



Annual Report 2019

A Company Limited By Guarantee, Ratoath Road, Cabra, Dublin 7 D07 P973.

Director's Annual Report and Financial Statements for January- December 2019.

Charity Number 21143

Registered Charity Number (RCN) IS 20101329.

Company Number 517309.



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Donal Ryan & Associates
CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS



Our Auditors and Financial Advisors in Manor St, Dublin



O'CONNOR
SOLICITORS

Our Solicitors in Clare Street, Dublin



Our Funders for our Community Employment Scheme come from Department of Social Protection



Our Bank is with Bank of Ireland, O Connell Street, Dublin

Legal Structure of Organisation

The Catholic Institute for the Deaf (CIDP) own the lands and Buildings of Deaf Village Ireland, which is on ten acres of land. The Catholic Institute are the superior Landlords. The National Deaf Village Sports and Leisure Company Limited NDVSLC (Registration number 499674) are a subsidiary company of CIDP on a 34-year Lease from the Catholic Institute for Deaf People (CIDP) that lease commenced on 7th June 2011.

Deaf Village Ireland Limited by Guarantee holds an interest in the campus by means of a Sub Lease from NDVSLC (Superior Lease), in which DVI is a tenant. The renewal of this sub lease was signed in November 2019. This Lease will run for 15 years, In turn Deaf Village Ireland issues a Sub lease to all the organisations on the campus. There are 13 organisations are under the umbrella of Deaf Village Ireland on the campus.



Deaf Village Ireland Structure, Governance and Management

Deaf Village Ireland is a “not for profit” company limited by Guarantee, incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2014 on 6th September 2012. The company does not have a share capital. Deaf Village Ireland is established under a memorandum of Association, which established the objectives and powers of the company and is governed under its articles of Association and managed by a board of Directors. Deaf Village Ireland became a charitable organization in March 2015 and is registered with the charities Regulator. Our registered charity number is 20101329.

The Board meet every 6 weeks and we have two sub committees which meet up before every Board meeting. Our Audit and Finance Committee has three directors from the Board including one external director who has a wealth of experience in the accountancy field. The Governance committee is made up of two other directors and an ex director on the Board for Deaf Village Ireland. The Transition committee was set -up in working in coordination with CIDP and Inspire as part of the strategic plan and that is made up of four directors and a Deaf community representative. We also have a new HUB subcommittee to focus on one aspect of our Strategic plan and that is made up of Chairperson, three directors and two members of the Deaf community. The three chairs committee was also set up to works towards a plan in the future. This is made up of the three organisations CIDP, NDVSLC & DVI. Each represent a chairperson and manager on the committee and meet every 6/8 weeks.

[Directors on the Board to date- September 2020 agreed with this Annual Report.](#)

Anne Coogan – Chairperson
Lorelie Lye Roberts- Secretary
Feargal O Reilly- Independent
Dominic Mc Greal – Independent
Brendan Lennon- Chime
Roy Maguire- Deaf Sports Ireland
Tara Mc Breen – Catholic Institute for Deaf People
John Stewart- Sign Language Interpreting Services
John Sherwin- Irish Deaf Society
Liam Breen – Deaf Heritage

Deaf Village Ireland has signed up with the Governance Code with the charities Regulator and Is working on this journey. When new Board members are recruited there is a board handbook outlining the roles and responsibilities of Directors and at every board meeting conflicts of interest and loyalties are on the agenda and declared before the meeting takes place. The manager is not part of the Board meeting but reports to the board and offers to support new recruited directors. In the Board handbook, there is very clear guidelines on the role of the manager and the division of the responsibilities between the manager and the board. The chairperson meets with individual directors and gathers the shared information to help with any decision making. All the board minutes are recorded. In all cases, the board aim to make decisions through consensus. This is based on the board having access to appropriate information and sufficient time for discussion and debate. There are Deaf directors on the board and two interpreters are hired at every Board meeting to communicate through Irish Sign Language (ISL). The interpreters are booked well in advance and if they do not show up then the meeting does not go ahead. There is very clear guidelines on the code of conduct for all directors and a signed form of confidentiality is formed. The minutes of meetings is only shared with the directors and sub notes of the meeting is written up to share to organisations as a way of communication without exposing confidential information to outside groups.

