

North Dublin Mental Health service for Older persons – The Sheehan unit

- ❖ The goal of the project is to develop a more dementia friendly environment that provides a calm, safe, therapeutic space for the service users
- ❖ These changes would include:
 - introduction of a variety of sensory items such as a lifelike dog, therapy dolls and sensory blankets
 - improved lighting, handrails and signage throughout to increase safety and orientation
 - creation of an outdoor space with water features and musical instruments to enhance the sensory experience
 - addition of more homely features such as a fireplace surround and a post box
 - acquisition of modern assistive technology devices such as the 'Inmu relax' to manage agitation and provide an alternative sensory experience
- ❖ The need for these changes was identified through service development meetings, service user/family feedback and audits of the environment
- ❖ The proposed changes would explore the implementation of various non-pharmalogical approaches for the management of responsive behaviours as well as the psychological symptoms associated with dementia
- ❖ The sensory devices/equipment and environmental changes in the unit aim to;
 - provide a more homely , non-institutional environment
 - help manage responsive behaviours
 - encourage social connection
 - provide access to nature and the outdoors for multisensory experiences
 - promote routine and orientation
 - provide stimulation through reminiscence and use of the senses