When Policies Collide

Working within "conflicting" policy spheres

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Key Questions of this presentation

- What are the challenges for policy workers regarding conflicting policies?

- What are some examples?

- How does Care Alliance go about addressing these challenges?

- How can we work together as policy workers to make an impact on this issue?

Note: primary discussion & examples will be drawn from the perspective of Care Alliance Ireland and family carer issues.

Caring: A Cross-cutting issue

- Latest stats: 360,000 Family Carers in Ireland (Irish Health Survey 2015)- 1 in 10 people is a Family Carer.
- Caring responsibilities do not discriminate by age, gender, socio-economic status, geography, sexuality, race, relationship status, employment status etc.
- Family Carers "care" due to a number of reasons; disability, illness, mental health concerns, etc.
- Family Carers often experience poorer levels of physical, mental and emotional health

Conflicting Policies vs Complimenting Strategies

- National Disability Strategy (2004) & Implementation Plan (2013- currently under review)

- A Vision for Change (2006)

- National Carers Strategy (2012)

- National Positive Aging Strategy (2013)

- National Dementia Strategy (2014)

- National Youth Strategy (2015-2020)

Family Caring in National Policy

Policy	"Family Carer"	"Family"	"Carer"	"Young Carer"
National Disability Strategy (2004) & Implementation Plan (2013- 2015; currently under review)	0	0	0	0
A Vision for Change (2006)	5	95	151	0
National Positive Aging Strategy (2013)	2 (in references)	16	22	0
National Dementia Strategy (2014)	4	17	71	0
National Youth Strategy (2015-2020)	0	21 (7 of these in references or referring to job titles/ TUSLA)	4	3

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NCS vs NDS

- "Living an independent life" vs "Family Carers seen as partners in care"

- NDS push for parental & family involvement to be 'minimised'

- NCS push for increased involvement

Challenges when working across "spheres"

- Policies that conflict: e.g. NCS & NDS

- Expertise available- personal background in (intellectual) disability- what about youth/education/illness/aging?

- 100+ member organisations- not representative but indicative; yet how to get member organisations to feed into policy work?

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Into the Future…

- How can we- as policy workers- influence future strategies to ensure a cross-cutting approach?

- How can we ensure our submissions are robust and take account of interlocking issues?

- How can we ensure service delivery from our organisations/ those we support aren't negatively impacted because of these conflicting strategies?