



Everybody  
Matters



Let me introduce myself:

I'm Michelle O'Shea from Golden Tipperary



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



Tipperary  
Volunteer Centre  
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Thiobraid Árann



Irish  
Wheelchair  
Association

# Family is important to me.

- I am the youngest in my family and live at home with my mother.
- Five older sisters and three older brothers means I am part of a strong team.
- I have been engaged to Robert for 11 years



# I am a Passionate GAA Fan

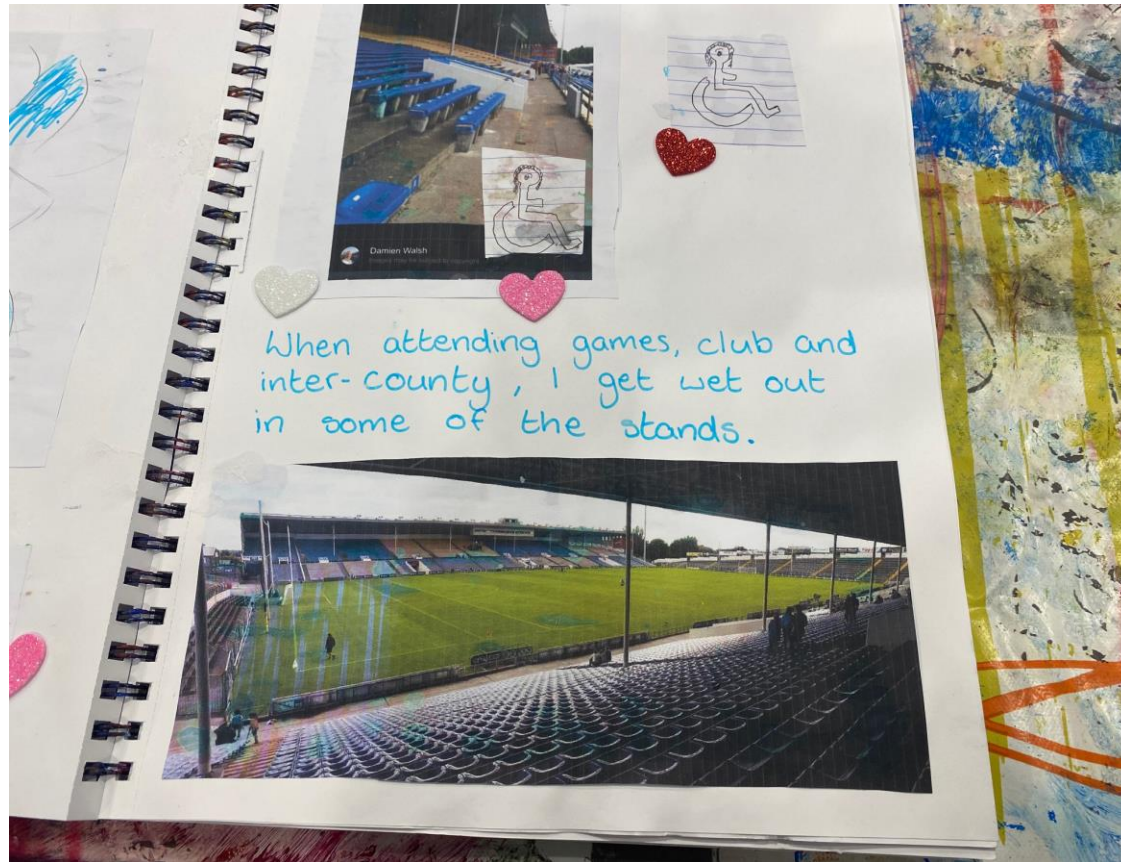
Tipperary is my County Team.



GAA Is Open To Everybody  
Who Wants To Play.



# Fans Can Have Access Issues.



# I was born with Cerebral Palsy

- This means that I find it hard to move, hold sitting posture or stay balanced.
- I took years to be able to sit up.
- I use a wheelchair to move around.
- I am a creative thinker who loves sharing ideas.
- I am good at organising people.

