



# Disability Federation of Ireland

## Invitation for expressions of Interest

**Project Title:** Implementation of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN CRPD at Local Level

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## ABOUT DFI

The Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI is a federation of over 120 member organisations working with others to achieve a vision of Ireland where people with disabilities are participating fully in all aspects of society. Our mission is to work with our member organisations and other stakeholders to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN CRPD and ensure equal participation in society for people with disabilities.

DFI has a broad and varied membership, with differing purposes, ways of working and capacities. We work with many other stakeholders at local, national, and international level towards achieving our mission.

Over the course of many years in the community, DFI has undertaken community development work<sup>1</sup> with our member organisations, their service owners, disabled people in local and national settings, Local Authorities and other key stakeholders within the voluntary sector, as well as a variety of Public Bodies and agencies.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ireland ratified the UN CRPD in March 2018.

There are many good practice examples of local implementation of the UN CRPD. Across the 31 local government areas, different models and approaches are being employed to meet the requirements of both the UN CRPD and PSD. In addition, the responsibility for compliance generally rests with Access Officers. For many, the role is one of several areas of responsibility. In addition, with UN CRPD public bodies must adhere to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Public Sector Duty, PSD) in the planning, implementation and delivery of their goods and services.

There is some evidence that informal partnerships and collaborations are taking place to progress local implementation of UN CRPD, but to date, there has not been a formal, coordinated approach at local government level across the country as a whole. The extent to which the disabled people and the wider disability community have been engaged and involved in progressing implementation has also varied significantly across local authorities.

Local Government is supporting implementation of the UN CRPD in many ways. DFI is seeking a consultant to collate this evidence, identifying both good practices and gaps in structural approaches. The project is looking to evidence how local Government, working in partnership with communities and other stakeholders, to utilise existing fora, decision-making structures, local community programmes and activities to deliver on the UN CRPD. On gathering the evidence, the project aims to consider what's working and what is required to further local implementation of UN CRPD across all communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Development Work in DFI adheres to The All-Ireland Standards for Community Work 2016 and is underpinned by the UNCRPD and Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

**DFI invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified consultants to delivery on this project.**

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are:

- Identify good practice example of structural approaches to UN CRPD implementation by local government in Ireland
- Identify good practice models in other jurisdictions.
- Identify current structural gaps in the delivery of UN CRPD at local community level in Ireland.
- Identify existing fora, structures and stakeholders who currently, or have the potential to, support and/or lead UN CRPD implementation at a local level.
- Investigating with stakeholders, the potential for a national formal and standardised approach for local government implementation of the UN CRPD.
- Provide a series of recommendations which outline next steps to facilitate local government implementation of UN CRPD.

## KEY TASKS

- Work with a project advisory group whose membership will include key DFI staff members and a number of external stakeholders.
- Liaise on a regular basis with the DFI staff member responsible for this project.
- Develop a methodology to deliver on the project objectives.
- Identify key stakeholders.
- Through different approaches engage with stakeholders/groups to gather relevant evidence, insights and opinions which will inform the project and project recommendations.
- Collect and collate:
  - Examples of good practices from across the country in the implementation of the UN CRPD at local Government level.
  - Good practice examples of other programmes which have structural and national systems of implementation at local Government level.
  - Good practice examples from other jurisdictions on UN CRPD implementation by local governments, which would support discussion and deepen understanding of the potential of local governments within this space.
- Outline a series of recommendations which will inform next steps in delivering UN CRPD at a local level.
- Develop and present the project findings and recommendations in a final project report.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

The project is to be completed within six months of commencement. This includes presentation and sign-off of the final project report (Expected days 20-25).

## APPLICATION

If you wish to express an interest in carrying out this project, please provide a brief document detailing the following:

- A summary of your work (including max. three examples) that is relevant to this project including previous work on disability matters.
- A description of your understanding of the project requirements and initial proposed approaches to deliver on the project objectives.
- A realistic timeline for delivering the project based on the activities above.
- Full project costs inclusive of VAT. If you further information contact [kevindempsey@disability-federation.ie](mailto:kevindempsey@disability-federation.ie).

**Please forward completed application to [kevindempsey@disability-federation.ie](mailto:kevindempsey@disability-federation.ie) by 5pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.**