

IRISH THERAPY DOGS

Irish Therapy Dogs is an Irish charity (CHY No. 18715), dedicated to the advancement of pet therapy for the provision of comfort and affection to people in long term or daily residential care, the advancement of education and development of people with special needs through the use of dogs and the promotion of a general awareness of the importance and benefits of pet therapy. Pet therapy has been described as the use of companion animals to enhance the quality of life of people in caring environments by visiting and interacting with them. Therapy dog teams (owner and dog) work to improve the emotional health of people in a variety of settings. They bring joy and comfort to residents, visitors, and staff in care centres such as long stay nursing homes, day care centres, centres for people with special needs

and schools where they help children learn to read.

BENEFITS OF A THERAPY DOG

- Aids stimulation and motivation
- Provides focus for conversation
- Helps combat loneliness and depression
- Offers distraction from pain and infirmity
- Brings companionship
- Gives unconditional affection
- Is a good listener and doesn't ask any questions
- Is non judgemental and non selective
- Gives welcome change from routine
- Can be a lifeline for people who have had to give up a pet on entering a care centre.

Irish Therapy Dogs' Visiting Programme involves approved and registered volunteers and their dogs paying regular visits to various care centres

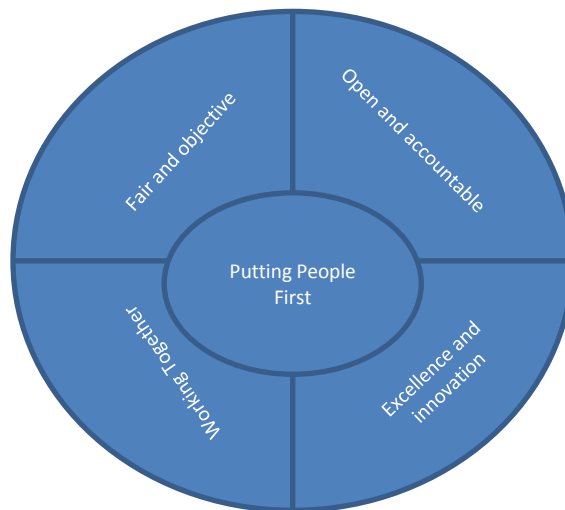
The visits are weekly and approximately one

hours duration. For more information see www.irishtherapydogs.ie



CORE VALUES OF THE AUTHORITY

The object of the Authority is to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and personal social services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public. *Section 7, Health Act 2007*



Putting people first – we will put the needs and the voices of service users, and those providing the services, at the centre of all of our work

Fair and objective – we will be fair and objective in our dealings with people and organisations, and undertake our work without fear or favour

Open and accountable – we will share information about the nature and outcomes of our work, and accept full responsibility for our actions

Excellence and innovation – we will strive for excellence in our work, and seek continuous improvement through self-evaluation and innovation

Working together – we will engage with people providing and people using the services in developing all aspects of our work