Galway Autism Partnership

Bridging the GAP for families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Growing Up!!

GAP: 2011 (5 families)

2012 (250 families)
Organisational Development

2013 (350 families)

Crossroads: Ask our Families!!!!
The Response…

• Quality of life for whole family
  • Opportunities to “create memories”
  • Activities where we participate
• Education
• Awareness
• Advocacy
• Empowerment
• Community
A Video About Galway Autism Partnership

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkoCr3GAYb0&feature=youtu.be
Currently responses to many issues our families encounter is not until the issue elevates to a crisis level for them……

GAP aims
• to empower its membership through education and support in a proactive manner. Our objective is the education of the whole family to help increase self esteem and their ability to advocate for themselves.
Person-centred planning begins when people decide to listen carefully and in ways that can strengthen the voice of people who have been or at risk of being silenced.

O'Brien and O'Brien, 1998
Some Barriers

• Perception
• Disempowerment
• Stress
The Way Forward

• **Capacity** Building for Families
  – Education
  – Advocacy Skills
  – Value building on families to claim their space at the planning table
And the time came when the risk it took to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom. – Anais Nin