Board Attendance of Meetings

Attendance of Board Meetings 2019

John Cradden	Chairperson	8/8
John Stewart	SLIS	7/8
Dominic McGreal	DDA	8/8
Keith Adams	CIDP	3/4
Mary Dunne	Citizens Information Centre	0/7
Kevin Lynch	Independent	3/3
Joanne Chester	Hot desks	2/4
Liam Breen	DHC	5/8
Tara Mc Breen	CIDP	3/4
Brendan Lennon	Chime	3/5
Joseph Watson	DSI	4/5
Feargal O Reilly	Independent	2/2
John Sherwin	IDS	4/4
Lorelei Fox-Roberts	Secretary	6/8
Sylvia Nolan	Manager	8/8

Attendance of Audit committee 2019

Brendan Lennon	5/5
John Cradden	4/5
Kevin Lynch	4/5
Feargal O Reilly	5/5
Sylvia Nolan	5/5
Lorelei Fox-Roberts	3/5

Attendance 3 chairs meetings 2019

Sylvia Nolan	Manager 5/5
John Cradden	Chairperson 5/5

Attendance of Policy / Governance committee 2019

John Sherwin	4/5
Dominic McGreal	5/5
Keith Adams	5/5
Sylvia Nolan	5/5

Attendance of Transition committee 2019

John Stewart	4/4
Feargal O'Reilly	4/4
John Cradden	4/4
Tracey Treanor	2/4
Sylvia Nolan	4/4

Values of Deaf Village Ireland

Vision

Deaf Village Ireland's vision is of an Ireland that respects the rights, language and culture of all.

Mission

To create an inclusive, Deaf-led Centre where people and organisations serving Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing can work and socialise together, promote Irish Sign Language, raise awareness of Deaf culture and avail of Deaf led services.

Values

- Deaf Village Ireland will express the Vision and Mission by embracing the following values in our day to day work and relationships within the Centre
- Recognise and encourage the use of Irish Sign Language
- Respect the different ethos and abilities in the community

- Build a spirit of co-operation between all organisations
- Empower, educate and show living example of deaf awareness
- Share knowledge and skills to empower Deaf and hearing people
- Create and maintain a warm welcoming place for all
- Work in a sustainable manner
- Respect all people in accordance with the Equality Status Act

Directors Report

Deaf Village Ireland made a decision to tender out to different companies to do a due diligence Report on Inspire Fitness Centre. Baker Tilly was the chosen company. Baker Tilly is an independent professional accountancy firm and is authorised by Chartered Accountants Ireland to carry out investment business on behalf of clients under the Investment Intermediaries Act, 1995.

Inspire Fitness Centre (“Inspire”) is currently owned and operated by NDVSLC. NDVSLC is a subsidiary Company of the Catholic Institute for Deaf People (“CIDP”) (Registered Charity Number: 20002138).

It is proposed that the operation of the Inspire Fitness Centre is to be transferred from CIDP to DVI.

Baker Tilly company did a due diligence report (the “Report”) to review the operation of Inspire Fitness Centre, focusing on the key financial information provided to us in regards to Inspire and NDVSLC. The Report did not constitute an audit of the financial position of NDVSLC.

As part of the Report, Baker Tilly analyses and made comments on the financial projections of NDVSLC. These projections were based upon assumptions provided to them. After the report was complete DVI then were able to make decisions of future planning in that DVI will not solely take ownership of Inspire Fitness Centre but may work in partnership with CIDP.

DVI began to implement a strategic plan running from 2018 to 2021 that aims to develop the full potential of the village, including finding new revenue streams, reviewing and revising its governance and management structure, and improving its financial sustainability. More Deaf organisations face serious financial and funding challenges in DVI. It is our hope that with our strategic plan, DVI can finally put itself in a position where it can meaningfully support the Deaf Community and organisations; helping them not just to survive, but also to thrive.

Deaf Village Ireland generated a satisfactory financial outcome. Aside from the income received from the State (Department of Social Protection) for services rendered of €252,898 (2018 - €227,432), the principal funding sources for the charity are currently by way of rental income and other charges from tenants €253,056 (2018 - €326,091). Donations were also received of €6,008 (2018 - €398).

For 2019 Expenses amounted to €530,981 (2018 - €497,932). Expenditure limits are set and reviewed periodically at which the coordinator and project staff with budgetary responsibility may authorise spending in line with budgets.

