NAS because I was unhappy where I lived. I shared a small house with one other person who was much younger than me. I did not get along with the person I lived with. This person sometimes shouted at me and even pushed me. I wanted to move and the staff tried to help me. The manager told them that there were no other places I could live. I started working with my Advocate who spent time getting to know me and my wishes. My Advocate supported me to tell the manager how I felt. The manager still told us that there was no other house for me. We wrote to the HSE disability manager and other people to tell them what I wanted. My Advocate supported me to be part of the decisions about my life. I now live in a house with another person who is around the same age as me. We have things in common. I still have the same support staff and this is important to me. I am very happy in my new home.