



World Social Work Day March 21st 2023

The Owenacurra Campaign :A Case Study of Joint Social Action Respecting Diversity

Background...

- Brief history...
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqOdF9sSxnk>



What happened next..

Some families came together


- We started writing to our local TDs and counsellors asking for their help
- We soon realised that the closure was going ahead if we didn't try to stop it.
- This lead us to start meeting as a small group mainly online to plan and strategise how to move forward.

Joint Social Action in our Campaign



Raising Awareness (Public)

Public Meetings



PROPOSED CLOSURE OF OWENACURRA CENTRE

PUBLIC MEETING

Friends of Owenacurra Centre invite you to a meeting at:
**The Jameson Suite
Midleton Park Hotel
Monday 20th Sept 7.30pm**

- Proposed Closure of the Owenacurra facility by HSE Management.
- Impact on Residents, Families and the Wider Community.
- Broader mental health service provision in East Cork.
(Cobh/Glenville & Midleton/Youghal catchments)

Covid compliance will apply in line with hotel policies.



Save The Owenacurra Centre

Friends of Owenacurra invite you to a
Public Meeting

Proposed closure of Owenacurra Centre

- Impact on residents & families
- Impact on other East Cork families who need respite/long-stay placements
- Accountability for HSE spending on Owenacurra Centre, Garnish House, Glenwood House, & Millfield House

**The Jameson Suite
Midleton Park Hotel
Monday 23rd May
7.30pm**

**IMPROVE US
DON'T MOVE US**

(Cobh/Glenville & Midleton/Youghal catchments)

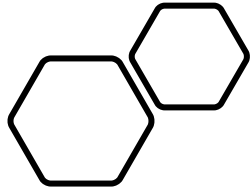
Raising Awareness (Public)

