

## **Possibilitiesplus (<https://www.activelink.ie/node/93175>)**

Possibilitiesplus came about due to the innovative work of Dr. Bob McCormack, who has been passionate about the development of individualised supports and services for people with a disability. In 2012 Bob sent in a proposal to The Genio Trust to develop an independent brokerage service to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to have individualised budgets and to select the supports that best meet their individual needs.

The Genio Trust was established to support innovative projects like possibilitiesplus and is financially supported by Atlantic Philanthropies, in collaboration with the Department of Health, the HSE, and non-governmental advocacy and service-providing organisations.

The Genio funding enabled the employment of two support brokers, Angela Lane and Claire Finnegan, along with intensive training with Neighbors Inc., a New Jersey based support brokerage, in operation for over 15 years. The team have worked to develop an awareness of the possibilities available to individuals and their families, if they choose to develop an individualised service in Ireland. Possibilitiesplus held a national workshop in May 2013 led by Patti Scott, Director of Neighbors Inc. and have been actively involved within the Irish disability sector in increasing the profile and awareness of individualised funded supports.

Possibilitiesplus have presented at local and national conferences and recently co-hosted with LEAP "The International Family Leadership & Personal Budgets" conference on 28th May 2018 in Swords

Possibilitiesplus is currently working with a number of individuals and their families, on a one to one basis, planning and developing an ordinary life with the person, using the resources available, along with their support network. Possibilitiesplus can demonstrate, through the lived experiences of these individuals, that there is an way to create the good life, in ordinary places within the persons local community.

Possibilitiesplus is in process of change and development as an organisation, with a vision of developing family to family support networks, engaging in leadership training with families. We will continue to offer vision and planning support for individuals and families, who are looking for an individualised model of support, using the funding available to them.

Possibilitiesplus believe that we all live our own unique lives; with the people we want to spend time with, people with a disability are no different. Individuals we support only need to be listened to, for the individualized supports to develop around them. As one parent commented about trying to get a suitable service for her son: "I have been doing this for 25 years and not been listened to".

Possibilitiesplus strives to listen to the individual and their family, as they are the experts in their own lives.

## **Our Vision**

Where people with a disability control the resources to live the life they want.

## **Our Mission**

To help people with a disability identify their skills, gifts and contributions and use resources available to them to develop valued social roles and create a good life.

### **Contact Info**

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### **Website**

<http://possibilitiesplus.ie/> (<http://possibilitiesplus.ie/>)

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