# The Irish Wheelchair Association Tipperary Town





# Everybody Matter to Me.

- Inclusion means seeing the person not the label.
- Seeing me not just my wheelchair.
- Recognising a great hurler without having to add he is gay or Chinese or
- Inclusion means not being afraid of difference.



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# Inclusion Is not an Afterthought.

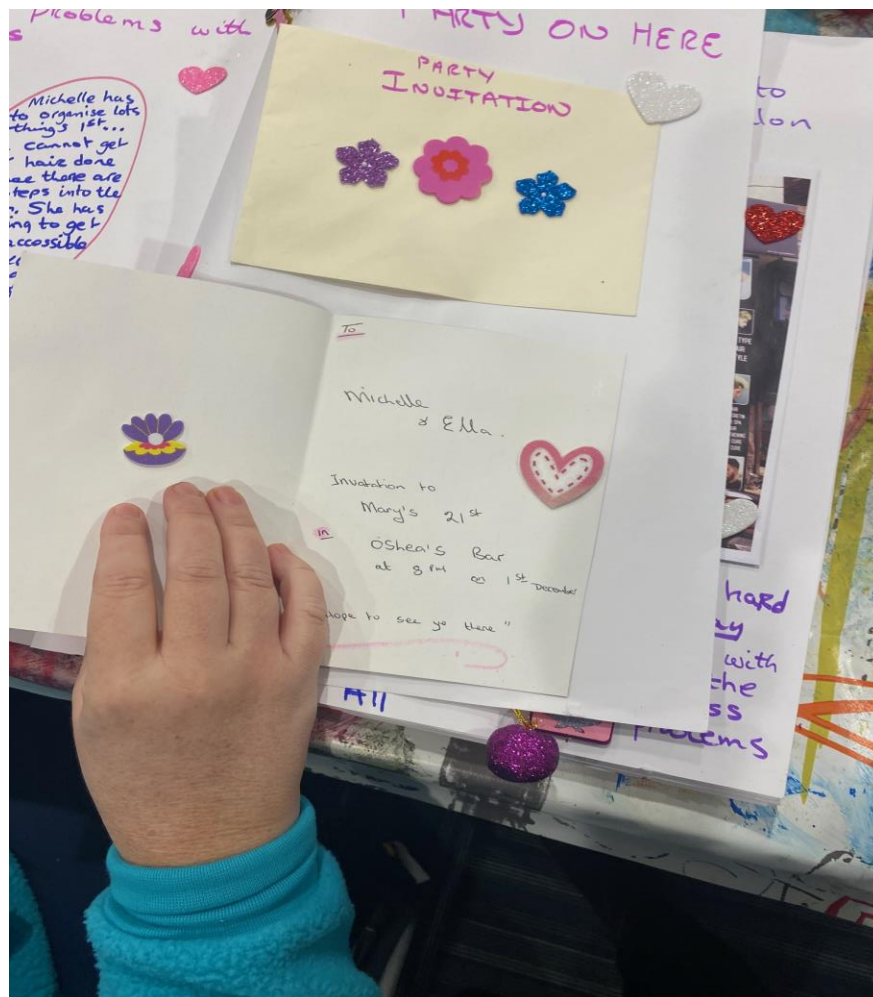
- I like to go out with and my friends but it's not easy.
- There are so many things that designers of venues and events never considered.
- A meal out or a drink with friends must be well planned or gets cut short.
- I have never felt able to spend a night in a hotel with Robert or my friends.

# Let Me Tell You a Story about Two Girls and a Party.

- Following slides pictures from the book.



# Let Me Tell You A Story About Two Girls And A Party



# Let Me Tell You A Story About Two Girls And A Party


Lots of problems with Access

1. Michelle + Ella are invited to Mary's 21st. They are delighted but Ella can just go without having to worry about anything. Ella gets her hair done + drives to the pub to meet everyone at the pub + has a great night.

