

Brothers of Charity Services Galway

Annual Report 2011



VISION STATEMENT

We support people to be valued citizens in their local community, to have ordinary life experiences and to be closely connected to family and friends. We are committed to supporting people to make choices about their lives and to the provision of quality services that meet people's needs.



Ann Laffey and Eugene O'Keeffe, Horizon Services in Roscoff, France.



Ciara Hardiman, Stepping Stone Child Development Centre.



Volunteers Anu Hanonen, Fiona Halloran and Carla Kennedy who painted beautiful murals for children in Crannog Respite Services.



Einne Boland and Roseann Curran, Cois Cuain Services go horse riding.



Thomas McWilliam, Cregoran Services surveying the land.



Colm Ryan, Rosedale School helping out the Galway Fire Service.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Brothers of Charity Services Galway provide a wide range of services to people with an intellectual disability and to their families in Galway City and County. The services range from early intervention services for young children through to school age services and a variety of programmes for adults devised according to the level of support that individuals require and priorities that they identify. Services include educational, day, residential, respite, family support, a range of multidisciplinary supports and supports to people who live independently.

REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The year has been one in which the very difficult and worsening budgetary situation which began in 2008 became even more difficult for the Galway Services in 2011. The main reason for this was the seriously increased further cuts in funding. The Board of Directors are simply appalled by the budgetary situation, and are deeply concerned

about the negative effects it is having on the delivery of services.

The dedication and ingenuity of staff members in coping with the many and varied problems arising from the lack of

adequate resources has been most inspiring. The Board of Directors is very grateful to staff for all that they are doing to support the people who use our Services, and is deeply appreciative of all these efforts that have done much to address the many challenges that had to be dealt with in 2011. Our Acting Chief Executive, Anne Geraghty in extremely trying circumstances, continues to give excellent leadership.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I applaud all within and outside the Brothers of Charity Services who have in many ways helped to make the work of supporting people as effective as possible. We must continue to advocate for the appalling cuts in budgetary provision to end.

Michael Reen,
Chairperson of Board of Directors.



People from John Paul Services take part at "Sail Away Drama" in Kilcuan.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE



2011 was the third consecutive year of significant budgetary cuts. Since 2009 the cumulative reduction in funding to the Services has been €10.5 million - €4.6 million accounted for the salary reductions to staff, and €5.9 million is the cumulative cut in the funding for service delivery. Over the three years we have endeavoured to protect the frontline services, and approximately 70% of the

budget cuts have been achieved in efficiency, productivity and procurement measures. This included significant reconfiguration of management structures; rationalisation of administrative supports, transport, maintenance and catering; reduction in staff travel, and change in skill mix and grade movements.

Cuts of this size could not fully protect the frontline, and over the three years we have had to close five community houses, resulting in increased numbers in other homes, the movement of people from where they were living, and the loss of residential places with serious consequences for those on waiting lists for residential supports. Cover for maternity leave or sick leave has been reduced in residential and day services and there has been no cover for maternity leave or sick leave in the multidisciplinary services which has had a very significant impact on the Children's Services.

Over the three year period our staffing levels have been reduced by 76 whole time equivalent posts.

However, despite the serious challenges to maintaining services, 2011 saw some very positive developments and outcomes.

Residents of Renmore House on the Woodlands campus moved to new purpose built accommodation in Knocknacarra. This development, a joint initiative by the Peter Triest Housing Association, the Brothers of Charity Services, Galway City Council and the Department of the Environment, is at two locations on the Leargan Estate. It comprises a block of six one-bedroom apartments and a larger development incorporating a mixture of one and two-bedroom apartments, a five-bedroom and a four-bedroom house, and a small resource facility. The accommodation has a range of special features, including assistive technology, to support people to live as independently as possible. Leargan won the National Award from The Irish Council for Social Housing in the 2011 Community Housing Awards.

In the Bruach na Mara Services the newly renovated community house Scaile na Gealaí, Seaview at Liopa and the Cois Cuain Day Centre in Carraroe were officially opened by Minister Eamonn O'Cuiv.

Cregoran Services opened Castlehaven House in April which facilitated six people to move from an existing community house to a lovely new house on the outskirts of the city. This new accommodation provides greater personal and communal space.

We continued to reduce the numbers of people living on the campus in Kilcornan as more people moved to the community during the year.



Pat Tully, Raymond Allen, Theresa Hopkins, Anne Geraghty, Claude Madec, Jon Reynolds and Bernie Rowan at the screening of their Animation Film "Johnny Dreams" in Dublin at Arts and Disability Ireland Launch.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Celebrating Kilcornan Arts Group Community Exhibition in Clarinbridge.