Reserves Position and Policy

The board has examined the company's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the company and the board is confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the company in the event of a significant drop in funding. There is a draft Policy on the reserves procedures, which will be adopted by the Board before November 2020.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Directors have identified that the key risks and uncertainties the company faces relate to the risk of a decrease in the level of government funding for organisations within DVI, which could force Deaf organisations to pull out of Deaf Village Ireland. This would have a huge impact on our mission to create an inclusive Deaf led Centre where people and organisations serving Deaf and hard of hearing and hearing people can work and socialize together and to avail of Deaf services. This risk is very low but Deaf Village Ireland aims to support organisations and the potential increase in compliance requirements in accordance with company, health and safety, taxation and other legislation.

Amid the ongoing discussions between all stakeholders around the ongoing and future sustainability of Deaf Village Ireland, the board is very confident of the future for the charity.

The company mitigates these risks as follows:

- (i) The company continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets targets and projections. The company has a Financial policy and are currently in the process of having a reserves Policy approved by the directors. There is cash reserves in helping to develop our strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities;
- (ii) The company closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an ongoing basis;
- (iii) Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the centre.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes, which are developed, for the sector. Deaf Village Ireland Limited by Guarantee subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

The auditors, Donal Ryan & Associates, (Chartered Certified Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.



Sylvia Nolan -Manager



New Chairperson – Anne Coogan

It gives me great Pleasure to report Deaf Village Ireland's activities for the year ending 31 December 2019. Deaf Village Ireland is made up of representatives of community and Voluntary organisations. Our Mission is to strengthen the community and *to create an inclusive, Deaf-led Centre where people and organisations serving Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing can work and socialise together, promote Irish Sign Language, raise awareness of Deaf culture and avail of Deaf led services*. Deaf Village Ireland plays its part in achieving a fair and just society for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

We advanced our strategic objectives during 2019 in working with the organisations achieving our goals in working in partnership with NDVSLC and CIDP towards the challenges in the future plans in taking over Inspire, where the profits of the company could go into the Deaf community. In order to do this we had to collaborate with all of the organisations and set up a transition sub group. This led us in doing a very comprehensive due diligence exercise, which took up many months. It was a very productive engagement to allow us to explore options and make decisions for the future.

Deaf Village Ireland Board of Directors is very mindful of its governance responsibilities and its obligation to ensure the organisation's financial future. Deaf Village Ireland has unrestricted reserves to help with the succession of this project of the transition. The organisation's finances and activities are described in detail elsewhere in this report. I would like to express my gratitude to all Board members both past and present for their commitment, co-operation and support during the year, and to our non-board members of our various sub-groups for their time, interest and expertise. I would especially like to thank John Cradden, who was the predecessor as Chairperson, for his dedication to Deaf Village Ireland for a few years. I would also like to thank all of our community members, supporters, and the staff in the Department of Social Protection and all those we collaborate with, for their support, encouragement and commitment during 2019.

We welcome Anne Coogan who is our new Chairperson. Anne has worked in John Paul Construction for over 35 years as an Accounts Manager. Anne undertook research work on Irish Deaf Women along with a co-author, titled "Deaf Women of Ireland (1922 1994)". The Centre of Deaf Studies has published this research. Anne sat as chair of SLIS and oversaw many changes in Sign Language Interpreting in Ireland. Anne's goal was to implement quality Interpreting services for the Deaf Community, and pushed for a National register of Sign Language Interpreters. Anne has left SLIS in Nov 2019 and we were lucky, Anne was free to take on the role as Chairperson for Deaf Village Ireland. We are really looking forward to working with Anne in the coming year.

Deaf Village Ireland had a busy year of events working in conjunction with all of the organisations. Deaf Village Ireland has a very strong community commitment and evidence of this can be seen throughout this report. We work very well with the Department of Social Protection and our Community Employment Scheme is still a success but there is always the challenge to find Deaf people to join the scheme locally. Our Participants on the scheme continually to find employment outside of Deaf Village Ireland. The CE Scheme is a character building process giving our participants confidence and resilience they need, because they are in an environment that focuses on ISL, which is the main method of communication through training and working in Deaf Village Ireland.

All our other Community events Christmas Day, CODA day and all other events have been very successful with many families and members of the Deaf Community enjoying these occasions. It has been a very good year for Deaf Village and we hope this continues into another year

Community life and Culture in DVI



DSI Promote and contribute to the development of sports opportunities and competitions from grass roots to elite level. The List of sports for Deaf and hard of hearing children and adults are – Badminton, Basketball, Bowling, Golf, Football, Futsal, Tennis, Swimming, Water polo and many more.



The Men's shed is set up in Deaf Village Ireland where up to 32 Deaf men are in this group. They meet here in Deaf Village Ireland once a week. The men love meeting up for their chats.