2. Michelle has to organise lots of things 1st... She cannot get her hair done because there are two steps into the salon. She has to ring to get an accessible taxi. She gets to O'Loon's Pub and it has no accessible toilet. Michelle has to go home.


Lots of Venues are still not accessible for all in 2023!

Two Steps into the Hair Salon




Michelle cannot get her hair done for the party

She has to ring to get a taxi that is accessible



TippTop Taxis  
Accessible for All

It is hard to stay calm with all the access problems



# O'Shea's WELCOME TO ALL

.....  
How  
Welcome?  
Really



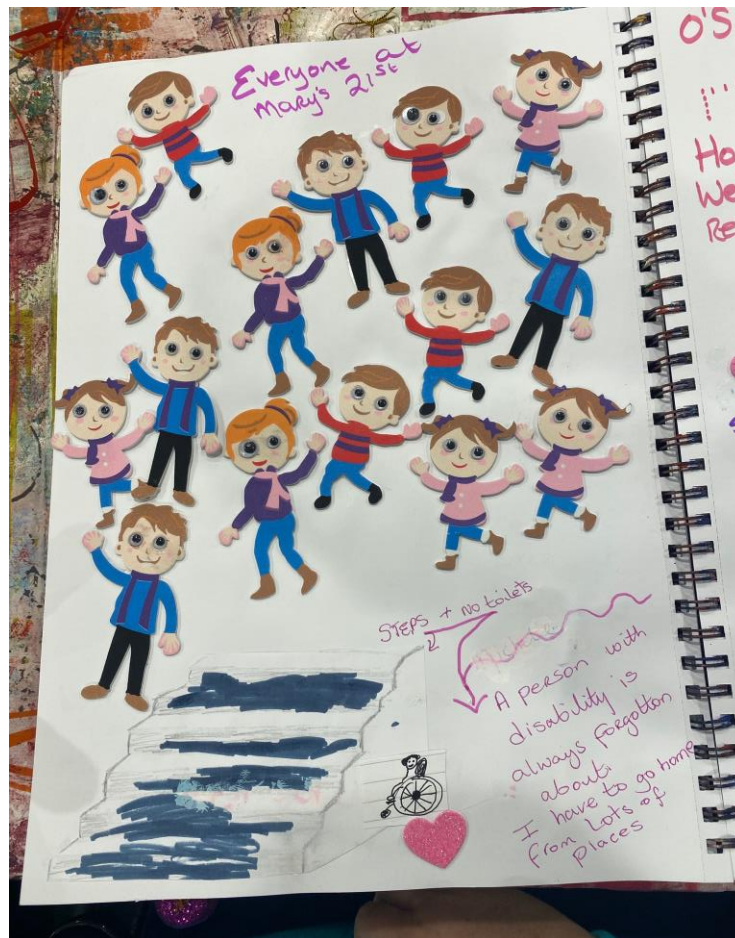
HAPPY TIMES

♥  
sad to go  
home



I am happy to finally  
get to the party... but then  
sad because she has to go

Sad to go home: Ella can dance and enjoy the night with friends



# Access to Work is Important

- Employment should openly recognise each person's abilities and help them to be economically independent.
- I have worked as a receptionist with Youth Work Ireland and the HSE Disability Officer.
- This involved greeting service users, taking messages, answering queries, photocopying and other office tasks.
- There were some access challenges at first.



# Access to Work is Important

- I also spent some time as a shop assistant.
- Lack of understanding of my transport arrangements made it impossible for me to continue.
- Employers need to be ready to work with the practical limitations that are beyond my control.

# Access to Work is Important

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- I am a regular speaker on local radio.
- Right now, I am delivering Disability Awareness Training for the Tipperary Volunteer Centre and Tipperary Gold Star.
- I also attend the Irish Wheelchair Association in Tipperary Town



# What Work Means to Me

- Independence
- Being able to treat my mother and help with the bills.
- Discovering I have skills and building confidence.
- Mixing with other people.
- Solving access challenges.



No Access - No Inclusion



# ACCESS MATTERS



