

# Deaf Village Ireland



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# Deaf **V**illage Ireland



## Vision

**Deaf Village Ireland's vision is "to create an inclusive place/centre showing community life celebrating Deaf Culture".**

Below is Senator Mark Daly, Eddie Redmond IDS, Brendan Lennon DeafHear, Fr Gerard NCDP, Leanne Quigley IDS and Dr John Bosco Conema all receiving a copy of the amended Recognition of Irish Sign Language For the Deaf Community Bill 2016 after the debate in the Dail, which was passed on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. President Higgins signed this bill into law on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017.



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## A word from the Chairman- *John Cradden*



The year 2017 will, of course, be remembered as a huge one for the Irish Deaf community thanks to the passing of the ISL (Irish Sign Language) Act.

Deaf Village Ireland is very proud to have been associated with the long campaign for ISL recognition over the last few years by virtue of running the place where all the organisations involved in the campaign - led by the Irish Deaf Society - are based and where many events were organised and held. The passing of the ISL Act now marks the beginning of a new stage on the journey towards full equality and human rights for Irish Deaf citizens.

There is much more work to be done to ensure that Deaf citizens as well as the community are able to take full advantage of the new legislation. So while 2017 looked like a quiet year for Deaf Village Ireland Limited as the management company for the facility, a lot of work went on behind the scenes. As a result, we are hoping that the next few years will see a big change - a change that will hopefully bring a range of new facilities, supports and services for the Deaf community and all the organisations based here.

To this end we spent a big part of the year working with the Catholic Institute for Deaf People (CIDP) and the NDVSLC (the management company that runs the Inspire fitness centre) to start putting together a two-year 'transition' plan. This plan is aimed at ensuring a smooth handover of the control of the Inspire Sports Centre from the CIDP to DVI. This was something that had been intended to happen shortly after DVI was first opened in 2012 and, while it has taken longer than anyone anticipated, we can say that 2017 saw very significant progress towards this goal. We are being actively encouraged to take full ownership, and this is something we fully intend to do.

The transition plan will set out all the things that need to be done over the next two years by the three organisations together to ensure that the CIDP and NDVSLC are happy that the Inspire fitness centre will continue to be run smoothly and that its finances are kept in good shape. But DVI also needs to work harder to build a higher level of financial sustainability. We are currently in a good financial position, but more needs to be done to ensure we can deal with any unexpected problems or experience any financial 'rainy days' in the future.

The running of charities throughout Ireland is now coming under closer scrutiny by the new Charities Regulator. To this end, we may also need to look at the structure of our board of management and possibly make some changes to ensure our standards of governance are the best they can be. If we succeed in doing all this over the next two years, and if Inspire continues to be profitable, DVI should soon be in a position to invest funds into developing new Deaf-led services and facilities for the Irish Deaf community and supporting all our tenants. In anticipation of all this, DVI is working on putting together a brand new and exciting strategic plan for the next few years, which we will launch very shortly. It's a big task, and we hope that you, the Deaf community, will continue to support us as we work hard to fulfil it.





## *Manager's Statement- Sylvia Nolan*

This Annual Report gives me great pleasure to reflect on the past year of all the activities and progress of Deaf Village Ireland over the year. Deaf Village Ireland is still committed to supporting and working with all of the tenant organisations within DVI. Deaf Village Ireland has a very healthy relationship with each organisation, working in partnership in making plans for the future.

The highlight of the Year was the build-up of the tensed excitement supporting the Recognition of the Irish Sign Language Bill, when this bill was passed in the Dial; it was an historical day for the Deaf Community all around Ireland celebrating the achievement. Leading up to the debate there were emotions of fear, excitement, anxiety, nervousness and pure happiness.

We have had many big events in Deaf Village Ireland and one big happy occasion was the wedding in May of Lisa and who got married in the Emmaus chapel in DVI. This was attended by a huge crowd and many members of the Deaf community came to give their good wishes. We also had a very sad big event, where a member of the Deaf community died at the age of 45 through cancer. Over 300 people were at this funeral in DVI. The Deaf community mourned and travelled from all around Ireland to be for Katherine Mc Quaid RIP. The support from the community was over -whelming.

There is always the concern for some voluntary organisations who are struggling with funds both big and small organisations. Deaf Village Ireland is working on a Strategic Plan to see how we can work and support organisations. Deaf Village has committed in helping Deaf Golf Ireland by giving a loan of funds Many Deaf European golfers are expected to come to Ireland in the summer to play golf and will come to use Deaf Village Ireland for events.