The National Deaf Women of Ireland had a big award night in November 2019. There was a cheese and wine reception in the Atrium. Lillian Molloy was voted Woman of the Year 2019. Many Deaf women attended this ceremony from all around Ireland.



Day Centre enjoying social events here in DVI. The Day Centre is held every Tuesday in DVI. Up to 70-100 people, over 55 years come in from 11-4pm. This is a very good way of the community coming together from all parts of Ireland to meet their friends. The DDA organise different events each week. For the Day Centre e.g. Lecturers, Bingo and seasonal parties. The atrium is always packed with people. We have people that travel from Sligo, Kerry and many parts of the country to be with their friends for The DDA organize these events with the committed volunteers who work very hard to make these days enjoyable.

The DDA also organise a lot of fundraising events in DVI such as Bingo these bingo sessions are usually well attended with large gatherings and special prizes in the Cabragh hall.



Christmas Day in Deaf Village Ireland

A group of Volunteers gave up the time to run a christmas Day event for those that are lonely, isolated or face communication barriers in their homes. This is a very delightful day and a very sucessful day for many Deaf people that love to come. The 50—60 Christmas Day Turkey and Ham dinners are collected from the RDS and served with desserts, cakes and biscuits. Our volunteers raised these funds to buy wine, beveages, bingo prizes. People were very generous this year with prizes and almost everyone who attended the Christmas Day dinner went home with a food hamper. Christmas Day was a beautiful day with the sun shining.



The Community Employment Project- The Butterfly Monument in DVI



In March 2019, The Deaf Daffodils Group had purchased a butterfly monument in remembrance of those that died through cancer within the Deaf Community over the last number of years. The Daffodil group had asked if they could place this monument in the gardens of DVI. The butterfly was a surprise sculpture made in the west of Ireland. The men on the CE Scheme were heavily involved in planning and keeping the sculpture a surprise on the day. We had arranged a small private ceremony of prayers and invited the families that had lost their Deaf members in the family and then revealed the beautiful butterfly sculpture as a mark of a celebration to life. All the families and Deaf members then were invited for a cup of tea and cakes in the HUB where donations were sent to the Irish Cancer Society.

Community Employment Awards



Some CE Participants – Patrick O Connell, James Downey, Elizabeth Jones and Clara Mc Mahon all received their first Aid certificates

(James Downey)



Some of the men received a certificate for their Height Training course in Deaf Village Ireland in January 2019.

Interview with James Downey on Community Employment Scheme

James Downey has been on the Community Employment Scheme since 2016 and his role is to do maintenance on the grounds of Deaf Village Ireland. This includes painting, gardening, fixing items, cleaning, carpark duties and many other jobs. James said he loves working in DVI because he can communicate with everyone here using ISL. He gets bored at home and looks forward to coming into work every day. James finds it rewarding, helpful, and it builds his confidence and he loves talking to everyone. He loves all the slagging and joking in this happy environment. James wants to stay here and says this is his second home. He gets on with everybody. James said, "I am very happy here in Deaf Village Ireland, I love it

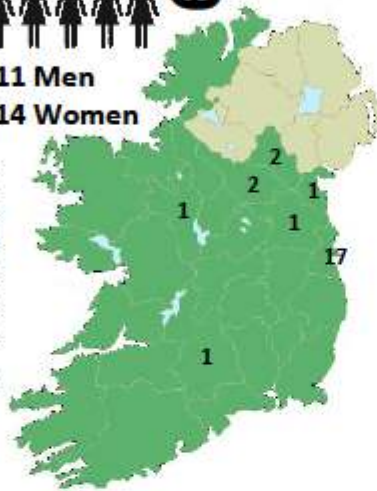
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

Infographic Statistics

Number of Participants On the project in



Dublin	17
Tipperary	01
Roscommon	01
Meath	01
Drogheda	01
Cavan	02
Monaghan	02



EMPLOYMENT

Participants found
Employment

8



CUSTODIAN
DESIGN | PRINT | DIGITAL | LOGISTICS

HORIZON
DIGITAL | PRINT | SOLUTIONS



Irish Deaf Society

INSPIRE
FITNESS CENTRE



Calnan

Bank of Ireland



Training 2019

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation & Defibrillation 17
- Word Processing 04
- Painting & Decorating 04
- Personal Development 06
- Irish Sign language 04
- Working at Heights 10
- Fire Marshal Awareness Training 11
- Water Safety Awareness Training 13
- Manual Handling 05
- Sexual Health Workshop 01
- Career Preparation 07

80

QQI Accredited Training

25

CE Scheme Participants

08

Employment 2019

Deaf Village Ireland

The Knitting Ladies put on a knitting display in the Atrium.



