NATIONAL NEWS

- *Contact the Editor:*
  Gina Magliocco
  National Secretariat
  Kilcornan
  House,Clarinbridge,
  Galway.
  e-mail: gina-
  magliocco@galway.brothersofcha
  rity.ie

BUDGET 2005

900mEuro in capital and
current funding over 4
years

Increase in disability al-
lowance by 14euro

Capital 60m and Revenue
70m   funding in 2005

See page 3 for   further
details…....

CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Brothers of Charity Services evolved over many years in Ireland, from one Service in Waterford in 1883 to the six Regions which make up the Service to-day. Over the years many changes have been made to our service structures in order to integrate more up to date trends and service provision and to ensure that a high standard of   expertise was made available to those availing of our Services. Our Services continue to respond to the ever changing world through the reorganisation of national structures in order to provide a sound level of governance and facilitate the Congregations Service motivation and Service guardianship role in relation to the Services.

The Regional Team is the owner of the Services and is therefore accountable for service delivery throughout the Regions. With Brothers becoming fewer in number, it has become increasingly difficult for them to carry this role alone. The Brothers have now decided that the Services should become a Limited Company. The formation of a Limited Company will not affect service user's present services and it will not affect staff conditions in any way.

The new legal structure will involve the formation of one National Company governed by members of the Brothers of Charity Congregation and six subsidiary Companies, one in each of our six Regions.

Directors of Local Company Boards will be chosen from local communities within that Region and will be appointed by the National Company.   The Local Board will be   responsible for responding to the needs of people with an intellectual disability of each Region and for providing services in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Brothers of Charity. The Local Board will have charitable status and must abide by the Company's Acts and its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The current Regional Directors of Service will continue in their leadership role of the Regions and incorporation will not affect regional structures.

As with any change it is essential to communicate the process to everyone, including staff, service users and their families. Regional Directors have written to all those connected with the Service in November, formally informing them of the changes in structure and over the past six weeks each Region has hosted an information day.   Bro. John O'Shea, our Regional Leader and Ms. Winifred O'Hanrahan, National Director of Services have visited all Regions to communicate the change and give staff an opportunity to have their questions answered. For this purpose a 'Question and Answer' document was circulated as part of the communication process.

If you have any queries regarding incorporation please feel free to contact your Line Manager, Human Resource Manager or your Director of Service.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY DATABASE REPORT

The number of people with an intellectual disability requiring residential services is now at its highest level since national recording began in 1995, according to the 2003 Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) published today by the Health Research Board (HRB). There are now 1,776 individuals who require a residential service between 2004 and 2008. In contrast, demand for day services by 546 people is at its lowest level, suggesting that significant progress has been made in meeting the demand for day services. The demand for intellectual disability services is summarised as follows:

o 2,284 people are either without any services or without a major element of service and have identified needs in the period 2004-2008.

o 1,776 full-time residential places are required

o 546-day placements are required

o 1,637 residential support services, such as respite services, are required

o 11,135 of those who already have services need those services enhanced or changed to adequately meet their needs, a reduction of 11 per cent since 2002.

The number of people without any service whatsoever at present and who require some service before 2008 is the lowest ever reported, at 356 people, or 1 per cent of all registrations, a reduction of 112 people since 2002. A further 2,093 people are identified as not having any current requirement for services.

This unmet need for services exists despite record levels of overall service provision. A total of 23,464 people (92% of NIDD registrations) are in receipt of services. Current service provision to people with intellectual disability is summarised as follows:

o 15,335 are attending services on a day basis.

o 8,092 are in receipt of fulltime residential services, and most of these also attend day programmes.

o 37 are in receipt of residential supports only.

This overall growth in services reflects the significant investment programme in the intellectual disability sector in recent years.

Key demographic findings highlighted in the report include:

o 25,557 people are registered on the NIDD, representing a prevalence rate of 6.52 per 1,000 of the population.

o The number of people with a more severe intellectual disability has increased by 30 per cent since 1974 when the first census of this population was conducted.

o People with an intellectual disability are living longer than previously.

