Complex Care Group Logo

**Supported Decision Making**

**The unheard voices in our communities**

There is a very small segment of the disabled population who need to be recognised as unique. This is a minority sector of society whose extreme needs can span the spectrum of disabilities and medical conditions. They are some of society’s most vulnerable citizens and may have some or all of the following;

* multiple disabilities including sensory disabilities, physical disabilities, severe intellectual disability,
* serious and ongoing medical conditions
* behaviours that may require a very high level of support

Their needs may be expressed in such a unique way that only those close to them will understand and be able to interpret/translate for them.

For the first time society is seeing a number of developmentally delayed children reaching adulthood with complex illnesses and disabilities who would previously not have survived. Although they are now resident in ordinary communities, they are mostly invisible. They are not able to voice their needs in appropriate forums, and for this reason their voices are not heard and policies and services have not been developed to meet their needs. Barriers exist in the form of lack of knowledge and understanding about the existence of this population, their vulnerability and their needs. They are not currently represented by the DPO’s reporting on the UN Convention.

The Complex Care Group Trust is passionate about supported decision making and are happy to provide training to NASCs and providers to assist them to better understand our young people and how to effectively support them.

What is required?

* An increased understanding and awareness that this group, though small has the same rights as all citizens to live well into adult life, to enjoy activities and relationships, irrespective of the difficulties.
* That we all to work together to ensure they are appropriately supported to have choice and control over their lives and that ‘*nothing about us without us*” applies to them also
* Representation in all disability forums.
* “It takes time, patience..........never give up trying to communicate............Give them HOPE.” ( Member CCG)