In 2011 in keeping with the goals set out in our Strategic Plan we continued to place a big emphasis on building community involvement and supporting the people who use our services to become active participants in their local communities.

Right across the services people embarked on a variety of artistic and environmental projects in many cases in partnership with other community groups or schools: - Photography with the theme "My View My World" to capture individual participants' views and unique experiences of their environment; art projects to highlight the plight of emigration in South Galway were displayed in local shop windows; a mosaic to cover a stone bench in the Church of Ireland graveyard in Kinvara; the creation of a large portable puppet theatre screen to be decorated in harmony with the story being told; continuation of the very successful Away with Words creative writing workshops; production of a music CD; participation in the Farmer's Market in Kinvara; participation in the Xtra Factor – a Celebration of Ballinasloe Performers, and in the design and development of a sculpture and herb wheel for the Community Garden in Ballybane.

Many of our service areas were active participants in Social Inclusion Week. Examples were coffee mornings where the local community were invited, a wonderful display of art by the Kilcornan Art Group in Poppyseed Restaurant in Clarinbridge, a joint production with the local school in a drama called "Michael's Journey" in Ballinderreen, and

presentations in Ballybane Public Library by people using Horizon Services.

Skylark Services hosted the Harvest Festival with many activities in the Centre and in the community, including an uplifting liturgy in the local parish church and enthusiastic involvement of the students from the local secondary school.

That's Life launched the Javanese Gamelan at the Town Hall Theatre - a unique event where the Galway audience was regaled by beautiful exotic music, dance and art work. "Club Tropicana" at the Black Box was a magical night where our own



Sandra McGrath and Family at "Family Day Oranhill".

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONT.



Ethan McLoughlin, Stepping Stone Child Development Centre.

Soundscape was on the bill with the Fish Police band, and DJs and VJs from London.

We were very proud when participants from *Away with Words* won 1st 2nd and 3rd prizes in the Inclusion Ireland 50th anniversary poetry competition. From hundreds of entries, poets Theo Dorgan and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, and *Irish Times* Literary Editor Caroline Walsh chose 20 finalists, and in November three winners were announced by President Higgins at a ceremony in the National Gallery. David Cormican's poem "*I am a Tree*" won first prize. Very sadly

David passed away before the results of the competition were announced. Second prize went to Sharon Murray for her poem "*Sad*", and third prize went to Bernard Deering for his poem "*Man*". Two other finalists were Peggy Kearney and Anne Marie Jordan. Congratulations to them all - we are so proud of them.

We were equally proud when Blue Teapot and Soundscape were invited to be the featured artists at the Arts Disability Ireland launch of its Strategic Plan in the Sean O'Casey Centre in Dublin in October. Blue Teapot also took to the Boards in Druid on Culture Night 2011 for the premiere reading of a specially commissioned short film screenplay '84' by Len Collin.

FETAC undertook a monitoring visit in September, which included an examination of all the required policies, practices and evidential records, and confirmed that our Services are accredited providers of FETAC Training Programmes. At present, in addition to the training programmes delivered to date, Apple Tree Centre is putting the finishing touches on the new Level 2 and Level 3 programmes and TOPE is delivering a Level 1 programme. All programmes are designed to meet the needs of individuals and we look forward to continuing to meet student learning needs to the highest standard in the years ahead.

2011 was a very exciting year for two young people who gained places in the new and innovative "*Going to College*" programme - an inclusive education initiative by NUI Galway to support civic engagement of people with an intellectual disability. One person is studying Marketing and the other is studying Engineering. We wish them every success.



Eamon O' Cuiv T.D., Rory Clancy, Kathleen Connolly, Cathy Doddy, Michelle O' Neill, Sonia Luby, Anne Marie Thomas and Michael Nee at the Official Opening of Cois Cuain Services.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONT.

This year the National Advocacy Conference titled 'Our Lives, Our Future' was held in Galway. Over 300 people from all over Ireland attended. Presentations told powerful stories about how they are pursuing a life of their choice. Delegates were addressed by Christy Lynch, Chairperson of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies who said "The Conference was testimony to the abilities and capacities of people who have intellectual disability, and demonstrated that with the right supports they can participate as full and active citizens in Irish society."

The Early Intervention Services, provided in partnership with the HSE and Enable Ireland, faced very severe challenges this year as the budget reductions and pressures resulted in a significant number of posts remaining unfilled due to lack of resources to provide cover for maternity and sick leave. Added to this for some of the teams were inadequate and inappropriate accommodation, and lack of administrative and IT support.