Ten ladies come into Deaf Village Ireland every Wednesday for hours to knit and chat. These ladies had put on an exhibition of all their knitting displayed in DVI April 2019. The ladies all made bunting flags for the ceiling in the Atrium and even made wraps for the trees outside making the gardens very vibrant and colourful. All these Deaf ladies have been friends since they were children. The ladies love coming in and look forward to their chats where they teach each other designs in knitting.

Mother Father Deaf Day in Deaf Village Ireland



The CODA day in Deaf Village Ireland was well attended with many families travelling from all around Ireland to Deaf Village Ireland. This event was free for families. All the Families came early and spent the day in joining in on all of the family event activities and fairy door competitions. Some families used the swimming pool for a swim and there were treasure hunts around the campus with lots of fun and prizes. There was a jig saw competition between families and many other competitions.

The theme for 2019 was Alice in Wonderland and all the families brought picnics, and DVI got many sponsors and donations from various companies giving out Family prizes for the day. We would like to say a special thanks to all donors for their very kind generous vouchers.

✂ Dublin Bus ✂ Wesport House ✂ Wax Museum ✂ Piri Piri Restaurant

✂ Tolbolgan holiday homes ✂ National Aquatic Centre

✂ Viking Splash ✂ CIDP ✂ Chime ✂ Inspire

The Mens shed Michael Naughton made beautiful fairy doors for the trees in the garden. CODA The Knitting ladies made wraps for the trees “yarn bombs” for the trees and the Atrium. There was a very strong community engagement all groups supporting each other. Ray Watson designed posters for our advertising. The DDA provided volunteers and facilities in giving free teas and coffees during the day. Leianne Quigley from the Drama group was MC Queen of Hearts for the day. Fr Joe kindly offered to say Mass also on the day for the families.



The Irish Deaf Society (IDS) is the largest Deaf-led organisation in Ireland working with both the Deaf and hard of hearing community. Our work focuses on issues such as achieving equality and better access to services, information, education and training for Deaf people.

The IDS seeks to achieve and promote the Equality and Rights of Deaf people under the Irish Constitution and Human Rights and international legislation, the ambition of full access to citizenship and society is sought through the empowerment and mobilisation of the Deaf community. With an awareness of their identity and their rights as individuals, Deaf people in Ireland are enabled to celebrate their culture and continue to ensure the upholding of Irish Sign Language recognition and break down the barriers of discrimination.

2019 was a busy year for the Irish Deaf Society (IDS) with many meetings and activities in the Deaf Village. The year had a difficult start as IDS managed a funding crisis that could have closed the organisation. In January, we had an open meeting for the Deaf community in the Deaf Heritage Centre to discuss the challenges ahead. With hard work from staff and board and a lot of support from the Deaf Community, IDS turned things around in 2020 and the future looks bright.

In 2019 our Education Department, funded by Solas, provided courses for Deaf adults and ISL classes for hearing community in the Thomas Mahon Building classrooms in the Deaf Village and in other locations throughout the country. Our Advocacy team were involved in activities and workshops related to access and rights with many activities in the Deaf Village including an ISL linguistics course funded by the St. Stephen's Green Trust that was enjoyed by many in the Deaf community.



The biggest news of 2019 for us: our Chime office in Deaf Village Ireland has shrunk! We are now operating a new streamlined and efficient service from one unit in the Thomas Mahon Building; we continue to provide a wide range of services to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients, including:

LifeTech – assistive technology for independent living

EduTech – equipment & ongoing technical support for schools and colleges

Audiology – hearing tests, hearing aid clean and check plus hearing aid and battery sales

Family Support – dedicated team of social workers open for referrals

The Thursday Group – day activity centre for Deaf adults

CI Social Group – quarterly social coffee morning for adults with Cochlear Implants

Community Activities – camps and family days for Deaf/hard of Hearing children and their families

Community Resources – information and advocacy support available by appointment

Chime continues to work with the other organisations in DVI in providing a holistic and community based service to the Deaf Community. For example, our Thursday Group meets up in the DDA's Hub café every week and the annual Children's Christmas Party in December was a joint affair between Chime and Deaf Sports Ireland.





CIDP has re-developed the Edmund Rice Building on the Deaf Village Ireland campus into Third level Student accommodation this is a welcome addition to the Campus here at DVI.