The report notes that the marked increase in recent years in the number of adults aged 35 years and over with a moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability, and the corresponding ageing of their carers, is contributing to the ongoing demand for residential services.   46 per cent of people with a moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability are now aged 35 years of age and over, compared with 38 per cent in 1996. This represents an increase of 1,074 people in this category. The authors of the 2003 report, Steve Barron and Fiona Mulvany of the HRB, point out that 'residential services are primarily used by adults with a more severe intellectual disability. Since the database was established we have seen that the number of older adults with a more severe intellectual disability has been consistently increasing. Many of this group continue to live at home with their families and when their existing caring arrangements become unsustainable, demand grows for appropriate residential support services and fulltime residential services.'

The National Intellectual Disability Database has been in existence since 1995. The information for the database is collated by the ten health boards and managed nationally by the Health Research Board. The Department of Health and Children, the health boards, and the non-statutory sector use the database as the evidence base for the planning and development of intellectual disability services. Dr Ruth Barrington, Chief Executive of the HRB, highlighted the need to protect the NIDD, and other important national health information systems, during the ongoing restructuring of the health services.

Ms Mary Cody, a service user from Co Kilkenny, designed the cover of this year's report. Mary was the overall winner of a national competition organised by the Health Research Board in conjunction with the Federation of Voluntary Bodies in recognition of European Year of People with Disabilities in 2003.

(Source: Press Release)

BUDGET 2005

We welcome the government's commitment to disability as outlined in the recent Estimates for 2005 and Multi Annual budget 2006—2009. However it does appear that the level of investment announced represents only about 30% of what is required. It is hoped that the government will make up the difference in future years Budgets. We are delighted to see that the Disability allowance has been increased by 14 euro per week and we also welcome the fact that the Minister has allocated €60m in capital and €70m in revenue finance in 2005.

There has also been an allocation of €5.5M to the Department of Education and Science to build the systems to support the education for people with special educational needs.

CONFERENCE SECTION
Service-User Conference

Service Users Conference took place this year in Clare on 17th and 18th November. It was a huge success, with presentations by service users on various topics. The key note address was delivered by eight service users and Minister Frank Fahy TD opened the Conference.

Topics presented were, Interview Uncovered, Service Users involvement in interviewing staff; No place like home, housing needs of service users; Dreams to Reality, reflection of my life as lived by three service users; getting started on my career, the story of a service user preparing for employment; Through the front door, three independent living situations; What value is work, the value of work in real terms; This is the life, relaxing and enjoying leisure time; Joseph's story, the story of one man's life in an institution; East Clare going forward into the future, a new way of providing services; Blue Teapot Drama Company, personal outcomes drama and Ciorlach-Waterford Drama, choices in community life that effects others. Workshops took place with service users providing feedback on the sessions.

The Gala Dinner and entertainment proved to be a great success with people dancing until the early hours. Clare launched their new Housing Brochure "Choice", a booklet which will help you understand some of the choices that are available for housing. It also explains what is happening in housing and has used some samples to show what is being done.

For further information on this conference contact your Advocacy Link Person.

UK NEWS

The creation of a national registration scheme to further help employers check whether staff are safe to work with vulnerable adults or children is being considered "urgently" by the UK government. It has been recommended strongly by the inquiry report into the Soham murders. However, Sir. Michael Bichard, who conducted the inquiry into child protection procedures at Humberside Police and Cambridgeshire constabulary, warned that the buck should not stop there. He said employers had to ensure they had rigorous recruitment procedures some applicants were thoroughly vetted. The register is likely to be held at the Criminal Records Bureau and would take into account "soft" intelligence held by police, such as sexual allegations that did not result in prosecution, as well as criminal convictions that were currently available.

Sir Michael said "HR must ensure rigorous recruitment procedures such as checking references and thorough interviewing. There are very serious consequences if you get it wrong".

PLANNING

Planning is the process of deciding on a course of action, ensuring that the resources required to implement the action will be available, and scheduling of work required to achieve a defined end-result.