Street Protest



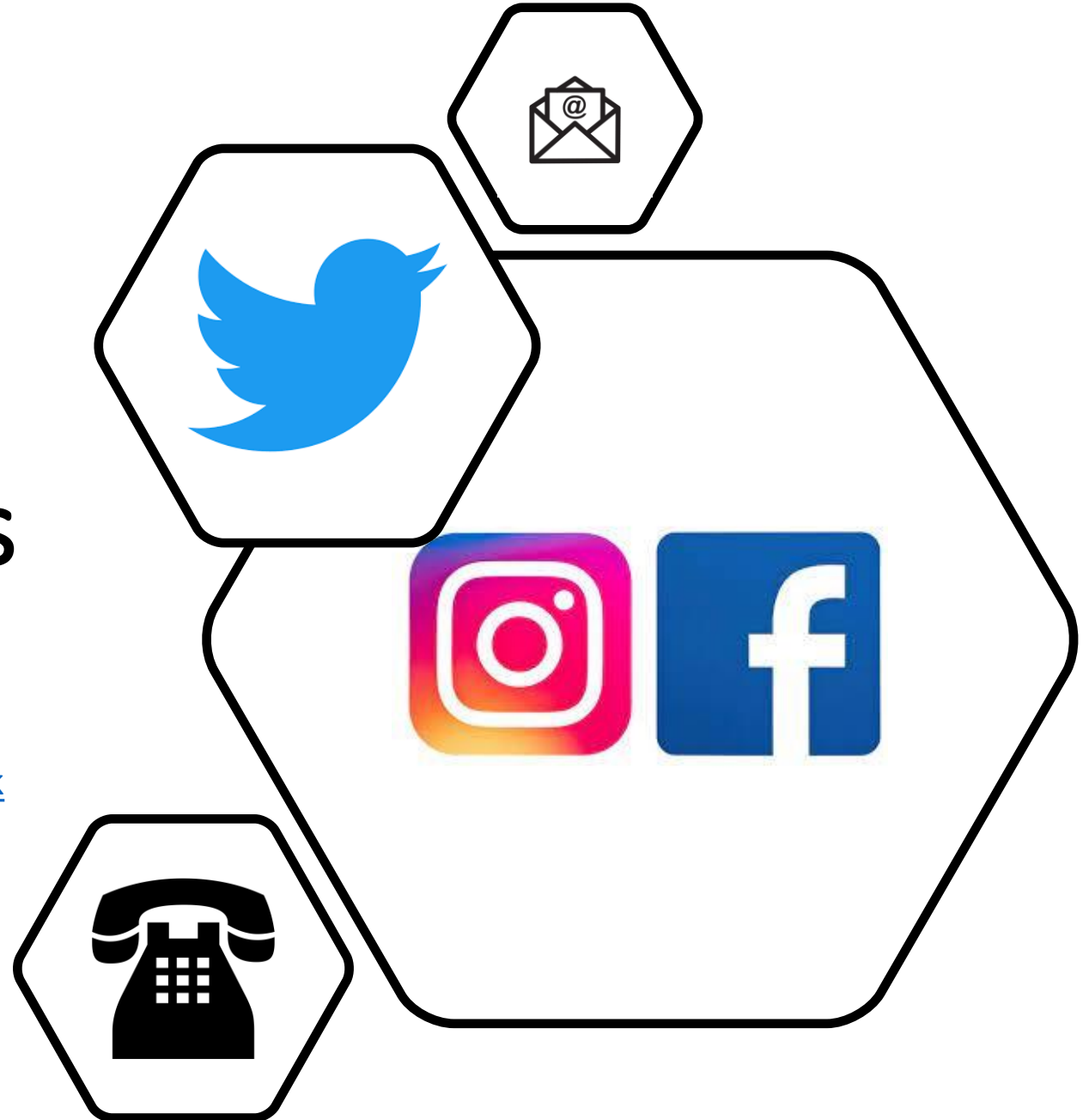
Online and Paper Petition





Raising Awareness (Social Media)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqOdF9sSxnk>



Analysis | 9
The saga around the Owenacurra mental health centre may be the perfect example of all that is wrong with the bureaucracy of the Irish health service, writes **Cianan Brennan**

Owenacurra residents deserve transparency



Raising Awareness (Traditional Media)

Families say closure of East Cork mental health facility will be heartbreaking for residents



Laoise Kelleher from Cobh with her mother Mary Hurley, both friends of the Owenacurra Centre, who are campaigning to keep the Owenacurra Mental Health facility open in Midleton, Co Cork. Picture: David Keane

MON, 11 OCT, 2021 - 20:31

NIAMH GRIFFIN, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Closing a mental health centre in East Cork would be “heart-breaking” for residents, their families have said.

Families and local politicians have campaigned against an initial decision to close the centre, which also offers day services and respite care, later this month. HSE Cork/Kerry has now extended this date as many residents are still waiting to hear where they will be re-housed.

'It is keeping families together': Protest held to keep Owenacurra mental health centre open

Queries into the details of these costs have not been addressed by the HSE, the protest heard, despite families' strong wish the building should be renovated not shut down.



Fine Gael TD for Cork East David Stanton told a large crowd on Saturday the situation has been handled “very, very badly”.

SAT, 16 OCT, 2021 - 19:31

NIAMH GRIFFIN, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Concerns around the cost of renovating an under-threat mental health centre in East Cork have been referred to the Public Accounts Committee, a large protest heard on Saturday.



Residents Want To Stay At Owenacurra Centre
Residents & Family members speak to [@pjcoogan](#) about why they want the centre to remain open and why it's at the centre of the Midleton Community
[#MentalHealthMatters](#)



shows.acast.com

Residents Want To Stay At Owenacurra Centre | Cork's 96f...
Podcast by Cork's 96fm Opinion Line

1:10 PM · Nov 24, 2022



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Closure of east Cork mental health facility to be discussed at committee

Updated / Wednesday, 7 Dec 2022 19:30



The Owenacurra mental health facility in east Cork



By Jennie O'Sullivan

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) is to appear before the Oireachtas Disability Matters Committee tomorrow to discuss its role regarding the controversial closure of the Owenacurra long-term mental health facility in east Cork.

Raising Awareness (Public)



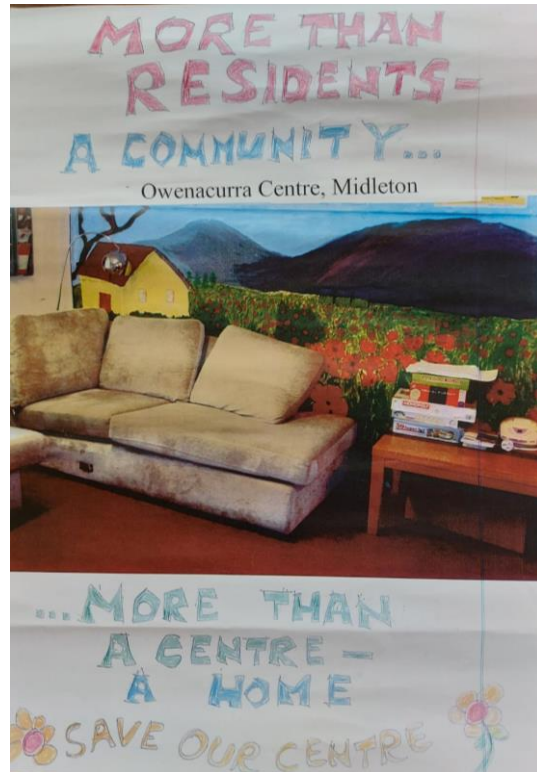
SOCIALLY DISTANCED VIGIL
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22ND, 7PM
OUTSIDE
OWENACURRA CENTRE
MIDLETON



SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH OWENACURRA CENTRE RESIDENTS &
OTHER SERVICE USERS IN EAST CORK
WHO NEED LONG-STAY OR RESPITE MENTAL HEALTH PLACEMENTS.