The Esther Foy House (formerly Edmund Rice House) is on the Deaf Village Ireland campus at Cabra, Dublin 7 was fully refurnished during summer 2019 and offers a mix of single and shared rooms eight of which are en-suite. This accommodation is focused on third level Deaf/Hard of Hearing students or students engaged in Deaf related studies and is managed by the CIDP.

At the core of the Deaf Village Ireland Campus, experience is a beautiful sense of community. Every location offers its own social network, lifestyle and perspective. Our goal is to ensure a safe and comfortable environment is provided for students to ensure a student can maximize their academic and social lives while studying in Dublin.





National Chaplaincy for Deaf People

The Chaplaincy continues to do great work in supporting the Deaf community across Ireland. 2019 was a year of change in which Fr Joe O'Neill joined us for 6 months and then from autumn 2019 Fr Paddy Boyle took up the role of Chaplain to the Deaf. Fr Paddy is well known to many of us.

In 2019 NCDP, through the work of all the chaplains was heavily involved in the organisation and provision of liturgical services at key moments of the year, Advent, Christmas, lent, Easter, Memorial Masses during November etc. The chaplains would also have been called upon to assist in the organisation of, and interpreting at, milestone moments in the lives of members of the Deaf Community, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, First Communions and Conformations. These ceremonies along with Masses and prayer services to mark key moment in the school year were held in the Emmaus Chapel. The chaplains have been key players in the provision of catechetical programmes in schools for the Deaf in Limerick, Cork and Dublin. They not only worked with children but also assisted parents and teachers throughout the delivery of the programmes and in the celebration of the sacraments.

The coming together of the Deaf Community is most poignantly and powerfully seen in the funerals, which took place in the Emmaus chapel during the year. One could also mention the involvement of NCDP in the provision of support at many different levels to the staff and residents of St. Joseph's, Brewery Rd., the Tuesday Group and their coming together in the D.V.I. for Mass and social gathering. The weekly 7: 30 Saturday Mass, which is always very well attended.

Among the highlights of 2019 were the organisation and participation of substantial numbers of the Deaf Community as pilgrims and as volunteers in the two major pilgrimages to Knock and to Lourdes. Organising attendance of Deaf Community and interpreting at The Unveiling of the Statue of St. Oliver Plunkett and The Ordination of Bishop Michael Router in July in St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh.



The New Board of the Irish Deaf Youth are Sarah Jacob (Chairperson) Emily Gray (Vice Chairperson) Aimee Mc Loughlin (Secretary) Donna O Halloran (Treasurer) Fredrick Imafidon, Joshiel Alexis Liao, and Ciara Moloney.



The new Board of the IDYA are looking forward to having activities here in DVI. Many of the activities will be for Deaf children and adults under 21 years of age.

Deaf Heritage Centre in Deaf Village Ireland

The Deaf Heritage Centre took part in the National Heritage Week, from 17th to 25th August 2019, with an open day, a series of lectures, Open Air Mass and an unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the deaths of boys and men who died from the Spanish Flu in 1919 at St Joseph's.

There was a Plaque for nine people who died during the Spanish flu epidemic in 1919. See Picture below- On 24th August 2019, the Deaf Heritage Centre had an open air mass at the small cemetery beside the Thomas Mahon building. After the Mass, which was celebrated by Fr. Gerard Tyrrell, a short performance on the Spanish Flu at St. Joseph's in 1919 took place at the side of Thomas Mahon building. Once this performance was completed, a plaque, bearing the names of the boys and men who died from the Spanish flu at St Joseph's, was unveiled.

We continue to have our yearly Past pupils mass (November 2019)

In November, we had a Mass for past-pupils at the Deaf heritage Centre hall and it was well attended from Deaf people all around Ireland. .

We would like to welcome our new chairperson, Bernard O'Reilly, had a good year with him, and look forward to many more years together.

The Deaf Heritage centre has commissioned a new book on Irish Deaf History, "Discovering the Deaf Glen" with Alvean E Jones and George M. Breden as co-editors. It will be launched later this year.



Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS)

Annual Report 2019



The Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) mission is to support the quality of sign language interpretation services to ensure Deaf people can access public and social services and participate in Irish society as full and equal citizens. An independent not for profit charitable organisation (Company No: 434358, CHY: 17461), with registered offices in the Deaf Village Ireland, Dublin 7, SLIS is supported and funded by The Citizens Information Board (CIB).