This year Burren View CDC responded to the needs of children on their waiting list by re-structuring their staffing and using fundraising money to pay for extra support staff to offer a placement for two mornings to the children for whom there was no place in the CDC. Springfield CDC in collaboration with Stepping Stone CDC re-structured some of their staffing to provide an outreach to children attending mainstream preschools. This pilot project in 2011 will inform future service development for preschool children.

Little Owls celebrated its tenth birthday with a party in the walled garden in Kilcoman. This programme for very young children and their parents is run by the Community Nurses in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association. A great day was had by all and more than one hundred children have benefitted from the programme, many of whom were there for the celebrations.

The Family Support Services provided contract families for twenty-six children and sixteen adults. We were very happy to



Saoirse Gallen, Burren View Child Development Centre "My Masterpiece".

continue to develop this programme which had been originally funded as a pilot project through GENIO funding. Thirty-nine children and twenty-three adults availed of home-sharing. Forty-nine children and thirty-four adults were given in-home support and one hundred and thirty-seven children and twenty-two adults attended the club activities or holiday projects.

In 2011 we were able to extend the speech and language therapy service to adults in East Sector. This development has been long awaited and greatly appreciated by everybody.

In December we had our third successful review by the Council on Quality and Leadership which is part of our four-year accreditation. The Review focused on the maintenance of our safety and quality standards with a particular emphasis on how we are supporting people to make choices about their lives, and to participate in and be an integral part of their local communities.

The Department of Health published the Report of an Expert Reference Group which was established to look specifically at existing disability policy and whether it needs to be changed to better meet the expectations and objectives of people with disabilities. As part of this review, a public consultation process on existing disability services was undertaken which confirmed that people with disabilities and their families, more than anything else, are looking for more choice in the services they receive and more control over how they access them. The report proposes a very significant reframing of disability services towards a model of individualised supports, underpinned by mainstreaming of all public services.

In June 2011 we held a Seminar to launch our own strategy for the further implementation of Individualised Services.



Clare Madden, Ballinasloe Community Services relaxing with her homesharing host Marita King.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONT



Top Graduates, Ballinasloe - Evelyn Larkin, Margaret Slattery, Helena Corcoran, Michelle Garvey, Mary Cunnane, Karen Breen, Patrick McDermot, Mary Lennon, Derek Kelly, Fergal Egan receiving their Fetac Certificates.

This was an exciting event attended by over 200 people including people using services, staff and family members. There was a variety of presentations from individuals within our services who have individualised support packages, from family members and also presentations of innovative practices in other organisations. Dr. Andrew Power from NUI Galway shared his research findings from international best practice. Discussion took place and agreed actions on how to continue our promotion of individualised supports.

In June the HSE published "Time to Move from Congregated Settings – A Strategy for Community Inclusion". This far-ranging report recommends the closure of all congregated settings within a seven year timeframe, and the development of a model of community-based support founded on the principles of person-centredness.

There is no doubt that the Congregated Settings Report and the new Disability Policy to be published in 2012 will shape the



Luke Kilcar at Springfield Child Development Centre.

future supports for people who have a disability. This is a huge and very welcome step forward in the recognition of the rights of people to a life of their own choosing.

In 2011 sadly there were a number of deaths in our Services and we remember each person with fondness and offer our sympathies to their families. We also had a number of retirements and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each person for their contribution and commitment to the Services over a long number of years and wish them health and happiness as they move on to the next part of their lives.

I would like to thank most sincerely the many people and organisations, too many to list individually, who supported the Brothers of Charity Services Galway and the people who use our Services during 2011.

Anne Geraghty
Chief Executive (Acting)



John Hayes, Apple Tree Centre, Gort with his presentation on Assertiveness.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



Josephine Flaherty, Advocacy Co-ordinator Galway.

The Galway Service Users Council hosted the thirteenth National Advocacy Conference in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway in November 2011. Over three hundred people attended the Conference and presentations were delivered by representatives from services throughout the country. The theme of this event was "Our Lives, Our Future", and many of the sessions focused on the experience of people living more independent lives. The Conference was opened by

Galway Brothers of Charity Services CE, Anne Geraghty, and Service User Council Chairperson, Anne Mahon. Donal Toolan was the Chair for the day, and ensured the smooth running of a packed schedule of extremely interesting and varied presentations.

The National Advocacy Conference is a unique event that is all about the people who use disability services coming together to plan and deliver topics of interest from a variety of different perspectives. The programme consisted of individuals and groups presenting their information using a wide range of methods including Powerpoint, DVD, Drama, and personal life stories.