There were many activities throughout the year but Deaf Village Ireland held their very first Christmas Day Dinners in the Atrium where 25 Deaf isolated people really enjoyed the day in being with people they can communicate with. This turned out to be a huge success.

I hope we continue to have many successful events in DVI and continue to work closely with all the tenant organisations, which play a vital role in bringing the Deaf community together celebrating Deaf culture in Deaf Village Ireland. We strive to continue to make DVI a welcoming place for both Deaf and Hearing people.

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## Community Employment Scheme 2016 - 2017

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### Training in 2016 - 2017:

Course	Award	Participants
Office Administration	QQI 5	4
Everyday Life Skills	QQI 2	2
Occupational First Aid	QQI 5	14
Interview Skills	Non-Certified	13
Guarding Skills	QQI 4	1
SOLAS Safe Pass	Certificate & ID Card	4
Personal Effectiveness	QQI 3	2
Computer Literacy	QQI 3	3
Manual Handling	In-House Certificate	9
Irish Sign Language	QQI 3	2
Working At Heights	Non-Certified	13
Fire Marshal	Non-Certified	8
Special Needs Assistant	QQI 5	1
English	Non-Certified	2
Business English	QQI 4	1
EAHI Primary Food Safety	QQI 2	1
PSA Licence	QQI 4	1
Accounting & Bookkeeping	QQI 4	1
Computer Application	QQI 4	1
Public Area Cleaning	QQI 3	2
Reception & Frontline Office Skills	QQI 5	1
Pre – ECDL	Non-Certified	2
Basic Computer	Non-Certified	1
Practical Cleaning Skills	City & Guilds	1
Child Safeguarding & Protection	A Certified	1

Full Time Education 2016 – 2017:

Carmen Roman	September 2017	Pharmacy Retail Assistant Liberties College
Olaf Paluch	September 2017	Graphic Design ETB Finglas Training Centre

Work Experience 2016 – 2017:

Andrew Ennis Mc Loughlin	Special Needs Assistant	Holy Family School For The Deaf
Brid Garrahy	Cleaner	Boarding School
Caroline O'Toole	Cleaner	Holy Family School For The Deaf
James Downey	Gardening	St. Joseph's House, Stillorgan
John Mulvey	Gardening	St. Joseph's House Stillorgan
Vladimir Roman	Gardening	Holy Family School For The Deaf
Brid Garrahy	Kitchen Porter	St. Joseph's House Stillorgan

Part-Time Employment 2016 – 2017:

Carmen Roman	Cleaner	CIDP Residence
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Full-Time Employment 2016 – 2017:

Krzysztof Bury	Delivery Driver	Irish Deaf Society
Clodagh Giglione	Chef	St. Mary's Residence
Desmond Murphy	Communication Support Worker	DeafHear
Mary Gavin	Receptionist	Sign Language Interpreter Ireland
Paula Bannon	Cleaner	Inspire Fitness Centre
Bernard Brian	Maintenance	CIDP
Valery Stanley	Cleaner / Kitchen Porter	St. Mary's Residence

**Interview with CE Supervisor – David Somers**



**What are the challenges for you?**

Along with overseeing the actual work product of people placed under CE Scheme, My supervisory role often serves as a mentor. I notice employees excel at certain tasks and I encourage them to pursue further education or give them more responsibilities. I also track poor performers and either help them improve or find replacements. Either way, I face challenges in my day-to-day activities.

### **What do you like best about your job?**

**Being able to motivate CE Participants, lead by example, have good observation skills, and utilize the strengths of participants. Obviously working with people is a big plus; but being able to mentor and assist people toward their goals is great too.**

#### **Interview with CE Participant Valerie Moore, Caroline O Toole and James Downey.**



Valerie Moore was very reluctant at first to join the CE Scheme in Deaf Village Ireland because she felt there was very little money as a top up from her allowance but decided to give this a go. Valerie worked as a receptionist in Deaf Village and was very enthusiastic about her work after being a mother for 20 years. Valerie loved coming into work every day meeting people and felt she was part of a team and it was good for her mentally to have a focus as she really enjoyed helping and meeting people. Valerie felt she had a short fuse and felt she learnt to become very calm and her confidence grew especially when she did lots of training as she had no qualifications or had no skills. Valerie said her inner self has changed because she has learnt to communicate effectively and has learnt to work with people in teams. She did lots of courses including personal development. Valerie feels she did the right thing and managed to get herself a job with CIDP.