SLIS achieves this by developing and advocating for quality interpretation services for Deaf people and service providers. SLIS is currently developing a strategic plan for 2020-2023. Inclusive.

Indicators for the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2020

Number of requests for the Irish Remote Interpreting Service (IRIS) = 7,503 in 2019

The number of requests for SLIS support services in 2019 = 2,128 requests

- 1073 referral requests for an interpreter - includes 36 emergency requests
- 373 Access support requests, includes 12 emergency requests
- 682 GP/Primary Care Access scheme requests, includes 2 emergency requests

SLIS referral, access and support services

The available pool of sign language interpreters is inadequate to serve routine access needs and use of public, social and health services for a Deaf community of 5,000 Irish Sign Language (ISL) users, and especially in rural areas¹.

An integral part of SLIS work is to link an organisation or Deaf person to interpreters to meet specific face-to-face sign language interpreting needs. SLIS provides this referral service free of charge to service providers and the Deaf community. The referral service includes a 24/7 Emergency service when interpreters are required for medical or legal emergencies. This is usually used by hospitals (A&E) and Garda Stations and Deaf citizens.

SLIS is often the first point of contact for the Deaf community, Deaf organisations and services in resolving difficulties in accessing rights to interpretation. There were 373 Access support requests in 2019. SLIS has a high success rate at resolving access cases, at 79% in 2019.

However, Deaf people still face poor access when engaging with private services, such as solicitors, private courses, banks or private hospitals.

SLIS also operates a Social Fund to pay interpreters in hardship cases, mainly for funerals or removals. Sign language interpreters charge SLIS a reduced fee for these assignments.

IRIS - the Irish Remote Interpreting Service

IRIS provides a live video-link to an Irish Sign Language interpreter. The aim is to reduce the inequalities Deaf citizens face and enhance social inclusion. Access to a remote interpreter is provided free to Deaf citizens and public services. IRIS enables organisations to ensure their services are accessible to Deaf clients and comply with legislation (Equal Status, Disability and ISL Acts), as well as Consumer Protection Codes and charters.

IRIS is not suitable for all purposes and does not replace the face-to-face interpreting, but provides a complimentary service. Remote interpreting is referenced in the ISL Act 2017.

In 2019, IRIS provided over 7,500 assignments, an increase of 17% on 2018.

Opening hours were extended to 8.00 am - 8.00 pm including lunchtimes on weekdays, and Saturday 10.00-4.00pm. A Sunday service was provided in 2019, but was ceased due to capacity and recruitment levels and low demand.

An Evaluation of IRIS 2017/2018 maps the growth of the service, the number of users, including new Deaf ISL users. It also recognises the increased support and funding provided through the Citizens Information Board. The report also identifies development issues for the future, such as the low engagement from public services, and availing of advances in technology.

IRIS benefits for service providers include:

- Improving service to Deaf clients
- Enhances accessibility and corporate reputation
- Contributes to social inclusion and equality
- Compliance with GDPR and other legislation.

IRIS benefits to Deaf citizens include better access to public and private services and reduced social exclusion. The Evaluation reports high levels of satisfaction from Deaf users.

- A video in Irish Sign Language and English shows how IRIS works. [IRIS Video](#)

The National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2020

SLIS received an allocation for 2019 under the NDIS of **€400,380** and expended **€ 236,462**.

Action 1. Expand ISL remote interpretation service to evenings and weekends.

- IRIS service expanded to provide evening and Saturday appointments. A Sunday service ran from January to September 2019.
- 7,503 IRIS uses in 2019 – an increase on the 6,412 uses in 2018.
- On average, 113 Deaf people used IRIS each month in 2019, an increase of 32% on 2018.
- New interpreter posts approved by CIB and administration support was increased.
- An Evaluation of IRIS 2017/2018 was completed.

Action 2: Increase the number of trained Sign Language and Deaf Interpreters

- Research completed on a strategic framework was, and a position paper developed.

Action 3. Put a quality-assurance and registration scheme for Interpreters in place

Extensive consultations with stakeholders informed development, with the SLIS board adopting key process papers for development of a quality-assurance and registration scheme for Interpreters. These papers were submitted to CIB for approval ahead of the commencement of the Irish Sign Language (ISL) Act in 2019, and include:

- i. Registration Panel membership and operation paper
- ii. Registration Scheme Process paper
- iii. Complaints and Mediation Process
- iv. Process paper for Specialisation Panels
- v. Process paper for Skills Checks

Action 4. Provide on-going professional training and development for Interpreters.

