Crisis Pregnancy and People with Intellectual Disability

This is an Easy to Read Guide to a Literature Review on Provision of Appropriate and Accessible Support to People with an Intellectual Disability who are Experiencing Crisis Pregnancy

National Disability Authority
Údarás Náisúnta Míchumais

crisispregnancyagency

Literature Review on Provision of Appropriate and Accessible Support to People with an Intellectual Disability who are Experiencing Crisis Pregnancy

Easy to Read edition

This document has been proof-read by a focus group
arranged by Inclusion Ireland

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What is this report about?

This report is about crisis pregnancy and people with an intellectual disability.

A crisis pregnancy is where a women becomes pregnant and she did not plan to be pregnant or want to be pregnant.

Not all people with an intellectual disability who are pregnant have a crisis pregnancy but some might.
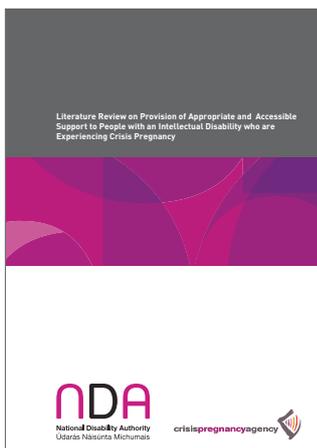
This report was put together by 2 organisations:

- The Crisis Pregnancy Agency and the
- National Disability Authority.

This is an easy to read introduction to the report. The bigger report is longer but some of the key points are covered here.

The report looks at other countries to see what they do to support people with intellectual disabilities who are pregnant.

What does the report look at?

The report looks at capacity to consent. Capacity to consent means that you can understand the choice being made and what it means now and in the future.

The report looks at how Ireland and other countries look at crisis pregnancy, sexual relationships and medical care.

Some countries support the person's right to make choices about sexual relationships and other countries do not allow it.

Many countries use the law to protect people with disabilities from abuse and harm.

In Ireland it may be against the law for a person with an intellectual disability to consent to a sexual relationship unless they are married.

What does the report say?

The report says that some women with disabilities do not have a say when it comes to family planning and are given birth control to avoid pregnancy.

The report says that women with disabilities may use different types of medicine to avoid pregnancy than those used by women who do not have a disability and the report looks at why this may be.

The report says that you can support choices about relationships or medical care by providing training and information to women and men with an intellectual disability and their families and service providers.

Where a person needs support making choices around their relationships then meetings should be held to make a plan.

The person who is pregnant should be put first when decisions are being made.

What does the report say?

There are a lot more women with intellectual disabilities having children.

Some women with intellectual disabilities find it hard to get information and support.

Some women with intellectual disabilities find that others think it's a bad thing that they are pregnant or have a baby.

Some mothers who have an intellectual disability may find that they have some problems, for example:

- Problems with money
- People not coming to see them
- Not enough information or support for them and the baby.

It is very important that a woman who is pregnant sees a doctor for medical care as soon as she knows that she is pregnant.

It is also important that a woman sees a doctor after she has had a baby.

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