Amongst the topics that were addressed on the day were examples of how peoples lives have changed in keeping with the dreams and goals they expressed in their lives. Some people have achieved their desires and are living alone in their own apartments, others spoke of foreign travel, and managing their own money. Whilst for others going to college, and meeting people was the most important thing for them. Being listened to and taken seriously was expressed as a vital response for

people to feel confident and empowered to make their own decisions. Many expressed that they were more satisfied, and their lives were happier as changes took place according to their own wishes.

In the evening there was a banquet dinner, and entertainment was provided by a group of Irish dancers, as well as the Soundscape Disco, and a very lively band called "The Jive Buddies". The 2012 Conference will be held in November in Limerick and a number of people are already preparing for the event! If you would like any further information about Advocacy or the Galway Service Users Council please contact Josephine Flaherty at 091-721492.



Christina Burke and Rachel Stephens at the National Advocacy Conference.



Richard Mannion, Teresa Fahy, Maria Wolfe and Emer Hynes at the National Advocacy Conference.



Ann Mahon, Anne Geraghty and Christy Lynch at the National Advocacy Conference.

PROFILE OF SERVICES 2011

PROFILE OF PEOPLE USING SERVICES 2011

Service	Overall Total	Community Services	Day Services	Residential Services	Supported Living	Respite Services Number of recipients in brackets	
Children's Services	428	304	124	8	-	8	(26)
East Galway Adult Services	259	44	221	141	6	5	(26)
West Galway Adult Services	256	84	194	126	60	9	(21)
TOTAL	943	432	539	275	66	22	(73)
<i>Community Services include children in mainstream schools receiving support from School Age Teams and adults in our Horizon and Suas Services receiving Multidisciplinary Team Supports.</i>							
Galway Early Intervention Services	386	386	-	-	-	-	-
<i>The Galway Early Intervention Services are generic disability services for children from birth to six years old and are provided by the Brothers of Charity Services Galway in partnership with Enable Ireland and HSE West.</i>							



Councillor Liam O'Carroll (PRO NISO West), with Enda Collins, Liz Joyce, Paula Mullery and Noel Connolly, winners of the NISO All-Ireland Safety and General Knowledge Quiz and Pauric Corrigan (NISO President).

PROFILE OF STAFF 2011

	P F/T Permanent Full Time	P/T Part Time	T F/T Temporary Full Time	Total Staff	WTE Posts
Admin/Org Supports	41	24	1	66	55.76
Medical & Dental	1	2	2	5	3.59
Nursing	111	108	8	227	191.41
Multidisciplinary Service	24	37	5	66	51.52
Catering	8	36	-	44	27.25
Instructors/Supervisors	35	15	1	51	44.98
Transport	4	20	-	24	17.73
Social Care Leaders/Workers	49	49	5	103	93.63
Care Assistants	90	258	3	351	289.05
Maintenance	6	1	-	7	6.38
Others	18	8	-	26	23.35
TOTAL	387	558	25	970	804.65

WTE Staff Posts 804.65 includes locum staff employed as at 31-12-2011

FINANCIAL RESULTS 2011

SYNOPSIS OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2011

(Service operations extracted from 2011 Audited Accounts)

	2011 €,000		2010 €,000	
INCOME				
Health Service Executive - Allocation	44,915		45,371	
Designated Funds Released	309		128	
Deferred Income Released	45		56	
Other Income	4,230		4,271	
Total Income	49,499		49,826	
EXPENDITURE				
Staff Costs	41,304		41,828	
Other Costs	8,077		8,239	
Total Expenditure	49,381		50,067	
Surplus/Deficit for Year	118		-241	
Reserves as at 31 December	1,435		1,317	
EXPENDITURE BY SERVICE DIVISION				
Children's Services - County Galway	4,666	9%	4,803	10%
Adults Services - East County Galway	18,541	38%	18,746	37%
Adults Services - West County Galway	17,511	36%	17,557	35%
The Multidisciplinary Departments	5,112	10%	5,182	10%
Central (Corporate) Services	3,197	6%	3,470	7%
Superannuation	354	1%	309	1%
TOTAL	49,381		50,067	



Tony Bruton, Catherine Dillon, Mixie Donohue, Anne Geraghty, Ann Loughney, John Joe Higgins, Helen Casserly, Eamon O' Cuiv T.D., David Casserly, Jarlath Joyce and Marcus Feely at the Official Opening of Leargan Services.



Patricia Hayes, Apple Blossom Enterprises Gort displays the result of patience, nurture and commitment.



Mike Gannon, Emmet O'Shaughnessy, Breda Kennedy, Marie-Therese Boyle, Emmet O'Halloran and Fenella Carey, Family Support Services.



Michael Hayes, Blue Teapot Theatre Company as Krishna in Galway St. Patrick's Day Parade 2011.



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