- Tender for training for Deaf interpreters published, for delivery from 2020.
- Quality supports included non-accredited training workshops attended by 60 Sign language and Deaf interpreters.

To Book an IRIS appointment	For support in finding an interpreter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Web: https://iris2.gettimely.com/➤ Email: remote@slis.ie➤ Text: 086 0125900➤ Landline: 0761 07 8440➤ Skype usernames: slis.remote, slis.remote2, live:remoteinterpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Email: bookings@slis.ie➤ Text: 087 980 6996➤ Landline: 0761 07 8440➤ Web: https://slis.ie/services/#referral-service <p>Emergency number: 087 672 5179</p>

Deaf Village Ireland Networking with the Local communities



Deaf Village Ireland had a stand in Erin's Isle GAA Club in Finglas, networking and getting to know our neighbors and sharing what Deaf Village has to offer for example renting of our halls, classrooms and promoting our Community Employment Scheme. This was a great way in finding out who is on our doorstep and linking in with the local community.



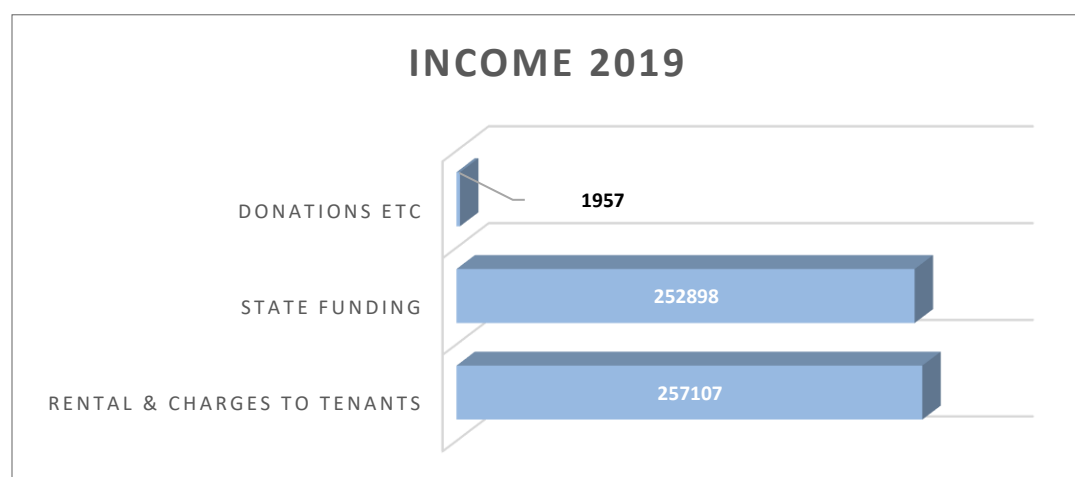
The Gardi from cabra in Deaf Village Ireland helping to promote the IRIS remote services. The Gardi also offered support to the Deaf community in helping them to fill out forms for the relay 112 text services. These local gardi all have attended Irish Sign Language Classes with the IDS and they are supportive with our community. The gardi gave a presentation to the day center who are over the age of 55 + on how to keep themselves safe in their homes and how to use the relay services.



Statement of Financial Activities

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the financial year ended 31st December 2019.

	2019 Restricted Funds	2019 Unrestricted Funds	2019 Total Funds	2018 Total Funds
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Income from Generated Funds		1,957	1,957	398
Income from Charitable Activities:				
State Commissioned Services Funding	252,898	257,107	510,005	227,432
Rents & Charges to Tenants				326,091
Total Income	252,898	259,064	511,962	553,921
Expenditure				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	252,898	274,350	527,248	494,199
Goverence Costs		3,733	3,733	3,733
Total Expenditure	252,898	278,083	530,981	497,932



Statement of Financial Activities

Consolidated Balance sheet for the financial year ended 31st December 2019.

	2019	2018
	€	€
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Debtors	110,878	102,044
Cash in Bank	<u>337,594</u>	<u>367,472</u>
	448,472	469,516
Current Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(81,220)</u>	<u>(83,245)</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>367,252</u>	<u>386,271</u>
Total Assets less Liabilities	<u>367,252</u>	<u>386,271</u>
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	<u>367,252</u>	<u>386,271</u>
Total Funds	<u>367,252</u>	<u>386,271</u>

The Board will approve the financial statements on 13th October 2020 followed by an AGM.

Gardens in Deaf Village Ireland