Caroline O Toole started here in May 2016 and was a full time mother after 16 years, she wanted to work in Deaf Village Ireland. Caroline did CE training courses and said she looks forward coming into DVI everyday. She gets up at 6am and leaves her house in Ballyfermot at 6.30 to be in for 7.30 where she starts her day's work. "I love the Deaf community everyone is so friendly and chatty." If we have problems we share this with each other. We have a very good team." I love meeting my friends. I worked in a hearing environment before I became a mother and was always left out in conversations."I use to ask people to repeat what they or others would say, and I would get the "couldn't be bothered looks!". In DVI you can relax and it's easy to communicate with everyone. I feel part of this community.



James has worked here for two years and says he wants to stay in DVI for another five years. He really loves working here and can communicate with everyone he feels very confident, since taking up the CE Scheme. He feels valued and respected as a member of the Deaf community. James wants to continue to do maintenance duties and loves to help out moving the furniture. James feels happy and loves coming into work



## Wedding Day in Deaf Village Ireland - May 2017.



## Christmas Day 2017 in the Atrium with the Volunteers



## *Board Directors of Deaf Village Ireland*



Brendan Lennon

Deaf Hear.ie



Lorelie Lye Roberts

Secretary of DVI



John Fennell

DDA



Joanne Chester

Hotdesk



Joey Watson

DSI



Keith Adams

CIDP



Kevin Lynch

Independent



Eddie Redmond

IDS



John Cradden

Independent Chair



Mary Dunne

CIC



Liam Breen

DHC



John Stewart

SLIS



## Organisations in Deaf Village

### Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS)



Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) is the national interpreting service for the Deaf community. Our mission is to enhance the quality of interpretation services to ensure Deaf people can access public and social services and participate in Irish society as equal citizens.

An independent company with charitable status, the SLIS Board of Directors includes key stakeholders such as the Deaf community, sign language interpreters and Trinity College Centre for Deaf Studies. SLIS is supported by the Citizens Information Board (CIB) to operate

- A 24/7 emergency service to contact sign language interpreters in crises situations.  
**Emergency Mobile: 087 672 5179.**
- A referral service linking service providers and Deaf people to interpreters.
- An access support service reducing barriers and supporting service providers.
- A GP appointment service with interpreters on behalf of the HSE.
- A Social Interpreting Fund - funerals & hardship cases.
- IRIS, which is a remote interpreting service providing an instant video link to a sign language interpreter for access to public and other services.
- Provide supports for to enhance quality standards for professional sign language interpreters and their customers.



2017 was a busier year for SLIS than previous years:

- IRIS provided 4,036 different interpreting assignments. This compares to 3,127 interpreted assignments in 2016 and 1,223 in 2015.
- 1,675 requests for supports in securing an interpreter were processed in 2017, compared to 1,355 requests in 2016, and 1,227 requests in 2015. The largest increases were for GP appointments.

As well as supporting the ISL Act 2017, SLIS provided business cases to the National Disability Inclusion Strategy and has been given funding and responsibility

- To expand and develop the Irish Remote Interpreting service
- To increase the number of trained Sign Language and Deaf Interpreters,
- To put a quality-assurance and registration scheme for Interpreters in place and
- To provide on-going professional training and development for Interpreters.

*Left: Leo Varadkar, when he was Minister for Social Protection, with Angela Black, CEO CIB, and SLIS Chairperson, Anne Coogan, at the launch of the Evaluation of IRIS in November 2016 in Deaf Village Ireland*



## **Irish Sign Language is finally an official language of the State**

The Irish Deaf Society (IDS) welcomes the recent announcement that the Dail Eireann approved the **Recognition of Irish Sign Language** Bill for the Irish Deaf Community on Thursday, **14<sup>th</sup> December 2017** and then approved by the Seanad the following day.

IDS have campaigned for more than thirty years for legislation to recognise our language, a language used by 5,000 Deaf people across the country. Irish Sign Language (ISL) has been used for centuries, as shown by documentary evidence, making it high time to recognise its usage and existence in the Irish life. Despite the presence of the language around us, it rarely enters into Irish public awareness, and indeed it has had an unhappy experience of being repressed, misrepresented and ignored.

**President Michael D. Higgins** signed the **Irish Sign Language Act 2017** into Law on **24<sup>th</sup> December 2017** This is an historic day for the Irish Deaf Community. Our sincere thanks to the Irish Sign Language (ISL) Official Recognition Campaign led by the Irish Deaf Society especially Dr. John Bosco Conama and Lianne Quigley for all their tremendous work over the years. Sincere thanks also to Senator Mark Daly for sponsoring the ISL Bill through the Seanad and for ensuring it passed all stages in the Dáil also. Our thanks also to Minister Finian Mc Grath, Minister for Disability Issues for all his support too. Our deep appreciation to everyone especially Deaf community and its supporters, family members, friends and colleagues, who worked so hard to make the dream of an ISL law a reality.