Ensuring Every Voice was Heard



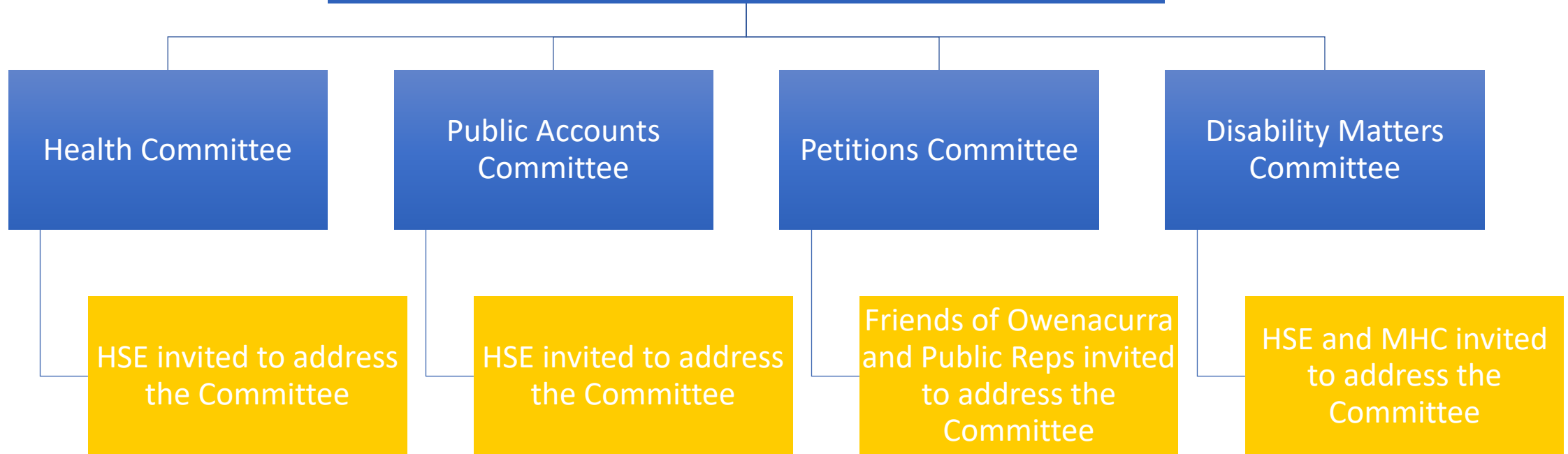
CORU Proficiency 2:12:

Understand the need to work in partnership with service users, their relatives/carers, guardians and other professionals in planning and evaluating goals, treatments and interventions and be aware of the concepts of power and authority in relationships with service users

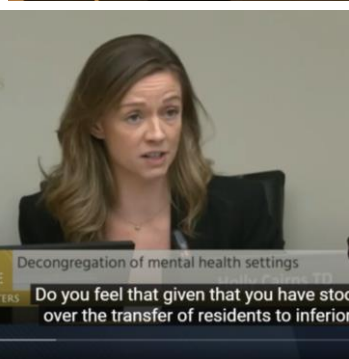
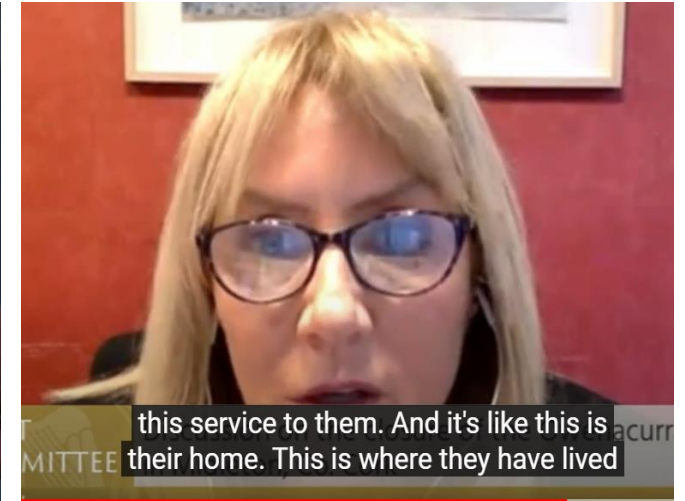


Lobbying

Oireachtas Committees we made submissions to:



Lobbying (Involving Politicians)



Final Thoughts...

The Owenacurra Campaign is still ongoing

Joint action is the only way to sustain a campaign over time

broad range of skills needed
– play to people's strengths



Thanks for listening Any Questions ?

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