- Objective setting—deciding what needs to be achieved over a certain timescale.
- Activity analysis—deciding what will have to be done in order to achieve the objective.
- Forecasting—assessing how much work will have to be done, how the workload might change, and how likely it is that any specialised or rush jobs that might have to be undertaken might also require a reassessment of the plan.
- Scheduling—determining the sequence and timescales of the operations and events required to produce results within the deadline: this involves deciding on priorities.
- Resourcing—deciding how many and what sort of people will be required, and when; assessing demands for finance, facilities, materials and bought-in parts in terms of amounts, types and when they need to be available.
- Procedure Planning—deciding how the work will be carried out.
- Setting targets & Standards—for output, times, quality, costs and for any other aspects of work where performance and progress need to be monitored and controlled.
- Setting up Monitoring Procedures—deciding on performance measures and instituting methods for monitoring and controlling performance and progress.

(Armstrong M).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Quick Solutions Checklist:

My computer will not turn on!
1. Check that the electrical outlet is providing power.

2. Check that all the cables are Connected to power and other relevant areas.

3. Check that the pc is plugged into the power source.

4. Turn everything off and start again.

If these steps do not work its time to call your IT specialist for help.

Help Stop Spreading that Virus!
Remember if you do not recognise the name of the person you receive an e-mail from please do not open it!!

National Secretariat
Brothers of Charity Services
Kilcornan House
Clarinbridge
Galway

Phone: 091 796623
Fax: 091 796626
Email: ginamagliocco@galway.
              brothersofcharity.ie

We would love to hear from you— suggestions/ articles

Next Issue will highlight the Southern Services

NOTICE BOARD

The National Office would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of staff, Service Users and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Data Protection Acts of 1988 and 2003

Under the terms of the Acts Data means information in a form, which can be processed. It now includes both automated data and manual data. However, the application of certain parts of the Act to existing manual data is deferred until October 2007

The Eight Rules of Data Protection

You must:

1.   Obtain and process information fairly.

2.   Keep it only for one or more specified, explicit and lawful purposes.

3.   Use and disclose it only in ways compatible with these purposes.

4.   Keep it safe and secure.

⟹

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT – GALWAY

Joe Monaghan in his description of the UK experience to the "Citizen Advocacy Ensuring Quality of Service" seminar in Galway on July 12 borrowed and translated the Irish "seanfhocal " "Is ar scath a cheile a mhaireann na daoine" to convey the essence of advocacy. The objective of the conference, co- funded by the Brothers of Charity and Comhairle, was to promote citizen advocacy and to address the recruitment of volunteer advocates. Speakers and their topics are outlined below.

- Josephine Flaherty sketched the development of advocacy within the Brothers of Charity since its introduction by David Travis.
- Patrick McGinley outlined the Brothers of Charity organisational perspective on the significance of advocacy to quality service development.
- Mairide Woods charted Comhairle's present initiatives and likely future national role and Comhairle's contribution to advocacy service support and provision.
- Volunteer advocates and their partners emphasized the practical and life enrichment value of citizen advocacy to partners and advocates alike. Volunteer recruitment and training, the role of family, and the UK experience were explored in a range of participative delegate workshops.
- To close Siobhan Quinlivan in her summary of the thematic outcomes emphasized that rights based legislation is the crucial underpinning of all advocacy service provision.

The Seminar broke into Workshops to discuss and offer feedback on: 'the U.K. experience, Citizens Advocacy in Action', 'Recruiting, Training & Supporting Advocates', and .'How can we make it Happen?' Feedback to the main seminar group took place during the plenary session where open microphone discussions took place around the topic "Where we go from here?"

If you require further information on Advocacy within the Brothers of Charity Services please do not hesitate to contact your local Advocacy Link Person.

    Clare – Robert Hopkins,
    Galway – Josephine O'Falherty,
    Limerick – Teresa Ryan
    Roscommon - Marian Keigher
    South-East – Cabrinni de Barri,
    Southern - Una Nagle

5.   Keep it accurate, complete and up-to-date.

6.   Ensure that it is adequate, relevant and not excessive.

7.   Retain it for no longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes.

7.   Give a copy of his/her personal data to the individual on request.

National Guidelines have been drafted and will issue to all Regions, all staff should be aware, understand and abide by the Guidelines.