### **Main Keys to the ISL Act:**

- Irish Sign Language (ISL) is now an official language in Ireland.
- ISL users will have legal rights to access Government Departments & Public Bodies through Irish Sign Language.
- ISL users will have legal rights to access ALL courts through Irish Sign Language.
- Certified Skilled Irish Sign Language Interpreters
- Educational Support for Deaf Children.







2017 in DSI was a successful year with lots of activities for members. DSI had reached their peak with more than 200 members. There are a lot of attractive activities provided by DSI. Thankfully DSI has been successful with International games like Irish Deaf Ladies Futsal who had recently qualified for European Deaf Futsal Championship in Finland in Dec 2018 and DSI sent 2 young swimmers to Deaflympics last July.

DSI keep in touch with various members every day - their feedback holds us accountable and we are able to make changes to how we run events. We worked well with different organisations like Santa Fun Run with IDS last December. DSI like to work and play a partner with other organisations to organise any events, we value our partnership with other organisations within DVI.

We received good news in that we were successful in getting a Women in Sports grant from Sport Ireland so DSI will organise few self defense classes for women in March or April this year. This will give an impact for Deaf women in Sport.

I am looking forward to create more events this year for members and with the 50th Year Anniversary in October there will be lots of various sports in Deaf Village Ireland on Friday and Saturday (5th and 6th October 2018). Italy, Germany and Great Britain athletes will travel to Dublin for a tournament. There will be exciting times ahead.



Cycling on Greenway



Basket Ball - InterPro



Men's Football Team



Olympic Swimmers



Badminton



Bowling



2017 was a busy and challenging year for CIDP. On a positive note the school completed a successful year of amalgamation. We also appointed a project manager to start the transition of our people in St Josephs House to independent living and this project is moving ahead. Our boys boarding received a nomination for leading Lights Road safety and were presented with an award at the ceremony in December.

Towards the end of 2017 we put the final touches to the completion of the Governance Code journey which was a major milestone for us. This is key for CIDP as an organisation as we look forward to the future and review our strategy for the coming years. The HSE audit of CIDP was published last year and this was a timely reminder to us all that high standards of control and accountability should properly apply to the use of public funds entrusted to us. CIDP has made a clear commitment that poor practice has no place in our future and we have a great team across our services that are committed to good practices.

Looking forward CIDP is driving two other initiatives. We have begun discussions with the Chairs and management of both DVI and NDVSLC to look at how control of Inspire can be passed over to DVI for the betterment of the Deaf community. This work is ongoing and will take time to bring to fruition with a lot of hard work needed by all parties. CIDP has also agreed the sale of land on the Navan road for the development of a Nursing Home. This Nursing Home will be the first in Ireland to have dedicated beds for Deaf people as well as having properly trained staff in ISL. In agreeing this sale we have established a working group from across the deaf community to work hand in hand with the developer as the nursing home work begins.

Finally, in line with the high volume of change that CIDP has seen over the last few years we are now reviewing our strategic plan and will be sharing more of this with staff and other key stakeholders over the coming months.



**Deaf Children and Teenagers putting on a show in Deaf Village Ireland.  
Awards night for St Joseph's Campus for Deaf Boys.**



## National Deaf Women of Ireland

The highlight for NDWI in 2017 was our 25th anniversary celebrations, held a conference in DHC, Deaf Village Ireland. The theme was "Let It Go" we had five presenters. Good crowd of 138 attended the conference afterwards we had a buffet for everyone in the Atruim hall followed by Awards night and light entertainment by Deafhood in Cabragh Hall. It was a great day and night some old and new friends met on the day that had not seen each other in years.



Congratulations to Alvean Jones receiving the Women's award for 2017.



Dublin North West Citizens Information Service has operated in The Deaf Village Ireland on a daily basis since March 2014. We offer an Information and Advocacy service for both the Deaf Community and the wider community of Cabra, we are part of a greater region of Dublin North west. This service has been very successful to date and continues to grow from strength to strength.

We have a part time Information Officer who is fluent in Irish Sign Language, who provides our services to the Deaf Community of Dublin North West and other areas of the country. The service is so successful to date that not only have we reached the community of DNW, we have had Skype calls and texts from national counties and also International Countries.

We offer a Free Legal Advice Clinic twice a month with the services of an Irish Sign Language Interpreter. This is an appointment based Service.

We are hoping to expand our services within CIS in The Deaf Village in the future with a vision of introducing a Free Will Service available to all in the community.

We are also hoping to increase our Service hours in the 2018.



The Deaf Day Centre had organised the celebration of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which held in the atrium last March 2017. The hot buffet provided and it was over 100 people attended the celebrations. It was an enjoyable day.

