

# LAPWD-LEITRIM'S CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING 1996-2016

## TWENTY YEARS GROWING

*Rosaleen Kielty, Manager LAPWD*

AS THE country continues to celebrate the centenary of the 1916 rising, LAPWD held its own major celebration this year as it is 20 years since the organisation was established in Mohill in 1996 by a group with disabilities, led by Sr Emmanuel Farrelly, Andy McGovern and others. Thankfully Andy is still active as our Honorary President of the Association.

These pioneering people identified a need and recognised the many inequalities facing disabled people. In response, they came together and set upon the task of planning an organisation to represent and advocate for disabled people and their families.

From small beginnings and overcoming many milestones, the organisation has grown and developed and is currently delivering services to Leaders (People with Disabilities) throughout all areas of Co. Leitrim and West Cavan.

The services are funded by the HSE and currently almost 60 trained staff are employed in delivering care supports to approximately 60 clients.

LAPWD also supports the accessible transport need of many people providing transport from the person's home for a hospital appointment or visit to a clinic. Social and recreational courses are organised regularly at our centre in Mohill.

LAPWD also acts as an information point, and where necessary, guides people to other information agencies and bodies e.g. HSE, Leitrim Development Company and many others. The organisation has an Annual Fun Run, Walk or Roll held each May in Mohill and this acts as a fundraiser and a social event for members.

In this significant anniversary year, LAPWD was awarded an externally



accredited quality mark called PQASSO level 1 (Practical Quality Assurance systems for small organisations). This award was the culmination of a lot of hard work, which included reviewing and evidencing our Governance, policies and procedures along with many other areas.

The challenge remains to LAPWD to ensure we are delivering a quality service to people with Disabilities under the ethos of Independent Living.

■ **Back:** LAPWD Staff Members Marie McGuinness, Denise Boyne, Gary Boyne, Bernie McGovern & Nikki Mullen

■ **Front:** Rosaleen Kielty (LAPWD Manager), Cllr Mary Bohan (Cathaoirleach Leitrim County Council) & Kevin McGill (LAPWD Chairperson).

■ **Inset Below:** Margaret Hyland and her son Jason

■ **Below:** Brian Leyden cutting the 20 year celebration cake!

