

## **DML Excellence Awards 2016 Report**

**Project No: 401 – Turas**

**Address: Turas, 17 Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, Dublin**

**Location: CHO Area 7**

### **Brief Description (up to 200 words)**

Turas is a day service for school leavers and young adults with an intellectual disability. It has been developed by St. Michael's House as a pilot project in response to New Directions. Its mission is to base the service on a further education model. The service strives to support each individual, based on the individual's learning needs and styles, with QQI accredited training, supported employment, community participation, the development of their individual social roles and supporting the individual to develop skills in independent living.

The staff role in these services is to build and sustain relationships with the young adults and their families and learn about the young person's unique interests and their support needs. Their job is to build strong networks with community agencies and actively search for opportunities for the person they support to access recreation, education and employment and to become a valued member of their community. The service provides in house training and access to courses in the community. St. Michael's House is accredited to teach 11 QQI modules. We have set up a community garden in Turas, in partnership with volunteers from Avivia.

### **Main goal(s) and aims of the Project**

Turas aims to mobilise the supports available in the participants' communities so that they have the widest choice about how they live their lives and how they spend their time. Individuals are supported to become active users of services and amenities within their own community and are supported to make and maintain valued relationships and friendships. Individuals volunteer in the local community and are supported in becoming as independent as possible in day to day practical skills, e.g. communication, travel training, laundry, cookery, personal care. A key goal of the project is that all participants complete QQI/FETAC certified training courses to achieve these aims.

### **Outline of Approach – main steps taken to implement the Project**

Following a review of existing services in St. Michael's House South in 2014 and a wider consultation it was identified that the needs of school leavers could not be met within existing services. The unmet needs of some of the young adults attending existing services was also identified.

Key values of the new service:

Person centred, individualised learning programmes

QQI accredited training

Employment

Community participation

Development of social roles

Independent living skills

Family participation

Service user consultation

The programme is offered on a 2 or 3 year cycle depending on the service users' needs. A structured assessment process with potential service users supported the young people to identify their own needs and the potential of the service to meet them. SMH provided a base in Rathmines and funding was secured through the HSE via the School Leavers Funding programme. The service commenced in Autumn 2014.