The Dublin Deaf Association organised the four seasonal bingo during Easter, Summer, Halloween and Christmas at Cabragh Hall which had a good crowds attend the bingo. The bingo was very popular for older Deaf people to attend.

We had a BBQ and Fun Day for the members last Summer and it was hard work for those volunteers. We had the games both indoor or outdoors.

In December, DDA organised two events: Christmas Grand Bingo and Christmas Family Day. DDA Christmas Grand Bingo held at Cabragh hall and it was good crowds attend with full good prizes and final game of Jackpot prizes. Also they organised Christmas Family Day on 9<sup>th</sup> December. It was quite good number of people attended. The Deaf children loved to see the real Deaf Santa as he communicated through ISL. The DDA organised afternoon tea at the Hub Café. The beautiful setting on the table gave the great Christmas spirit. The



Volunteers are excellent workers and provide a great service for the Deaf customers. Everyone had enjoyed the day.

Some DDA Photos-







**Irish Deaf Youth Association.**

### **European Union of the Deaf Youth's General Assembly – May-June, 2017**

This is one of the achievements we are very proud of as we have hosted representatives of the deaf youth associations in over 20 countries across Europe, all who came to Dublin for the General Assembly. The European Union of the Deaf Youth conference was held in the Cabragh Hall for three full days during the Assembly. The volunteers from Dublin Deaf Association who assisted us with the catering for all meals and transportation to and from the airport. We have received such great reviews regarding both those things.

### **Trekking in Peru**

Although it may be known to all the other organisations based in Deaf Village as well as the Deaf Village itself, we had been fundraising in order to bring us out of the financial difficulties we had been under for a few years. We were delighted to say that we have made it and eleven of us flew to Peru to trek along the Inca Trail for four long days. You may see the photo of us attached to this report. Furthermore, during the fundraising, some other organisations and the deaf community in general have contributed, for which we were very grateful. As a result, we have raised a sum of almost €15,000, which was a big achievement on top of the General Assembly during 2017.



DeafHear continues to provide the following services in DVI to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community: Family Support Services, Hard of Hearing Services, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Social Inclusion Groups Audiology Services, Tinnitus Support School Tech Systems, Aids & Appliances – Deaf Tech Information/Advocacy & Peer Support.

Cabra Hearing Loss Social Group is run on a monthly basis by Cathy O’Riordan (below left). They meet monthly in DeafHear and organise outings and tours. Information and Technology Talks feature on a regular basis.’



2017 was a busy year that saw a lot of changes to the DeafHear team in DVI campus; we said goodbye to two much loved and respected staff members and welcomed several new faces to our team. We were all sad to see our Team Leader, **Angela Mitchell**, retire in December 2017 after 21 years. Not only did she get a good send off from DeafHear - the staff in DVI threw a lovely tea party to wish her well. DeafHear’s Regional Manager **Sandra Ivory** has replaced her as the Dublin North Team Manager. Here are some photographs of some events that took place in Deaf hear, Christmas parties, Summer camps and various events.





Deaf Heritage Centre had a busy schedule during 2017 with a good number of visitors from several parts of Ireland as well as outside Ireland and also a group of Interpreter & history students from Netherlands as part of learning tour about various Deaf History in Ireland.

DHC has recently purchased a rolling-shelving system for the Archive store(to maximise use of limited storage space).We will have to order new air-conditioning unit for use in the Archive room as it would be necessary for efficient preservation of artefacts and rare publications/ photographic materials. We would like to thank Michael Naughton (Deaf carpenter) for his great assistance in fitting the shelving system.

DHC would like to welcome a new Community Employment-member Teodrees Baies to our staff. She is currently doing work-experience for two years.

DHC was pleased with the successful programme of events which took place during the National Heritage Week in August 2017. An unveiling ceremony was held last August to commemorate the founder of Catholic Institute for the Deaf, Rev.William Yore with the erection of plaque beside the rear entrance doors of Thomas Mahon Building.

New set of library bookcases for additional books about deaf issues have been installed recently. DHC wishes to express its' gratitude to Dez Murphy for his great contribution to library-management and to Dominic McGreal for his continuing support and voluntary work for DHC.

DHC are pleased to advise that St Mary's Heritage committee has acquired a huge collection of artefacts and documents from Rosary Secondary School e.g. old hearing-aids, equipment, publications, old photos, etc which are stored in DHC archive-store.

Fr Gerard NCDP & Chairperson of CIDP Geraldine Tallon at the Launch of the Plaque on the Thomas Mahon Building.



## ***Financial Record for DVI.***

